

THE TRINITARIAN

Published Weekly by the
HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD, PARMA, OHIO 44134
CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 216-524-4859
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 8 - VOLUME LV

tone 4

DECEMBER 24, 2017

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ

EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

*Nun Martyr Eugenia of Rome, and with her,
Martyrs Philip, her father Protus, Hyacinth, Basilla, and Claudia;
Ven. Nicholas the Monk, of Bulgaria*

“When Mary and Joseph went to register at Bethlehem as members of David’s house, she was carrying the Child of virginity in her womb. As the time for her delivery drew near, there was no room for them in the inn. And when a cave was shown to them, it seemed like a palace to that royal mother. So it was that Christ was born, to raise that image that fell so long ago.”

Troparion, Tone IV

“Without stain was God’s image preserved in you, O holy mother, Eugenia, for you took up your cross and followed the Lord. By word and example you taught us to live in the spirit while still in the flesh, so that now you rejoice with the angels of heaven.”

Troparion, Tone VIII

TODAY’S EPISTLE: HEBREWS 11:9-10,17-23,32-40

TODAY’S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:1-25

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Monday, December 25	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy— THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
Tuesday, December 26	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—Second Day of the Feast
Saturday, December 30	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, December 25	Galatians 3:15-22	Luke 2:1-20
	Galatians 4:4-7	Matthew 2:1-12
Tuesday, December 26	Hebrews 2:11-18	Matthew 2:13-23
Wednesday, December 27	Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5,47-60	Matthew 21:33-42
Thursday, December 28	Hebrews 10:1-18	Mark 11:23-26
	Hebrews 10:35-11:7	Mark 11:27-33
Friday, December 29	Hebrews 11:8,11-16	Mark 12:1-12
	Ephesians 5:1-8	Luke 17:3-10
Saturday, December 30	I Timothy 6:11-16	Matthew 12:15-21
	I Timothy 3:14-4:5	Matthew 3:1-11

TODAY IS A STRICT FAST DAY. DECEMBER 25 THROUGH JANUARY 4 IS FAST-FREE.

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY:

- 8, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
- 14, Sunday Second Sunday Food Sale
- 21, Sunday 6:00 p.m. Service of Supplication at St. Innocent Church

IN MEMORY OF FATHER JOHN KLEMBARA

A good priest, and a good helper and friend of our parish, Fr. John will be missed. His easy-going and jovial manner made people comfortable. He was well-regarded and loved by all who knew him.

We extend sincere condolences to Matushka Olga and his family.

May Our Lord give him rest with the saints
and make his memory to be eternal!

PRAY FOR THE UNBORN:

There will be a Service of Supplication for the unborn on Sunday, January 21, 6:00 p.m., at St. Innocent Church.

DONATION ENVELOPES:

Boxes of Donation Envelopes for 2018 have been labelled with your name and are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please pick up your box.

BOOK CIRCLE:

The St. Elizabeth Book Circle will meet Monday, January 8, at 12:30 p.m. We will complete reading The Winter Pascha by Fr. Thomas Hopko, pages 127-183. All are welcome.

GREETERS NEEDED:

We are looking for new people to become greeters. If you are interested, contact Alex Cundik at 440-877-1980 or email ajcundik@cox.net

GOD'S BLESSINGS:

And many thanks to those who organized and worked to make the parish event last Sunday so delightful for all. Our Church School performers deserve special recognition for a job well done!

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD SALE:

Please keep in mind our monthly fundraising event to aid our General Fund. The next sale will be January 14; plan to donate your specialty homemade goods.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by the Garik Family. If you would like to offer Trinitarian covers in 2018, sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$8; \$20 for Pascha, Christmas, or special-order covers.

BAPTISM:

Symeon Joachim, son of Jacob and Angela Oetama-Paul, will be baptized on Saturday, January 6, at noon.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, DECEMBER 17	\$ 2824.00
BUILDING FUND	214.00
MORTGAGE FUND	195.00
CANDLES	143.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	75.00
IN MEMORY OF JOHN HOLODNAK	540.00
IN MEMORY OF HELEN CHWALYK	1000.00
FOR ST. MATTHEW PARISH	100.00
SECOND SUNDAY FOOD SALE	254.00

ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE OF HIS BEATITUDE
METROPOLITAN TIKHON
NATIVITY OF CHRIST 2017
CHRIST IS BORN ! GLORIFY HIM !

To the Honorable Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Pious Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My beloved Brethren and Blessed Children in the Lord,

As we come to the end of the civil year, we reflect back on a period in which tragedy, acts of terrorism, shootings in public spaces, political confusion, and sexual misconduct allegations dominate the news. The darkness which enshrouds the world adds to the burden of our personal and family struggles: addictions, estrangement, divorce and all manner of conflict wrought by human passions. We might be tempted to wonder how love could have so definitively fled from the hearts of human beings.

The feast of the Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ is a reminder to all of us that "heaven and earth today make glad prophetically" and angels and men "keep spiritual feast for God, born of a woman, has appeared in the flesh to those that sit in darkness and shadow." The light that we receive today is not merely a physical light that pierces the gloom which surrounds us, but rather a transfiguring light that both reveals God's love for us and inspires us to grow in our love for God.

There is no philosophy or ideology that can overcome the irrationality of the world. It is only the transfiguring light of Christ – His divine and sacrificial love – that can accomplish this. It is only through love that we can, with the animals and the manger, "accept Him who by His Word has loosed us dwellers on earth from acts that are against reason." When we despair at the tragedies in the world and in our lives, let us remember that it is precisely in the midst of such darkness that the Word of God chose to be incarnate.

Archimandrite Zacharias suggests that: "When we are confronted by the ruins of human love and find ourselves completely broken, then two solutions can be given: either we turn to God with our pain, so that God enters our life and renews us, or we continue to be deceived by our human plans and slide from one tragedy and barrenness of soul to another, hoping that one day we will find perfection."

The world longs for authentic love but seems to remain mired in the global tragedies that we witness every day. In our horizontal and human relations with one another, what is missing is God Himself, a third and divine-human Person to purify and heal our imperfect and broken relationships. Whether it be husband and wife, brother and sister, or larger communities, true love and abiding peace can only be found through our communion with God.

In our Orthodox context, this takes place through the Divine Liturgy and through our efforts to nurture the sacrificial love of God in our own hearts. "Paradise begins on earth through love for God and love for our fellows. In this lies the entire wealth of eternal life, for man has been created to give eternal glory to God. His delight is to return this glory to His image, man, who then returns greater glory to his Creator."

Today's feast is a reminder that it is through this cycle of glorification and love between God and man that we find our true fulfillment. May the new-born Christ grant us the courage to keep His love in our hearts, to connect with our fellows through prayer, sacrifice, and humility, and to remember that, no matter the degree of our own brokenness or the brokenness of the world, Christ has come to give us hope for renewal, "for what He was, He has remained, true God: and what He was not, He has taken upon Himself, becoming man through love for mankind."

With love in the New-Born Christ,



+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada