



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ 9th Sun after Pentecost + Sun, August 6th, 2023 + The Great Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord



## Hymns for This Week

Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy Disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners, through the prayers of the Theotokos! O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

On the mountain Thou wast transfigured, O Christ God, and Thy Disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

## Epistle Reading – 2 Peter 1:10-19

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

## Gospel – Matthew 17:1-9

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and

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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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said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

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## This Week's Schedule

### Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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#### **THIS WEEKEND - Transfiguration of Our Lord**

Saturday, August 5th

**5 PM:** Great Vespers w/ Lity, Confessions

Sunday, August 6th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy for Transfiguration, **Blessing of Fruit, Festal Potluck**

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#### **THIS WEEK**

##### **The Dormition Fast continues until Aug 15**

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

6:30 PM: Akathist: "Akathist to the Mother of God"

THURS 11 AM: Bible Study - Luke Chapter 2

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#### **NEXT WEEKEND**

Saturday, August 12th

**10 AM:** Friends of the Poor

**5 PM:** Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, August 13th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy,  
Coffee Hour, Adult Education w/ Seminarians,  
Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM

Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the Glory of the Lord". With this in mind prepare a beautiful arrangement of fruit to be blessed and share along with other foods brought to our Festal Potluck following Divine Liturgy for the Feast.

**SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES - The Rich History of the Lemko-Rusyn People.** 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.**

**Parish Council:** Aug 13th @ 11:30 AM

**ANNUAL BAZAAR - THANK YOU** to all who gave their time, talent, donations and support to this year's Annual Bazaar. As is always the case, your support is what makes it a huge success! Let us also give Glory to God for the time, talent and resources He gives us so that such a great effort can be made. "Glory to God for all things!". We will provide the final totals for the Bazaar once everything has been figured and accounted for.

**BAPTISM OF GABRIEL BRISK AUG 19 @ 11 AM** - Daniel Brisk & Lisa Ehm would like to invite all of you to the baptism of their son, Gabriel Brisk at 11 AM on August 19th. There will be a meal to follow. Please come and welcome Gabriel into our community through the sacrament of baptism.

**SUN, AUG 27th - Preparation of the Gifts (Proskedia) 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!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### & Upcoming Parish Events

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**TODAY - SUNDAY, AUGUST 6th - FEAST OF HOLY TRANSFIGURATION, BLESSING OF FRUIT, FESTAL POTLUCK** - Next Sunday we celebrate our Lord's Transfiguration on Mount Tabor - one of the 12 great feasts of the church. After Divine Liturgy we will bless fruit, as we do annually on this day. Blessing fruit on this day "... signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the Paradise of God's

## By St. Theophan the Recluse

Before the miraculous feeding of the five thousand people, the disciples of the Lord wanted the people to be sent away; but the Lord said to them: "They need not depart; you give them something to eat."

Let us learn this word, and each time the enemy suggests to us to refuse someone who asks for something, let us say from the person of the Lord: "They need not depart; you give them something to eat"—and let us give whatever we find at hand.

The enemy destroys the desire to offer charity, and suggests that maybe the asker is not worthy of being given to; but the Lord did not investigate the worthiness of those sitting there: he served everyone equally, while of course, not everyone was equally devoted to Him; perhaps there were even those who later cried: "Crucify him."

Such is God's overall providence toward us: "He makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matt. 5:45). If only the Lord would help us even a tiny bit to "be merciful, as our heavenly Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).

## 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

**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:** Is it your birthday? Please let us know by putting on our birthday list by the door.



## Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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## Being Transfigured by Love

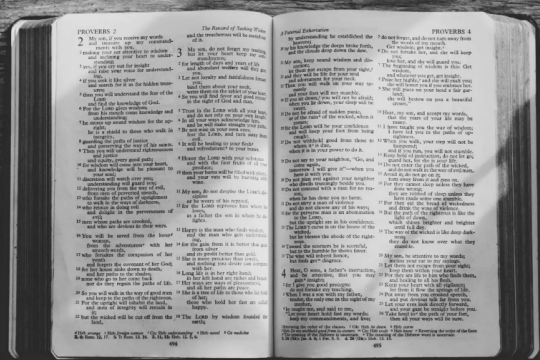
By Archpriest Rodion Putyatin

The Transfiguration of the Lord, which we commemorate today, took place in this way: Jesus Christ, taking with Him three of His disciples - Peter, James and John - ascended with them to a high mountain, to Tabor, and there during prayer He was transfigured before them, that is, He appeared in a glorified form: His face shone like the sun, His robe became white as snow, and Moses and Elijah appeared talking with Him. The Apostle Peter, delighted with such a wonderful sight, said to Jesus Christ: "Lord! It's good for us here; if you want, we will build three tents here: one for you, the other for Moses, the third for Elijah."

Christian listeners! Why did the Apostle Peter suddenly feel so good on the mountain that he wanted to stay there

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

**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  
**Departed:** John Seseck, George, Basil, Mat Delores Donlick

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forever? Saint Peter has probably been on this mountain before; why did he feel so good now? This is because during the Transfiguration, an extraordinary light, Divine light, shone from Jesus Christ, and the apostles, as much as they could, enjoyed this light. In the light of the Divine, everywhere is good: it is light in the darkness, and it is an oasis in the desert.

Do you, dear listeners, wish that you, too, would feel good and cheerful on earth, so that you too would be shone by the Divine Light? Live among yourselves in love and harmony, and you will feel good and cheerful, and you will live in the Divine Light; "He who loves his brother," says the beloved disciple of Christ, "abides in the light" (1 John 2:10). As the Divine Light shone on Mount Tabor, where the Apostle Peter wanted to build three tents, so it always shines in the family where everyone lives in harmony. Like the dew on Hermon, like the dew that descends on the mountains of Zion, so a blessing descends from God on those people who live among themselves in love. And from the outside, the heart rejoices, as you look at people living in agreement with each other, what joy they enjoy in themselves! Unfortunately, such families and few such people are rare.

What to do! We sometimes say: "I would be glad to live with everyone in peace, but it does not depend on me; and I would be ready to forget all the insults, but they not only insult me, but they do not want to be reconciled with me." No, listeners, it mainly depends on us to live in peace with everyone: it depends on us to live peacefully even with those who do not want to live peacefully and be reconciled. Listen to the next incident, and you will be convinced of the truth of my words.

One monk, offended by his brother, came to him to make peace with him, but he did not receive him and did not open the door for him. The rejected monk went after that to an experienced elder and told him about it. "Do you know," the elder said to him, "why the brother who offended you did not want to make peace with you? You, going to him to make peace, justified yourself in your soul, and mentally accused him. I advise you to do this: although your brother has sinned against you, but you confirm in your soul the thought that you have sinned against him, and not he against you; blame yourself, but justify him." The monk did according to the elder's advice, went to his brother, and what then? Before he had

time to push the door, he opened them at once and greeted him with open arms.

So, pious listener, if you want to live peacefully or make peace with someone, but they do not want to, then in your soul try to justify them, even if they were really guilty before you, and blame yourself, even if you were right before them in everything. Our souls somehow understand each other, and our heartfelt dispositions strongly affect the heart of another. The minute you justify and excuse the other, they on their side will justify and excuse you; thus, there will always be peace and harmony between you.

On the mountain, Christ our God transfigured! Unite our hearts with love so that we always live peacefully and never need to be reconciled. Amen.

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## 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."*

<p><b>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305</b> <b>Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840</b> <b>Collections last Sunday (7/30): \$744</b></p>
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