



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

11th Sunday after Pentecost + Sun, Aug. 28th, 2022 + Saint Job of Pochaev + Ven. Moses the Ethiopian of Scete



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!"

Having acquired the patience of thy Forefather, and having resembled the Baptist in abstinence, thou didst share the divine zeal of both and wast made worthy to receive their names. Thou wast a fearless preacher of the True Faith; in this way thou didst bring a multitude of monastics to Christ. Thou didst strengthen all people in Orthodoxy, Job, our venerable father; pray that our souls may be saved!

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 pillar of the True Faith; a zealot of the commandments of the Gospel; a denouncer of pride, and a defender and teacher of the humble. Therefore, those who honor thee pray for the remission of their sins, and that this, thy holy habitation, be kept safe from all harm, Job, our father, who resembled the long-suffering Patriarch of old.

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 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

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!*

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."

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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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 today, 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!



This Week's Schedule Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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THIS 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

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THIS WEEK

Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist

MON, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy for the Feast

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

WED, 7 PM: Maintenance Meeting (Pavillion)

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, September 3rd

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, September 4th

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

10:30 AM: Coffee Hour

4PM: Youth & Family Cookout

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

- Mon, August 29th** - Beheading of St. John the Baptist
- Sun, September 4th** - Annual Family & Youth Labor Day Weekend Cookout
- Thurs, September 8th** - Nativity of the Theotokos
- 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** - Bill Marianes @ Coffee Hour (HTOC)
- Sun, October 9th** - Parish Council Meeting

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September Birthdays: Jason King (9/1), Marianne Haugh (9/3), William Gurka (9/8), Lynn Bankos (9/11), Kaleb Dutko (9/19), Brittany Marie Willis (9/20), Olivia Zawatski (9/22), Irene Kazmierowicz (9/27), Stephen Hutz (9/29), Alekzandria Dutko (9/30) **September Anniversaries:** Jason & Coleen King (9/5), Dave & Diane Welgus (9/6), Martha & Paul Tumavitch (9/17)

This Week's Birthdays: Lindsey Rivera (8/31), Pat Bankos, Jason King (9/1), Marianne Haugh (9/3)
Anniversaries: George & Rita Krill (8/?)

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: \$3,346

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



**Words of Wisdom
From the Saints & Teachers**

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The Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the

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, Matthew Austin, Archpriest Vladimir, Tom Austin, Donna Stankiewicz, Met. Herman
Departed: Monk Arseny, Mat Patricia Bohush, Mat Anne Hopko, Met Kallistos Ware

martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of Saint John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of Saint John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (Luke 23:7-12).

The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way



that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck.

Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of Saint John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligua (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain.

The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.

Today the Church makes remembrance of Orthodox soldiers killed on the field of battle, as established in 1769 at the time of Russia's war with the Turks and the Poles.

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.
