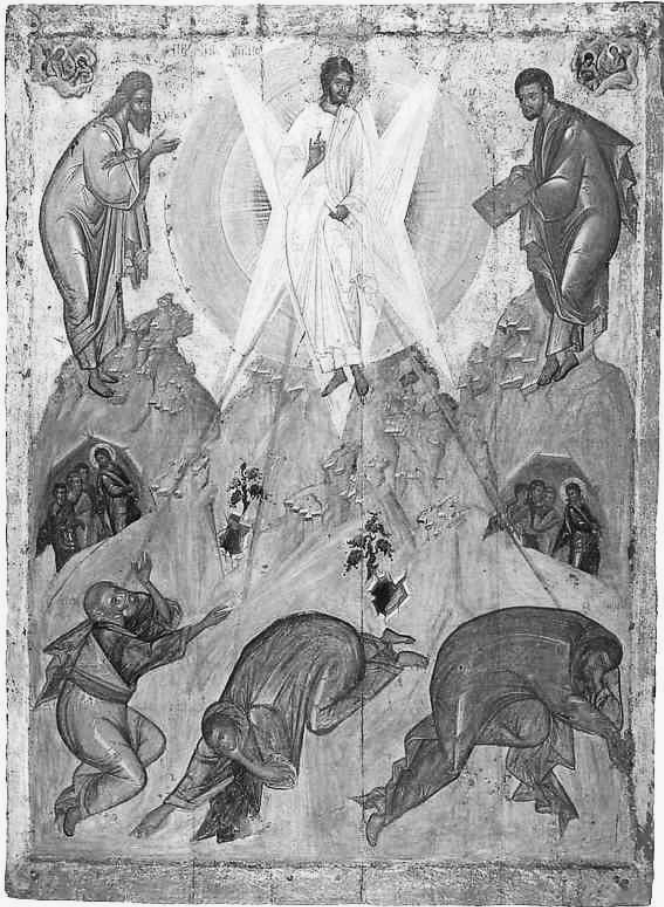




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ 8th Sun after Pentecost + Sun, Aug 7th, 2022 + The Afterfeast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ



Hymns for This Week

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

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!

Trained in asceticism on the mountain, with the weapon of the Cross thou didst destroy the spiritual assaults of the hostile powers, O all-blessed one; once again thou didst bravely prepare for combat and for both struggles thou hast been crowned by God, Monk-martyr Dometius of eternal memory.

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: "The Savior has come to those in faith; enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

Thou didst rise above earthly things which drag down the mind; Thou wast a great guide of monks, O Dometius. Thou didst not fear the furious emperor who would not honor God. Therefore, O Hieromartyr, thou didst die singing the hymn: "God is with me and no one is against me."

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 - 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

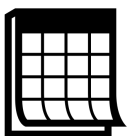
Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also

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!*

baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Gospel - Matthew 14:14-22

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.



This Week's Schedule **Doly Trinity Orthodox Church**

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THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, August 6th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, August 7th

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

10:30 AM: Blessing of Vehicles, Bikes, Etc - NEW

11:00 AM: Coffee Hour

Adult Ed - On the Departed Souls w/ Dn. Solomon Longo

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THIS WEEK - Dormition Fast Continues

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

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, August 13th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, August 14th

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

10:30 AM: Coffee Hour

Adult Ed - On the Departed Souls w/ Dn. Solomon Longo

11:30 AM: Parish Council Meeting

12:30(ish) PM: Great Vespers for the Feast of Dormition

(Monday, Aug 15 is the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God - Details will be announced in next week's bulletin)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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STARTING TODAY: 3-Part Adult Education Series

w/ Dn. Solomon Longo: 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.

TODAY: Blessing of Vehicles at the end of Divine

Liturgy. Vehicles are traditionally blessed on or near the Feast of St. Elijah (July 20th) who was taken up by God into the heavens in a fiery chariot. We are all accustomed to having our homes blessed around the Feast of Theophany, yet we also spend a great deal of time in OR on our vehicles traveling through town, on vacations, for work, and for recreation. Today's blessing is a request to Our Lord that He send a Guardian Angel to protect and keep both drivers and passengers in safety, and to bless our vehicles given to us by God for their good use.

