



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ 6th Sun after Pentecost + Sun, July 24th, 2022 + Passion-Bearers Boris and Gleb +



## Hymns for This Week

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection

Righteous passion-bearers and true fulfillers of the Gospel of Christ, chaste Boris and guileless Gleb, You did not resist the attacks of your brother, the enemy, when he killed your bodies but could not touch your souls. Therefore, let the evil lover of power mourn while you rejoice with the Angels standing before the Holy Trinity. Pray that those who honor your memory may be pleasing to God, and that all Orthodox Christians may be saved!

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, and we cry to Thee: "O Lord, save us!"

Today your most glorious memory shines forth, noble participants in the passion of Christ, holy Boris and Gleb, for you call us together to sing praises to Christ our God. Praying to Him before your sacred images, we receive the

gift of healing by your prayers, for you are indeed divine healers.

## Epistle Reading - Romans 12:6-14

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

## Gospel - Matthew 9:1-8

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

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**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!

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## This Week's Schedule

### Doly TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

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#### THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, July 23rd

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, July 24th

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

10:30 AM: Coffee Hour

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#### THIS WEEK - ANNUAL BAZAAR & PREP

**MON**, 3-7 PM: Set up pancake stand / clam chowder

**TUES**, 3-7 PM: Kitchen setup / Food prep

**WED**, 8AM-1PM: Piggies / Sausage prep

**WED**, 11 AM-1:30 PM: Private Prayer in Church

**THURS**, 3-7 PM: Piggies / Halushki / Food prep

**FRI**, 9AM-4PM: Cook & heat foods

**FRI**, 4PM-9PM: Bazaar

**SAT**, 10AM-4PM: Heat foods

**SAT**, 4PM-9PM: Bazaar

**SUN**, 11AM: Bazaar cleanup

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#### NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, July 30th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, July 31st

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

10:30 AM: Coffee Hour

11AM: Bazaar Cleanup

*“What is perfection in love? Love your enemies in such a way that you would desire to make them your brothers ... For so did He love, Who hanging on the Cross, said ‘Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.’”*

(St. Augustine of Hippo, Sermons on I John, I.9)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### & Upcoming Parish Events

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**Ask Fr. Innocent:** Do have questions about the Orthodox faith? Fr. Innocent may have the answer, AND if he doesn't he will get it for you. In the vestibule with the visitor brochures is a small black box and blank question slips for you to anonymously submit your questions. Fr. Innocent will answer these questions during coffee hour and/or in the bulletin.

**TOMORROW: Youth Trip to Hershey Park.** Mon, July 25th. Meet at Hershey Park @ 10 AM at the Carousel if you are able. Otherwise, we will connect as we arrive.

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### Bazaar/Foodfest Related Information

**THIS WEEK** Friday & Saturday, July 29 & 30 is our annual Bazaar. Bazaar preparations begin this Monday and last throughout the week up until the Bazaar Friday at 4 PM. Please see the prep schedule under “This Week's Schedule”. **Contributions** in the form of monetary donations are still being accepted. Please see Greg, Colleen or Sandy if you wish to donate. If anyone would like to be a **volunteer** for the 2022 Bazaar and was not contacted by Alexanne Conklin, please contact her via phone or text 570-885-1773. We are still in need of **baked goods** to be sold at the bazaar. Cakes, cookies, cupcakes, muffins & more! A sign up sheet will be placed in the vestibule. If you are able to pre-package your desserts; please see Lydia Dutko for the containers. The baked goods are to be delivered to the Pavillion on Friday July 29th by noon please. Thank you very much for your support.

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### Other Upcoming Events

**Mon, July 25th** - Youth/Teen Hershey Park Trip

**July 29th-30th** - HTOC Bazaar/Foodfest

**Mon, Aug 1st** - Dormition Fast Begins

**Sat, August 6th** - Feast of the Transfiguration

**Sun, August 7th** - Blessing of Vehicles (NEW)

**Sun, August 14th** - Parish Council Meeting

**Mon, August 15th** - Feast of Dormition

**Mon, August 29th** - Beheading of St. John the Baptist  
**Sun, September 18th** - Parish Council (budget approval)  
**Sun, September 25th** - Annual Parish Meeting

## 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), Tom & Alexanne Conklin (7/27)

**This Week's Birthdays:** Rachael Talpash (7/24), Katrina Zbegner (7/26), Donna Stankiewkz (7/27), Christopher Dutko (7/28), Shannon Bisset (7/28) **Anniversaries:** Tom & Alexanne Conklin (7/27)

**WEEKLY GIVING UPDATE:** We thank you for your continued giving in gratitude for all that our loving God does for each of us, for His Holy Church, and all the blessings we receive through her.

**Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open:** \$12,305  
**Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open:** \$2,840  
**Collections last Sunday: \$2,435.00**

Dear Parishioners, We have been falling below the monthly minimum we need to keep up with our expenses. Please remember to maintain your tithes and offerings throughout these summer months. Thank you for your continued support!

### PROPORTIONAL GIVING CHART

How much is my weekly tithe?!

