

**MARTYR SOPHIA
AND HER THREE DAUGHTERS AT ROME**

The Holy Martyrs Saint Sophia and her daughters Faith, Hope and Love were born in Italy. Their mother was a pious Christian widow who named her daughters for the three Christian virtues. Faith was twelve, Hope was ten, and Love was nine. St. Sophia raised them in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. She and her daughters did not hide their faith in Christ but openly confessed it before everyone.

An official named Antiochus denounced them to the emperor Hadrian (117-138), who ordered that they be brought to Rome. Realizing that they would be taken before the emperor, the holy virgins prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ, asking that He give them the strength not to fear torture and death. When the holy virgins and mother came before the emperor, everyone present was amazed at their composure. Hadrian summoned each sister in turn, urging them to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. The young girls remained unyielding.

The emperor ordered them tortured. They were burned over an iron grating and then thrown into a red-hot oven, and finally into a cauldron with boiling tar. But the Lord preserved them.

The youngest child, Love, was tied to a wheel, and they beat her with rods until her body was covered with bloody welts. After undergoing unspeakable torments, the holy virgins glorified Christ and remained steadfast in the Faith.

St. Sophia was forced to watch the sufferings of her daughters. She displayed adamant courage, and she urged her daughters to endure their torments for Christ's sake. All three maidens were beheaded and joyfully bent their necks beneath the sword.

In order to intensify St. Sophia's suffering, the emperor permitted her to take the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and loaded them on a wagon. She drove beyond the city limits and reverently buried them on a high hill. St. Sophia sat there by the graves of her daughters for three days, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Even though she did not suffer for Christ in the flesh, she was not deprived of a martyr's crown. Instead, she suffered in her heart. Believers buried her body there beside her daughters.

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

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

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

BULLETIN 46 - VOLUME LIV

TONE 6

SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross

***Martyr Sophia, and her three daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love, at Rome;
Martyr Theodota at Nicæa; Martyr Agathocleia;
156 Martyrs of Palestine, including Bishop Peleus and Nilus, the Presbyter,
Zeno, the Noblemen Paternuthius and Elias, and others***

“Today, as the Church joyfully celebrates the heavenly birthday of three young girls and their beaming mother, we join in this festival and implore them: Confirm us, too, in faith and hope and charity, O holy and victorious martyrs.”

Troparion, Tone IV

The Conception of the Honorable Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John Saturday, September 23

“The priest was informed by an angel of the wonder God was working in their lives, and so it was indeed, that his sterile wife brought forth their son, John. He is who became the Forerunner and herald of the Word, a guide for all on the way to salvation. For this, we, too, celebrate his conception, glorifying the only Savior of our souls.”

Jerusalem Troparion, Tone VIII

TODAY'S EPISTLE: GALATIANS 2:16-20
II CORINTHIANS 4:6-15

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MARK 8:34-9:1
MATTHEW 22:35-46

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, September 23 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, September 18	Galatians 4:28-5:10	Luke 3:19-22
Tuesday, September 19	Galatians 5:11-21	Luke 3:23-4:1
Wednesday, September 20	Galatians 6:2-10	Luke 4:1-15
Thursday, September 21	Ephesians 1:1-9	Luke 4:16-22
Friday, September 22	Ephesians 1:7-17	Luke 4:22-30
Saturday, September 23	I Corinthians 10:23-28	Luke 4:31-36
(St. John the Baptist)	Galatians 4:22-31	Luke 1:5-25

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER:

17, TODAY 6:00 p.m. Study session on the Book of St. James; at St. Matthew Church
21, Thursday 6:30 p.m. 8th Annual Fr. Prislopsky Memorial Dinner & Lecture
24, Sunday 6:00 p.m. Study session on the Book of St. James; at St. Matthew Church

OCTOBER:

5, Thursday Eastern Orthodox Women’s Guild
8, Sunday Second Sunday Food Sale

ANNUAL MEETING:

All HTOC members should have received the parishioner membership letter, which includes a membership card and information about the annual meeting on Oct. 29. Fill out and return the card as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please see Father Alexander. Also, in preparation for the Parish Meeting, if you have any suggested agenda items or if you have any concerns or ideas, please contact Father Alexander.

COLLECTION FOR OUR SEMINARIAN:

We are blessed to have a seminarian representing Holy Trinity Church and would like to offer Aaron Rutz assistance with expenses at St. Vladimir’s Seminary. There is a Special Collection basket at the rear of the church. Use one of the envelopes, and if making a check, do so to “Holy Trinity Church.” We will send our combined gift to him in the near future.