"O Lord our God, Who dost ride upon the Cherubim; Who walks on the wings of the wind; Who didst send Thy servant the Prophet Elijah a chariot of fire, and Who with Thine All-Holy Spirit has inspired and guided the human mind to invent various and expedient means of transportation and travel: We give Thee thanks, O Master, for Thou has provided us, Thy servants, with these vehicles to serve our different needs... (Excerpt from the Prayer of Blessing of Vehicles)

Ask Fr. Innocent: Do 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. **This week's question:** "With all of the bad in the world today, (war, Covid, bad economy, etc) how do we put our trust in God?" **Come to coffee hour for the answer and discussion.**

HTOC Shrimp Boil - Sat, Aug 13th, noon to 5 PM
The meal consists of a generous portion of large shrimp, ¼ lb of smoked kielbasa, seasoned potatoes, fresh picked ear of corn and fresh baked roll. **A meatless version for Orthodox Christians in keeping with the Dormition Fast** may also be purchased with shrimp replacing the kielbasa. The price per meal is \$22. A bake sale will also be available for those wishing to purchase a dessert. Pre-ordering is available from August 8th to 11th, 10 AM to 4 PM daily by calling the Church Office at 570-825-6540. A sign-up sheet for volunteer helpers and also those wishing to donate baked goods will be posted in the vestibule of the church for next Sunday.

SAT, AUG 20 - FRIENDS OF THE POOR OUTREACH: Join us here at Holy Trinity at 9 AM. We will begin with a short briefing and prayer before heading to the square in downtown Wilkes Barre. Our purpose is to encounter the person of Christ in the poor, needy and homeless, engaging them with a loving heart, warmth and friendly conversation. We will also take much-needed supplies for any who may be in need. We plan to be finished by noon. All are welcome.

THANK YOU!

HTOC Annual Bazaar:

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of our 2022 Annual Bazaar in support the ministry of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. It's a TON of work and we know that without each of you none of it would be possible!

Summer/Fall Upcoming Events

Sun, August 7th - Blessing of Vehicles
Sun, August 14th - Parish Council Meeting

Mon, August 15th - Feast of Dormition
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
Sun, September 18th - Parish Council (budget approval)
Sun, September 25th - Annual Parish 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/?), Catie & Dan Decarlo (8/22)

LAST Week's Birthdays: Deborah Mills (7/31), Joan Lello (8/1), David Voda (8/2), Sophia Leonori (8/5)
Anniversaries: N/A

"There are people who, when they encounter inability to understand, do not ask the Lord. But one must immediately say, "Lord, I am a sinful man and I don't understand as I should. But give me understanding, merciful One, as to how I must proceed." And the merciful Lord then inspires them as to what to do and what not to do.

(St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, XX.4)"

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, Reader Matthew, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Alan, Cathy & Paul, Harrison, Gabrielle, Simon Gregory, Mary Ann, Matthew Austin, Archpriest Vladimir **Departed:** Bruce, Mat. Marion Swenki, Monk Arseny, Mat Patricia Bohush, Mat Anne Hopko

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: \$2165.14
Annual Bazaar: \$20,209.26 (Gross)

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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**Man, when united to God, can become
transfigured just as Christ was.**

God became man, became a body, lived in the body, shone from that body, to show that the body and matter itself is for God. . . . By his Transfiguration, the Lord showed that the body is created to be the dwelling place and conduit of the eternal and uncreated light of God, that God lives in it completely, through it, and by it. As the New Adam, the Lord showed us that the human body was created for God to live in it, and so it shines and radiates, as the Lord transfigures it from power to power and from glory to glory. The Lord Christ became man so that by himself as the God-Man . . . he would transfigure mankind into the God-Man by grace. How is this possible? Through the holy mysteries and holy virtues, all of human nature is enveloped by God, filled with God, pierced through with divine light, deified. This occurs with every faithful person in the Church, which is the body of the God-Man and as such is always filled with the power to transfigure, always radiated from itself and through itself the divine light, by which it transfigures, "Christifies," "theanthropizes" the members of the Church. . . . The Church constantly lives by the God-Man and through everything that belongs to him, for he completely, and all which belongs to him, continues in the Church through the ages of ages, even the Transfiguration itself. Despite the fact that this was a personal experience of the Savior, the Transfiguration becomes a communal event in the Church.

+ St. Justin Popovitch