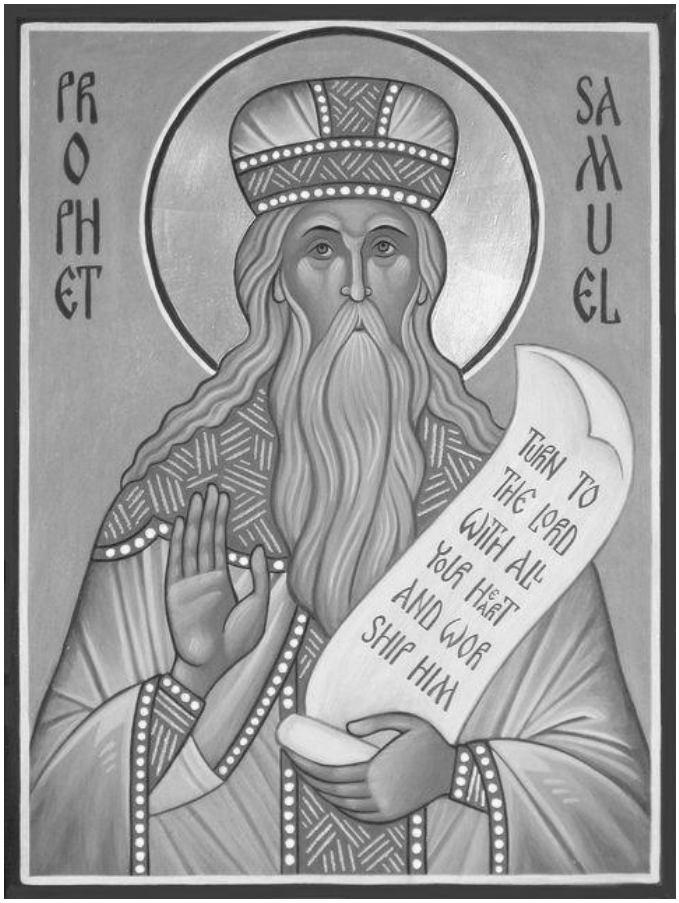
The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ 11th Sun after Pentecost + Sun, August 20th, 2023 + Afterfeast of the Dormition + Prophet Samuel



Hymns for This Week

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity. In falling asleep thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos. Thou wast translated to life, O Mother of Life, and by thy prayers thou dost deliver our souls from death.

We celebrate the memory of Thy prophet Samuel, O Lord; through him we beseech Thee: "Save our souls!"

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Thou wast a precious gift given to God before thy conception. Thou didst serve Him like an angel from thine infancy, O blessed one. Thou wast granted the charism to announce beforehand future things. Therefore, we cry to thee: "Rejoice, Samuel, Prophet of God and great high priest."

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos, who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. For being the Mother of Life, she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

Epistle Reading - 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of

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 right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Reading -Matthew 18:23-35

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

This Week's Schedule
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, August 19th

11 AM: Baptism of Gabriel Brisk

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, August 20th

8:30 AM: Chrismation of Anela Saracina

8:50 AM: 6th Hour 9 AM: Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Adult Education w/ Seminarians

THIS WEEK

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

6:30 PM: Akathist: "*Theotokos, Healer of Cancer*"

THURS 11 AM: Bible Study - Luke Chapter 3

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, August 26th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, August 27th

8:45 AM: Vesting 9 AM: Proskomedia, Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Adult Education w/ Seminarians

Announcements
& Upcoming Parish Events

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ATTENTION! SUN, SEPT 17th - SPECIAL PARISH MEETING: Attention all Parish Members. The Parish Council is calling a special meeting that requires the attention of all HTOC members. The meeting is being held to vote on changing our Annual Parish Meeting date from October to January, as well as the wording and guidelines for Parish Council size and requirements. The specific changes will be distributed beforehand. It's crucial that we have as many parishioners there as possible so please save the date and plan to attend. Thank you.