EASTERN CHURCHES SEMINAR:

The annual Eleanor Malburg Easter Churches Seminar - “Saints Known and Unknown” - is Oct. 13-14. The Friday session is at St. Gregory Church in Richmond Hts., and the Saturday session is at Notre Dame College. See details in the Hall.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Helen and Ed Kling.

BOOK CIRCLE:

The St. Elizabeth Book Circle will meet Monday, Oct. 9; 12:30-2:30. We will complete reading The Joy to Serve by Juliana Schmemann, pages 41-88.

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD SALE:

Once again we’re asking everyone to participate in our Second Sunday Food Sale program. The first one of the season is Sunday, October 8. Please prepare a favorite homemade item to donate, and plan to shop at the sale after the Liturgy.

MEMORIAL DINNER AND LECTURE:

The 8th Annual Fr. Prislopsky Memorial Dinner and Lecture is Thursday at St. Michael’s Woodside. The meal is at 6:30, and the lecture follows. Cost is \$10. To register call the church office at 440-526-5192; or online: INFO@STMICHAELSCLEVELAND.ORG

THE BOOK OF ST. JAMES:

Paul Finley, Director of St. Herman’s House, is leading study sessions of the Book of St. James. Sessions begin at 6:00 p.m. at St. Matthew Church; 10383 Albion Rd. See the bulletin board for details.

EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN’S GUILD:

The Guild is celebrating on Oct. 5 at Copperstone (by St. Theodosius Cemetery) and invites all women to join in. Parishes will showcase their news and events.

RUSSIAN FESTIVAL:

St. Nicholas Church, 755 S. Cleveland Ave. in Mogadore, invites all to their annual “Something Russian” Festival on October 3-4, 10:00-9:00, with food, imports, entertainment & more. Free admission.

FLOWERS:

The wreath of flowers adorning the cross today are offered by Andrea Seditz.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, SEPTEMBER 10	\$ 4022.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	540.00
BUILDING FUND	79.00
MORTGAGE FUND	119.00
CANDLES	120.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 46 – Volume LIV

September 17, 2017

LETTERS FROM SOLOVKI

October 30, 1933

Dear Irene,

Since my last letter, with the exception of the weather, there have been few changes. I am still living with the three other men in one room, but it seems there is discussion of either splitting us or moving some of us into other areas. On this prison island we have learned to be more tolerant and friendlier with each other and with other prisoners; it is a captivating characteristic of captivity. Indeed, while I remember city life as the experience of keeping to myself, or as they say, “minding my own typicon,” here you realize that you are one in a large segment of humanity, trapped, with no immediate solutions or freedom apparent, and so you realize you might as well get used to the people you have to live with, and will have to live with perhaps for the next several years. My own terms of punishment, you will recall, were exile to a penal colony or work camp for the period of not less than six years. From what I hear and am able to deduce from rumors, the prison sentences are sometimes shortened and sometimes delayed, so one never really knows just how long this will last. I have come to accept this as God’s intentions and to rely on His providence, His direction and His will in everything that happens!

Now daylight is just a few hours long and getting shorter, and the cold winds and frequent rains and sleet have made life here burdensome and unpleasant. But when the sun comes out and with the crispness of the northern air, the days are quite invigorating. The salt air and winds remind me of when we lived on the border of the Black Sea, but of course it is not as warm. While the southern climate produces feelings of comfort which in turn leads to contemplation of God’s mercy, the northern climate has the effect of reminding us that along with mercy there is also God’s judgment. And being reminded of judgment is an important dimension of Christianity. On the Second Sunday of Great Lent, the church choir sings, “Judgment is at the door.” Great Lent is an immersive experience of putting ourselves literally and figuratively before the Judgment Seat. There is a need for such introspection, and for us here in Solovki, it has become easier to consciously enter into considerations of judgment; much easier than it was for me when life was more relaxing and care-free. I suppose that as you read my letter you will think I am in a state of some delusion or madness: No, it is quite the opposite!

We live in acceptance of God’s judgment and thus we become free. My soul is at peace. I walk and marvel at my present circumstance. Around the walls of the monastery, which is now an occupied city of prisoners, I think about what it must have been like in the past! The cathedral and churches inside the monastery walls are closed, but there is one functioning small church on the far side of the island where services are still conducted. It is several miles from where I am now and so I have not been able to get there, but perhaps, I will be able to do so soon.

Your father, N.J.