



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

June 1st, 2025 + 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 Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as

**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!

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 Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

### THIS WEEKEND - Fathers of the 1st Council

Saturday, May 31st

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, June 1st

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

*Coffee Hour, International Children's Day*

### **Help needed TODAY after Liturgy:**

Can you stay after Liturgy to help change the liturgical covers from white to green for our feast next week?

*Any amount of help is appreciated!*

**Parish Council Meeting w/ Roofing Consultant @ 11:45 AM**

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### THIS WEEK

**Wed @ 11 PM - 1 PM** Church Open for Prayer

**Wed @ 6 PM** Akathist to Child-Martyr Gabriel

**Bible Study is on Spring Break**

### NEXT WEEKEND

### The Great Feast of Holy Pentecost

Saturday, June 7th

Hospitality Setup for Pentecost (*all welcome*) @ 10 AM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, June 8th

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

Kneeling Vespers followed by feast

### **Pentecost Parish Patronal Feast Day Celebration**

*Immediately following Kneeling Vespers*

### Holy Spirit Monday - June 8th

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### & Upcoming Parish Events

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+++ Weekly / Monthly +++

**Bible Study** Thursdays at 11 AM. Everyone is welcome. We are reading through the Acts of the Apostles with discussions. **Bible Study is currently on break.**

**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 **HOLY PENTECOST - JUNE 8th.**

**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 15th @ 11:30 AM.**

### TODAY - INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY:

International Children's Day, celebrated on June 1st, is dedicated to raising awareness about children's needs and promoting their well-being worldwide. TODAY and throughout the month of June the Holy Trinity community will participate in this important work in a variety of ways.

- 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.
- 3) Holy Trinity will make a \$500 donation to St. Tkhon's Summer Camp to support the formation of our Orthodox Children in the Diocese.

We will also recognize our own children by offering certificates for completion of this year's Church School program and recognize this year's high school graduate Christopher Dutko.

### **JUNE 8TH - HOLY PENTECOST // OUR PARISH**

**FEAST DAY FEAST & CELEBRATION:** In celebration of our Parish Feast Day, Sunday, June 8th, our hospitality team has put together a wonderful feast for our special day, with side dishes being provided by the rest of us. Please sign-up in the vestibule and bring a dish to share! Our menu will include breakfast items, Appetizers, Soups, Salads, Entrees (Meat Lasagna, Sausage & Peppers, Chicken Francaise, Chicken Fingers), sides (provided by you), desserts & special Pentecost Cake, Coffee, drinks and wine. **See the full menu and sign-up sheet for sides in the vestibule / narthex.**

**Pentecost Fast-Free Friday Picnic - June 13th:** The Holy Trinity community is invited to the Rectory for our 3rd annual Parish Picnic sponsored by the Neal Family. Please come enjoy a southern style BBQ dinner and spend time with us from 4PM-8PM, Friday, June 13th. All friends, visitors, and parishioners are welcome. All food is cared for. BYOB.

**COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE:** If anyone still has items they'd like to donate, donations are still being accepted on behalf of the Ukrainian Relief group for as long as needed. Right now the Ukrainian Relief organization is looking for hygiene products, bars of soap, shampoo, shaving cream, toothpaste, toothbrushes, diapers for infants through adults, towels, bed sheets, blankets, wheelchairs, canes, crutches, and walkers. Of course, clothing and other items are also always needed. **See Paula Holoviak if you have any questions.**

**The Blessing of Homes** continues AFTER PASCHA for those who have rescheduled or by appointment. Check in with Fr. Innocent as to when there is availability for your visit.

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## **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), 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), 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), David & Deborah Mills (6/16), Leigh & Jodie Storey (6/18)

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## **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 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.

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**PARISH PRAYER LIST** **Living: Homebound** - Evelyn, Vladimir, Jeri, Marsha, 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 Sohowski, Natalie Gripp, Raven **Departed:** Mike Brown

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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*

**Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305**  
**Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840**  
**Last Week's Collection (5/25/24) : \$2,831**