

***SAINT JOHN THE MERCIFUL,
PATRIARCH OF ALEXANDRIA***

...Twice during the week, on Wednesdays and Fridays, St. John emerged from the doors of the patriarchal cathedral, and sitting on the church portico, he received everyone in need. He settled quarrels, helped the wronged, and distributed alms. Three times a week he visited the sick-houses, and rendered assistance to the suffering. It was during this period that the emperor Heraclius led a tremendous army against the Persian emperor Chosroes II. The Persians ravaged and burned Jerusalem, taking a multitude of captives. Patriarch John gave a large portion of the church treasury for their ransom.

The saint never refused suppliants. One day, when the saint was visiting the sick, he met a beggar and commanded that he be given six silver coins. The beggar changed his clothes, ran on ahead of the Patriarch, and again asked for alms. St. John gave him six more silver coins. When, however, the beggar sought charity a third time, and the servants began to chase the fellow away, the Patriarch ordered that he be given twelve pieces of silver, saying, "Perhaps he is Christ putting me to the test." Twice the saint gave money to a merchant that had suffered shipwreck, and a third time gave him a ship belonging to the Patriarchate and filled with grain, with which the merchant had a successful journey and repaid his obligations.

St. John the Merciful was known for his gentle attitude towards people. Once, the saint was compelled to excommunicate two clergymen for a certain time because of some offense. One of them repented, but the other fellow became angry with the Patriarch and fell into greater sins. The saint wanted to summon him and calm him with kind words, but it slipped his mind. When he was celebrating the Divine Liturgy, the saint was suddenly reminded by the words of the Gospel: "If you bring your gift to the altar and remember that you brother has something against you, leave your gift before the altar ... first, be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:23-24). The saint came out of the altar, called the offending clergyman to him, and falling down on his knees before him in front of all the people he asked forgiveness. The cleric, filled with remorse, repented, corrected himself, and afterwards was found worthy to be ordained to the priesthood.

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ST. JOHN THE MERCIFUL, PATRIARCH OF ALEXANDRIA

***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 2 - VOLUME LV

TONE 6

NOVEMBER 12, 2017

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria;
Ven. Nilus the Faster, of Sinai;
Bl. John "the Hairy," Fool-for-Christ, in Rostov;
Prophet Ahijah; Ven. Nilus the Myrrhusher, of Mt. Athos

"Patience reaped you your reward, O holy father, for you persevered in prayer and true devotion. In your compassionate love for the poor and the afflicted, you attended to their needs, whether of body or of soul. O merciful and happy father, John, beg Christ, our God, to save our souls."

Troparion, Tone VIII

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE *Monday, November 13*

"From heaven you received divine grace, O holy father, John Chrysostom, so that from your lips all the world has learned to worship the one God in Trinity, and so you deserve our songs of praise, for you reveal to us the things of God.

Kondakion, Tone VI

TODAY'S EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 2:4-10

TODAY'S GOSPEL: LUKE 10:25-37

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Wednesday, November 15 6:00 p.m. Holy Unction Service at Buna Vestire Church
Saturday, November 18 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, November 13 (St. John Chrysostom)	I Thessalonians 2:20-3:8 Hebrews 7:26-8:2	Luke 14:12-15 John 10:9-16
Tuesday, November 14 (Apostle Philip)	I Thessalonians 3:9-13 I Corinthians 4:9-16	Luke 14:25-35 John 1:43-51
Wednesday, November 15	I Thessalonians 4:1-12 I Thessalonians 5:1-8	Luke 15:1-10 Luke 16:1-9
Thursday, November 16	I Corinthians 4:9-16	Matthew 9:9-13
Friday, November 17	I Thessalonians 5:9-13,24-28	Luke 16:15-18; 17:1-4
Saturday, November 18	II Corinthians 11:1-6	Luke 9:57-62

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, IS THE BEGINNING OF THE NATIVITY FAST.

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER:

- 12, TODAY Second Sunday Food Sale
- 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.
- 15, Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Holy Unction Service at Buna Vestire Church
- 19, Sunday 2:00 p.m. HTOC Church School outing to Brookpark Skateland
- 20, Monday 7:00 p.m. HTOC Parish Council meeting
- 25, Saturday 10:00 a.m.; and 3:00 p.m. Sessions w/Bishop Anthony, at St. Matthew Church

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD SALE:

TODAY is our seasonal monthly food sale. Please shop for some treats to take home!

THANK YOU:

Thank you to all who helped with the St. Herman-type Meatloaf Dinner — to the cooks, set-up people, servers, clean-up helpers, donors, and most of all to you who attended. Thank you also to Dianna Kall, Barbara Filipow, their crew, and the donors for the Basket Raffle and Wine Pull. The event was a great success. The dinner, raffle and wine pull net profit was a little over \$1690.

HOLY UNCTION:

To begin the Nativity Fast, Buna Vestire Church is hosting the Greater Cleveland clergy and faithful at a Holy Unction service on Wednesday, November 15, at 6:00 p.m. The church is located at 7140 Fitch Road in Olmsted Township, 44138.

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 at La Coupole.

“RELATIONS BETWEEN CHURCH & STATE”:

St. Matthew Church invites all to sessions with Bp. Anthony of Toledo, on Saturday, Nov. 25; 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. See further details in Fellowship Hall.

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. The event will take place at St. George Church in Tremont. Tickets are \$25, which includes appetizers. (Cash bar). See Barry Gluntz to purchase your ticket.

“PATHWAY TO PEACE”:

St. Matthew Church hosts a support group of Orthodox Christians seeking practical solutions for problems and healthy spiritual fellowship. The group meets Monday evenings, 7:30-8:30 at the church, 10383 Albion Rd., in North Royalton.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Jewelann Stefanar.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Mary Ann Moga in memory of her beloved husband Jack.

ST. THEODOSIUS CEMETERY:

A new section of graves has been opened at St. Theodosius Cemetery, and discounts are being offered for the purchase of multiple graves. If 6-10 graves are purchased at one time, the cost drops from \$1600 to \$1200. If 10+ graves are purchased, the price is \$1000 apiece. All purchases include lifetime maintenance of the site. Contact Casandra Vasu, Office Manager at the cemetery, at 216-741-1310.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, NOVEMBER 5	\$ 4644.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	739.00
BUILDING FUND	215.00
MORTGAGE FUND	165.00
CANDLES	82.00
IN MEMORY OF ED KLING	240.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 2 – Volume LV

November 12, 2017

THE SAINTS AMONG US - ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

St. John Chrysostom occupies a place of exceptional honor in the Church. He is one of the greatest and most recognized of the Church Fathers, and his legacy is universally recognized. His influence extends to all areas of Orthodox theology and spirituality: dogma, liturgy, scriptural exegesis, ethics, social outreach, monasticism, church-state relations, etc. For us his name is immediately recognized because in the Orthodox Church the Eucharistic service that is conducted most Sundays and throughout the year is called the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. Ironically, St. John's direct contributions to that are probably minimal. The Liturgy as we know it is a combination of several liturgical traditions that developed during the Church's first millennium. However, that this most important and visible of all worship services is known as such attests to the high esteem that the Church attaches to St. John Chrysostom. Also ascribed to St. John and also occupying an honorable place in the liturgical tradition is the famous Pascha Sermon, which is read at the conclusion of Paschal Matins in every Orthodox Church on Easter night.

St. John was born in Antioch, Syria, in 349. Brought up Christian by his mother, he was baptized as a young man and received an excellent education in rhetoric and literature. He could have had a great career in politics but felt a keen call to serve Christ. He spent several years in ascetic solitude in prayer, study and meditation on the Bible, which he committed to memory. In 381 he was ordained deacon and a priest five years later. For some twelve years he served as presbyter in Antioch where he acquired a reputation as a preacher who was "golden-mouthed" (in Greek, "*chrysostomos*"). His sermons in which he explained various books of the New Testament have been preserved and have become classics of Patristic exegesis, setting the standard for traditional Orthodox interpretations of the Bible.

In 397 St. John was appointed Archbishop of the capital city, Constantinople. There he was popular and much-loved by the common people, but disliked by the wealthy and imperial elite. In contrast to the mystical "Alexandrian" approach, St. John exemplified the "Antiochian" approach to Christianity, which focused on the incarnational, or divinely-human aspects of Christ's life, placing emphasis on how Christians should conduct their social and ethical lives. St. John challenged the rich to be charitable and generous and himself worked in establishing orphanages and hostels for poor and needy. In addition to his expertise as a Biblical exegete and outstanding preacher, he is also known as the "prophet of charity."

St. John became a victim of political intrigue, inside and outside the church. He was forced out of Constantinople and died in exile on September 14, 407. His famous last words were "Glory to God for all things." He is commemorated together with Saints Basil the Great and Gregory the Theologian on January 30, and alone on January 27 and November 13. An observant reader may wonder, "Where is he in our church?" In fact, he is in a prominent place but most have to make an effort to find him. He is on the left side of the back wall of the sanctuary, with five other of the great Church fathers.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus