

# 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 LVI

TONE 5

DECEMBER 23, 2018

## THIRTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY

*Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ*

*Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete: Theodulus, Saturninus, Euporus, Gelasius, Eunician,  
Zoticus, Pompeius, Agathopus, Basilides, and Evaristus;  
Rest of St. Theoctist, Archbishop of Novgorod;  
St. Niphon, Bishop of Cyprus; St. Paul, Bishop of Neo-Cæsarea*

“Today, let us honor Crete for these brave descendants of martyrs and pearls of Christ. They numbered only ten, but they shamed an entire nation of idol worshippers, giving their lives for the Lord to defeat the evil one. For their courage, they received the crown of glory from Christ, the Savior.”

Troparion, Tone III

“Today, the virgin makes her way to a cave, and there she will bear the Eternal Word in a way beyond our understanding. Let all creation rejoice in this news, and with the shepherds and the angels, let us give glory to God eternal, Who comes to all mankind as a newborn Child.”

Kondakion, Tone III

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

TODAY’S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:1-25

### HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Monday, December 24	9:00 a.m. Royal Hours
	6:30 p.m. Vigil— <b>Eve of the Nativity of Christ</b>
Tuesday, December 25	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy— <b>THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD</b>
Wednesday, December 26	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy— <b>Second Day of the Feast of the Nativity</b>
Saturday, December 29	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

### Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, December 24	Hebrews 1:1-12	Luke 2:1-20
Tuesday, December 25	Galatians 4:4-7	Matthew 2:1-12
Wednesday, December 26	Hebrews 2:11-18	Matthew 2:13-23
Thursday, December 27	James 1:19-27	Mark 11:27-33
(Protomartyr Stephen)	Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5,47-60	Matthew 21:33-42
Friday, December 28	James 2:1-13	Mark 12:1-12
Saturday, December 29	I Timothy 6:11-16	Matthew 12:15-21
	Colossians 1:3-6	Luke 17:3-10

**DECEMBER 24, IS A STRICT FAST DAY. DECEMBER 25 THROUGH JANUARY 4 IS FAST-FREE.**

**COMING EVENTS**

**DECEMBER:**

23, TODAY Church School Christmas Pageant; Potluck meal

30, Sunday No Church School classes

**JANUARY:**

**MEMORY ETERNAL:**

Pat Blischak fell asleep in the Lord and was buried this past Thursday.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:**

Join us today after the Divine Liturgy for our Church School program and Potluck meal.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:**

Thank you to those who have donated for the lovely flowers adorning our church. If you have not yet done so, please consider offering for flowers; use the designated envelope in your box.

**2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES:**

Envelope boxes are available in the Fellowship Hall.

**ST. ELIZABETH BOOK CIRCLE:**

The Book Circle will meet Monday, January 14, at 12:30 p.m. We are reading Wounded by Love: The Life and the Wisdom of Elder Porphyrios. Please read Part I, pages 1-82. Books are available at La Coupole.

**TRINITARIAN COVERS:**

The covers today are offered by the Garik Family. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to be a donor for covers in 2019. Your offering helps cover the printing costs of our bulletin.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

On Sunday, January 20, 2019, we will have our annual Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner.

**COFFEE HOUR:**

Coffee Hour is a regular and much-appreciated gathering after our Sunday Divine Liturgies. Our parish's practice is for individuals, families or groups of parishioners to take turns — by purchasing or preparing items to be offered with coffee and other beverages. Coffee Hour organizers can repay themselves for items purchased or make a donation, for which they are credited. Proceeds from Coffee Hour go to the parish's General Fund.

The success of Coffee Hour depends on parishioners' willingness to commit on the Sign-up Sheet, which is in the Hall kitchen. To keep it consistent and seamless, it is important to sign up ahead of time, for which purpose we will be printing the current signees and open dates in "The Trinitarian." As you may want to reserve a Sunday to commemorate an anniversary or special event, please check the future dates on the Sign-up Sheet.

We have openings for December 30, January 27, and February 10.

**FUND CONSOLIDATION:**

Several years ago the Parish Council created an Ethnic Foods and Icon Fund, which collected monies from food sales and donations, to be used for projects and items that decorated and beautified the church. Some of these monies were used to pay for portions of the iconography. After the completion of the iconography, there was the intention of applying the funds for a new outdoor sign. This summer a beautiful new sign was finally erected and is now functioning.

As the original intentions for this fund have been satisfied while maintenance projects are on ongoing reality, the Parish Council has decided to consolidate the Ethnic and Icon Funds into the existing Building Fund. Monies from the Building Fund are used for various maintenance and repairs that arise, however, Council can likewise use it for repairs to icons or liturgical items if necessary. Consolidation of the Funds will also streamline bookkeeping and reporting of parish financial statements.

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

REGULAR COLLECTION, DECEMBER 16	\$ 6112.00
BUILDING FUND	55.00
MORTGAGE FUND	60.00
CANDLES	95.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	75.00
IN MEMORY OF HELEN CHWALYK	1000.00
SECOND SUNDAY FOOD SALE	380.00

**REFLECTIONS ON RELIGIOUS POETRY -**  
**“ON THE MORNING OF CHRIST’S NATIVITY”**

John Milton (1608-1674) is one of the greatest English poets, most famous for his epic “Paradise Lost.” Milton was an ardent Protestant, but his poems, such as “On the Morning of Christ’s Nativity,” resonate with Orthodox theology. It was written when he was twenty years old. Here are four of the thirty-one stanzas.

It was the winter wild,  
While the Heaven-born child,  
    All meanly wrapped in the rude manger lies;  
Nature in awe to him had doffed her gaudy trim,  
    With her great Master so to sympathize:  
It was no season then for her  
To wanton with the Sun, her lusty paramour.

The shepherds on the lawn,  
Or ere the point of dawn,  
    Sat simply chatting in a rustic row;  
Full little thought they than  
That the mighty Pan  
    Was kindly come to live with them below:  
Perhaps their loves, or else their sheep,  
Was all that did their silly thought so busy keep;

When such music sweet  
Their hearts and ears did greet,  
    As never was by mortal finger struck,  
Divinely warbled voice  
Answering the stringed noise,  
    As all their souls in blissful rapture took:  
The air such pleasure loth to lose,  
With thousand echoes still prolongs each heavenly close.

Ring out you crystal spheres!  
Once bless our human ears  
    (If ye have power to touch our senses so)  
And let your silver chime  
Move in melodious time,  
    And let the bass of Heaven’s deep organ blow:  
And with your ninefold harmony  
Make up full consort to the angelic symphony.

Milton’s dignified meditation is formal but full of lightness that elevates the “rude manger” and “shepherds on the lawn” into the realm of the “heavenly close.” Orthodox hymns similarly convey the cosmic dimensions of the Incarnation as “heaven and earth” and “angels and men” rejoice together at the birth of Jesus. In an enthralling way, the poet likens the angels’ singing to the music of “crystal spheres.”

*Fr. Alexander Garklaus*