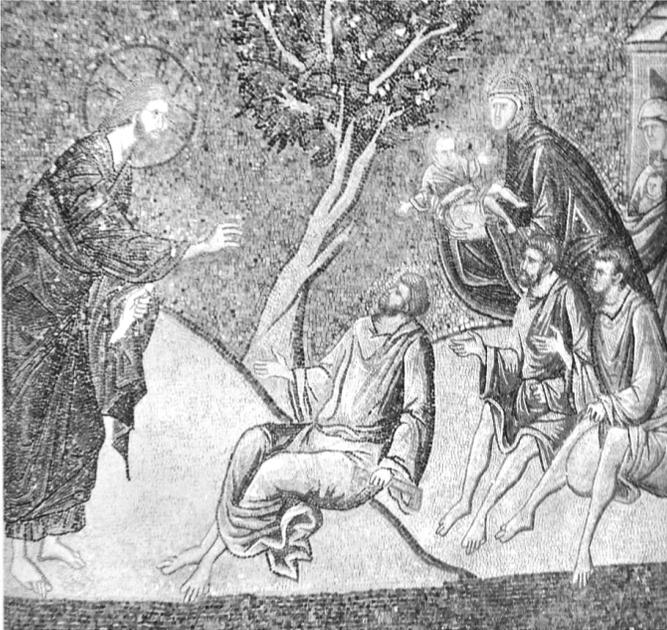




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

10th Sunday after Pentecost + Sun, Aug. 21st, 2022 + Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Mother of God



Hymns for This Week

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

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.

Holy Apostle Thaddeus, entreat the merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions.

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve

rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: "Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

The Church sees thee as a shining star, O Apostle Thaddeus, and is enlightened by thy wonders. Save those who honor thy memory in faith!

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 4:9-16

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 17:14-23

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be

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!*

with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.” And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.” And they were exceedingly sorrowful.



This Week's Schedule Doly TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

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THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, August 20th

9 AM: Friends of the Poor

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, August 21st

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

10:30 AM: Coffee Hour

Adult Ed - Prayers of the Saints w/ Dn. Solomon Longo

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THIS WEEK

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

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, August 27th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, August 28th

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

10:30 AM: Coffee Hour

(Monday, August 29th is the Feast of the Beheading of the St.
John the Baptist - Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM)

*The Holy Scriptures lead us to God and
opens the path to the knowledge of God.*

(St. John Chrysostom)

YOUTH & FAMILY LABOR DAY WEEKEND COOKOUT



Sunday, September 4th

Cookout and Games begin at 4 PM

Ping Pong, Foosball, Outdoor Games

Followed by Campfire & Music

(Volunteers needed. Please see Fr. Innocent)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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Ask Fr. Innocent: Do you have questions about the Orthodox faith? Submit your questions anonymously in the vestibule in the small black “Ask Fr. Innocent?” box. Questions will be answered during coffee hour and/or in the bulletin.

CONTINUING TODAY: 3-Part Adult Education Series: Dn. Solomon, our intern from St. Tikhon’s, will be making a 3-part presentation on the Orthodox teaching on “*The Departure of the Soul and the Unity of the Living and Departed*”. August 7, 14, 21 at Coffee Hour. Come and listen to this very important presentation.

Annual parish council meeting/ Nominations for Office - Sunday, September 25, 2022 following Divine Liturgy, all members are welcome to attend our annual parish meeting. **Election for church council officers will be conducted. Open positions include Chair, Vice Chair & Financial Secretary.** Qualification for election into office per HTOC bylaws requires that one be at least 21 years of age; a voting member of the parish for at least two years; an active communicant of the sacraments (confession / communion); meet all canonical requirements of the faith; and a person of the church in conduct and speech. If you would like to be an officer on the Parish Council please contact one of the members of this year’s nominating committee - Peter Holoviak, Andy Kondratick, Donna Stankeiwicz, or Fr. Innocent.

Special Collection for the Longo Family: We are so thankful to our seminarian intern family, the Longos, and all they have contributed to Holy Trinity this summer! After August 28, Dn. Solomon and the family will begin their final year at St. Tikhon's Seminary before serving the Diocese of NY/NJ. We hope we will continue to see them this year, but their official internship will be over. If you would like to express your gratitude to the Longos, please consider making a special donation as a thank you in support of their last year in seminary. To make a donation simply put "Longo Family" on the donation envelope and leave it at the candle stand. May God bless the Longo Family and their ministry!

OCT 1st & 2nd DEANERY & PARISH RENEWAL RETREAT: The Diocese of Eastern PA and Wilkes Barre Deanery are sponsoring a Parish Renewal Retreat for our Deanery & Parish. Bill Marianes, a parish planning expert who we have already engaged for parish strategic planning, will host the retreat here at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. The Deanery Retreat will be held Saturday, October 1st beginning at 9 AM and Sunday, October 2nd, specifically for our Parish, following Divine Liturgy. All parishioners, Parish Council, and the Strategic Planning Team are welcome and encouraged to attend, especially on Sunday when Bill speaks to our parish. Parishes throughout the Deanery will be attending so it will be a great time to meet, get to know and learn from one another. We are also looking for parishioners willing to help organize and work the event. Please see Fr. Innocent to volunteer. There will be details to come on the event itself in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

