

MARTYR AGATHA OF PALERMO IN SICILY

The Holy Virgin Martyr Agatha was the 15-year-old daughter of rich and respected Christian parents from the city of Palermo in Sicily. During the persecution under the emperor Decius (249-251), the city prefect of Catania, Quintianus, having heard about Agatha's wealth and beauty, sent his soldiers to bring her to trial as a Christian.

At Catania they housed the saint with a certain rich woman, who had five daughters. They all tempted St. Agatha with fine clothes, amusements and entertainment, urging her to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, but the saint disdained all these things. The more they tried, the more resolute she became. She prayed that she might soon face martyrdom.

During her interrogation under Quintianus, the holy martyr was not swayed by flattery nor threats, and she was subjected to cruel torments. They tried to remove her breasts with metal tongs, and when this failed, they used knives.

The Apostle Peter appeared to her in prison and healed her wounds. St. Agatha was led to torture again, and Quintianus was astonished to see her completely healed. Then the torture began once more.

At this moment an earthquake took place in the city, and many buildings were destroyed. Among those killed were two of Quintianus' advisors. The terrified inhabitants rushed to Quintianus, demanding an end to Agatha's tortures. Fearing a revolt by the people, Quintianus sent St. Agatha back to prison. There the martyr, offering thanks to God, peacefully surrendered her soul.

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THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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THE TRINITARIAN

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V. REV. ALEXANDER GARKLAVS, PASTOR

Divine Liturgy at 9:00 A.M.
Church School Every Sunday at 10:45 A.M.
(During the Months of September thru May)

Vespers - Every Saturday - 5:00 P.M.
Choir Rehearsals Every Thursday at 7:30 P.M.
Michael N. Pilat, Choir Director

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BULLETIN 14 - VOLUME LIV

TONE 8

FEBRUARY 5, 2017

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

Beginning of the Lenten Triodion

Afterfeast of the Meeting

Holy Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily;

Rest of St. Theodosius of Chernígov;

Martyr Theodula of Anazarbus in Cilicia, and with her Martyrs Helladius, Macarius and Evagrius;
Icons of the Most-holy Theotokos "SEARCH OF THE LOST" and "RESCUE OF THE DROWNING"

"Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! And learn humility from the Publican's tears! Let us cry to our Savior, have mercy on us, only merciful One!"

Kontakion, Tone IV

"Your lamb Agatha, calls out to You, O Jesus, in a loud voice: 'I love You, my Bridegroom, and in seeking You I endure suffering. In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in You, and I died so that I might live with You. Accept me as a pure sacrifice, for I have offered myself in love.' Through her prayers, save our souls, since You are merciful."

Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY'S EPISTLE: II TIMOTHY 3:10-15

TODAY'S GOSPEL: LUKE 18:10-14

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, February 11 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, February 6	II Peter 1:20-2:9	Mark 13:9-13
Tuesday, February 7	II Peter 2:9-22	Mark 13:14-23
Wednesday, February 8	II Peter 3:1-18	Mark 13:24-31
Thursday, February 9	I John 1:8-2:6	Mark 13:31-14:2
	Hebrews 7:7-17	Luke 2:22-40
Friday, February 10	I John 2:7-17	Mark 14:3-9
Saturday, February 11	II Timothy 3:1-9	Luke 20:46-21:4

THIS IS A FAST-FREE WEEK.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY:

- 10, Friday 6:00 p.m. Game Night at HTOC Fellowship Hall
- 12, Sunday Second Sunday Food Sale
- 13, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
- 7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting
- 20, Monday 9:00 a.m. Cooking for St. Herman’s House
- 22, Wednesday Serving dinner at St. Herman’s House of Hospitality

