



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ 7th Sun after Pentecost + Sun, July 23rd, 2023 + Martyr Trophimus and 14 Others in Lycia +



Hymns for This Week

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Thy holy martyr Trophimus and his companions, O Lord, through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God. For having Thy strength, they laid low their adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. Through their intercession, save our souls!

You have appeared as bright lamps, O holy martyrs! Illumine the whole creation with the brightness of your miracles. Deliver it from infirmity and drive away the deep darkness, always interceding before Christ God for us all.

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Epistle Reading - Romans 15:1-7

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 9:27-35

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!" But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons." Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting. If you have questions please let us know!



This Week's Schedule Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, July 22nd

1PM: Family Game Day

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, July 23rd

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Vehicles, Coffee Hour

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THIS WEEK

WED 11 AM – 1:30 PM: Private Prayer in Church

6:30 PM: Akathist: "Mother of God, Queen of All Healer of Cancer"

THURS 11 AM: Bible Study – Luke Chapters 1-2

Annual Bazaar: Fri & Sat, 4 PM – 8 PM

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, July 29th

2 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions (*Note Time Change*)

Sunday, July 30th – Prison Ministry Sunday

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour

Please join us for our weekly

BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, 11 AM - Noon
Bring a Bible. Everyone is Welcome.
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 401 East Main Street - Downstairs in the Church

THIS WEEK! ANNUAL BAZAAR July 28th & 29th – Work and Donations needed – The Holy Trinity Annual Bazaar is approaching fast. It will be held July 28th & 29th from 4 PM to 8 PM. As usual we need as much help as we can get to make it a big success. There will be a number of upcoming workdays, especially the week of the Bazaar, along with many donation opportunities. Please see the signup sheets in the back to make donations for the Raffle Baskets and Bake Sale, and to sign up for the upcoming pierogi project (July 14th/15th) and work schedule.

NEXT POTLUCK: Aug 6th, Feast of the Transfiguration



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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TODAY! BLESSING OF VEHICLES – SUN, JULY 23RD:

Vehicles are traditionally blessed on or near the Feast of St. Elijah (July 20th) who was taken up by God into the heavens in a fiery chariot. We are all accustomed to having our homes blessed around the Feast of Theophany, yet we also spend a great deal of time in OR on our vehicles traveling through town, on vacations, for work, and for recreation. This blessing is a request to Our Lord that He send a Guardian Angel to protect and keep both drivers and passengers in safety, and to bless our vehicles given to us by God for their good use. Bring your vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles or any other form of transportation on Sunday, July 23rd to be blessed immediately following Divine Liturgy.

HAS GOD BLESSED YOU WITH A GOOD SINGING VOICE?

THE HOLY TRINITY CHOIR is seeking new members. If you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry, please call or text Greg Polk at (570)362-2642. Previous choral experience is helpful but not required. All ages are welcome.

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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

July Birthdays: Christina Cherkis (7/2), Marley Willis (7/10), Xenia Clark (7/11), Luke Ausin (7/15), Diane Welgus (7/18), Rachael Talpash (7/24), Katrina Zbegner (7/26), Donna Stankiewkz (7/27), Christopher Dutko

(7/28), Shannon Bisset (7/28), Deborah Mills (7/31) **July Anniversaries:** Lisa & Scott Harvey (7/15), Marianne & Jeremy Haugh (7/18), Marie & Vladimir Dutko (7/26), Tom & Alexanne Conklin (7/27)

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Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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The Holy Glorious Prophet Elijah

Commemorated July 20th

Today, after Divine Liturgy we bless our vehicles remembering the Holy Prophet Elijah and his being taken up to Heaven on a fiery Chariot. Below is the life and history of this great prophet.

One of God's greatest prophets in the Old Testament is the Prophet Elijah. He lived and prophesied, according to the Books of Kings (III Kings 17:1 – IV Kings 2:18), during the days of Achaab (873-854 B.C.) and Ochozia (854-853 B.C.). His zeal for the true faith in the one and only God of Israel led him to resist against the evil queen Jezabel, who abandoned the true God and ordered the Israelites to worship the false god Baal (III Kings 16:29-33).

King Achaab and the wicked Queen Jezabel persecuted the prophets and the priests of God, and many of them were imprisoned and put to death. God foretold Elijah, that Jezabel seeked to kill him and he fled into the desert, at the torrent of Chorrath (today: Badi Jambis), near the river Jordan. God provided that a raven visit and feed His Prophet bringing him bread in the morning and flesh in the evening (III Kings 17:2-6). But when the stream of Chorrath dried, Elijah left to Sarepta of Sidon. There he was welcomed into the house of a poor widow and through his prayers God blessed the oil and flower jars, so that they will never be empty. In that period the



widow's only begotten son died and Elijah prayed to God of Israel to bring back the soul of the young man. The miracle took place and the Prophet of God gave the widow her son in full health (III Kings 17:7-24).

