

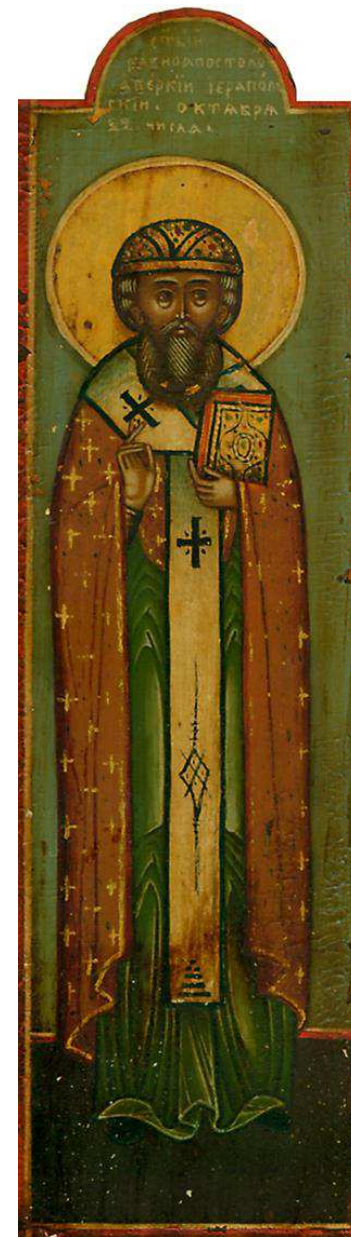
***ST. ABERCIUS THE BISHOP
AND WONDERWORKER OF HIEROPOLIS,
EQUAL OF THE APOSTLES
October 22***

St. Abercius lived in the second century in Phrygia. The city of Hieropolis was inhabited by many pagans and very few Christians. The saint prayed to the Lord for the salvation of their souls and that they might be numbered among God's chosen flock. An angel appeared and bade St. Abercius to destroy the idols in the pagan temple. He fulfilled the command of God with zeal. Hearing that the idol-worshippers wanted to kill him, the saint went to the place where the people had gathered and denounced the failings of the pagans. The pagans tried to seize the saint.

At this moment three demon-possessed youths in the crowd cried out. The people were dumbfounded, as the saint expelled the devils from them by his prayers. Seeing the youths restored to normal, the people asked St. Abercius to instruct them in the Christian Faith, and then they accepted Holy Baptism.

After this the saint went to the surrounding cities and villages, healing the sick and preaching the Kingdom of God. With his preaching he made the rounds of Syria, Cilicia, Mesopotamia, and Rome. Everywhere he converted multitudes of people to Christ. For many years he guarded the Church against heretics, he confirmed Christians in the Faith, he set the prodigal upon the righteous path, he healed the sick and proclaimed the glory of Christ. Because of his great works, St. Abercius is termed "Equal of the Apostles."

St. Abercius returned home to Hieropolis, where he soon rested from his labors. After his death, many miracles took place at his tomb. He wrote his own epitaph, and it was carved on his tombstone, which is now in the Lateran Museum.



SAINT ABERCIUS THE BISHOP OF HIEROPOLIS

***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 51 - VOLUME LIV

tone 3

OCTOBER 22, 2017

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Abercius, Bishop and Wonderworker of Hieropolis;
The Holy Seven Youths ("Seven Sleepers") of Ephesus: Maximilian, Jamblicus, Martinian,
John, Dionysius, Exacustodian, and Antonius;
Martyrs Alexander the Bishop, Heraclius, Anna, Elizabeth, Theodota, and Glyceria, at Adrianopolis;
The KAZAN' Icon of the Most-Holy Theotokos*

"You were a preacher of truth and a remarkable wonderworker, O holy father, Abercius, a father of orphans and a defender of the poor and oppressed. As once you bravely and wisely guided your flock and terrorized demons, so, now, come to the aid of all who cry out for your help and beg Christ, our God, to save our souls."

Troparion, Tone IV

"Let us praise these seven pillars of the church of Christ, these blessed youngsters who willingly died for the Lord in the flower of youth. Their lives are sermons of holiness and symbols of resurrection, for they came forth from the grave as if from slumber, clearly proclaiming that all the dead shall one day rise."

Troparion for the youths, Tone VIII

TODAY'S EPISTLE: GALATIANS 1:11-19

TODAY'S GOSPEL: LUKE 16:19-31

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, October 28

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, October 23
(St. James)

Philippians 4:10-23
Galatians 1:11-19

Luke 10:22-24
Matthew 13:54-58

Tuesday, October 24

Colossians 1:1-2,7-11

Luke 11:1-10

Wednesday, October 25

Colossians 1:18-23

Luke 11:9-13

Colossians 1:24-29

Luke 11:14-23

Thursday, October 26

Hebrews 12:6-13,25-27

Matthew 8:23-27

II Timothy 2:1-10

John 15:17-16:2

Friday, October 27

Colossians 2:1-7

Luke 11:23-26

Saturday, October 28

II Corinthians 3:12-18

Luke 8:16-21

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER:

23, Monday 7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting
29, Sunday HTOC Parish Meeting

NOVEMBER:

5, Sunday Noon HTOC Annual Meatloaf Dinner and Basket Auction
10-12, Fri-Sun. St. Nicholas Church (Mogadore) 100th Anniversary Celebration
13, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
6:30 p.m. St. Herman’s House Benefit at St. George Church; 2587 W. 14th St.