TODAY PART 2: SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES - *Carpathian Saints as our Patrons.* A 3-part presentation by Our Seminarian Interns - Deacons Damian Kulp & Kirill Zawatski. Come hear about the rich history of the Lemko-Rusyn people and the establishment of our beautiful local parishes in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Frs. Deacon Kirill and Damian will explore our local history and popular figures of the Church from our ancestral homeland. Learn why so many churches and people are named after these figures and finish the series with a personal look at which saints might be a good fit in your life and select a patron to be commemorated annually. **This presentation will be a 3 part series given during coffee hour beginning Sunday Aug 13-27.**

SAT, AUG 26th - St. John the Baptist Ethnic Food Festival: St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in

Edwardsville, PA will hold their 25th Annual Ethnic Food Festival on Saturday, August 26, from 11AM until 3PM. They will be offering their most popular home-made foods including Pierogies, Pagach, Haluski, Pulled Pork and Chicken Wing sandwiches. Join them at 93 Zerby Avenue in Edwardsville. Eat In or take out - while supplies last!

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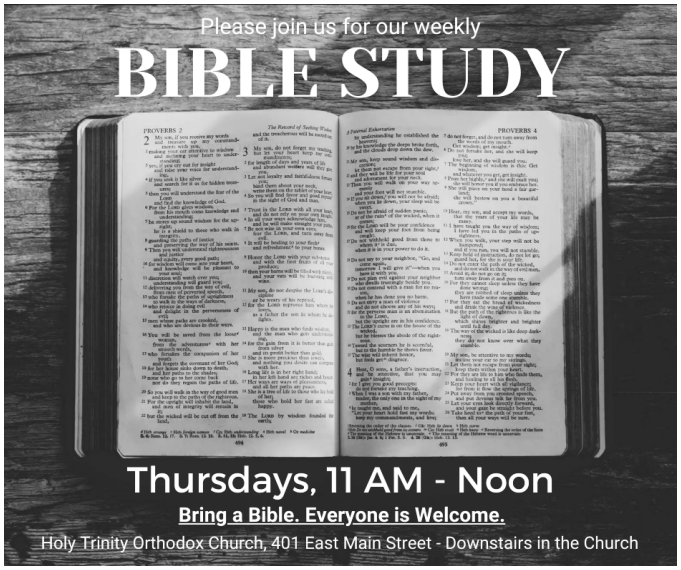
SUN, AUG 27th - Preparation of the Gifts (Proskemedia) in the Nave: Have you ever wondered what the priest is doing behind the Iconostasis before Divine Liturgy every Sunday morning? Now is your chance to find out. On Sunday, Aug 27th at 9 AM, Fr. Innocent will serve this very brief but important service in the main church (Nave) for everyone to see and learn. For those who are interested, He will also put on his priestly vestments at 8:45 AM and explain the significance of each piece. See you then!



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.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

August Birthdays: Joe Lello (8/14), William Talpash (8/19), Lisa Talpash (8/16), Greg Kurtz Jr. (8/16), Olivia Dutko (8/22), Carl Zbegner (8/22), Denise Meck (8/23), Ephraim Neal (8/25), Sylvia Dreater (8/29) Lindsey Rivera (8/31) **Anniversaries:** Paul & Sylvia Dreater (8/3), Greg & Laura Polk (8/17), George & Rita Krill (8/29)

This Week's Birthdays: Olivia Dutko (8/22), Carl Zbegner (8/22), Denise Meck (8/23), Ephraim Neal (8/25)
Anniversaries: None

Words of Wisdom
From the Saints & Teachers

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Translation of the Icon Not-Made-By-Hands

August 16

One of the earliest Icons witnessed to by Church Tradition, is the Icon of the Savior Not-Made-By-Hands. According to Tradition, during the time of the earthly ministry of the Savior, Abgar ruled in the Syrian city of Edessa. He was afflicted with leprosy over his whole body. At this time report of the great miracles performed by the Lord extended throughout Syria (Matt. 4:24) and as far as Arabia. Although not having seen the Lord, Abgar believed in Him as the Son of God and wrote a letter requesting Him to come and heal him. With this letter he sent to Palestine his court-painter Ananias, entrusting him to paint an image of the Divine Teacher.

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Holoviak Family, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Mary Ann Lepa, 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, Archpriest Daniel Donlick & Family, Bob (Andrew) Lutzick **Departed:** George, Basil, Mat Delores Donlick, Bernie Baluta

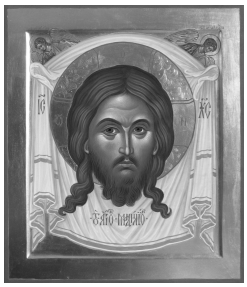
Ananias went to Jerusalem and saw the Lord surrounded by people. He was not able to go to Him because of the great throng of people listening to His preaching; so he stood on a huge rock and attempted to produce a painting of the image of the Lord Jesus Christ, unable, however, to succeed. The Savior Himself called him by name and gave for Abgar a beautiful letter in which, having glorified the faith of the ruler, He promised to send His disciple in order to heal him from the leprosy and instruct him in salvation.

