



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

August 3rd, 2025 + 8th Sunday after Holy Pentecost + Venerable Isaac, Dalmatus, and Faustus



Hymns for This Week

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, // granting the world great mercy.

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 Isaac, Dalmatus, and Faustus!

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: "The Savior has come to those in faith; enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

Through asceticism you shone like lights in the world, and by your faith you overthrew heresies. We praise you with

hymns, Isaac, Dalmatus, and Faustus, as servants of Christ, who are praying for us all.

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 1:10-18

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Gospel - Matthew 14:14-22

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He

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!

commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.



This Week's Schedule Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND - 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday, Aug 2nd

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, Aug 3rd

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

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Coffee Hour

Hospitality Committee Meeting

+++

THIS WEEK

Great Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

Tues, Aug 5th @ 6:30 PM - Great Vespers w/ Litya

Wed, Aug 6th @ 9 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Feast

Followed by the Blessing of Fruit & Festal Coffee Hour

"He was transfigured, not by assuming what He was not, but by manifesting to His disciples what He was, opening their eyes." - St. John of Damascus

+++

NEXT WEEKEND

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

+++



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.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

August Birthdays: Joan Lello (8/1), Sophia Leonori (8/5), Jonathan Sims (8/6), Liam Reznak (8/9), 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) August Anniversaries: Paul & Sylvia Dreater (8/3), Greg & Laura Polk (8/17), George & Rita Krill (8/29)

This Week: Birthdays - Sophia Leonori (8/5), Jonathan Sims (8/6), Liam Reznak (8/9) Anniversaries - Paul & Sylvia Dreater (8/3)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

+++

Venerable Isaac, the Ascetic of the Dalmatian Monastery at Constantinople

Saint Isaac (May 30) was a soldier before he became a monk. After he was tonsured, he attained such a degree of spiritual perfection that he was accounted worthy of beholding divine visions.

When Saint Isaac heard about how the Emperor Valens had fallen into the Arian heresy and was persecuting the Orthodox Christians, he left his monastery and traveled to Constantinople to confront the emperor. At that time Valens was planning a campaign against the Goths. Saint Isaac tried to change the emperor's mind several times, but was unable to convince him. He prophesied that Valens would die in flames because of his actions. The emperor ordered that Saint Isaac be thrown into prison, and promised to deal with him when he returned from his expedition. On August 9, 378 Valens was defeated at Adrianople and died in a fire after hiding in a barn, just as the saint had predicted.

Emperor Theodosius the Great, who had a great love for the saint, released him from prison and banned Arianism. Saint Isaac attended the Second Ecumenical Council (381), where he defended the Orthodox Faith against the Arian heresy.

Saint Isaac hoped to return to his monastic life in the wilderness, but a wealthy man built a monastery for him at Constantinople, and he became its first igumen. The monastery was later named for his disciple Dalmatus.

When Saint Isaac was approaching the end of his earthly life, he named Saint Dalmatus to succeed him as igumen. He lived to a ripe old age and reposed in the year 383.

Venerable Dalmatus

Saint Dalmatus served in the army of the holy emperor Theodosius the Great (379-395) and attracted his notice. The saint was soon filled with the desire to dedicate himself to his Lord and Creator. Therefore, sometime between the years 381-383, he left the service of an earthly ruler in order to serve the King of Heaven. He went with his son Faustus to Saint Isaac's monastery near Constantinople in order to speak with him. Saint Isaac (May 30) tonsured both father and son into monasticism, and they both began to lead a strict ascetic life.

Saint Dalmatus excelled all the other monks in virtue. Once, during Great Lent, Saint Dalmatus did not eat any food for the forty days. Later he regained his strength and was found worthy of a divine vision.

The holy ascetic was chosen to be the igumen after the death of the most devout Isaac. In fact, at the Third Ecumenical Council which met in Ephesus in 431 A. D. which condemned the heresy of Nestorius, Saint Dalmatus was honored for his defense of the Orthodox Faith.

After the Council the holy Fathers elevated Saint Dalmatus to be the archimandrite of his monastery, where he died peacefully at the age of ninety (after 446). He was succeeded by his son Faustus, who proved to be a worthy successor of his father.

Venerable Faustus

Saint Faustus and his father Dalmatus received the monastic tonsure from Saint Isaac (May 30) at his monastery near Constantinople.

Saint Faustus, like his father, had attained the heights of monasticism, and excelled at fasting. Following the death of his father, he succeeded him as igumen of the monastery. The details of his ascetical life are not known.

Holiness Begets Holiness

The lives of the three saints whose feast we celebrate today, are one among many examples of how holiness begets holiness. In other words, in the lineage of Orthodox saints, we have an illustration of the social maxim that states that, "We are the sum of the people who we spend time with."

The Church recognizes that parents, and particularly mothers, have a profound influence on the faith and piety of their children, inspiring them to pursue an ever-deepening relationship with Christ...or not. Perhaps our most profound example among the saints, are the mothers of the Three Holy Hierarchs, Ss. Nonna, Emilia, and Anthusa. Likewise are St Nina, Enlightener of Georgia's parents venerated as saints.

But holiness is not only propagated along family lines, but also from Spiritual Fathers and Mothers to their "sons and daughters". Notably, we have those mentioned in the book of Acts, such as St Lydia, among whom the faith was directly propagated from the Apostles. We see this pattern of "Apostolic succession", as the faith has been passed down, all the way through the centuries, to and through modern Orthodox saints like Ss Silouan and Sophrony, and on to Elder Zacharias of Essex, and Abbot Sergius, of St Tikhon's Monastery, in our time today!

May God grant that this holiness be passed on through our striving to become children of God through repentance and following His Commandments, and that the grace of His Holy Spirit may be given, as we say at the Great Entrance of Liturgy: to "you, and all Orthodox Christians!"

"People who repent will live forever with God and will love God, and will be pleasant to the Father like children.

+St Silouan+

"The way of thanksgiving heals us from the passion of pride, and strengthens us against the temptation to despair. Thanksgiving and gratitude equal humility..."

+Elder Zacharias of Essex

Great Feast this Week - August 6th

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

The Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ on August 6, commemorating the moment when Christ revealed His divine glory to His closest disciples—Peter, James, and

John—on Mount Tabor. During this event, His face shone like the sun, and His garments became dazzling white, as Moses and Elijah appeared beside Him. This manifestation affirmed Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, represented by Moses and Elijah respectively, and underscored His divine nature. The voice of the Father from the cloud, declaring, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; listen to Him," further confirmed His identity and mission .

The Transfiguration holds profound theological significance for Orthodox Christians and the entire world. It is, first and foremost, a revelation of the Holy Trinity: the Father speaks from the cloud, the Son is transfigured, and the Holy Spirit is present in the form of the luminous cloud. This event prefigures Christ's Resurrection and His Second Coming, offering a glimpse of the divine light and glory that we Orthodox Christians aspire to partake in. It also emphasizes the concept of theosis, the transformative process of becoming united with God, as the disciples witness the divine light emanating from Christ, symbolizing the potential for human participation in divine life .

Liturgically, the Feast of the Transfiguration is one of the Twelve Great Feasts in the Orthodox Church and is celebrated with great solemnity. It falls during the Dormition Fast, yet the fast is relaxed on this day to allow for the consumption of fish, wine, and oil. A distinctive tradition associated with this feast is the blessing of grapes and other first fruits, symbolizing the transfiguration of all creation through Christ. This practice reflects the belief that the entire cosmos is called to be transformed and glorified in the light of God, aligning with the feast's themes of renewal and divine illumination.

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 (7/27/25) : \$2,790</p>
--
