



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

June 9th, 2024 + Holy Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council + Afterfeast of the Ascension



Hymns for Afterfeast of The Ascension

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured, that Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world!

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God, Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. Through them Thou hast guided us to the true Faith. O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for our sake and united earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love

Thee, but remaining with them and crying: "I am with you, and there is no one against you!"

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading - Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

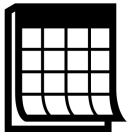
For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Gospel Reading - John 17:1-13

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given

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!*

Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.



This Week's Schedule Doly Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND - 1st Ecumenical Council

Saturday, June 15th

Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, June 16th

Happy Father's Day!

Resurrectional Matins @ 8 AM

Hours @ 8:40 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

followed by Coffee Hour

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THIS WEEK

Important. Please Read: Fr. Innocent will be at a continuing education seminar at St. Tikhon's this week. There will be no services or bible study. We will resume next week!

NEXT WEEKEND - Holy Pentecost

Saturday, June 22nd

Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM

Vigil for Holy Pentecost @ 5 PM

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, June 23rd

Reading of the Hours @ 8:40 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Kneeling Vespers

Parastas for Peter Welgus Jr., Peter & Dorothy Welgus

Offered by Dave Welgus and Family

HOLY PENTECOST PARISH POTLUCK

Bring a dish to share!

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Monday, June 24th - HOLY SPIRIT MONDAY

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM



ANNOUNCEMENTS & Upcoming Parish Events

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Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is July 14th @ 11:30 AM

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be SAT, July 13th @ 9 AM

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is June 23rd - Holy Pentecost.

Holy Resurrection Coffee Hour: Holy Resurrection Community will be providing our Coffee Hour meal every second Sunday of the month. We are very grateful and blessed to have you with us! See Cookie if you have any questions or would like to contribute.

Orthodoxy 101 Class: Classes every Saturday @ 3:30 PM for visitors, inquirers, catechumens or anyone interested in learning more about the foundations of our faith. Classes last 1 hour followed by Great Vespers..

Parish Bible Study: Currently on Spring Break. Class will resume Thursday, June 27th.

Friends of the Poor Summer Appeal: As we transition into Summer, we have had requests for under garments. We have received donations of under garments

in the past, however, most were not passed on due to the condition of the garments. So we are making an appeal for monetary donations during the remainder of the month so that new under garments may be purchased. Thank you all for your generosity in keeping our Friends of the Poor ministry stocked, to provide needed items to the less fortunate. Please earmark donations to "Friends of the Poor".

THANK YOU - New Parish Sign: Thank you to all who helped install our beautiful new parish sign on East Main Street. It required a lot of hard work and planning and we are very grateful for your sacrifice! Once power is supplied to the LED we will be able to post messages for services and food sales to the greater community. We will also landscape around the sign to beautify the surrounding area.

Pentecost Fast-Free Friday Picnic - June 28th: Holy Trinity & Holy Resurrection communities are invited to the Rectory for our 2nd annual Parish Appreciation Picnic sponsored by the Neal Family. Please come enjoy a southern style BBQ dinner and spend time with us from 4PM-8PM, Friday, June 28th. All friends, visitors, and parishioners of both parishes are welcome. BYOB.

Holy Resurrection Special Meeting - June 30th: There will be a special meeting for members of the Holy Resurrection community following Divine Liturgy on June 30th. This meeting is for a discussion about the current repairs needed for the parish building.

Upcoming Pierogi Project: The next pierogi project is on July 12th & 13th. The sign up sheet is in the vestibule. There will be no orders taken. These will be for the Parish Food Festival in October.

BLESSING OF VEHICLES - SUN, JULY 21st: 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. This 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. Bring your vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles or any other form of transportation

on Sunday, July 21st to be blessed immediately following Divine Liturgy.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

June Birthdays: 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), 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), Zoryana Duda (6/20), Aimee Austin (6/20), Amy Rubino Welgus (6/23), Peter Welgus Jr. (6/24), Laura Polk (6/28), Gregory Stankiewicz (6/30), Emily Willis (6/30), Kyra Zoranski (6/28), Marlene Latzman (6/31)
Anniversaries: Tom & Joan Austin (6/5), Donna & Jerry Stankiewicz (6/6), David & Deborah Mills (6/16), Leigh & Jodie Storey (6/18)

This Week: **Birthdays** - Symeon Clark (6/17), Noah Nealon (6/17), Eric Zbegner (6/18), Stephen Serafin (6/19), Barbara King (6/19), Constantine Rosencrans (6/19), Zoryana Duda (6/20), Aimee Austin (6/20)
Anniversaries - David & Deborah Mills (6/16), Leigh & Jodie Storey (6/18)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.

The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, "I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Tom & Joan Austin, Joan Lello, Barbara Pascoe, Elizabeth Hutz, Delores Voda, David Goobic, David Lezinsky, Fr. Gregory White, Mary Gurka, Mary Ann Kudey, Tom Youngblood, Catherine Gates, John Boyle, Rose Marie, Patricia Yeosock, Lucille Dragan, Mark, Kathy Hermanos **Departed:** Truett Bridges, Paul Berdy, Peter Welgus, Evelyn Agaphia Suhoski

victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior's words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor's sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In the year 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), Saint Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos (December 12), and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius [who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (May 2 and January 18)]. He is called "the Great," for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today's Feast, he is referred to as "the thirteenth Apostle."

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, "God has helped

me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous."

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan's knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. Saint Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word "consubstantial," which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).



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

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<p>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305 Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840 Last Week's Collection (6/9/24) : \$2,004</p>
