

HIEROMARTYR PANCRATIUS THE BISHOP OF TAORMINA IN SICILY

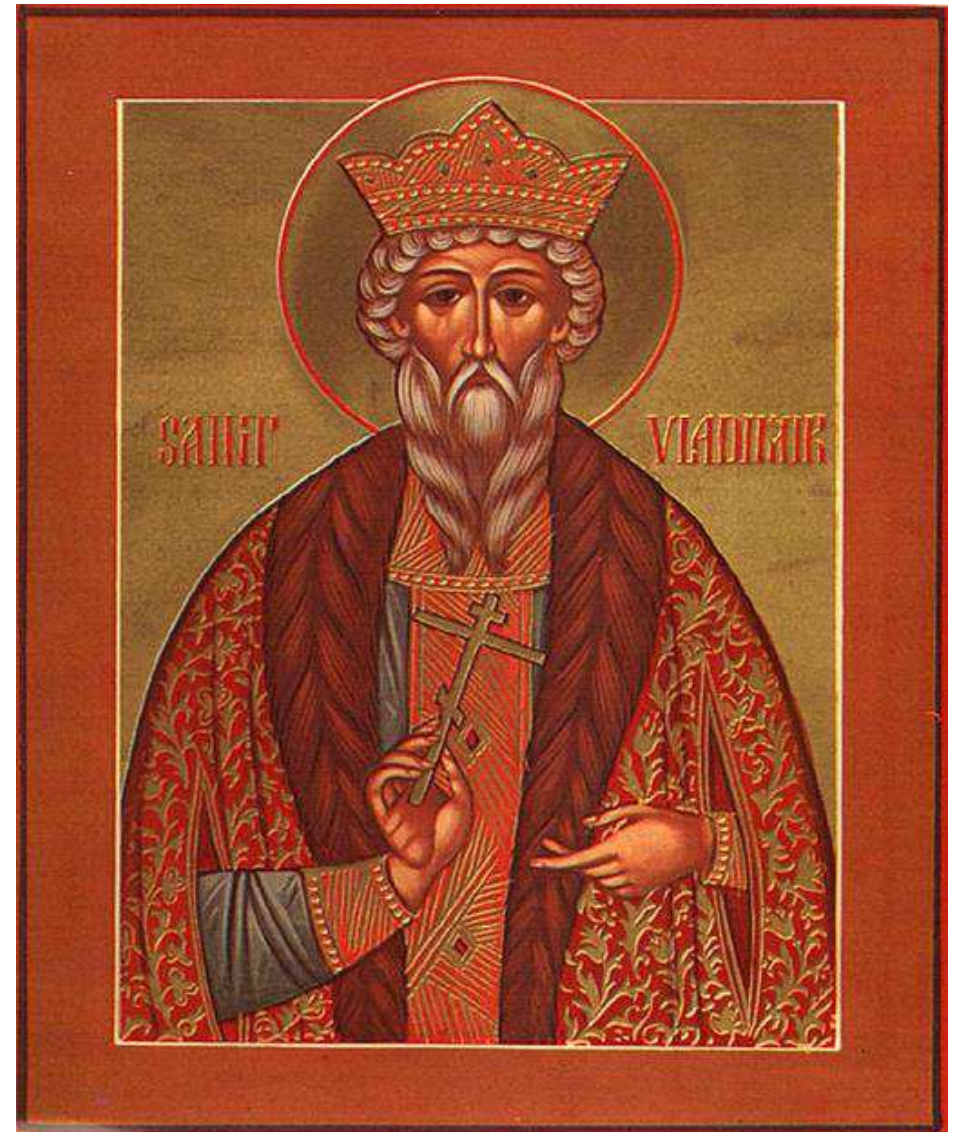
The Hieromartyr Pancratius was born when our Lord Jesus Christ yet lived upon the earth. His parents were natives of Antioch. Hearing the good news of Jesus Christ, Pancratius' father took his young son with him and went to Jerusalem in order to see the great Teacher for himself. The miracles astonished him, and when he heard the divine teaching, he then believed in Christ as the Son of God. He became close with the disciples of the Lord, especially with the holy Apostle Peter. It was during this period that young Pancratius got to know the holy Apostle Peter.

