



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

June 23rd, 2024 + The Sunday of the Great Feast of Holy Pentecost + The Feast of the Holy Trinity



## Hymns for Holy Pentecost

Be Thou exalted, O Lord, in Thy strength! We will sing and praise Thy power!

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. Therefore, with one voice we glorify the All-holy Spirit.

### Please Sing Along!

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

## Epistle Reading - Acts 2:1-11

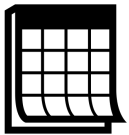
When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

## Gospel Reading - John 7:37-52, 8:12

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who

**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!

said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?" They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."



## This Week's Schedule

### Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

#### **THIS WEEKEND - Great Feast of 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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#### **THIS WEEK - Fast Free Week**

MON 9 AM: Holy Spirit Monday &

Nativity of John the Baptist Divine Liturgy

WED 11 AM - 1:30 PM: Church open for prayer

WED 6:30 PM: Akathist - Glory to God for All Things

THURS 11 AM: Bible Study

FRI 2 PM: Great Vespers for Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul

**FRI 4 PM - 8 PM: Pentecost Picnic at the Rectory**

SAT 9 AM: Divine Liturgy for Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul

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#### **NEXT WEEKEND - Sunday of All Saints**

Saturday, June 29th

Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

*Confession available before or after Vespers*

Sunday, June 30th

Resurrectional Matins @ 8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour



## 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:** We're back! Class will resume this coming Thursday, June 27th. Spread the word!

**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".

**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.

**Parish Food Festival:**

In lieu of our annual bazaar this year we will instead host a food festival. The date for this event is currently slated for the weekend of 4/5 October. An organizational meeting will be held on 2 July at 6:30 PM at the pavilion. Anyone interested in helping to organize or to provide input for this year's event is welcome and encouraged to attend. Please feel free to contact Sandy @ 571-274-5846 with any questions or suggestions.

**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.

**Appalachia Service Project**

- Thank you to all who have offered support for Ephraim Neal to participate in his upcoming mission trip with the Appalachia Service Project. If you would like to learn more or offer a donation please see Ephraim.

## 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), 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)

This Week: **Birthdays** - Amy Rubino Welgus (6/23), Laura Polk (6/28), Kyra Zoranski (6/28)

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## Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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### The Great Feast of Holy Pentecost

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work

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**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:** Peter Welgus, Evelyn Agaphia Suhoski

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of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to “appropriate” these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.

The all-night Vigil service begins with a solemn invitation: “Let us celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, The appointed day of promise, and the fulfillment of hope, The mystery which is as great as it is precious.”

In the coming of the Spirit, the very essence of the Church is revealed: “The Holy Spirit provides all, Overflows with prophecy, fulfills the priesthood, Has taught wisdom to illiterates, has revealed fishermen as theologians, He brings together the whole council of the Church.”

In the three readings of the Old Testament (Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29; Joel 2:23-32; Ezekiel 36:24-28) we hear the prophecies concerning the Holy Spirit. We are taught that the entire history of mankind was directed towards the day on which God “would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh.” This day has come! All hope, all promises, all expectations have been fulfilled. At the end of the Aposticha hymns, for the first time since Easter, we sing the hymn: “O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth...,” the one with which we inaugurate all our services, all prayers, which is, as it were, the life-breath of the Church, and whose coming to us, whose “descent” upon us in this festal Vigil, is indeed the very experience of the Holy Spirit “coming and abiding in us.”

Having reached its climax, the Vigil continues as an explosion of joy and light for “verily the light of the Comforter has come and illumined the world.” In the Gospel reading (John 20:19-23) the feast is interpreted to us as the feast of the Church, of her divine nature, power and authority. The Lord sends His disciples into the world, as He Himself was sent by His Father. Later, in the antiphons of the Liturgy, we proclaim the universality of the apostles’ preaching, the cosmical significance of the feast, the sanctification of the whole world, the true manifestation of God’s Kingdom.

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost offers a very special Vespers on the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately after the Divine Liturgy. The service begins as a solemn “summing up” of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. We hold flowers in

our hands symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon: “Who is so great a God as our God?”

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God.

In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory - Father Alexander Schmemmann (1974)



## 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><b>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305</b> <b>Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840</b> <b>Last Week's Collection (6/16/24) : \$1,848</b></p>
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