MEMORY ETERNAL:

Agnes Wislocki fell asleep in the Lord and was buried on Monday, October 16, 2017.
Ed Kling fell asleep in the Lord and was buried on Friday, October 20, 2017.

ANNUAL MEETING:

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place Sunday, Oct. 29, in the Fellowship Hall after the Divine Liturgy. A packet with the Agenda and some of the reports, including Financial Reports, is available in the church, as well as the proposed Parish Bylaws. Among other important items on the Agenda is the proposed sale of the Rectory to Fr. 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. Baskets are on display in the Fellowship Hall.

BOOK CIRCLE:

The St. Elizabeth Book Circle will meet Monday, November 13, at 12:30 p.m. We are preparing for Nativity by reading The Winter Pascha by Fr. Thomas Hopko, pages 9-75. Books **are now available** at La Coupole.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Marge Sabol and Helen Stoyka in memory of John and Mary Stoyka and family.

ST. HERMAN’S HOUSE BENEFIT:

Author/speaker Frederica Mathewes-Green will appear at the FOCUS Cleveland benefit for St. Herman’s House on Monday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.; St. George Church in Tremont. Tickets are \$25, which includes appetizers. (Cash bar). See details in Hall.

PROPOSED PARISH BYLAWS:

At the Annual Parish Meeting on Oct. 29, we plan to adopt a new set of Bylaws. An initial draft was presented at last year’s Parish Meeting. Parish Council has made the recommended changes, and copies are now available. (One per family, please.)

THANK YOU:

We have received a nice “Thank You” from Seminarian Aaron Rutz. It is posted on the “Message Center” bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH:

St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore invites all to their 100th Anniversary Celebration November 10-12; the banquet is at 1:00 on November 12. Bishop Paul and Metropolitan Tikhon will be in attendance. Details are posted in the Fellowship Hall.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP:

A Bereavement Group will be meeting for the next several months on Wednesdays at St. Paul’s Church; 4548 Wallings Rd. in North Royalton; 7:00-8:30 p.m.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Jewelann Stefanar.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, OCTOBER 15	\$ 2535.00
BUILDING FUND	35.00
MORTGAGE FUND	80.00
CANDLES	89.00
LOCAL CHARITIES	10.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 51 – Volume LIV

October 22, 2017

FATE, FAITH AND TRUTH

Faith can be understood as my fate: the journey from the condition of the present nothingness, misery and despair, crossing over the bridge to the promised land of Truth. However, to step onto and cross the bridge, an effort is needed, an expenditure of will and strength. Questions arise: Is it worth it? Is there anything on the other side? Is it not better to remain in a death agony here, before the bridge? What is better? To die forever, in sight of the promised land, to freeze in the icy cold of absolute nothingness; or to exhaust one's last strength for something mysterious? So we remain, we hesitate, we decompose, we age in anguish. But then, from depths of sorrow and in sudden hope, we run onto the bridge. We at first run headfast, but then doubt again assails us. To go and to go not, to seek and not to seek, to hope and to despair. What should I do? Where is my refuge? To whom can I turn for help? "Lord, Lord, if You exist, help my disfigured soul. Come Yourself, You Yourself, lead me to Yourself! Whether I want it or not, save me!"

The cry of ultimate despair is the beginning of a new stage of living, the beginning of genuine faith. I may be unsure if the Truth exists, but I feel with my whole being that I cannot be without it. And I know that if the Truth exists, it is everything for me: reason, goodness, strength, life, and happiness. Its existence is mysterious, but I love it. I love it more than anything. My relation to the Truth is a relation to something that exists. And I love it, this Truth, that is more than I can imagine, with all my soul and all my mind. For its sake, I renounce everything, even my own questions and my own doubts. Doubting, I behave as one who does not doubt. I who stand on the edge of nothingness walk as if I were already on the other side, in the land of reality, grounded in knowledge. The triple act of faith, hope and love overcomes the inertia of being trapped in my identity. I stop being I, my thoughts stop being my thoughts. By an unfathomable act, I renounce the trap of self-affirmation. Something or Someone helps me escape the prison of my self-serving ego. The Truth lifts my being into true being. According to St. Macarius the Great, "The Truth itself stimulates man to see the Truth."

That Great Truth, that Eternal Something or Someone, extinguishes in me the idea that I am the center of everything and places instead the idea of the Truth itself. Being nothing but what I have been given, I bring to the Truth the sole sacrifice that I can make. Previously, my sinful self put itself in the place of God, but now with the help of God, I put God in my place; God, Whom I do not yet know but for Whom I yearn and Whom I love. I renounce the fearful worry about what will become of me and decisively abandon the edge of abyss, and with a firm step cross over the bridge.

My fate is the seeking of a certitude that I acquire in Faith, and so I entrust myself into the hands of Truth itself. And when I step onto the bridge, a new depth is revealed in the words of the Epistle to the Hebrews: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen" (Hebrews 11:1).

From "The Pillar and Ground of Truth"

By Fr. Paul Florensky