



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

August 10th, 2025 + 9th Sunday after Holy Pentecost + Afterfeast of the Transfiguration



Hymns for This Week

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy Disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners, through the prayers of the Theotokos! O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

Victorious martyr of Christ our God, by the sign of the Cross thou didst give sight to the blind; thou didst distribute the riches of the Church to the poor; thou wast tried by fire, and no evil was found in thee. As thou didst endure burning, may thy prayers extinguish the flames of our many sins, blessed Archdeacon Lawrence!

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Thy heart burned with divine fire, as the flames of the passions died within thee. God-bearing Martyr Lawrence, the pillar of those who struggle, thou didst cry out in the midst of thy contest: "Nothing can separate me from the love of Christ!"

On the mountain Thou wast transfigured, O Christ God, and Thy Disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading - 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9-17

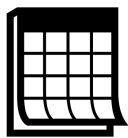
For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Gospel - Matthew 14:22-34

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the

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!

disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.



This Week's Schedule Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND - 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday, Aug 9th

Friends of the Poor @ 9 AM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, Aug 10th

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

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Coffee Hour

Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM

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THIS WEEK

The Dormition of the Mother of God

Thurs, Aug 14th @ 6:30 PM - Great Vespers w/ Litya

Fri, Aug 15th @ 9 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Feast

Followed by the Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

Breakfast at D's Diner

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, Aug 16th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, Aug 17th

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

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Coffee Hour,

Presentation by Dn Tikhon Krueger

Parastas (Memorial Service), Sunday, August 17th

In memory of Eva Lisowski

Offered by Michael and Bernice Weir

In memory of Leanne Kuehnle

Offered by Irene Anne Freeman

In memory of Michael Brown

Offered by Rocky O'Day

In memory of Natalie Gripp

Offered by Irene Cooke

In memory of Mat. Elizabeth Petorak

If you would like to submit names for this Parastas please write them down and give them to Fr. Innocent up until the beginning of the service.



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 Aug 31st.

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, Aug 10th @ 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.

+ Aug 24th Special Parish Meeting for All Members

Please plan to attend a Special Parish Meeting immediately following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 24th. The HTOC Parish Council is seeking your approval (as required by the Parish Bylaws for any capital expenditures in excess of \$15,000) for the Parish to fund the replacement of the roof on our church building. More details, including the final cost of the project, will be provided prior to the meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions you

may attend our Parish Council Meeting next Sunday, Aug 10th @ 11:30 am, learn more from a parish council member, our Chair Paul Tumavitch, or Fr. Innocent. Please plan to attend and vote at this critical Special Parish Meeting on Aug 24th.

Sun Aug 17th & 24th, Dn Tikhon Presentation - Dn Tikhon, our summer intern, will be making his adult education presentation on a much loved modern Eldress, Mother Siluana Vlad. In part 1 (8/17), you will learn who she is, her influences, and why she is relevant to us in our times. In part 2 (8/24), you will hear her teachings & how they are relevant to our emotional and spiritual healing when used in the context of our Orthodox way of life.

Thurs Aug 28, St. Tikhon's Southern BBQ Night: We have all been invited, along with the entire Wilkes-Barre Deanery, to a free Southern BBQ Night at St. Tikhon's Seminary on **August 28 at 6 PM.** To attend RSVP at events.stots.edu or via email at info@stots.edu. If you are unable to RSVP by either of those methods let Fr. Innocent know, and he will do it for you. Need a ride or want to carpool? Let Fr. Innocent know and we will make arrangements.