Proportional giving is the practice of returning to the Lord a portion of the financial treasure He has blessed us with in this life. We offer our gifts in gratitude for His. This principle is found in both the Old and New Testament scriptures. Because it is proportional, what is returned to Him is different for each family and household. The giving chart below offers a starting point

for giving based on a range of weekly incomes along with a range of giving levels beginning at 10%, the ideal for a Christian tithe if one is capable, down to 2%. Our goal as we journey through life is to offer increasingly more of what God has given us back to Him, just as we give more of our heart. *Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also* (Matt 6:21). This, of course, is done freely and out of love for God and His Church, not in response to an outward rule (*Freely you have received, freely give* - Matt 10:8). May this chart be helpful for you in prayerfully determining your level of giving, challenging yourself to return to God the good portion of His financial blessings.

Weekly Income	10%	5%	4%	2%
\$200	\$20	\$10	\$8	\$4
\$500	\$50	\$25	\$20	\$10
\$750	\$75	\$37	\$30	\$15
\$1000	\$100	\$50	\$40	\$20
\$1500	\$150	\$75	\$60	\$30
\$2000	\$200	\$100	\$80	\$40



## Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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### Saints Boris and Gleb

Saints Boris and Gleb were sons of Saint Vladimir (July 15). Saint Boris was named Romanus and Saint Gleb was named David at their Baptism. After their father's death the eldest son Sviatopolk planned to kill his brothers Boris, Gleb, and Yaroslav in order to seize power. He sent a message to Boris, pretending that he wished to live in peace with him, and to increase Boris's land holdings inherited from their father.

Some of Vladimir's advisers told Boris that he should take the army and establish himself as ruler of Kiev. Saint Boris, however, said that he could never lift his hand against his own brother. Unfortunately, Sviatopolk was not so scrupulous. He came to the town of Vyshegorod to

**PARISH PRAYER LIST Living:** Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nadine Breisch, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Peter Holoviak & Family, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Mary Ann Lepa, Mat. Delores Donlick, Fr. Vladimir Fetchko, Reader Matthew, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Alan, Cathy & Paul, Greg, Laura, Fr. Paul Witek **Departed:** Carol, Bruce

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ask its leaders if they were loyal to him. They assured him that they were ready to die for him.

Sviatopolk sent assassins to the Alta to kill Boris, who already knew that his brother wanted him dead. When they arrived they heard him chanting psalms and praying before an icon of Christ. He asked the Lord to strengthen him for the suffering he was about to endure. He also prayed for Sviatopolk, asking God not to count this against him as sin.

Then he lay down upon his couch, and the assassins stabbed him with their lances, and also killed some of Boris's servants. Wrapping Boris in a cloth, they threw him onto a wagon and drove off with him. When Sviatopolk saw that he was still breathing, he sent some men to finish him off with swords.

After Sviatopolk had killed Boris, he wondered, "Now how can I kill Gleb?" He sent him a message saying that their father was ill and wished to see him. As he was on his way, he received word from Yaroslav that their father had died and that Sviatopolk had murdered Boris.

Saint Gleb wept for his father and brother, and was lamenting them when the assassins arrived. They seized his boat and drew their weapons, but it was Gleb's cook Torchin who stabbed him with a knife.

The martyr's body was thrown onto the shore between two trees. Later, he was buried beside Saint Boris in the church of Saint Basil.

Saints Boris and Gleb received the crown of martyrdom in 1015. They became known as Passion-Bearers, since they did not resist evil with violence.

The holy martyrs Princes Boris and Gleb are also commemorated on May 2.

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## The Way That Leads into the Kingdom of Heaven

An excerpt From the book *Indication of the Way into the Kingdom of Heaven* by St. Innocent of Alaska

The way into the heavenly kingdom is Jesus Christ Himself. Only those who go by this way follow Jesus

Christ. But as to how we must go by this way, listen to what Jesus Christ Himself says: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matt 16:24). And what it means to deny oneself, take up one's cross, and follow Jesus Christ will be told in the following pages.

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*"He does not want to have as His disciples those who are unwilling or those who have no special desire to follow Him, but wants us willingly and without any compulsion to surrender ourselves wholly to Him."*

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Jesus Christ said, "Whosoever will come after Me." These words mean that Jesus Christ does not compel or force anyone to follow Him. He does not want to have as His disciples those who are unwilling or those who have no special desire to follow Him, but wants us willingly and without any compulsion to surrender ourselves wholly to Him. Consequently, only those who desire to do so enter the kingdom of heaven. Christian, your salvation or perdition depends on your own will! In His unspeakable wisdom and love, the Lord has given you freedom to do what you like, and He does not wish to take this most precious gift away from you. And so, if you wish to follow Jesus Christ, He will show you the way into the kingdom of heaven and will even help you along the way. But if you do not wish to follow Him, do as you like: No one is going to compel you or force you. But beware of despising the call of Jesus Christ and His loving kindness. In His great goodness, Christ knocks for a long, long time on the door of everyone's heart to awaken his soul and arouse in it a desire for salvation. But woe to the man whom He finally abandons and whom He casts out as a son of perdition!

