



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

July 20th, 2025 + 6th Sunday after Holy Pentecost + Holy Glorious Prophet Elijah



Hymns for This Week

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

An angel in the flesh and the cornerstone of the Prophets, the second forerunner of the coming of Christ, glorious Elijah sent grace from on high to Elisha, to dispel diseases and to cleanse lepers. Therefore he pours forth healings on those who honor him.

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam

from the curse, O Lover of man, and we cry to Thee: "O Lord, save us!"

O Prophet Elijah of great renown, seer of the mighty works of God, by thy command thou didst hold back the rain. Pray for us to the only Lover of man!

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading – Romans 12:6-14

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Gospel – Matthew 9:1-8

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

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!

And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.



This Week's Schedule

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND - The Holy Prophet Elijah

Saturday, July 19th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, July 20th

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

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Blessing of Vehicles,

Coffee Hour, Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM

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THIS WEEK

Wed @ 10 AM - Bible Study

Wed @ 11 AM - 1 PM Church Open for Prayer

Wed @ 6 PM - Akathist: Glory to God for All things

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, July 26th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, July 27th

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

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour with

All-American Council Q&A

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Next Sunday

Help us change liturgical covers!

July 27th after Divine Liturgy we are **changing covers** and **glass** from green to blue for the Dormition Fast (beginning

August 1st). Would you stay and help us after Divine Liturgy? Many hands make light work. We can use all the help we can get so it's not a burden on only a few people.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

+++ 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 August 9th**

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is **SUN, July 20th** @ 11:30 AM.

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

WANTED: Coffee Hour Teams - Sponsor a Sunday Coffee Hour with a friend. Speak with Joanne Dutko to learn more and sign up.

TODAY - BLESSING OF VEHICLES - SUN, JULY

20th: 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 20th to be blessed immediately following Divine Liturgy.

Community Fundraising Event – Wyoming Valley Challenger – July 22/11AM – 5PM:

The Wyoming Valley Challenger is an adaptive baseball program designed for children with physical and intellectual challenges. This year, as part of the annual Little League World Series (held in Williamsport PA) our own team from Miners Mills has the opportunity to participate in the Little League Challenger Exhibition. Our team is ready and excited to

participate. To cover expenses for this 4-day/3-night event the team is actively fundraising. **Holy Trinity is excited and proud to be able to lend a hand** with raising funds by hosting a food sale on July 22 at our pavilion. Menu will include clam chowder, potato pancakes and pulled porketta sandwiches.

Sign up sheets for those able to help with the food sale or to donate towards the purchase of supplies is on the stand in the vestibule. Please consider giving of your time, talents and/or treasures for this wonderful cause. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jason King or Sandy Serafin.

Sunday July 27th - Annual FOCA Family Picnic @ Knoebels - Once again The FOCA of Central Pennsylvania is having our annual Picnic dinner at Knoebels. **This year the picnic will be Free** (you will still need to buy tickets for rides). Our Annual Picnic outing is sponsored by The Central Pennsylvania District of the FOCA. Arrive after Liturgy and stop by Pavilion D (near the Giant Ferris Wheel) to check in and spend the afternoon at the Park. At 6pm there will be a Picnic Dinner in Pavilion D. Hamburgers, hotdogs, sodas and side dishes will be served. **FREE for Everyone!** See you there!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July Birthdays: Christina Cherkis (7/2), Marley Willis (7/10), Xenia Clark (7/11), Luke Ausin (7/15), Diane Welgus (7/18), Rachael Talpash (7/24), Santo Joseph Cerminaro (7/20), Damian Rosencrans (7/24), Katrina Zbegner (7/26), Chris Yanovich (7/26) Donna Stankiewkz (7/27), Christopher Dutko (7/28), Shannon Bisset (7/28), Deborah Mills (7/31) **July Anniversaries:** Lisa & Scott Harvey (7/15), Marianne & Jeremy Haugh (7/18), Marie & Vladimir Dutko (7/26), Tom & Alexanne Conklin (7/27), Kristin & Bill Resnick (7/31)

This Week: Birthdays - Santo Joseph Cerminaro (7/20), Damian Rosencrans (7/24), Katrina Zbegner (7/26), Chris Yanovich (7/26)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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The Prophet Elijah the Tishbite

The Prophet Elijah lived during the reign of the impious Israelite King Ahab, who worshipped the idol Baal and also forced the people to do so. Elijah came to Ahab and in the name of God announced to him, "Because of your godlessness, there will be neither dew nor rain during these years except by the word of my mouth."