Fri Aug 29, Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist - St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Edwardsville is honored to host the Divine Liturgy for the commemoration of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist on August 29th. Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30. They will also host the Fellowship gathering in Repella Hall immediately following the service.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

August Birthdays: Joan Lello (8/1), Sophia Leonori (8/5), Jonathan Sims (8/6), Liam Reznak (8/9), Joe Lello (8/14), Lisa Talpash (8/16), Greg Kurtz Jr. (8/16), William Talpash (8/19), Olivia Dutko (8/22), Carl Zbegner (8/22), Denise Meck (8/23), Ephraim Neal (8/25), Sylvia Dreater (8/29) Lindsey Rivera (8/31) **August Anniversaries:** Paul & Sylvia Dreater (8/3), Greg & Laura Polk (8/17), George & Rita Krill (8/29)

This Week: Birthdays - Joe Lello (8/14), Lisa Talpash (8/16), Greg Kurtz Jr. (8/16) Anniversaries N/A



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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The Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God

The feast of the Dormition or Falling-asleep of the Theotokos is celebrated on the fifteenth of August, preceded by a two-week fast. This feast, which is also sometimes called the Assumption, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. It proclaims that Mary has been "assumed" by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

As with the nativity of the Virgin and the feast of her entrance to the temple, there are no biblical or historical sources for this feast. The Tradition of the Church is that Mary died as all people die, not "voluntarily" as her Son, but by the necessity of her mortal human nature which is indivisibly bound up with the corruption of this world.

The Orthodox Church teaches that Mary is without personal sins. In the Gospel of the feast, however, in the liturgical services and in the Dormition icon, the Church proclaims as well that Mary truly needed to be saved by Christ as all human persons are saved from the trials, sufferings and death of this world; and that having truly died, she was raised up by her Son as the Mother of Life and participates already in the eternal life of paradise

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:** Joshua, Leanne Kuehnle, Natalie Gripp, Matushka Elizabeth Petorak

which is prepared and promised to all who “hear the word of God and keep it” (Lk11.27–28).

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity. In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, and by your prayers, you deliver our souls from death (Troparion).

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos, who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. For being the Mother of Life, she was translated to life, by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb (Kontakion).

The services of the feast repeat the main theme, that the Mother of Life has “passed over into the heavenly joy, into the divine gladness and unending delight” of the Kingdom of her Son (Vespers hymn). The Old Testament readings, as well as the gospel readings for the Vigil and the Divine Liturgy, are exactly the same as those for the feast of the Virgin’s nativity and her entrance into the Temple. Thus, at the Vigil we again hear Mary say: “My soul magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour” (Lk 1.47). At the Divine Liturgy we hear the letter to the Philippians where Saint Paul speaks of the self-emptying of Christ who condescends to human servitude and ignoble death in order to be “highly exalted by God his Father” (Phil 2.5–11). And once again we hear in the Gospel that Mary’s blessedness belongs to all who “hear the word of God and keep it” (Lk 11.27–28).

Thus, the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos is the celebration of the fact that all men are “highly exalted” in the blessedness of the victorious Christ, and that this high exaltation has already been accomplished in Mary the Theotokos. The feast of the Dormition is the sign, the guarantee, and the celebration that Mary’s fate is, the destiny of all those of “low estate” whose souls magnify the Lord, whose spirits rejoice in God the Saviour, whose lives are totally dedicated to hearing and keeping the Word of God which is given to men in Mary’s child, the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

Finally it must be stressed that, in all of the feasts of the Virgin Mother of God in the Church, the Orthodox Christians celebrate facts of their own lives in Christ and the Holy Spirit. What happens to Mary happens to all who imitate her holy life of humility, obedience, and love. With her all people will be “blessed” to be “more honorable than the cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the

seraphim” if they follow her example. All will have Christ born in them by the Holy Spirit. All will become temples of the living God. All will share in the eternal life of His Kingdom who live the life that Mary lived.

In this sense everything that is praised and glorified in Mary is a sign of what is offered to all persons in the life of the Church. It is for this reason that Mary, with the divine child Jesus within her, is called in the Orthodox Tradition the Image of the Church. For the assembly of the saved is those in whom Christ dwells.

It is the custom in some churches to bless flowers on the feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos.

“Her Dormition is a second Pascha, for she passed from earth to heaven, and through her the whole human race is lifted toward divine life.”

+St. Gregory Palamas

“The Theotokos is alive after her falling-asleep, attentive to every sigh; she hastens to help more swiftly than we call upon her.”

+St. Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia

“In her Dormition the Mother of God shows that death, when filled with divine grace, becomes a passage into inexhaustible life and intercession for the world.”

+St. Sophrony of Essex



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 (8/3/25) : \$3,553</p>
