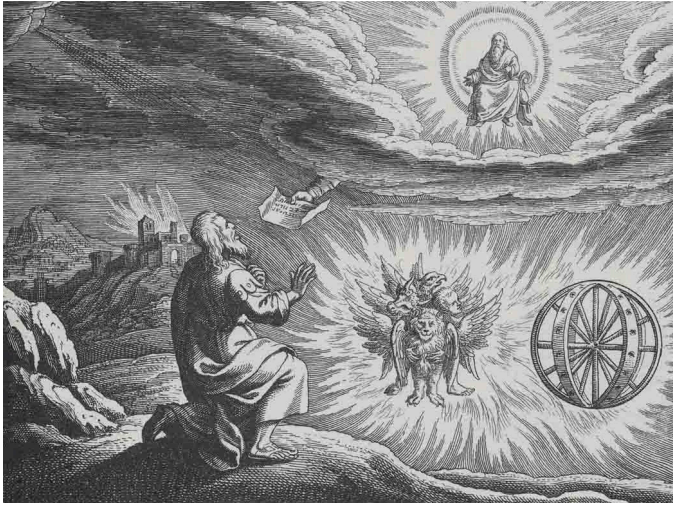




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

July 21st, 2024 + 4th Sunday after Holy Pentecost + Prophet Ezekiel; Sts. Simeon and John



Hymns for This Week

(Tone 3) Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

(Tone 4) O God of our Fathers, / always act with kindness towards us; / take not Thy mercy from us, / but guide our lives in peace // through the prayers of Venerable Simeon and John!

(Tone 2) We celebrate the memory / of Thy prophet Ezekiel, O Lord; / through him we beseech Thee: // "Save our souls!"

(Tone 3) On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

(Tone 2) Let us praise the venerable Simeon / as an equal to the angels, / for he walked in the flesh upon the earth as a bodiless angel / shining forth to all as an example of

the virtues; / and with him let us honor his companion, / the ever memorable and God-bearing Father John, // for they ceaselessly pray to the Lord for us with faith and love!

(Tone 4) Thou hast been revealed as a Prophet of God, wondrous Ezekiel, / proclaiming to all the incarnation of the Lord, the Lamb and Creator, // the Son of God, Who has ever revealed Himself.

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading - Romans 6:18-23

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 8:5-13

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only

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!

...speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.



This Week's Schedule

DOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

THIS WEEKEND - Prophet Ezekiel; Sts. Simeon and John

Saturday, July 20th
Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM
Great Vespers @ 5 PM
Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, July 21st
Resurrectional Matins @ 8 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
Blessing of Vehicles
following Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
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THIS WEEK

WED 11 AM - 1:30 PM: Church open for prayer
WED 6:30 PM: Akathist to Our Sweetest Lord Jesus Christ
THURS 11 AM: Bible Study
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NEXT WEEKEND - Holy Apostles of the Seventy and Deacons: Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, and Parmenas

Saturday, July 27th
Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM
Great Vespers @ 5 PM
Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, July 28th

Resurrectional Matins @ 8:00 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
Holy Resurrection Cathedral Special Meeting
Following Coffee Hour @ 11:30am



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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+++ Weekly / Monthly +++

Bible Study Thursdays at 11 AM. Everyone is welcome. We are reading through the Gospel of St. Luke with discussions.

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

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is July 28th.

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be SAT, August 10th @ 9 AM

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

+++ Upcoming Events +++

TODAY - 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.

Annual Shrimp Boil: 27 July - 11AM to 4PM. Contact Deb Mills (570-822-5975) for pre-ordering 22-25 July / 9AM-5PM. The price is \$18 per plate..

Holy Resurrection Cathedral Special Meeting: Sunday, July 28th following coffee hour there will be a

special parish meeting. The meeting will consist of final discussions regarding the current financial and building circumstances at the cathedral, followed by a vote to determine the course of action to be taken. All Holy Resurrection members are asked to attend.

Foodfest Meeting Mon, Aug 19 at 6:30 PM at the Pavillion. Everyone is invited to attend. This is a major fundraiser for the parish so we can use all the help we can get.

Medical Equipment Donation Appeal: The Jewish Family Services organization in Lancaster PA, in conjunction with the hospitals in that area, provides a lending service of wheelchairs, walkers, shower stools and chairs, bedside commodes and more to those in need. Recently Sandy Serafin, after cleaning out her attic, was able to take a truck load of these items to Lancaster for donation. If anyone has medical equipment they no longer need please consider donating to this worthy cause. Contact Sandy @ 571-274-5846 (pls note the 571 area code) to arrange a pick up.

Sunday Parking: With the increase in parish attendance on Sundays we are asking that the entire front parking lot (the one closest to the entrance) be reserved for elderly, those with difficulty walking, handicap, and parish visitors. If you do not fall into one of those categories, please use the parking areas on the other side of the main driveway so we can keep plenty of parking free for those who need to be closer. Thanks so much!

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.

