

SAINT METROPHANES THE FIRST PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

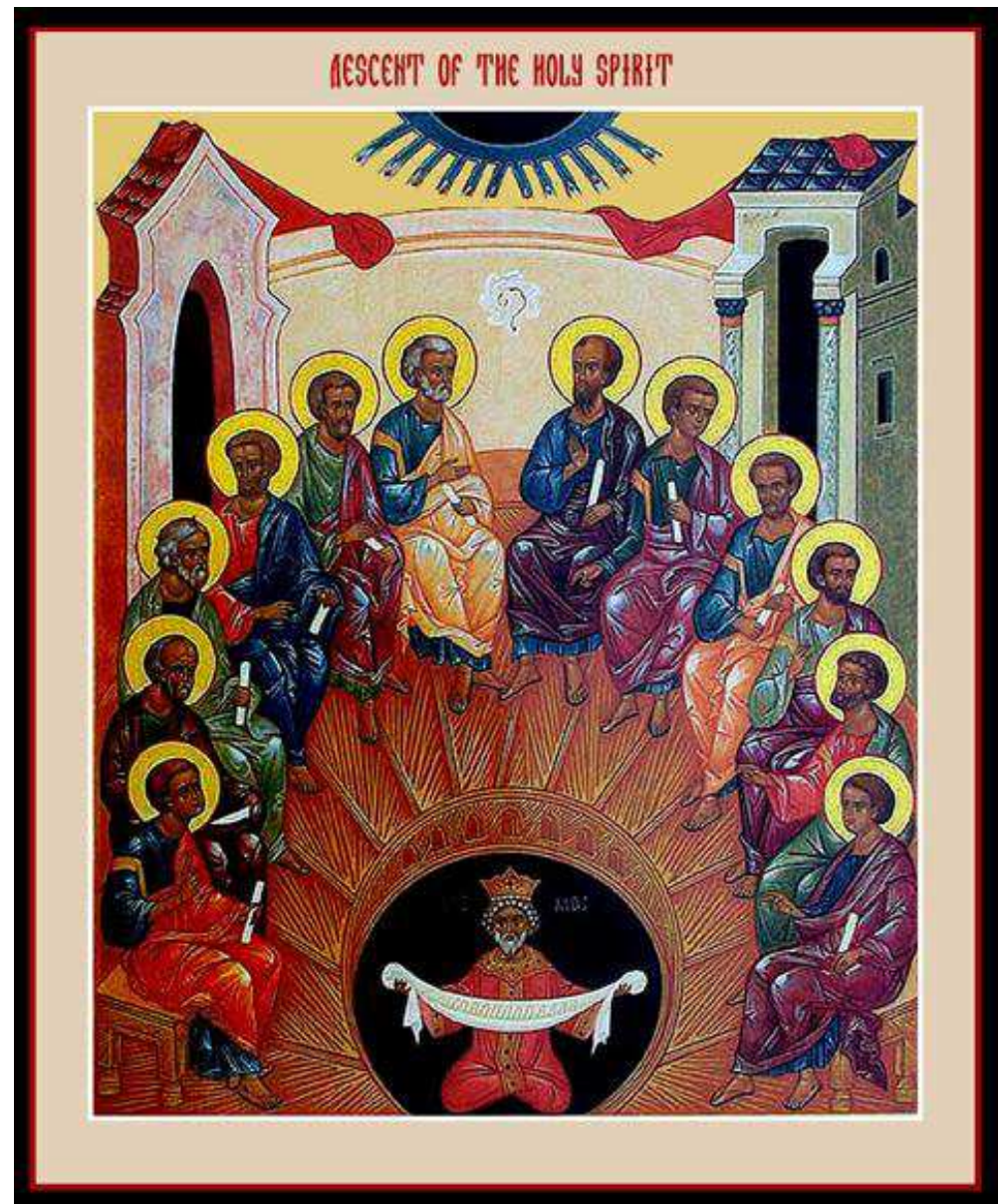
Saint Metrophanes was a contemporary of St. Constantine the Great (306-337). His father, Dometius, was a brother of the Roman emperor Probus (276-282). Seeing the falseness of the pagan religion, Dometius came to believe in Christ. During a time of terrible persecution of Christians at Rome, St. Dometius set off to Byzantium with his sons Probus and Metrophanes. They were instructed in the law of the Lord by Bishop Titus. Titus saw the ardent desire of Dometius to labor for the Lord and ordained him presbyter. After Titus' death, Dometius was elevated to bishop, and thereafter his sons, Probus (303-315) and Metrophanes, in 316.