<p><u>GAME NIGHT:</u> On this fast-free Friday, February 10, we will have a family fun evening of sharing delicious potluck foods and enjoying playing board games. We had this Pre-Lenten event two years ago, and it was quite enjoyable. Everyone is invited, and participants are asked to submit items on the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.</p> <p><u>GREETERS:</u> We are looking for people to join our “Greeters” team. If you are interested, contact Alex Cundik at 440-877-1980, or ajcundik@cox.net</p> <p><u>TRINITARIAN COVERS:</u> The covers today are offered by Mat and Olga Lobas. There are still a few 2017 dates in need of donors. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall; your offering offsets the cost of printing our weekly Trinitarian.</p>	<p><u>FOOD SALE:</u> Please support the final food sale of this season, which will be next Sunday, February 12. Cooks and bakers, plan to make something special for this Valentine’s Day sale!</p> <p><u>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:</u> The statements for your donations to HTOC in 2016 are available in the Fellowship Hall.</p> <p><u>BOOK CIRCLE:</u> The St. Elizabeth Book Circle will meet on Monday, February 13, at 12:30 p.m. We will read <u>St. Nikiforos, The Leper and Wonderworker (+1964)</u>. Please read preface through pg. 21 of his life and pages 77-106 (or as you can) of his miracles.</p> <p><u>FLOWERS:</u> The flowers today are offered by Dave and Judy Howe.</p>
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*I feel bright, warm and tranquil when I turn with my whole soul to the mental sun,
the Sun of Righteousness, to Christ my God.
Then the ice of my heart melts, all its darkness, impurity and corruption vanish;
spiritual death flees, heavenly life begins in its stead,
and nothing earthly occupies me any longer.
St. John of Kronstadt*

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, JANUARY 29	\$ 3208.50
CHILDREN’S COLLECTION	1.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	1225.00
BUILDING FUND	240.00
MORTGAGE FUND	220.00
CANDLES	80.00
ORTHODOX MISSIONS	45.00
IN MEMORY OF TOM BOHURJAK	75.00
IN MEMORY OF MARGUERITE KLOOZ	320.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 14 – Volume LIV

February 5, 2017

THE SAINTS AMONG US -
STS. SIMEON THE “GOD-RECEIVER”
AND ANNA THE PROPHETESS

On February 3, the day following the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple, the Orthodox Church commemorates two of the central personages of the feast, Simeon and Anna. The story of Mary and Joseph presenting the forty-day-old child Jesus to the Temple is described in the Gospel of St. Luke. It was the fulfillment of Old Testament tradition wherein first-born children were brought to the temple to be “presented to the Lord” as a sign of gratitude and in supplication for God’s blessings. In some ways this ritual underlies the custom we have today of baptizing infant children, usually forty days or so after birth. As Mary and Joseph came with Jesus, a righteous elder, Simeon, took the Babe in his arms and offered a prayer that has become very well-known and a most-loved hymn:

*Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word;
for mine eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared
before the face of all people, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of Your people, Israel” (Luke 2:29-32).*

This moving prayer, known as the Canticle of Simeon, or, in Latin, *Nunc Dimittis*, is chanted and sung at evening worship service in most Christian traditions and is included in the Orthodox post-Communion prayers.

We should note that Simeon is not a priest but simply a righteous elder. He was, according to ancient tradition, a scholar who in his youth worked on the *Septuagint*, that is, translation of the Old Testament from Hebrew into Greek. As he was translating Prophet Isaiah, he came to the verse which said, “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). Puzzled, he assumed “virgin” was a mistake and should read “a young woman.” But an angel appeared to him, declaring that the text is true and that he will live to see it take place. He lived a long time and was well advanced in years when finally the infant Christ child was brought by His parents to the Jerusalem Temple. He had merely come, as was his custom, to pray that day; but as he beheld the Infant in Mary’s arms, the Holy Spirit revealed to him that this was indeed “the Lord’s Christ,” thus fulfilling Isaiah’s prophecy.

Also in the Temple that day was an eighty-four year old widow named Anna, whom the Gospel describes as a “prophetess.” She spent her time continually in the Temple, “worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day” (Luke 2:37). Like Simeon, she too recognized Jesus and gave glory to God on that account. Both of these saints represent those inspired people who, during Jesus’ life on earth, were able to perceive the divine qualities present in Him although others could not, even later when they witnessed wondrous miracles.

Saints Simeon and Anna are rarely portrayed apart on the festal icon, and it is there that they are found in our church on the far left-side wall.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus