

THE HOLY PROTOMARTYR THECLA

Saint Thecla was born in the city of Iconium, a daughter of rich and illustrious parents, distinguished by extraordinary beauty. She was betrothed to an eminent youth at the age of 18, but after she heard the Apostle Paul preaching about the Savior, she came to love the Lord and resolved not to marry but to devote her life to preaching the Gospel.

Her mother was opposed to Thecla's decision, as was her fiancé, and they complained to the city prefect about Apostle Paul. He was imprisoned. During the night, St. Thecla fled from her home. She bribed the prison guards with her gold ornaments, and for 3 days she sat at the feet of the Apostle, listening to his teachings. Her servants finally discovered her and brought her home by force.

St. Paul was banished from the city, and St. Thecla was again encouraged to marry. She would not. Her mother was enraged and demanded a death sentence against her daughter; St. Thecla was sentenced to be burned. 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, blessing her deed, and inexpressible joy filled her holy soul. The martyr was surrounded by a light, and the flames did not touch her. Thunder boomed, and rain and hail extinguished the fire. The torturers scattered in fear.

St. Thecla, kept safe by the Lord, left the city and with the help of a Christian youth, searched for the Apostle Paul. The holy apostle and his companions were hidden in a cave, praying the Lord would strengthen her in her sufferings. She went with them, preaching the Gospel in Antioch. She was preserved by God through multiple torments and persecutions. She then settled in a desolate region and dwelt there for many years, constantly preaching the Word of God and healing the sick through prayer. Many pagans were converted to Christ.

When she was 90, pagan sorcerers became incensed at her for treating the sick for free. They could not comprehend that the saint was healing by the power of the grace of Christ. They sent their followers to defile her. She cried out for help to Christ, and a rock split open and hid the holy virgin. Thus did St. Thecla offer up her holy soul to the Lord.

www.oca.org



*PROTOMARTYR AND EQUAL OF THE APOSTLES
THECLA*

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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THE TRINITARIAN

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Divine Liturgy on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 47 - VOLUME LX

TONE 7

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Protomartyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thecla
Holy New Martyrs of Alaska, Hieromank Juvenaly and Peter the Aleut
Ven. Coprius of Palestine; Ven. Abrámii, Abbot of Mirozh;
St. Vladislav of Serbia; Ven. Nikander, Hermit, of Pskov;
Monk-Martyr Galacteon of Vologdá; Ven. Dorothy of Kashin; Ven. Silouan of Mt. Athos

You were enlightened by the words of Paul, O Bride of God, Thecla, and your faith was confirmed by Peter, O chosen one of God. You became the first sufferer and martyr among women, by entering the flames as into a place of gladness. For when you accepted the Cross of Christ, the demonic powers were frightened away. O all-praised one, intercede before Christ our God that our souls may be saved.
Troparion, Tone IV

Today Alaska rejoices and America celebrates, for the new world has been sanctified by martyrdom. Kodiak echoes with songs of thanksgiving, Iliamna and Kenal 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

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

WELCOME GUESTS!

We are very glad you have come to worship the Holy Trinity with us this morning! Please participate in the services at your comfort level. Our greeters will kindly assist you with whatever questions or needs you may have. During each Sunday service we offer Holy Communion. If you are a practicing Orthodox Christian and have come prepared to receive Christ's Body and Blood through fasting and prayer, please come forward to partake. All guests are invited to come forward at the end of the service to greet Fr. Christopher and receive the blessed bread. Please stay after the Divine Liturgy for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall so we can get to know you better!

Families with children: we encourage children of all ages to be present and participate as they are able during worship. We know sometimes kids need a break, so please take good advantage of our Rest and Refocus Room located on the south side of the lobby/narthex when coming in the main entrance. If you have pre-school and school age children, we invite you to send them to Church School directly after the Divine Liturgy throughout the academic year. May God bless you!

Daily Scripture Readings can be found in the St. Tikhon's Wall Calendar or at www.oca.org/readings.

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER:

24, Sunday First Day of Church School
 25, Monday Cooking for St. Herman's House
 27, Wednesday Serving dinner at St. Herman's House
 28, Thursday 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

OCTOBER:

1, Sunday 11:00 a.m. Prayer Walk Blessing
 12, Thursday 6:00 p.m. EOWG Fundraising Dinner and Social at HTOC
 16, Monday 6:00 p.m. IOCC Winetasting at St. Michael's Woodside
 22, Sunday Parish Council Meeting
 29, Sunday Annual Parish Meeting

<p><u>PRAYER WALK:</u> Our rejuvenated Prayer Walk will be blessed next Sunday after the Divine Liturgy. Plan to join us!</p> <p><u>BASKET AUCTION:</u> In conjunction with the Meatloaf Luncheon, we will hold a basket auction on Sunday, October 8 to help offset costs of our monthly meals to St. Herman's. We have received some clever, useful and fun baskets for the auction. This fundraiser helps cover the costs of our supplied meals to St. Herman's House. Basket tickets will be sold on October 1 and at the event on October 8. Winners need not be present.</p> <p><u>MEATLOAF LUNCHEON:</u> Tickets are now available in the Fellowship Hall. Adult - \$16; Students 6-14 years - \$8; Children 5 and under - no charge. The last day for ticket sales is October 4. Contact Jewelann at 216-402-8599.</p> <p><u>EOWG:</u> The Eastern Orthodox Women's Guild is currently holding their annual Membership Drive. Please see Joanne Stoyka if you are interested in becoming a member, or for further information. The EOWG will be having a Pan-Orthodox dinner on Thursday, October 12, here at HTOC Fellowship Hall. Doors open at 6:00; dinner at 7:00. Adults \$15; Children 6-12 \$7.50; under 6 Free. See Joanne Stoyka for tickets.</p>	<p><u>CHURCH SCHOOL:</u> Church School begins today! Please see Stephanie McNeely if you still need to register your child.</p> <p><u>IOCC:</u> The annual Winetasting event for the IOCC is Monday, October 16. Buy tickets now from Diane Hastings at the special price of \$60; after October 1, the ticket price will be \$70. There will be a 4-course dinner with wine pairings as well as a silent auction. Learn how your financial support is helping families around the world. Donations are being requested—bottles of wine to be used as gifts/prizes, as well as items that can be used for a HTOC basket to be auctioned.</p> <p><u>COFFEE HOUR:</u> The refreshments today are donated by the Bellack Family.</p> <p><u>TRINITARIAN COVERS:</u> The covers today are offered by Marsha Uziel in blessed memory of Dan Uziel.</p> <p><u>PARISH MEETING:</u> Our annual Parish Meeting is Sunday, October 29.</p> <p><u>FLOWERS:</u> The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.</p>
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GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