So it came to pass. A terrible drought began. Even the grass died and there was a famine. Elijah, by God's will, settled in the desert by a stream where ravens brought him bread and meat, and he drank the water from the stream. When the stream dried up, God ordered the Prophet to go to the pagan town of Zarephath in Sidon to a poor widow and live with her. This widow, who lived with her son, had only one handful of flour and a little oil. Going to Zarephath, Elijah told her to bake bread for him and promised that the flour and oil would not diminish as long as the Lord did not send rain to the earth. The woman trusted the Prophet of God and did as he told her, her flour and oil did not diminish. Soon this widow's son fell ill and died. The Prophet Elijah for three days prayed to God for him and the boy came back to life.

The drought lasted for three and a half years. Elijah, at God's command, again came to Ahab and suggested to him that he gather the Israelite people on Mt. Carmel. When Ahab had assembled the people, Elijah said, "You are satisfied with being godless. Become acquainted with the true God. Come, let us offer sacrifice. You, to Baal, and I, to the Lord God, but let there be no fire put under it. Whoever sends down fire from Heaven to light the sacrifice, that will be the true God." All agreed.

The priests of Baal were the first to bring sacrifice. They prepared an altar, put a calf on it and for a whole day hopped around and cried out around it, "Baal, Baal, hear us!" But there was no answer. Evening came. Then Elijah prepared an altar, dug a ditch around it, put firewood and the calf on the altar and told them to pour water on the sacrifice, so much so that the ditch was filled. Then Elijah turned to the Lord with prayer, immediately fire from the Lord came down from Heaven, and burned not only the

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, Raven, Pearl Tutko **Departed:** Marsha Shaffer, Mike Brown, Joshua, Leanne Kuehnle, Natalie Gripp

firewood and the sacrifice, but also obliterated the water which filled the ditch and the stones of which the altar was built. All the people fell on the ground in fear and cried out, "The Lord is the true God; the Lord is the true God!"

After this Elijah went up to the summit of the mountain and began to pray for rain. A wind blew from the mountain, revealing in the skies great clouds, and heavy rain began to fall.

Despite the miracles, Queen Jezebel, wife of Ahab, continued to persecute Elijah for putting all the priests of Baal to death. Elijah hid in the desert since they sought to kill him. It seemed to him that he was the only believer in God and he lost heart. But the Lord reassured him, and appeared to him when Elijah spent the night in a cave on Mt. Horeb.

The voice of God said to him, "Elijah! Come and stand on the mountain in the sight of God." There blew a strong wind, which tore up the mountains and shattered the rocks, but the Lord was not in this wind. Then, there was an earthquake, but the Lord was also not in the earthquake. Then fire appeared, but the Lord was not in the fire. After all this there was the blowing of a calm wind, and in this was the Lord.

The Lord consoled Elijah and said that among the Israelites there were still 7,000 men who did not worship idols, and that after him He would raise up among them the Prophet Elisha, whom He commanded Elijah to anoint.

This appearance of the Lord showed Elijah that the Lord not only is punishing and stern Judge, but a merciful Father. It also prefigured the coming to earth of Jesus Christ, Who would come not to judge and punish, but to forgive and save people.

Elijah, in accordance with God's direction, anointed Elisha as a prophet, who then became his disciple. Once when they were together, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for thee before I am taken away from thee,"

Elisha replied, "I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me."

Elijah said, "Thou hast asked a hard thing; nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, then shall it be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so." They went on further. Suddenly there appeared a chariot of fire with

horses of fire, and Elijah was taken up into Heaven in a whirlwind.

Elisha, seeing this, cried, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof!"

These words of the Prophet Elisha meant that the holy Prophet Elijah, by his prayers, protected the kingdom of Israel from its enemies better than all the Israelite forces, the chariots and horses. At this time the mantle, that is, the outer garment of Elijah, fell at Elisha's feet. Elisha lifted this up and with it received the double gift of prophecy.



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

<p>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305 Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840 Last Week's Collection (7/13/25): \$1,720</p>

Quotes for this week's reading:

"Notice that He said 'Your sins are forgiven' before healing. For without forgiveness, the healing of the body is incomplete."

St. John Chrysostom

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"The paralytic was a living icon of the human condition: bound by sin and unable to walk in freedom until Christ healed him."

St. Cyril of Alexandria