After the Ascension of the Savior, one of the Apostles came to Antioch and baptized the parents of Pancratius, together with their whole household. When Pancratius' parents died, he left behind his inherited possessions and went to Pontus and began to live in a cave, spending his days in prayer and deep spiritual contemplation. Apostle Peter, while passing through those parts, visited him. He took Pancratius along to Antioch, and then to Sicily, where Apostle Paul was at that time. There the Apostles Peter and Paul made St. Pancratius Bishop of Taormina in Sicily.

St. Pancratius toiled zealously for the Christian enlightenment of the people. In a single month he built a church where he celebrated divine services. The number of believers quickly grew, and soon almost all the people of Taormina and the surrounding cities accepted the Christian Faith.

St. Pancratius governed his flock peacefully for many years. However, pagans plotted against the saint, and seizing an appropriate moment, they fell upon him and stoned him. Thus, St. Pancratius ended his life as a martyr.

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*HOLY EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES GREAT PRINCE VLADIMIR
Saturday, July 15*

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

THE TRINITARIAN

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HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD, PARMA, OHIO 44134
CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 216-524-4859
CHURCH WEBSITE: <http://www.holy-trin.org>
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

RECTORY: 963 John Glenn Drive, Seven Hills, Ohio 44131 Phone 216-524-8989

BULLETIN 36 - VOLUME LIV

tone 4

JULY 9, 2017

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily;
Hieromartyr Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna in Crete;
Martyrs Paternuthius, Coprius, and Alexander the Soldier, in Egypt;
St. Theodore, Bishop of Edessa; Ven. Paternuthius and Coprius, Ascetics, of Egypt;
Ven. Dionysius the Orator of St. Anne Skete; Ven. Metrophanes, disciple of Ven. Dionysius

“Like a fiery arrow you were dispatched by the holy Paul to the church of Taormina, to put an end to the infamy of the godless and enlighten the faithful. First, you confirmed their faith by the wondrous way you spoke about God, and then you yourself walked the path to martyrdom. O holy hieromartyr, Pancratius, pray for all who honor you.”

Troparion, Tone VIII

Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Prince Vladimir *Saturday, July 15*

“As the mighty ruler of the mother of all the cities of Rus, you were like a merchant in search of a precious pearl. You sent envoys to the city of Constantine to inquire about the Orthodox faith, and through them you discovered the priceless pearl that is Christ Himself. In turn, He chose you as a second Paul, O holy Vladimir, removing through baptism your blindness both of body and soul. Now, as we honor you today, pray for salvation for your homeland and ours.”

Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY'S EPISTLE: ROMANS 10:1-10

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 8:28-9:1

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, July 15

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, July 10

Galatians 5:22-6:2

Matthew 4:25-5:12

Tuesday, July 11

Romans 16:17-24

Matthew 13:10-23

Wednesday, July 12

I Corinthians 1:1-9

Matthew 13:24-30

Thursday, July 13

I Corinthians 2:9-3:8

Matthew 13:31-36

Friday, July 14

I Corinthians 3:18-23

Matthew 13:36-43

Saturday, July 15

I Corinthians 4:5-8

Matthew 13:44-54

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 9:18-26

Galatians 1:11-19

John 10:1-9

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

COMING EVENTS

JULY:

10, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
 7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting
30, Sunday Parish Picnic

<p><u>PARISH PICNIC:</u> Plan to spend the last Sunday in July at our Parish Picnic! It will begin shortly after the Divine Liturgy concludes. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for the number of family members attending and the food you will provide.</p> <p><u>BOOK CIRCLE:</u> The St. Elizabeth Book Circle will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, July 10. We will complete reading <u>The Joy of the Holy</u> (St. Seraphim), pages 57-89 and 110-122. Please join us.</p> <p><u>TRINITARIAN COVERS AND FLOWERS:</u> The covers and flowers today are offered by Jewelann Stefanar in memory of Andy Stefanar.</p>	<p><u>COFFEE HOUR:</u> Donors are always needed and appreciated. Dates that remain open in July and August are July 23, August 20 and August 27. A sign-up sheet is in the kitchen.</p> <p><u>PARISHIONER SUNSHINE:</u> If you know of a parishioner who could use a “thinking of you” message, please contact Dianna Kall at 216-741-2888 or dkall@ameritech.net. Include name, address, city and zip code as well as the reason for the card, so the appropriate sentiment can be sent.</p> <p><u>WEDDING BANNES:</u> Gabrielle Hatch will marry Alan Draper on Saturday, July 29, at 1:00 p.m.</p>
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Prayer of St. Isaac of Nineveh

May those who suffer from dire sicknesses and grievous illnesses of the body
 be remembered before You;
Send to them an angel of compassion and assuage their souls
 which are so tormented by their bodies’ terrible afflictions.
Have pity, too, Lord, on those who are subjected to the hands of wicked and godless men;
Send to them speedily an angel of compassion, and deliver them from their plight.
 O my Lord and my God,
Send comfort to all those who are constrained by whatever kind of hardship.
 I beg and beseech You, Lord,
Grant to all who have gone astray a true knowledge of You,
So that each and every one may come to know Your glory.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, JULY 2	\$ 3515.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	505.00
BUILDING FUND	122.00
MORTGAGE FUND	245.00
CANDLES	123.00
ORTHODOX SEMINARIES	25.00
IOCC 25TH ANNIVERSARY	50.00
IN HONOR OF JOHN PLAVKO	50.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 36 – Volume LIV

July 9, 2017

REFLECTIONS ON ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS - II

In the first four chapters of the Epistle to the Romans, St. Paul explains that morality is based on faithful adherence to righteous principles and not by claiming membership in an exclusive ethnic tradition. God, he argues, shows no partiality and all of humanity is bound by certain principles inherent in the natural order of God's creation. But morality by itself, that is, only following those principles by themselves, will not bring us into a meaningful relationship with God. That is accomplished by God through Jesus Christ, that is, through our faith in Jesus Christ through Whom we have access to God's love and grace. The "law," by which St. Paul refers to the entire Old Testament traditions of codes of behavior and worship, had a purpose, but it could not free mankind from sin, it could not provide forgiveness of sins, and it could not exempt us from the doom of death. Jesus Christ, who was God's gift to us, came, died and was resurrected in order to provide us with fullness of life, forgiveness and life eternal.

Among several of the very important sections of the Epistle to the Romans there is a section that is read at Baptism Services (Romans 6:3-11). That reading includes the following verses:

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like Him."
(Romans 6:3-5).

On the surface this seems to be a puzzling passage. When we are baptized, how is it that we "die"? St. Paul uses the terms "death" and "life" metaphorically, in a manner similar to how Jesus talked about being "reborn." We die in baptism because our "old self," that part of our being that is doomed to sinfulness and death, is displaced with the "reborn" self that is to bear the image and mind of Christ. This does not occur automatically and requires our efforts, both spiritual and physical. The "newness of life" that is ours comes through acceptance of the Paschal Mystery, which we understand as the acknowledgement of Jesus' voluntary Crucifixion, His Resurrection and Ascension, and the spiritual life available to us through the Holy Spirit. It is significant and most appropriate that the Epistle reading of the Baptism Service is also read at the Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday.

The death that we experience in baptism makes possible life in its fullness! It is life which partakes of the love, peace and comforts that the Holy Spirit provides us with. It is death with Christ, as St. Paul says, which He "died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives, He lives to God. So you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:11).

Fr. Alexander Garklaus