Emperor Constantine visited Byzantium and was delighted by the beauty of the city. Impressed by Metrophanes' holiness and wisdom, the emperor took him back to Rome. Soon Constantine transferred the capital from Rome to Byzantium and he brought St. Metrophanes there. The First Ecumenical Council was convened in 325 to resolve the Arian heresy. Constantine the Great had the holy Fathers of the Council bestow upon St. Metrophanes the title of Patriarch, thus he became the first Patriarch of Constantinople.

St. Metrophanes was very old and was not able to be present at the Council; he sent in his place the chorepiscopus (vicar bishop) Alexander. At the close of the Council, the emperor and the holy Fathers visited with the ailing Patriarch. At the request of the emperor, the saint named a worthy successor to himself, Bishop Alexander. He foretold that Paul (at that time a Reader) would succeed to the patriarchal throne after Alexander, and then Alexander's successor would be the Archdeacon St. Athanasius.

St. Metrophanes reposed in the year 326, at age 117. His relics rest at Constantinople in a church dedicated to him.

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**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD
PARMA, OHIO 44134**

THE TRINITARIAN

Published Weekly by the

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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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 31 - VOLUME LIV

tone 7

JUNE 4, 2017

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA HOLY PENTECOST

*St. Metrophanes, First Patriarch of Constantinople;
Ven. Methodius, disciple of Ven. Sergius of Rádonezh;
Martyrs Frontasius, Severinus, Severian, and Silanus, of Gaul;
Martyr Concordius of Spoleto;
Hieromartyr Astius, Bishop of Dyrrachium in Macedonia;
St. Zosimas of Cilicia, Bishop of Babylon in Egypt*

“When God most high confused the tongues of men, He divided all the nations. But, in sending forth to Christ’s friends parted tongues of flame, He called together all mankind, that, with one accord, we might worship His all-holy Spirit.”

Kondakion, Tone VIII

“With the birth of the empire, O holy Metrophanes, you were like the father of a newborn child, and as pastor of the Orthodox and their worship, you were a brilliant light for the Church who is the mother of all. Entreat the Lord to save us.”

Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY’S EPISTLE: ACTS 2:1-11

TODAY’S GOSPEL: JOHN 7:37-52; 8:12

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Today, June 4

1:00 p.m. Baptism of Gabrielle Sophia, daughter of Katie and Jared Griebel

Saturday, June 10

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, June 5

Ephesians 5:9-19

Mathew 18:10-20

Tuesday, June 6

Romans 1:1-7,13-17

Matthew 4:25-5:13

Wednesday, June 7

Romans 1:18-27

Matthew 5:20-26

Thursday, June 8

Romans 1:28-2:9

Matthew 5:27-32

Friday, June 9

Romans 2:14-29

Matthew 5:33-41

Saturday, June 10

Romans 1:7-12

Matthew 5:42-48

THIS IS A FAST-FREE WEEK.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

COMING EVENTS

JUNE:

- 4, TODAY HTOC Pentecost Celebration
- 5, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
- 6, Tuesday 6:00 p.m. Program—Soul Injury: Liberating Unmourned Loss and Unforgiven Guilt
- 9, Friday 6:00 p.m. IOCC 25th Anniversary Banquet
- 23, Friday FOCUS Golf Outing at Hinckley Hills Golf Course
- 29, Thursday 7:00 p.m. Young Orthodox Christians outing

IOCC 25TH ANNIVERSARY:

The International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year. The Cleveland Committee of the IOCC is marking that occasion with a special 25th Anniversary Banquet on Friday, June 9, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Independence. Our parish and parishioners have been loyal supporters of the great work that IOCC has done, and we look forward to our participation in the historical anniversary celebration. Information is in the Fellowship Hall, and tickets can be purchased from Paula Svilar or Diane Hastings.

SPECIAL COLLECTION:

In conjunction with the IOCC’s 25th Anniversary, we will be holding a special collection to benefit the organization. A collection basket has been placed at the back of the church. Please mark your donation for IOCC; if donating by check, write checks to Holy Trinity Orthodox Church.

