

***HIEROMARTHR ELEUTHERIUS,  
BISHOP OF ILLYRIA,  
AND HIS MOTHER, MARTYR ANTHIA***

Hieromartyr Eleutherius, the son of an illustrious Roman citizen, was raised in Christian piety by his mother. His virtue was such that at the age of twenty, he had been elevated to bishop of Illyria.

In the reign of the emperor Hadrian, the saint was tortured for his bold preaching about Christ, then was beheaded at Rome with his mother Anthia. The Eparch Caribus, who had tortured Saint Eleutherius, also came to believe in Christ and was executed.

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***SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS***

***HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH  
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD  
PARMA, OHIO 44134***

# THE TRINITARIAN

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**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

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BULLETIN 7 - VOLUME LVII

TONE 1

DECEMBER 15, 2019

## ***TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***

### ***Sunday of the Forefathers***

***Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria, and his mother, Martyr Anthia;  
Martyr Eleutherius at Constantinople; Ven. Pardus, Hermit, of Palestine;  
St. Stephen the Confessor, Archbishop of Surozh in the Crimea; Ven. Paul of Latros;  
Ven. Tryphon, Abbot of Pechenga, and his martyred disciple, Jonah;  
Hieromartyr Hilarion, Archbishop of Vereya;  
Hieromartyrs Archpriests Aleksandr Rozhdéstvenskii, Vasilii Vinogradov, and Viktor Dobronrávov***

“Through faith You justified the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: She who bore You without seed. So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!”

Troparion, Tone VIII

“Adorned with the robe of priest, stained with the streams of your blood, O wise and blessed Eleutherius, over-thrower of Satan, you hastened to Christ your Master. Pray unceasingly for those who faithfully honor your contest!”

Troparion, Tone V

TODAY’S EPISTLE: COLOSSIANS 3:4-11

TODAY’S GOSPEL: LUKE 14:16-24

### **HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:**

Saturday, December 21      5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

### **Daily Scripture Readings**

Monday, December 16	I Timothy 5:1-10	Mark 9:42-10:1
Tuesday, December 17	I Timothy 5:11-21	Mark 10:2-12
Wednesday, December 18	I Timothy 5:22-6:11	Mark 10:11-16
Thursday, December 19	I Timothy 6:17-21	Mark 10:17-27
Friday, December 20	II Timothy 1:1-2,8-18	Mark 10:23-32
Saturday, December 21	Galatians 3:8-12	Luke 13:18-29
	Galatians 5:22-6:2	Luke 16:10-15

**COMING EVENTS**

**DECEMBER:**

22, Sunday Church School Christmas program

**HTOC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:**

Please plan to join with our HTOC parish family next Sunday, December 22. Our Church School will present their annual program, and it will be followed by a potuck Lenten meal. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

**ZOE FOR LIFE:**

ZOE for Life is asking for donations of infant and toddler clothes (up to 2T). They can be brought to the Fellowship Hall and placed on a side table. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Please see Susan Range for details.

**COFFEE HOUR:**

Thank you to our hosts of Coffee Hour today: Table of Eight.

**CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS:**

Stop by the La Coupole shop during coffee hour to do some Christmas shopping. For children there are books for infants through teens, as well as matryoshka dolls galore! Browse the selection of Orthodox religious items, icons, books, Russian imports and jewelry. A new shipment of honey from St. Herman's House has arrived. Complimentary gift wrapping is available.

**FLOWERS:**

The flowers today are offered by the Gardner Family in memory of Bill and Helen Chychlyk.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:**

Please donate for the flowers that adorn our church during the Nativity season. There is a special envelope in your box.

*"Material wealth enslaves us, sharpening self-interest, corroding the heart, overwhelming us with anxiety and fear; like an insatiable demon, it demands sacrifice. Instead of serving us, it makes us serve it. Cannot the same be said of the treasures of health, strength, youth, beauty, talent? Do not they likewise confirm us in our pride and constrain the heart, leading it away from God?"*

*Yes, truly: 'Blessed are the poor' in the world's goods. How easily they gain evangelical lightness of spirit and freedom of earthly fetters; but blessed also are those who are without health and youth (for 'he who suffers in the flesh ceases to sin'). Blessed are the ugly, the ungifted, the unlucky - they are free of the chief enemy, pride - for they have nothing to be proud of.*

*But what are we to do if God has granted us this or that earthly gift? Is it possible that we shall not be saved until we are divested of it? We may keep (but not for ourselves) our riches and still be saved, but we must be interiorly free of them; we must tear our heart from them, hold our treasures as if we did not hold them; possess them, but not let them possess us; lay them at Christ's feet and serve Him through them."*

*Father Alexander Melchaninov*

**THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE**

REGULAR COLLECTION, DECEMBER 8	\$ 3076.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	35.00
BUILDING FUND	601.00
MORTGAGE FUND	40.00
CANDLES	158.00
GUATEMALAN MISSIONARY	50.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	259.00
LOCAL CHARITIES	70.00
12/1 COFFEE HOUR	57.00

**THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES**  
**FOR THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST**

***III. Daniel 2:31-36,44-45***

The Prophet Daniel “pops up” several times during the pre-Christmas season. He has his own commemoration day just a week before Christmas, on December 17. He is prominently mentioned in the services on the two Sundays before the Nativity, that of the Forefathers and of the Ancestors of Christ. Associated with Daniel is the story of the Three Holy Youths, who were thrown into the fire by Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar but miraculously remained unharmed. There in the fire, the Three Youths sang their hymn praising God “and exalting Him throughout the ages.” The Song of the Three Youths is a notable feature in Orthodox liturgical services. We cannot forget another famous part of Daniel’s story, that of him being in the lion’s den. So Daniel and company are rather well-known figures in the Church, but we now focus on a specific prophesy about the coming of Jesus Christ, which is read on Christmas Eve. It is from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter of the Book of Daniel:

*Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar: Behold, in your vision you saw an image, O King, it was a great image.... This you saw, until a stone was cut, without human hands, from a mountain and it struck the image on the feet of iron and clay, and broke the image in pieces. This was the dream; now we will tell you its interpretation: the God of heaven shall raise us a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, and His kingdom shall not be abandoned to another people. It shall break to pieces and grind to powder all other kingdoms, but it shall stand forever. Just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hands, ... the great God has made known to you what must happen hereafter. The dream is true, and in the interpretation certain.*

Daniel was asked by the King to interpret a dream. Initially his interpretation had relevance to the prevalent political situation. At that time Babylon was threatened by the neighboring Persians and other kingdoms. These kingdoms of “iron” and “clay” would eventually be destroyed by the coming of a Godly Kingdom. What that Kingdom would be like was uncertain, but years later Christians would know exactly what it was to be. They would “reinterpret” Daniel’s interpretation, and the “cut stone” became the vision of the incarnation of Jesus Christ. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century St. Augustine commented that, “we know that the stone cut from the mountain without hands is Christ, who came from the kingdom of the Jews without a father: the stone shattered all the tyrannies of idols and devils; that stone became a great mountain and filled the whole world.”

As the stone that was “cut without human hands” was Jesus, the “mountain” from which it was cut became the Mother of God. This would become one of the Scriptural images associated with the Theotokos; and in hymns on her feast days, we hear references to “the mount uncloven” or “uncut mountain.” Another important “image” from the Book of Daniel that would be associated with Jesus Christ is the “Ancient of Days.” In our parish we are fortunate to have iconographic representations of Daniel’s images, a true harmony blending of the Bible, Christian theology, Church Tradition, Art and Inspired Creativity!

*Fr. Alexander Garklaus*