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), Katrina Zbegner (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** - Rachael Talpash (7/24), Katrina Zbegner (7/26), Donna Stankiewkz (7/27)

This Week: **Anniversaries** - Marie & Vladimir Dutko (7/26), Tom & Alexanne Conklin (7/27)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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The Holy Prophet Ezekiel

The Holy Prophet Ezekiel lived in the sixth century before the birth of Christ. Ezekiel was led off to Babylon when he was twenty-five years old together with King Jehoniah II and many other Jews during the second invasion of Jerusalem by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar.

When he was thirty years old, he had a vision of the future of the Hebrew nation and of all mankind. The prophet beheld a shining cloud, with fire flashing continually, and in the midst of the fire, gleaming bronze. He also saw four living creatures in the shape of men, but with four faces (Ez. 1:6). Each had the face of a man in front, the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle at the back (Ez. 1:10). There was a wheel on the earth beside each creature, and the rim of each wheel was full of eyes. Over the heads of the creatures there seemed to be a firmament, shining like crystal. Above the firmament was the likeness of a throne, like glittering sapphire in appearance. Above this throne was the likeness of a human form, and around Him was a rainbow (Ez. 1:4-28).

According to the explanation of the Fathers of the Church, the human likeness upon the sapphire throne prefigures the Incarnation of the Son of God from the Most Holy Virgin Mary, who is the living Throne of God. The four creatures are symbols of the four Evangelists: a man (Saint Matthew), a lion (Saint Mark), an ox (Saint

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Homebound - Evelyn, Vladimir, Jeri, Marsha, David, Paul, Archpriest Theodore, Archpriest Michael Evans, Mit. Arch. Vladimir & Mat. Elizabeth, Mary, Patricia, Barbara, Jeri, Evelyn, Joan, Irene, Roberta **Sick & Suffering** - Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Tom & Joan Austin, Elizabeth Hutz, Mary Hutz, Delores Voda, David Lezinsky, June, Bob Lutzick, Leann, **Departed:** Rose Marie, Agaphia, Donald, Charles, Matushka Anise

Luke), and an eagle (Saint John); the wheel with the many eyes is meant to suggest the sharing of light with all the nations of the earth. During this vision the voice of God commanded him to get up; the Lord was sending him to preach to the nation of Israel. This was the beginning of Ezekiel's prophetic service. The prophecy of Ezekiel is found in the book named for him, and is included in the Old Testament.

Venerable Simeon of Emessa the Fool-For-Christ, and his fellow ascetic Venerable John

The Monks Simeon, Fool-for-Christ, and his Fellow-Ascetic John were Syrians, and they lived in the sixth century at the city of Edessa. From childhood they were bound by close ties of friendship. When Simeon was thirty years old, and John twenty-four, they made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. On the journey home, the friends spoke of the soul's path to salvation.

Passing through Jordan, they saw monasteries on the edge of the desert. Both of them were filled with an irrepressible desire to leave the world and spend their remaining life in monastic struggles. They besought the Lord to indicate which monastery they should choose, and they decided to enter whichever monastery had its gates open. At this time the Lord informed Igumen Nikon in a dream to open the monastery gates, so that the sheep of Christ could enter in.

In great joy the comrades came through the open gates of the monastery, where they were warmly welcomed by the igumen, and they remained at the monastery. In a short while they received the monastic tonsure.

After remaining at the monastery for a certain time, Simeon desired to intensify his efforts, and to go into the desert to pursue asceticism in complete solitude. John did not wish to be left behind by his companion, and he decided to share with him the work of a desert-dweller.

When they began their life in the desert, the spiritual brothers at first experienced the strong assaults of the devil. They were tempted by grief over abandoning their families, and the demons tried to discourage the ascetics, subjecting them to weakness, despondency and idleness. The brothers Simeon and John remembered their monastic calling, and trusting in the prayers of their

Elder Nikon, they continued upon their chosen path. They spent their time in unceasing prayer and strict fasting, encouraging one another in their struggle against temptation. After a while, with God's help, the temptations stopped.

Simeon and John lived in the desert for twenty-nine years, and they attained complete dispassion (apathia) and a high degree of spirituality. Saint Simeon, through the inspiration of God, considered that now it was proper for him to serve people. To do this, he must leave the desert solitude and go into the world. Saint John, however, believing that he had not attained such a degree of dispassion as his companion, decided not to leave the wilderness. The brethren parted with tears.

Simeon chose for himself the difficult task of foolishness for Christ. Having come to the city of Emesa, he stayed there and passed himself off as a simpleton, behaving strangely, for which he was subjected to insults, abuse and beatings. In spite of this, he accomplished many good deeds. He cast out demons, healed the sick, delivered people from imminent death, brought the unbelieving to faith, and sinners to repentance. All these things he did under the guise of foolishness, and he never received praise or thanks from people.

Saint John highly esteemed his spiritual brother, however. When one of the inhabitants of the city of Emesa visited him in the wilderness, asking for his advice and prayers, he would invariably direct them to "the fool Simeon", who was better able to offer them spiritual counsel.

After Saint Simeon died, Saint John also fell asleep in the Lord. Shortly before his death, Saint Simeon saw a vision of his spiritual brother wearing a crown upon his head with the inscription: "For endurance in the desert."



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 (7/14/24): \$4,945</p>
