

**PROTOMARTYR AND EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES
THECLA**

Protomartyr Thecla was born in Iconium, daughter of rich parents, and she was extraordinarily beautiful. At age 18, her parents betrothed her to a eminent youth. However, after hearing the preaching of holy Apostle Paul, she resolved not to marry but rather to devote herself to preaching the Gospel.

Her fiancé complained to the city prefect, accusing Paul of turning his bride against him. The prefect imprisoned St. Paul. During the night Thecla bribed the prison guards with her gold ornaments, and she spent three days at the feet of St. Paul, listening to his fatherly precepts. When her parents' servants discovered her, they brought her home by force. She was urged to consent to the marriage, but she refused.

Her enraged mother demanded the judges sentence her daughter to death. Without flinching, the holy martyr went into the fire and made the Sign of the Cross over herself. At this moment the Savior appeared to her, and joy filled her soul. She was surrounded by a light, and the flames did not touch her. Rain and hail poured down and extinguished the fire. The torturers scattered in fear. A Christian youth helped her leave the city and find St. Paul and his followers, hidden in a cave, praying fervently that the Lord would strengthen St. Thecla in her sufferings.

She went with them, preaching the Gospel in Antioch. There she was pursued by a dignitary who offered marriage. When she refused, she was condemned to death for being a Christian. Twice they set loose hungry wild animals upon her, but they would not touch the holy virgin, Instead, they lay down meekly and licked her feet. Further torments left her unharmed until the prefect himself became terrified, realizing that the holy martyr was being kept safe by the Almighty God Whom she served. He gave orders to set her free.

She spent many years in a desolate region of Isaurian Seluscia, constantly praying and healing the sick, as well as converting many pagans to Christ. Yet when she was already 90, pagan sorcerers became incensed at her for treating the sick for free. They sent their followers to defile her. St. Thecla cried out for help to Christ, and a rock split open and hid the holy virgin, the bride of Christ. Thus did St. Thecla offer up her holy soul to the Lord.

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**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

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

BULLETIN 47 - VOLUME LIV

TONE 7

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy New Martyrs of Alaska, Hieromonk Juvenaly and Peter the Aleut

Holy Protomartyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thecla;

Ven. Nikander, Hermit, of Pskov; Monk Martyr Galacteon of Vologdá;

Ven. Coprius of Palestine; Ven. Abrámii, Abbot of Mirozh;

St. Vladislav of Serbia; Ven. Dorothy of Kashin; Ven. Silouan of Mt. Athos;

The "MIROZH" and the "MYRTLE TREE" Icons of the Most-Holy Theotokos

"Today Alaska rejoices and America celebrates, for the New World has been sanctified by martyrdom. Kodiak echoes with songs of thanksgiving, Iliamna and Kenai observe the festival of faith. The Apostle and martyr Juvenaly is glorified, and Peter the Aleut is exalted by his voluntary sacrifice. In their devotion and love for the Lord, they willingly endured persecution and death for the Truth. Now in the Kingdom of Heaven, they intercede for our souls!"

Troparion, Tone IV

"Virginity was already your splendor when martyrdom became your glorious crown, O lovely Thecla, for you had placed your trust in the faith the apostles had taught you. In your sufferings, you turned a raging fire into cool, refreshing dew, and by your prayers you calmed the pagan fury, O you who were the first woman to die for the Lord."

Kondakion, Tone VIII

TODAY'S EPISTLE: II CORINTHIANS 6:1-10
ROMANS 8:28-39

TODAY'S GOSPEL: LUKE 5:1-11
LUKE 21:12-19

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, September 30 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, September 25 (St. Sergius)	Ephesians 1:22-2:3 Galatians 5:22-6:2	Luke 4:37-44 Luke 6:17-23
Tuesday, September 26 (St. John the Theologian)	Ephesians 2:19-3:7 I John 4:12-19	Luke 5:12-16 John 19:25-27; 21:24-25
Wednesday, September 27	Ephesians 3:8-21	Luke 5:33-39
Thursday, September 28 (St. Chariton)	Ephesians 4:14-19 II Corinthians 4:6-15	Luke 6:12-19 Luke 6:17-23
Friday, September 29	Ephesians 4:17-25	Luke 6:17-23
Saturday, September 30	I Corinthians 14:20-25	Luke 5:17-26

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 47 - Volume LIV

September 24, 2017

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER:

24, TODAY 6:00 p.m. Study session on the Book of St. James; at St. Matthew Church

OCTOBER:

1, Sunday 6:00 p.m. Study session on the Book of St. James; at St. Matthew Church

3-4, Tues, Wed. 10:00—9:00 Russian Festival at St. Nicholas Church, Mogadore

5, Thursday Eastern Orthodox Women’s Guild

8, Sunday Second Sunday Food Sale

5:00 p.m. Konevets Quartet concert at St. Andrew Church; Maple Hts.