And so, to follow Jesus Christ, first of all you need to have a special desire and resolve to do so; and to have a desire to follow Him, you must know where to go, and what the way is, and what is needed for this way. But how can you know what you do not want to know, or what you have only heard about slightly and superficially!?

# Holy Synod issues statement on same-sex relationships and sexual identity

To be posted in the bulletins, social media, and email of all parishes in the DOEPA

Thursday, July 21, 2022

*There was a resolution proposed to affirm the Church's stance on issues of same-sex relationships and sexual identity. This matter, however, falls outside the competence of the All-American Council, since, in the words of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, "All matters involving doctrine, canonical order, morals, and liturgical practice" are within the competence and jurisdiction of the Holy Synod. Nonetheless, meeting under the presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, the Holy Synod has issued the following statement:*

The Orthodox Church teaches that the union between a man and a woman in marriage reflects the union between Christ and His Church (Eph. 5). As such, marriage is by this reflection monogamous and heterosexual. Within this marriage, sexual relations between a husband and wife are an expression of their love that has been blessed by God. Such is God's plan for male and female, created in his image and likeness, from the beginning, and such remains his plan for all time. Any other form of sexual expression is by its nature disordered, and cannot be blessed by the Church in any way, whether directly or indirectly.

That said, the Holy Synod of Bishops expresses its pastoral concern and paternal love for all who desire to come to Christ and who struggle with their passions, temptations, and besetting sins, whatever those might be. The Church is a hospital for the sick; Our Lord has come as a physician to heal those who are ailing. Imitating our Savior, who stretched his arms wide on the Cross, we welcome with open arms all who desire the life of repentance in Christ.

Over the course of recent years, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon and the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America have made numerous pronouncements affirming the Orthodox Christian teaching on marriage and sexuality. Metropolitan Tikhon, at the 18th All-American Council in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 20, 2015, in his opening address, stated that:

*"... the Orthodox Church must continue to proclaim what she has always taught: that marriage is the union between one man and one woman and the Orthodox Church in America can in no way deviate from this teaching..."*

Among the Holy Synod's affirmations of the same teaching are the "Synodal Affirmations on Marriage, Family, Sexuality, and the Sanctity of Life," from the 10th All-American Council, Miami, Florida, taking place from July 26-31, 1992; the "Synodal Reaffirmation of the SCOPA

statement titled ‘On the Moral Crisis in our Nation,’” issued May 17, 2004; and the synodal “Statement concerning the June 26 US Supreme Court decision,” issued June 28, 2015.

Therefore, in accord with the timeless plan of God our Creator, the unchanging teaching of Christ the Savior announced through his holy apostles and their successors, and the consistent witness of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America, the Holy Synod affirms what the Scriptures clearly and plainly proclaim and the holy fathers unerringly confess, namely: that God made human beings in two sexes, male and female, in his own image, and that chaste and pure sexual relationships are reserved to one man and one woman in the bond of marriage.

As such, we affirm that sexual relationships are blessed only within the context of a marriage between one man and one woman. Motivated by love and out of sincere care for souls, we call those who suffer from the passion of same-sex attraction to a life of steadfast chastity and repentance, the same life of chastity and repentance to which all mankind is called in Christ.

We call upon all clergy, theologians, teachers, and lay persons within the Orthodox Church in America never to contradict these teachings by preaching or teaching against the Church’s clear moral position; by publishing books, magazines, and articles which do the same; or producing or publishing similar content online. We reject any attempt to create a theological framework which would normalize same-sex erotic relationships or distort humanity’s God-given sexual identity. The holy apostle Paul writes that such teachings will “increase to more ungodliness,” and that such a “message will spread like gangrene” (2 Tim 2:16-17), misleading the faithful and inquirers seeking the truth.

Any clergy, theologian, teacher, or lay person who contravenes our directive thus undermines the authority of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America by disregarding the Holy Synod’s consistent and unwavering teaching on these matters. We call on any such persons to cease their disruptive activities, which threaten the peace and tranquility of the Orthodox Church in America, cause scandal and uncertainty, and tempt those who struggle against their disordered passions to stumble. Consequently, those who teach these errors become participants in the sin of those whom they have tempted or whom they have failed to correct, and thus should seek remission of this sin in the mystery of holy confession. Those who refuse correction open themselves to ecclesiastical discipline.

Thus, we, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in Americas, conclude by once again affirming that all clergy, theologians, teachers, and lay persons of the Orthodox Church in America should teach nothing other than the fullness of the Orthodox faith, which is the fullness of the saving truth.

We remind our faithful and clergy that every person of goodwill is welcome to visit our parishes. However, reception into the Church, and continued communion in Christ at the sacred Chalice, is reserved for those who strive to live a life of repentance and humility in light of these God-given truths, conforming themselves to the commandments of God as the only path of salvation in Christ. All of us are sinners, but it is for precisely this reason that Our Lord Jesus

Christ calls us to “Repent and believe in the Gospel, for the kingdom of God is at hand” (Mk. 1:15).