Summer/Fall Upcoming Events

- Sat, August 20th** - Friends of the Poor
- Mon, August 29th** - Beheading of St. John the Baptist
- Sun, September 4th** - Annual Family & Youth Labor Day Weekend Cookout
- Wed, September 14th** - The Exaltation of the Cross
- Sun, September 18th** - Parish Council (budget approval)
- Sun, September 25th** - Annual Parish Meeting
- Sat, October 1st** - Feast of Protection Liturgy @ 9AM
- Sat, October 1st** - Parish Renewal Retreat (Deanery wide)
- Sun, October 2nd** - Parish Renewal Retreat (HTOC)
- Sun, October 9th** - Parish Council Meeting

Birthdays & Anniversaries

August Birthdays: Joan Lello (8/1), David Voda (8/2), Sophia Leonori (8/5), Joe Lello (8/14), William Talpash (8/19), Olivia Dutko (8/22), Carl Zbegner (8/22), Denise Meck (8/23), Ephraim Neal (8/25), Lindsey Rivera (8/31), Pat Bankos (8/?) **August Anniversaries:** Greg & Laura Polk (8/17), George & Rita Krill (8/?)

This Week's Birthdays: Olivia Dutko (8/22), Carl Zbegner (8/22), Denise Meck (8/23), Ephraim Neal (8/25)
Anniversaries: N/A

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
Last Sunday: \$2,815.05 (\$1,781 Shrimp Boil)

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. 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

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, Harrison, Gabrielle, Simon Gregory, Matthew Austin, Archpriest Vladimir **Departed:** Mat. Marion Swenki, Monk Arseny, Mat Patricia Bohush, Mat Anne Hopko



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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Amen! Why Your Response Is Critical

By SubDeacon Greg Polk

Within the Orthodox Church, every single prayer service; from the humble personal rule of morning and evening prayer to the most exalted worship of the Divine Liturgy we hear an untold number of invocations, doxologies, exclamations and benedictions. The most basic formula being “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.” That last word, those four letters that are usually an afterthought within our prayers is so often taken for granted, and yet the word “Amen” is much, much more than just a convenient way to finish out a sentence or just some liturgical window dressing, in fact, it is a critical aspect of the dialogue that occurs between the clergy and the laity that creates the reality of the “Ecclesia” which literally means the gathering of the people, what we refer to as “the church” as such and it is a word we should know more about.

The word “Amen” is a Hebrew word that means “so be it” or “truly”. Most of us reading this probably knew that, however, Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis in his outstanding exposition of the Divine Liturgy titled “The Heavenly Banquet” gives a much broader and thorough understanding of this often misunderstood word. Fr. Hatzidakis writes:

“...Amen...means...’May that which was said come true,’ or ‘Would that it might be so.’ It is ‘an expression that is at once a wish and an affirmation...Liturgically, it is a solemn ratification of prayer.’ In other words, the people give their assent, their consent, and signify their total and complete acceptance of these words and make them their own, when they say Amen. Amen ‘signifies not only the approval of what was said, but also the fervent desire that the words said be adhered to and accomplished.’ The people should join the chanter(s)/choir in saying their Amen, as Christians have done from the beginning...St. Jerome (+A.D. 420) writes that the voice of the people shouting their Amen was so loud that it sounded like an earthquake. We do not worship by proxy. We should be active participants... Through the Amen we are taught that the priest is not by himself. He does not bless the Holy Trinity in his own name alone, but in the name of all the people of God gathered in worship. Everyone should join

in the Amen, glorifying and praising God’s most holy Name. We should not let the chanters (choir) say the Amen for us. We should join in and sing the Amen along with them. We too should sound like an earthquake and like thunder, as the first Christians did!”

As Fr. Hatzidakis illustrates, the Amen is our opportunity, our part, if you will, to literally complete the circle of worship. As an example, when a Divine Liturgy begins with “Blessed is the Kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages” the priest is proclaiming the eternity of God’s Kingdom that was, that is and is to come. With our thundering Amen, we are proclaiming YES LORD! We are stating that we want to be citizens of that Kingdom. We are affirming our desire that God Almighty establish His Kingdom here for all eternity.

There is absolutely no reason whatsoever that we cannot recapture this beautiful aspect of our worship together. We should never be embarrassed to respond to the services with words of prayer, be it the Amen or Lord, have mercy. We do not have to be musically trained, we can simply say the words but we should say them with the conviction of our faith. We can not delegate our faith, it depends on our personal effort.

Other Christian denominations have kept this tradition as an integral part of their worship services and although we as Orthodox tend to be more formal and reserved, we can certainly be more vocal and affirmative when the time comes for us to proclaim “AMEN!” So, let us delve deeper into our liturgical life, let’s not be passive observers. Let us understand that what we get out of our attendance in church has everything to do with what we put into it. Can I get an Amen?

“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev 22:20)

ETHNIC FOOD FESTIVAL at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church welcomes all to the 24th Annual Ethnic Food Festival on Saturday, August 27, 2022 at 93 Zerby Avenue in Edwardsville from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Foods featured will be Handmade Pierogies, Piggies (stuffed cabbage), Pagach, and Pulled Pork sandwiches. NO pre-orders will be taken. Dine in or take out. Theme Basket raffle tickets will also be for sale.