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.

MEATLOAF DINNER & BASKET AUCTION:

On Sunday, November 5, at noon, we will have our annual Meatloaf Dinner to benefit the monthly meals we provide to St. Herman’s House.

There will also be a Basket Auction. If you can sponsor or donate a basket, contact Dianna Kall before Oct. 8. Baskets are due to the Hall on Sunday, Oct. 22, and will be on display at our Parish Meeting. We can also use donations of gift cards (any amount) for Giant Eagle, Cinemark, Marc’s, or local restaurants to add to baskets “in the works.”

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.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Dave and Judy Howe.

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.

KONEVETS QUARTET:

Enjoy a concert of church music and folk songs by the male vocal ensemble from St. Petersburg; at St. Andrew Church on Sunday, Oct. 8, at 5:00.

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.

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.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, SEPTEMBER 17	\$ 3164.00
BUILDING FUND	230.00
MORTGAGE FUND	185.00
CANDLES	108.00
SEMINARIAN	885.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 47 – Volume LIV

September 24, 2017

LETTERS FROM SOLOVKI

November 21, 1933

Dearest Irene,

Last week there was a major reorganization here. Soon the deep winter weather will set in and access between the mainland and our island will become unnavigable. So there has been a flurry of activity in transporting people, materials and supplies from here to there. More prisoners were brought from the mainland and this necessitated considerable relocation and rearrangement of the prisoners. Our foursome group was also affected. I was assigned to another facility, into a larger dorm-like building which houses about three hundred people altogether. The building consists of variously-sized rooms; in some twenty to thirty men are placed, other are not as large. I was fortunate to be put in a smaller room with one other, who also happens to be a priest, Fr. Basil Kalita. He had been a pastor in a parish in the Novgorod province near where he grew up. Later he was transferred to a city parish from where he came here. He, a friendly but quiet person, has been here on Solovki a few months longer than I. His additional experience and knowledge about life under these unusual circumstances has been beneficial for me.

With the relocation also came a new work assignment. I am now consigned to a somewhat cold but clean office with several others where we are charged with analyzing, categorizing and recording the data of the material products that are extracted and produced on Solovki. Most of these are metals and lumber, but we also itemize the produce harvested here and the fish that is caught. The office is warmed by a single old-fashioned wood stove, quite insufficient for the space. We dress accordingly and during the day I have to use gloves to keep my hands warm. But work is work, and I approach my assignment here as I believe anyone, anywhere, has work to do when they have to do it. Honest assiduousness, with absence of bitterness and envy, and application of creative energy are Christian values and principles applicable as much here in prison as in any place. I have always impressed these qualities to you and you, Irene, as the oldest of the three, now teach and nurture your siblings in our Orthodox ways of life.

Tell mama that I am well. In my prayers and in my thoughts all of you are a warm light that burns with everlasting love. I feel closeness with you spiritually as if we are standing next to each other. At meals I am surrounded by men of various backgrounds and dispositions, but I drown out the immediate surroundings and imagine that we are together in our dining room, you and the other children on either side, mother across the table from me. We say our prayer facing the icon of Christ, in front of which burns the flickering light, we sit down and we discuss the goings-on of the just completed day. I so much always enjoyed hearing about what you learned in school and about the new friends you made. I trust you all are still gathering thus for dinner, and so when you do, as you pray, remember also

Your father, N.J.

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VERY REVEREND ALEXANDER GARKLAVS

OCTOBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 17th Sunday after Pentecost PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS	2	3	4	5	6	7 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
8 18th Sunday after Pentecost Second Sunday Food Sale Church School Assembly	9 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle	10	11	12	13 7:00 p.m. Eastern Churches Seminar at St. Gregory Church	14 9:00 a.m. Eastern Churches Seminar at Notre Dame 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions
15 19th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council	16	17	18	19	20	21 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
22 20th Sunday after Pentecost Baskets for Auction due today	23 7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting	24	25	26	27	28 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions
29 21st Sunday after Pentecost HTOC Annual Parish Meeting	30	31				