After this, the Lord called for water and a towel. He wiped His face, rubbing with the towel, and on it was impressed His Divine Image. The towel and the letter the Savior sent with Ananias to Edessa. With thanksgiving Abgar received the sacred object and received healing, but a small portion, only a trace, remained of the terrible disease on his face until the arrival of the promised Disciple of the Lord.

The Apostle of the 70, Thaddeus, came to them and preached the Gospel, baptizing the believing Abgar and all living in Edessa. Having written on the Image Not-Made-By-Hands the words, Christ-God, everyone trusting in Thee will not be put to shame, Abgar adorned it and placed it in a niche over the city gates.

For many years the inhabitants preserved a pious custom of venerating the Image Not-Made-By-Hands whenever passing through the gates. But a great-grandson of Abgar, ruling Edessa, fell into idolatry and resolved to take the Image away from the city walls. In a vision, the Lord ordered the Bishop of Edessa to conceal His Image. The Bishop, coming at night with his clergy, lit before the Image a lampada and then blocked up the niche with clay tablets and bricks.

Many years passed by and the inhabitants forgot about the Holy Object. But then, when in 545 the Persian King Chroses I besieged Edessa, the position of the city seemed hopeless. But the Most-Holy Sovereign Lady manifested Herself to Bishop Evlavios and commanded him to get from the enclosed niche the Image with which to save the city from the adversaries. Dismantling the niche, the Bishop found the Holy Image; before it burned the lampada and on the clay tablets, with which the niche had been enclosed, was a similar image. After preceding with the Cross and the Image Not-Made-By-Hands around the walls of the city, the Persian army miraculously departed.



In 630, Edessa was seized by the Arabs; but they did not impede veneration of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands, glory of which extended out into all the East. In 944 the Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus (912-59) requested that the Image be redeemed from the Emir the ruler of the city of Edessa and brought to the Capital of the Orthodox. With great honor the Image of the Savior Not-Made-By-Hands and the letter which He wrote to Abgar, were brought by the clergy to Constantinople. On Aug. 16 the Image of the Savior was placed in the Pharos Church of the Most-Holy Theotokos.

Concerning the subsequent fate of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands, there exists several traditions. According to one, it was carried away by Crusaders during the time of their dominion over Constantinople (1204-61), but the ship on which the Holy Objects had been taken, sank in the Sea of Marmora. According to another, the Image Not-Made-By-Hands was taken about 1362 to Genoa, where it was presented to and preserved in a monastery dedicated to the Apostle Bartholomew.

In the time of the iconoclastic heresy, the defenders of icon-veneration, shedding their blood for the Holy Icons, sang the Troparion to the Image Not-Made-By-Hands:

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Thine own will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: "Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world."

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 (8/13): $2,554

EXTRA! EXTRA!

EXTRA ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church* - Shrimp Boil Feast

Saturday August 26 / 11 AM – 5 PM

$19 per serving

A hearty meal consisting of a generous portion of extra-large shrimp, smoky pork sausage, locally harvested new potatoes and freshly picked corn on the cob. All ingredients prepared in a broth of old bay, herbs and other seasonings.
Pre-orders may be placed August 21–25 (Monday - Friday) / 10AM – 4 PM
(pre-orders must be picked up no later than 3PM)
Call Holy Trinity Church @ 570-825-6540 to place your order
Walk-in orders also welcome. Eat in OR take out available.

HELP NEEDED - Anyone able to help with the Shrimp Boil please come to the Pavilion at 10 AM

Dan Brisk is offering Residential Sealcoating

Dan brisk is currently offering residential sealcoating. Services would include powerwashing, clearing away organic growth from driveway perimeter, crack sealing, latex coating barrier on grease and oil stains, and sealcoating with Latex·Ite 10/yr blacktop sealant.. Prices are negotiable and will be on a donations basis. Dan is not an LLC and does not carry insurance. He's doing this as a service to parishioners of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church and their families specializing and giving Extra Care to those on a fixed income. Contact Dan via signal, Facebook Messenger or coffee hour.