



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

August 11th, 2024 + 7th Sunday after Holy Pentecost + Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Euplus of Catania



## Hymns for This Week

(Tone 6) 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.

(Tone 7) 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!

(Tone 4) Thy holy martyr Euplus, O Lord, / through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from Thee, our God. / For having Thy strength, he laid low his adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. // Through his intercession, save our souls!

(Tone 6) When Christ God, the Giver of Life, / raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

(Tone 1) With the love of Christ as thine only defense, / thou didst stand in the midst of thy fight and didst say: / "I endure this struggle willingly and with confidence!" / Thou didst rejoice, O Euplus, to offer thy head to the sword // and so thou didst complete thy course.

(Tone 7) 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 - Romans 15:1-7

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through 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!

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patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

### **Gospel - Matthew 9:27-35**

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!" But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons." Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

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## **This Week's Schedule** **Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**

### **THIS WEEKEND - Holy Martyr and Archdeacon**

#### **Euplus of Catania**

Saturday, August 10th

Friends of the Poor @ 9 AM

Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

*Confession available before or after Vespers*

Sunday, August 11th

Resurrectional Matins @ 8 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Followed by Coffee Hour and Part II of

"Saint Alexis: The Father of American Orthodoxy"

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### **THIS WEEK: Dormition Fast thru Aug 15**

#### **The Great Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos**

Wednesday, August 14th

Festal Vigil @ 6:30 PM

Thursday, August 15th

Hours @ 8:40 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Followed by Blessing of Herbs & Flowers

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

NO THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK

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### **NEXT WEEKEND - Martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria**

Saturday, August 17th

Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

*Confession available before or after Vespers*

Sunday, August 18th

Resurrectional Matins @ 8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Followed by Coffee Hour

HTOC Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM

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## **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 August 25th.

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

**Holy Trinity Parish Council** is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, Aug 18th @ 11:30 AM

**Holy Resurrection Parish Council** Meeting will be the 4th Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, Aug 25th @ 11:30 AM

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+++ Upcoming Events +++

**“St Alexis: The Father of American Orthodoxy”**

During coffee hour on the Sundays of Aug 4th and 11th, Dn Nicholas, our Intern, will be introducing us to Saint Alexis Toth of Wilkes-Barre, by whose efforts the parishes of Holy Resurrection and Holy Trinity (and many others) were established.

**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.

**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 22 at 6 PM. To attend RSVP at [events.stots.edu](http://events.stots.edu) or via email at [info@stots.edu](mailto: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.

**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.

**Aug 25, Appalachia Service Project Presentation:** Ephraim Neal and his uncle Matthew Reed, who accompanied Ephraim on his recent mission trip, will offer a brief presentation on the work they did that so many of you supported. The presentation will be on Aug 25 during Coffee Hour.

**Aug 29, Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist:** The Holy Trinity & Holy Resurrection Communities are invited to celebrate the Patronal Feast Day of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Edwardsville. Join us Thursday, August 29 at 9:00 AM for a Divine Liturgy commemorating the Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist. All attending are invited to share a potluck brunch in Repella Hall immediately following the service.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

**August Birthdays:** Jonathan Sims (8/6), Liam Reznak (8/9), Dn Michael McCartney (8/13), Joe Lello (8/14), William Talpash (8/19), Lisa Talpash (8/16), Greg Kurtz Jr. (8/16), Olivia Dutko (8/22), Carl Zbegner (8/22), Denise Meck (8/23), Ephraim Neal (8/25), Sylvia Dreater (8/29) Lindsey Rivera (8/31)

**Anniversaries:** Paul & Sylvia Dreater (8/3), Greg & Laura Polk (8/17), George & Rita Krill (8/29)

**This Week: Birthdays:** Dn Michael McCartney (8/13), Joe Lello (8/14)

**Anniversaries:** Greg & Laura Polk (8/17)



## Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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### Martyr and Archdeacon Euplus of Catania

The Martyr Archdeacon Euplus suffered in the year 304 under the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). He served in the Sicilian city of Catania. Always carrying the Gospel with him, Saint Euplus preached constantly to the pagans about Christ.

Once, while he read and explained the Gospel to the gathered crowd, they arrested him and took him to the governor of the city, Calvisianus. Saint Euplus confessed himself a Christian and denounced the impiety of idol-worship. For this they sentenced him to torture.

They threw the injured saint into prison, where he remained in prayer for seven days. The Lord made a spring of water flow into the prison for the martyr to quench his thirst. Brought to trial a second time, strengthened and rejoicing, he again confessed his faith in Christ and denounced the torturer for spilling the blood of innocent Christians.

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The judge commanded that the saint's ears be torn off, and that he be beheaded. When they led the saint to execution, they hung the Gospel around his neck. Having asked time for prayer, the archdeacon began to read and explain the Gospel to the people, and many of the pagans believed in Christ. The soldiers beheaded the saint with a sword.

His holy relics are in the village of Vico della Batonia, near Naples.

### ***Another account of his life***

Euplus was a deacon in Catania, Sicily. Emperor Diocletian dispatched the Roman commander, Petagurus, to Sicily to exterminate any Christians he found there. Petagurus did not find a single Christian, for the few that were there hid from the persecutor and did not reveal themselves.

Even so, someone accused Euplus of taking a book to secret Christians and reading to them. This book was the Holy Gospel. They soon brought him to court, hung that book around his neck, and led him to prison. After seven days of imprisonment and hunger, Euplus was given over to torture.

While they were beating him with iron rods, Euplus mockingly said to the torturing judge: "O ignorant one, do you not see that, by God's grace, these tortures are like a cobweb to me? If you can, find other, harsher tortures, for all of these are as toys." After more of the same, they led the martyr of Christ to the scaffold.

There St. Euplus opened the Holy Gospel and read from it to the people for a long time. Many converted to the Christian Faith. St. Euplus was beheaded in the year 304, and took up his habitation in the Kingdom of Heaven. His miracle-working relics repose in a village near Naples, called Vico della Batonia.

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## **Concerning the Transfiguration**

The Light of the Transfiguration of the Lord is not something that comes to be and then vanishes, nor is it subject to the sensory faculties, although it was contemplated by corporeal eyes for a short while upon an inconsequential mountaintop. But the initiates of the

Mystery, (the disciples) of the Lord at this time passed beyond mere flesh into spirit through a transformation of their senses, effectualized within them by the Spirit, and in such a way that they beheld what, and to what extent, the Divine Spirit had wrought blessedness in them to behold the Ineffable Light.

That same Inscrutable Light shone and was mysteriously manifest to the Apostles and the foremost of the Prophets at that moment, when (the Lord) was praying. This shows that what brought forth this blessed sight was prayer, and that the radiance occurred and was manifest by uniting the mind with God, and that it is granted to all who, with constant exercise in efforts of virtue and prayer, strive with their mind towards God. True beauty, essentially, can be contemplated only with a purified mind. To gaze upon its luminance assumes a sort of participation in it, as though some bright ray etches itself upon the face.

Let us, considering the Mystery of the Transfiguration of the Lord in accord with their teaching, strive to be illumined by this Light ourselves and encourage in ourselves love and striving towards the Unfading Glory and Beauty.

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*"When we have faith and turn our whole heart to Christ, miracles happen. The blind see, the lame walk, the mute speak, and above all, the soul is healed."*

St. Porphyrios of Kafsokalivia



## **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><br/><b>Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840</b><br/><b>Last Week's Collection (8/04/24) : \$2,408</b></p> |
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