



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

June 15th, 2025 + 1st Sunday after Holy Pentecost + Sunday of All Saints



keep Thy Church, Thy habitation, in abiding peace // through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Please Sing Along!

Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies along with the choir throughout the Divine Liturgy is encouraged!

Epistle Reading - Hebrews 11:33-12:2

who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel - Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or

Hymns for This Week

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyrs' blood shed throughout all the world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God: "Send down Thy bounties on Thy people, // grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls!"

The universe offers Thee the God-bearing Martyrs as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator. By their prayers

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!

daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.



This Week's Schedule

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THIS WEEKEND

Sunday of All Saints

Saturday, June 14th

Friends of the Poor @ 9 AM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, June 15th - Fathers Day

Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM,

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour

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THIS WEEK

Wed @ 10 AM - Bible Study (back in Session)

Wed @ 11 PM - 1 PM Church Open for Prayer

Wed @ 6 PM Akathist - Glory to God for All Things

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NEXT WEEKEND - Sunday of All Saints

Saturday, June 14th

Friends of the Poor @ 9 AM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, June 15th - Fathers Day

Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM,

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour

“Become what you are: a saint.”

— St. Basil the Great



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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+++ Weekly / Monthly +++

Bible Study Wednesdays at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome. We are reading through the Acts of the Apostles with discussions.

ORTHODOXY 101 Saturdays @ 3:30 PM: Orthodoxy 101 is for visitors, inquirers, catechumens or anyone interested in learning more about the foundations of our faith. 1 hour followed by Great Vespers. **Orthodoxy 101 is currently on break.**

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is **July 27th.**

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. **Next Friends of the Poor is June 14th**

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is **SUN, June 22nd @ 11:30 AM.**

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY: International Children's Day, celebrated on June 1st, was dedicated to raising awareness about children's needs and promoting their well-being worldwide. **Throughout the month of June you can make donations to support the work of our local community and abroad:**

- 1) Holy Trinity will make a matching donation to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Luzerne County. For every dollar you donate, Holy Trinity will match it up to \$1,000. With your help we can donate \$2,000 or more to this vital organization. The CASA Mission “*is to recruit, train and support community volunteers to serve as the voice of abused and neglected children in the Luzerne and Wyoming County court system so that these children will be safe, secure, and given the opportunity to thrive.*” Holy Trinity will be accepting donations throughout the month of June.
- 2) Throughout the month of June we are encouraging “child specific donations” to our collection for Ukraine. Bring Diapers, Toys, Blankets, Kids Clothes, Toothbrushes & Soap.

The Blessing of Homes Check in with Fr. Innocent as to when there is availability for your visit.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

June Birthdays: June Willis (6/1), Anna Cardoni (6/2), Rose Kennedy (6/2), Marlene Latzman (6/3), Noelle Flis (6/6), Fr. Innocent Neal (6/7), Illia Volkovinsky (6/7), Julia Stankiwicz (6/7), Doreen Cherkis (6/10), Rebecca Willis (6/12), Christopher Polk (6/12), Melanie Flis (6/13), Symeon Clark (6/17), Noah Nealon (6/17), Eric Zbegner (6/18), Stephen Serafin (6/19), Barbara King (6/19), Constantine Rosencrans (6/19), Jennifer Hansen (6/19), Zoryana Duda (6/20), Aimee Austin (6/20), Amy Rubino Welgus (6/23), Laura Polk (6/28), Kyra Zoranski (6/28), Gregory Stankiewicz (6/30), Emily Willis (6/30), Marlene Latzman (6/31) **Anniversaries:** Tom & Joan Austin (6/5), Donna & Jerry Stankiewicz (6/6), Pdn Sergei & Mat Vicki (6/15), David & Deborah Mills (6/16), Leigh & Jodie Storey (6/18)

This Week: **Birthdays** - Doreen Cherkis (6/10), Rebecca Willis (6/12), Christopher Polk (6/12), Melanie Flis (6/13) **Anniversaries:**



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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The Sunday of All Saints

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

Saint Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (Philokalia [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the Octoechos, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology.

Saint Nikódēmos of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to Saint Peter's five categories. The list of Saint Nikódēmos is found in his book The Fourteen Epistles of Saint Paul (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of I Corinthians 12:28.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous..."

Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. Saint Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint.

The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament.

The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Homebound - Evelyn, Vladimir, Jeri, David, Paul, Archpriest Theodore, Mat. Elizabeth, Mary, Patricia, Barbara, Jeri, Joan, Irene, Alice **Sick & Suffering** - Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Elizabeth Hutz, Mary Hutz, David Lezinsky, Bob Lutzick, Gregory Krevko, Tom Vaskalis, Tom O'Brian, David, Delores Tressa, Sylvia Dreater, Patricia Sohoski, Natalie Gripp, Raven, Pearl Tutko **Departed:** Marsha Shaffer, Mike Brown

do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks and nuns are useless and unproductive, Saint John Climacus had a high regard for them: “Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men” (LADDER, Step 26:31).

The last category, the Righteous, are those who attained holiness of life while living “in the world.” Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Saints Joachim and Anna, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, Saint Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886–911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano (December 16) lived in the world, but was not attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor, and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful.

Even before the death of Saint Theophano in 893 or 894, her husband started to build a church, intending to dedicate it to Theophano, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.



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. + Jesus Christ

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840
Last Week's Collection (6/1/25): \$4,998
Election Day Food Sale: \$1,350

Quotes for this Week

“The saints in heaven are more alive than we are on earth.”

— St. John of Kronstadt

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“Venerate the saints, for they are living tabernacles of God.”

— St. Ephraim the Syrian

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“What the saints are, that every Christian is called to become.”

— St. Symeon the New Theologian

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“Through the Spirit, the saints become all flame.”

— St. Makarios the Great

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“The aim of the Christian life is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit.”

— St. Seraphim of Sarov