Elijah appeared to King Achaab and challenged the false prophets to prove who is true God, the God of Israel or Baal (III Kings 18:16-40). Four hundred and fifty priests of Baal gathered at the mountain of Carmelos (III Kings 18:22). Elijah order that two altars should be built and two bulls should be sacrificed. Whichever god would send flames of fire from heaven and burn the offerings, He is the true God. They all agreed.

The priests of the false god Baal prayed from sunrise to sunset and nothing happened (III Kings 18:24-28). When Elijah prayed he ordered that the sacrificial bull be placed on the altar and that water be poured over the altar three times, fire immediately came from heaven and burnt everything (III Kings 18:36-38). Nothing was left, even the ground surrounding the altar with the rocks was burnt. After this miracle Elijah order the

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Holoviak Family, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Mary Ann Lepa, Mat. Delores Donlick, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Alan, Cathy & Paul, Tom & Joan Austin, Lilly, David, Elizabeth, George Krill, Lydia, Melanie Bishop, Hannah Selick, Dave Hamilton, David & Delores Voda, Nicole Hapeman **Departed:** John Seseck, George

people to slaughter the false prophets of Baal (III Kings 18:40).

New persecutions followed and the Prophet of God fled to the mountain of Choreb. There Elijah experienced the presence of God as a voice of thine air (III Kings 19:11-12).

Elijah was taken to Heaven on a chariot of fire (IV Kings 2:11), and gave to his disciple Elissaios his blessings to have twice the portion of God's Grace which he himself received (IV Kings 2:9).

Elijah is one of the holiest prophets and greatest personalities of the Old Testament. He never left any writings behind. His zeal to preserve the true faith in God made him well known throughout the centuries till today.

In the Books of the Prophet Malachi (4:4) and the Wisdom of Sirach (48:1-15) his second coming foretells that he shall prepare the world of the coming of the Messiah. *And, behold, says the Lord, I will send to you Elijah the Thesbite, before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes; who shall turn again the heart of the father to the son, and the heart of a man to his neighbour, lest I come and smite the earth grievously* (Malachi 4:4).

In the New Testament the Prophet Elijah appeared with Moses on Mount Tabor at Christ's Transfiguration (Matth. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36). According to the Book of Revelation, before the Second Coming of Christ, the two Prophets Enoch and Elijah will come again and they will prophecy for three and a half years (Rev. 11:3). *When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them* (Rev. 11:7). After three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God shall enter them, and they shall come back to life, and great fear shall fall upon those who killed them. They will ascend into heaven *in a cloud* (Rev. 11:12).

In the New Testament Christ Himself used the Prophet Elijah as an example to describe the zeal of St. John, the Baptist. *He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord* (Luke 1:17). When our Lord was asked by His disciples: *Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?* He replied saying: *Indeed,*

Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished (Matth. 17:12). *For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come* (Matth. 11:13-14).

Today, our Holy Orthodox Church throughout the world celebrates the feast day of the Prophet Elijah. In his simplicity of heart and love for the true God of his forefathers Elijah stood up against evil men of worldly power who changed the true Faith into falsehood and worshipped Baal. In our days, the Prophet Elijah is still preaching to the people of God repentance.

Today, Elijah says to us, "Turn your hearts to the Lord in purity of the true Faith and do not allow false teachings to enter into your hearts."

Today, the Prophet of God cries out to us saying, "Let no one worship the false gods of Baal! Let no one bow before idols of the twentieth century. Man turned away from God, worships as false gods: money, pleasures of the flesh, riches and earthly possessions!"

Today, the Prophet Elijah cries out to us saying: "The Lord God is alive and He will judge His people according to their deeds. Repent and turn to His Loving kindness and you shall see His wonders."

Today, more than two thousand and eight hundred (2,800) years have passed from the time that the Prophet Elijah preached and still he is alive in Heaven and his voice is heard within the Church. Let us hear his voice. Let us turn to God. Let us leave our wicked nature behind us. Let us glorify Christ our God through a virtuous life, and let us cry out: *Truly the Lord is God; he is God* (III Kings 18:39).

The Treasury

"... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840
Collections last Sunday: \$1,676.00