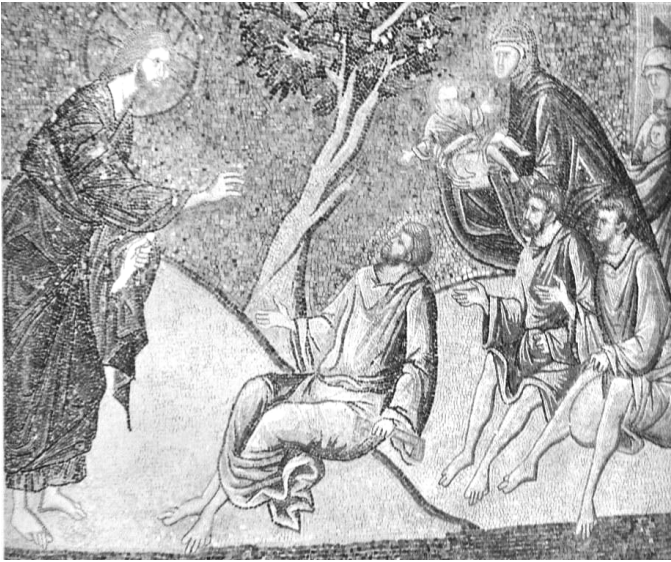




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

September 1st, 2024 + 10th Sunday after Pentecost + Church New Year; St. Simeon the Stylite and his mother, V. Martha



Hymns for This Week

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

O Creator of the Universe, Thou didst appoint times by Thine own power; bless the crown of this year with Thy goodness, O Lord! Preserve in safety Thy rulers and Thy cities: and through the intercessions of the Theotokos, save us!

Thou wast a pillar of patient endurance, having imitated the Forefathers, O Venerable One: Job in suffering and Joseph in temptations. Thou didst live like the bodiless ones while yet in the flesh, O Simeon, our Father. Beseech Christ God that our souls may be saved!

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve

rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: "Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

Seeking the things of the Highest, and having made a fiery chariot, thou wast joined to the heights. Therefore, thou hast become a companion to the angels, O venerable Simeon, and with them thou art praying incessantly to Christ God for us all.

O Creator and Master of time and the ages, Triune and Merciful God of all: grant blessings for the course of this year, and in Thy boundless mercy save those who worship Thee and cry out in fear: "O Savior, grant blessings to all mankind!"

Epistle Reading - 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

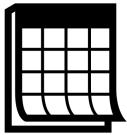
For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 17:14-23

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O

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!

faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.” And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.” And they were exceedingly sorrowful.



This Week's Schedule

DOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

THIS WEEKEND – Church New Year;

St. Simeon the Stylite and his mother, Ven. Martha

Saturday, August 31st

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, September 1st

Resurrectional Matins @ 8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Followed by Coffee Hour

Parastas for Eva Lisowski

Offered by Joann Beck

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THIS WEEK

WED **11 AM** – **1:30 PM**: Church open for prayer

WED **6:30 PM**: Akathist: St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre

THUR **11 AM**: Bible Study

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NEXT WEEKEND – Nativity of the Mother of God

Saturday, September 7th

Vigil w/ Litya @ 5 PM

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, September 8th

Hours (3rd & 6th) @ 8:40 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Followed by Coffee Hour

HOTC Parish Council @ 11:30 AM



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 *NOTE: Orthodoxy 101 is currently on break. No classes at this time.* 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.

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, September 21st @ 9 AM

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, Sept 8th @ 11:30 AM

Holy Resurrection Parish Council Meeting will be the 4th Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, Sep 29th @ 11:30 AM

+++ Upcoming Events +++

Sept 15, Holy Resurrection Special Meeting: A special meeting is required on September 15th for all members of Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church relating to the parish closure. Details for the meeting have been sent to parishioners via email and mail. If you have any questions please see Brian Hutz.

Sept 15, First Day of Church School: September 15th is the first day of Church school for all children (preschool through 12th grade). Class begins immediately following Divine Liturgy on Sundays downstairs in the church hall. Please sign up for your child on the sign up sheet in the Narthex (vestibule). If you have any questions please see Paula Holoviak.

Holy Trinity Foodfest – October 4 & 5: The foodfest is just around the corner. Please consider volunteering your time before, during and after preparing and serving foods, setting up and breaking down tables & chairs, parking cars or just helping wherever the need arises. Beginning on 1 September please check the information stand in the vestibule for food prep schedules, volunteer sign up sheets, information on how to donate money or supplies plus overall information in general. Your time, talents and donations will always be appreciated. If you

have any suggestions or questions please feel free to contact Sandy @ 571-274-5846.