	9/3	9/10	9/17
REGULAR COLLECTION	\$ 2734.00	\$ 4048.00	\$ 4160.00
BUILDING FUND	697.00	892.00	771.00
CANDLES	165.00	317.00	142.00
SPECIAL PROJECTS: STOVES	516.00	167.00	487.00
COLLEGE STUDENT CARE PACKAGES		120.00	
SECOND SUNDAY FOOD SALE			307.00
COFFEE HOUR, 8/27; 9/3	100.00	70.00	

TOOLS FOR ORTHODOX FAMILIES Part 4 –
LIVING THE CHURCH YEAR

Unless one lives in a predominantly Orthodox country, it is not natural for most of us to feel the rhythms of the church year in our daily life. In the church we may be keeping the Nativity Fast, but Christmas parties are gearing up all around us in December. We may be celebrating the 12 days of Christmas from December 25th to January 5th, but all the Christmas music on the radio has stopped and decorations have largely been taken down. We may be in the middle of the August Dormition fast, but for most it's time for summer cookouts. These are just a few examples of where our Orthodox church subculture doesn't align with what's going on in our greater American culture. Yet it's important for us and our children to lean into the rhythms of the ecclesial year. How can we do this? Here are a few options to try and experiment with:

- On feast days until their leavetaking: Attend at least one or part of one of the festal services. Remind your kids of the plan ahead of time. Prepare a special meal to celebrate according to the fasting/feasting calendar. At your prayers before meals, sing the Troparion of the feast. Talk about the story of the feast and why it's important.
- Read the Jesse Tree during the Nativity Fast: A great way to get into scripture for yourself and your children and prepare for the coming of Emmanuel.
orthodoxjessetree.wordpress.com | ww1.antiochian.org/christianeducation/tree-jesse
- Celebrate the real St Nick on Dec 6th by telling the story of St Nicholas and the coins. Have your kids set out their shoes on the eve of St Nicholas day and put candy in their shoes overnight.
- Check out Church Year ideas in **Blueprints for the Little Church** by Bjeletich & Shoemaker
- Bring your whole family to confession during the 4 major fasting periods of the church year: Nativity Fast (Nov 15-Dec 24), Great Lent (7 weeks leading up to Pascha), Apostles Fast (week after Pentecost until June 28), Dormition Fast (Aug 1-14). It's a natural time to instill the importance of this sacrament.

- Lent and Pascha:

***Pascha Passports – St Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church sells an engaging little booklet with stickers to mark attendance of services during Lent, times spent in personal prayer, and giving alms. This can be a fun way to help our children live out their faith during Lent and anticipate the coming of Pascha.

***Giving Alms/Volunteering/Assisting the Poor and Needy – Don't miss an opportunity in Lent to engage your children with an important aspect of our faith: serving others and caring for their wellbeing. Isaiah 58:3-12 reminds us of the true fast the Lord desires.

***Prepare your Pascha basket – Before Pascha, let your kids go shopping with you to pick out some of their favorite treats and include them in their own Pascha basket to be blessed. Boil and dye eggs and tell the story about eggs being a sign of new resurrectional life in Christ, tell the story of Mary Magdalene and the red egg (**The Miracle of the Red Egg**, Ancient Faith Publishing)

***Bring your kids to celebrate Pascha in the middle of the night. It's that one time of year they get permission to party all night. Let it be a unique celebration of the Resurrection like no other.

- During the Apostle's Fast, talk together about the importance of missions and evangelism in our Church. Learn about a missionary or send a donation. Consider a friend or neighbor you can invite to church.

These ideas just scratch the surface, but hopefully it sparks some interest to live out these rhythms in the family day in and day out. Part of our job with children is to spark memorable moments that our children can keep with them as faith anchors during their life journey, and showing that our Orthodox Faith matters in our daily life through these and other activities is so important.

Father Christopher

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OCTOBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 17th Sunday after Pentecost THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS Blessing of Prayer Walk	2	3	4	5	6	7 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
8 18th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council Meatloaf Luncheon and Basket Auction for St. Herman's meals	9	10	11	12 6:00 p.m. EOWG Pan-Orthodox Dinner at HTOC	13	14 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
15 19th Sunday after Pentecost Ven. Euthymius	16 6:00 pm. IOCC Winetasting at Woodside	17	18	19	20	21 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
22 20th Sunday after Pentecost Equal-to-Apostles Abercius Parish Council meeting	23 Cooking for St. Herman's House	24	25 Serving dinner at St. Herman's House	26 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	27	28 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
29 21st Sunday after Pentecost Martyr Anastasia Annual Parish Meeting	30	31				