

## PROPHET SAMUEL

Prophet Samuel was the 15th and last of the Judges of Israel, living more than 1146 years B.C. He was descended from the Tribe of Levi and was the son of Elkanah and Hannah, who prayed for a son. His name means “besought from God.” Even before birth he was dedicated to God by his mother. Her song, “My heart exults in the Lord,” is the Third Ode of the Old Testament (I Samuel/I Kings 2:1-10). When he was 3, his mother gave him into the care of the High Priest Eli, who at this time was a judge over Israel. The prophet grew in the fear of God, and at age 12 had a revelation that God would punish the house of Eli because he did not restrain his sons; his whole family would be wiped out in a single day.

This prophecy was fulfilled when the Philistines slew 30,000 Israelites in battle, among them Eli’s sons Hophni and Phinees. They captured the Ark of the Covenant. Hearing this, Eli fell backwards from his seat at the gate, breaking his back and dying. The wife of Phinees, upon hearing the news, gave birth to a son Ichabod and died with the words: “The glory has departed from Israel, for the Ark of God is taken away” (I Samuel/I Kings 4:22).

Upon the death of Eli, Samuel became the judge of the nation of Israel. The Ark of God was voluntarily returned by the Philistines; and the Israelites returned to all the cities that the Philistines had taken. In his old age, Samuel made his sons Joel and Abiah judges over Israel, but they were greedy and did not follow the integrity and righteous judgment of their father.

Then the elders of Israel, wanting the nation of God to be “like other nations” (I Samuel/I Kings 8:20), demanded of the Prophet Samuel that they have a king. Samuel anointed Saul as king but saw in this a downfall of the people, whom God Himself had governed until this time, announcing His will through His chosen saints. Resigning the position of judge, Samuel asked the people if they consented to his continued governance, but no one stepped forward for him.

After denouncing the first king Saul for his disobedience to God, the Prophet Samuel anointed David as king, offering David asylum, saving him from the pursuit of King Saul. The Prophet Samuel died in extreme old age. In the year 406 A.D. his relics were transferred from Judea to Constantinople.



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

# THE TRINITARIAN

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**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

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BULLETIN 42 - VOLUME LIV

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AUGUST 20, 2017

## ***ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***

***Afterfeast of the Dormition***

***Prophet Samuel;***

***Hieromartyr Philip, Bishop of Heraclius,***

***and with him Martyrs Severus, Memnon, and 37 soldiers in Thrace***

“In childbirth, you remained a virgin, and in your dormition, you did not forsake this world, O Theotokos. For you who are the mother of life, have yourself passed into life. And by your prayers, you deliver our souls from everlasting death.”

Troparion of the Feast, Tone I

“At your conception you were given to the Lord as a precious gift, O holy Samuel, and you served Him like an angel throughout your life. In His plan of salvation, He appointed you to speak for Him and to foretell the future, and because of this we hail you as a remarkable priest and prophet of the Lord.”

Kondakion, Tone VIII

TODAY'S EPISTLE: I CORINTHIANS 9:2-12

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:23-35

### **HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:**

Today, August 20

Saturday, August 26

11:15 a.m. Memorial Prayers for James and Claudia Whitney

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

### **Daily Scripture Readings**

Monday, August 21

Tuesday, August 22

Wednesday, August 23  
(Theotokos)

Thursday, August 24

Friday, August 25

Saturday, August 26

II Corinthians 5:10-15

II Corinthians 5:15-21

II Corinthians 6:11-16

Philippians 2:5-11

II Corinthians 7:1-10

II Corinthians 7:10-16

I Corinthians 1:26-29

Mark 1:9-15

Mark 1:16-22

Mark 1:23-28

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Mark 1:29-35

Mark 2:18-22

Matthew 20:29-34

**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY**

Bulletin 42 - Volume LIV

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**COMING EVENTS**

**AUGUST:**

- 20, TODAY Halupki Festival at Holy Assumption Church, Marblehead
- 21, Monday 7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting
- 28, Monday 9:00 a.m. Cooking for St. Herman's House
- 30, Wednesday Serving dinner at St. Herman's House

<p><b><u>CHURCH SCHOOL:</u></b> The first day of Church School classes is September 10. Please see or contact Nellie Wislocki for more information. Phone 440-237-0999 or email her at nelliewislocki@gmail.com</p> <p><b><u>PARISH COUNCIL:</u></b> The Parish Council will meet tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b><u>MEMORIAL PRAYERS:</u></b> There will be a 40th Day Memorial Prayer Service for Daria Petrykowski next Sunday, August 27, after the Divine Liturgy.</p> <p><b><u>FLOWERS:</u></b> The flowers today are offered by Jewelann Stefanar.</p>	<p><b><u>BOOK CIRCLE:</u></b> The St. Elizabeth Book Circle will meet Monday, September 11, at 12:30. Please read pages 1-39 of <u>The Joy to Serve</u> by Juliana Schmemann.</p> <p><b><u>HALUPKI FESTIVAL:</u></b> All are invited to Holy Assumption Church in Marblehead (114 East Main Street) for the annual Halupki Festival today, 11:30-6:00. The halupki and ham dinner is served 11:30-2:00, and ala carte food is served throughout the day. There will be live polka music, raffles, crafts, and a bake sale. Free parking and admission. See the flier on the bulletin board.</p> <p><b><u>TRINITARIAN COVERS:</u></b> The covers today are offered by Dn. Anthony and Dianna Kall.</p>
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*The meaning of grace.  
What is grace?  
It is the blessed power of God given to the man who believes  
and who was baptized in the Name of the Holy Trinity.  
It is the power that cleanses, sanctifies, enlightens,  
that helps in doing good and withdraws from evil,  
that comforts and gives courage in misfortunes, sorrows, and sickness.  
It is the pledge of receiving the everlasting blessings  
prepared by God in heaven for His chosen ones.  
St. John of Kronstadt*

**THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE**

REGULAR COLLECTION, AUGUST 13	\$ 4742.58
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	50.00
BUILDING FUND	515.00
MORTGAGE FUND	315.00
CANDLES	125.00
TO REPAIR BRICK WALL	1000.00
FROM ST. POKROVA	1000.00
IN MEMORY OF DARIA PETRYKOWSKI	2105.00

**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY**

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**A HOMILY ON THE DORMITION OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS**

If “precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints” (Psalm 116:15), how much more fitting is it for us to celebrate with highest honors the memory of the ever-virgin Mother of God, the Holy of Holies, through whom the saints receive their hallowing. That is what we are doing during these days of commemoration of her Holy Dormition and passing away, through which, having been made a little lower than the angels (Psalm 8:5), she rose incomparably higher than the angels, archangels, and above all the heavenly powers, because of her nearness to God of all (Romans 9:5). How great are the marvels of old which were accomplished in her!

On her account there were divine predictions by prophets inspired by God. Miracles foreshadowed the great future wonder of the world, the ever-virgin Mother of God. Nations and circumstances were transformed to make way for the fulfillment of the new mystery concerning her. Spiritual ordinances prefigured in all sorts of ways the truth that was to be. Her birth itself and her early life are in themselves marvelous, but the mysterious divine plan for the Virgin came by way of the strange, inexplicable greeting of the archangel who flew down from on high with God’s message and salutations, which reversed Adam and Eve’s condemnation and healed the curse, turning it into a blessing. The King of all bowed down the heavens and came down (Psalm 18:9) and overshadowed her, and the power of the Most High came to dwell in her in His very person. More than the overshadowing, this was pure union, and not just union but the formation, out of both the power of the Most High and her all-holy virgin womb, of the incarnate Word of God. The Word of God in the flesh made His abode in her, came forth from her, and “appeared on earth and went about among men.” After the Resurrection and Ascension of her Son, she became the support and consolation of all who saw or heard her, assisting by various means in the proclamation of the gospel. Thus she showed that her whole life, her behavior, her mind and her words, were utterly devoted to godly things.

Therefore, it is altogether proper that her death was also life-giving, leading to heavenly immortal life, and its day of celebration is a joyful holiday and worldwide festival. Not only does it renew the memory of the wonders of the Mother of God, it also commemorates the unheard-of way in which all the holy apostles were gathered from every country to her sacred funeral, the hymns of divine revelation sung on that occasion by these inspired men, the attendance of angels, singing and ministering around her. The Lord of Hosts, the Son of the Ever-Virgin, was also invisibly present, honoring His Mother’s departure. Into His hands she entrusted her God-bearing spirit, and through Him her body, her spirit’s companion, was translated into a heavenly place of eternal life, as rightly befits her whole life from the very beginning. It is as though God wanted to set up an icon of everything that is good, and in displaying His own image clearly to angels and men, He made her so truly beautiful. Bringing together various means He had used to adorn creation, He made her a world of everything good, both visible and invisible.

*St. Gregory Palamas*