Choir & Singing Lessons: We are happy to announce that Dan Brisk, who is a full-time instructor of music & voice, will be offering voice coaching and instruction lessons during coffee hours to any current or potential NEW choir members (We are seeking new members). Anyone who is interested, please see Dan. If you would like to consider joining the choir see SD Greg Polk.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September Birthdays: Eva Nealon, (9/1), Jason King (9/1), Marianne Haugh (9/3), William Gurka (9/8), Vladimir Dutko (9/13), Kaleb Dutko (9/19), Tom Michalski (9/19), Brittany Marie Willis (9/20), Irene Kazmierowicz (9/27), Stephen Hutz (9/29), Aleksandria Dutko (9/30) **September Anniversaries:** Jason & Coleen King (9/5), Dave & Diane Welgus (9/6), Martha & Paul Tumavitch (9/17)

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This Week:

Birthdays: Eva Nealon, (9/1), Jason King (9/1), Marianne Haugh (9/3) **Anniversaries:** Jason & Coleen King (9/5), Dave & Diane Welgus (9/6)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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“Be Followers of Me, as I am of Christ”

In today's Epistle we hear words which at first may shock us, Saint Paul telling us, ‘Be followers of me as I am of Christ’ (“Imitate me!”). How could he say, ‘Be followers of me’ rather than say, ‘Follow Christ whom I try to follow but not always succeed’?

I think, we must remember his life in order to understand these words. He is, according to Tradition, the young man who stood watching over the clothes of those who stoned Stephen. He went from Jerusalem, out, with powers to persecute, to seize, to bring to death and

judgment the Christians in Damascus. And of a sudden, having met Christ, he changed his life and did that at all risks.

And this is, I think, what he means when he says, ‘Be followers of me as I am of Christ’: I was a stranger to Him, I have become one of His people. I was a persecutor, I am now standing side by side with Him, carrying not only the shame but the terror of it. Because if nowadays some feel shy, timid, cowardly ashamed of professing their faith, in those days, proclaiming oneself a Christian was tantamount to offering oneself unto martyrdom. And he gives us a picture of what his life had been, in the same passage of the Epistle which we have read: all he has suffered because he choose Christ.

Elsewhere he says, ‘For me life is Christ’ - that means that all that was Christ's is his, and all that was alien to Christ, all that brought Him to Passion week and to the Crucifixion, he rejects. Nothing was left of life for him except what was in harmony with the Lord Jesus Christ. He accomplished what Christ had said to James and John: Are you prepared to drink My cup? Are you prepared to be merged into the ordeal which shall be Mine? - that was for Paul life with Christ: to share His earthly destiny in all things, including martyrdom and death, if necessary.

And indeed, for him, whose heart had been conquered by the Lord Jesus Christ, death itself became an object of longing: didn't he say, ‘for me death would be a gain, because as long as I am in the flesh I am separated from Christ’? He longed for death for nothing to separate him from the Lord who was his Savior, who was his teacher, who had become his whole life.

When he says therefore, ‘Be followers of me as I am of Christ’ he does not pride himself of anything; he confesses his early life and he proclaims the wonder which God has achieved within his life.

Let us reflect on this. Most of us, from childhood, we have been united with Christ, brought to Him to be His own - but can we say that we have chosen Him when, being older, we could choose for Him or turn away from Him? Can we say that all our life is Christ, that anything which is contrary to Him, to His teaching, to His being is alien to us, indeed is repellent to us? Can we say that to live for us is to share with Him both His resurrection and the readiness to tread the way of the Passion? Can we say

that we long for death because death for us is freedom and eternity?

Let us therefore reflect, time and again, on these words, on this call of Paul, 'Be followers of me as I am of Christ'. And let us reach out to the depth and to the greatness of our vocation to be Christ's body, the temples of the Holy Spirit, partakers of the divine nature, sons and daughters of the Living God. Amen.

Today is the Church New Year

The first day of the Church New Year is also called the beginning of the Indiction. The term Indiction comes from a Latin word meaning, "to impose." It was originally applied to the imposition of taxes in Egypt. The first worldwide Indiction was in 312 when the Emperor Constantine (May 21) saw a miraculous vision of the Cross in the sky. Before the introduction of the Julian calendar, Rome began the New Year on September 1.

According to Holy Tradition, Christ entered the synagogue on September 1 to announce His mission to mankind (Luke 4:16-22). Quoting Isaiah 61:1-2, the Savior proclaimed, "The spirit of the Lord is upon Me; because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord..." This scene is depicted in a Vatican manuscript (Vatican, Biblioteca. Cod. Gr. 1613, p.1).

Tradition says that the Hebrews entered the Promised Land in September.



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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Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840
Last Week's Collection (8/25/24) : \$2,505

Quotes for Today's Gospel Lesson

"Prayer and fasting are a great help in the struggle against the devil. But these should not be seen as mere duties. They are weapons given by Christ to His Church so that we can defeat the demons, purify our hearts, and draw closer to God. When done with faith and humility, they make us strong in the spiritual warfare."

St. Paisios of Mt. Athos

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"Why could we not cast it out? Because of your little faith. Thus, Christ shows that faith is a powerful thing, when it is right and accompanied with works. Faith and prayer and fasting are the remedies of our evils. But, though prayer and fasting are useful, they are so, when accompanied with faith; for they cannot have their effect unless they be so."

St. John Chrysostom

Please join us for our weekly

BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, 11 AM - Noon
Bring a Bible. Everyone is Welcome.
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 401 East Main Street - Downstairs in the Church