SOUL INJURY:

See the flier re. this free program with a panel of experienced speakers to help those suffering after a trauma or loss; June 6, 6:00, at Yurch Funeral Home.

FLOWER DONOR SIGN UP:

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to donate flowers; cost is \$10 and can be given to Mary Ann Schmidt.

YOUNG ADULT ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS:

Young adults (ages 18-35) are invited to the get-together on Thursday, June 29, 7:00 p.m., at Melt Bar & Grilled, which is located at 6700 Rockside Rd. in Independence. Meet Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh, who will also be a guest. RSVP on Facebook or GoREALCleveland@gmail.com.

BOOK CIRCLE:

The St. Elizabeth Book Circle will meet Monday, June 5, at 12:30 p.m. Read pages 28-55 in The Joy of the Holy (St. Seraphim). We will also discuss the conversation with Motovilov, Appendix A.

FOCUS GOLF OUTING:

Please support for the June 23 Golf Outing at Hinckley Hills to benefit St. Herman’s House; golfers or sponsorships or program ads are needed. Please read the flyer in the Fellowship Hall for details.

SUMMER CAMP:

Camp season is around the corner! Our youngsters are fortunate to have a great Orthodox Camp in the area, which provides both an entertaining and inspiring experience. For information go to the website: stvladimirscampohio.com.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Lydia and Gregory Kelbach in memory of Lawrence Kelbach.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, MAY 28	\$ 3013.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	345.00
BUILDING FUND	302.00
MORTGAGE FUND	253.00
CANDLES	126.00
ORTHODOX SEMINARIES	50.00
VIGIL LAMPS AND FLOWERS	373.90

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 31 – Volume LIV

June 4, 2017

ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

The understanding of Truth (that is, the understanding about the nature and consubstantiality of the Holy Trinity) is perfected by the grace of the Holy Spirit. All ascetic life, life in the Truth, is directed by the Holy Spirit. The third hypostasis of the Holy Trinity appears infinitely near, infinitely true for the one who is zealous for Truth. It is, “the Spirit of Truth” (John 12:26), Who bears witness to the Lord (and to consubstantiality) in the believer’s soul; it is the Holy Spirit Who teaches him “what he ought to say.” And yet knowledge of the Spirit as the Comforter – the joy of the Comforter – adorns only the supreme points of affliction, just as the rosy lights of the sun, when it has earned its rest, smiles only upon the snow-tipped peaks of the lofty mountains. The rosy clouds of purified created being and the snowy-white radiance of a holy, transfigured body are to be seen only at the end of the arduous journey.

The time of Our Lord’s incarnate being in the world was a time of wonders, it flashed blindingly and then ... it was gone. The Lord was separated from the earth at His Ascension, and though He remains with us now, He is not with us as a man – after the manner of the world. He remains in the promise of what is to come. The Most Pure Body and Sacred Blood of Christ are given to us for strength and nourishment, but this joy is “in token of the Kingdom to come,” in token of the future spiritualization and enlightenment of the whole being.

Of course, the Holy Spirit does operate in the Church. But knowledge of the Spirit has always been a kind of pledge, a kind of reward – in special moments and in exceptional people; and this is the way it will be until “all is fulfilled.” This is why one thing cannot fail to attract attention in the reading of the Church’s writings, something which seems strange at first but which later, in the light of different factors, manifests its necessity. It is this: the holy fathers and mystic philosophers speak of the importance of the Spirit in the Christian world view, but hardly one of them explains himself precisely and exactly. This is because “speaking” or “describing” the Holy Spirit is elusive and, because of ignorance and sinfulness, nearly impossible for many.

The evidence and expression of the actions of the Holy Spirit is experiential; it appears as “spiritual life” in the individuals. In the deserts of Thebes and Palestine, the Spirit was manifested in saints – to those almost supra-human pinnacles of the Church – and through them, through their souls and bodies, the Spirit was manifested also to the people around. These “Spirit-bearing” men and women are “living wonders,” more than miracles and much more than any formula or categorization. There can be, and even there is a need to attempt, verbal description of these “wonders,” but appreciation and understanding are only possible when we ourselves commit to living “in the Spirit.”

*From “The Pillar and Ground of Truth”
By Father Paul Florensky*