

GREATMARTYR THEODORE THE RECRUIT

The holy Great Martyr Theodore was a soldier in Alasium, in the northeast province of Asia Minor. He was commanded to offer sacrifice to idols, but he firmly confessed his faith in Christ in a loud voice. The commander gave him several days to think it over, during which time St. Theodore prayed.

He was charged with setting a pagan temple on fire and thrown into prison to be starved to death. Christ appeared to him there, comforting and encouraging him. Brought to the governor, St. Theodor boldly and fearlessly confessed his faith, for which he was subjected to new torments and condemned to burning. The martyr climbed onto the fire without hesitation, and with prayer, gave up his soul to God.

This occurred in about the year 306, under the Roman emperor Galerius (305-311). Unharmed by the fire, the body of St. Theodore was buried in the city of Euchaita, but his relics were afterwards transferred to Constantinople, to a church dedicated to him.

Fifty years after the death of St. Theodore, the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363), wanting to commit an outrage upon the Christians, commanded the city-commander of Constantinople during the first week of Great Lent to sprinkle all the food provisions in the marketplaces with the blood offered to idols. Saint Theodore appeared in a dream to Archbishop Eudoxius, telling him to inform all the Christians that no one should buy anything at the marketplaces but rather should eat cooked wheat with honey. In memory of this occurrence, the Church annually celebrates the holy Great Martyr Theodore on the first Saturday of Great Lent; this celebration was set by the Patriarch Nectarius of Constantinople (381-397).

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

THE TRINITARIAN

Published Weekly by the
HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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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

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BULLETIN 16 - VOLUME LVI

TONE 5

FEBRUARY 17, 2019

THIRTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST **SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE**

[Beginning of the Lenten Triodion]

Greatmartyr Theodore the Recruit; St. Mariamne, sister of Apostle Philip;
Uncovering of the Relics of Martyr Menas of Alexandria;

Ven. Theodore the Silent, of the Kiev Caves;

Hieromartyr Germogén, Patriarch of Moscow and Wonderworker of All Russia;
The Weeping "TIKHVIN" Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos on Mt. Athos

"Open the gates of repentance for me, O Giver of Life, for at early morning my spirit seeks Your holy temple, though the temple of my body remains defiled. In Your compassion, cleanse it with Your loving kindness and Your mercy."

Troparion, Tone VIII

"Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the Holy Martyr Theodore rejoiced in the flames as though at the waters of rest, offering himself as sweet bread to the Trinity. So, by his prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!"

Troparion, Tone II

TODAY'S EPISTLE: II TIMOTHY 3:10-15

TODAY'S GOSPEL: LUKE 18:10-14

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Today, February 17	11:30 a.m. Memorial Service for Anne Krafcik
Saturday, February 23	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, February 18	II Peter 1:20-2:9	Mark 13:9-13
Tuesday, February 19	II Peter 2:9-22	Mark 13:14-23
Wednesday, February 20	II Peter 3:1-18	Mark 13:24-31
Thursday, February 21	I John 1:8-2:6	Mark 13:31-14:2
Friday, February 22	I John 2:7-17	Mark 14:3-9
Saturday, February 23	II Timothy 3:1-9	Luke 20:46-21:4

THIS IS A FAST-FREE WEEK.

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY:

- 22, Friday 6:00 p.m. HTOC Game Night & Potluck
- 25, Monday Cooking for St. Herman’s House
- 27, Wednesday Serving dinner at St. Herman’s House
- 28, Thursday 6:30 p.m. IOCC Benefit — European Wine Tasting

MARCH:

- 4, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle

GAME NIGHT!

On the pre-Lenten “fast-free” Friday this month, February 22, we will have a Game Night in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a potluck food to share and your favorite game(s); and prepare to have fun! All parishioners, families and friends are invited. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

EUROPEAN WINE TASTING:

International Orthodox Christian Charities will host a four-course dinner with wine pairings as a benefit to help charities around the world. The event will be Thursday, Feb. 28, at St. Michael’s Woodside; doors open at 6:30, and dinner is at 7:00. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased from Popadja Kathy Babich, Paula Svilar, or Diane Hastings.

ST. ELIZABETH BOOK CIRCLE:

The Book Circle will meet Monday, March 4, at 12:30 p.m. We are reading pages 113-133 on Prayer in Wounded By Love, the life of Elder Porphyrios.

TRINITARIAN COVERS AND FLOWERS:

The covers and flowers today are offered by the Stoyka Family in memory of Helen Busch.

RETREAT:

Sts. Constantine & Helen Church is holding a Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 9, 10:00-3:00, preceded by Divine Liturgy at 8:30 a.m. The topic is “Encouraging Faith in One Another,” and the speaker is Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis. Details for registration are in the Fellowship Hall; breakfast and lunch are included in the \$15 fee (\$20 after March 3).

PARISHIONER “SUNSHINE”:

Please remember that if you know of a parishioner who could use a “thinking of you” card, contact Dianna Kall (216-741-2888; dkall@ameritech.net). Include parishioner’s name, address, city and zip code, as well as the reason for the card.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Your 2108 statement of donations to Holy Trinity Church is available in the Fellowship Hall. Please pick up only your statement; do not take a statement for friend or relative to hand deliver.

COFFEE HOUR:

Thank you to the Howe Family for our Coffee Hour refreshments today.

“Who is unaware that prayer is a primordial necessity for every soul, wherever that soul may be in our world? It is a tree of life that nourishes man and makes him incorruptible, because it brings him into communion with the eternal and incorruptible God. Just as there is no such thing as a human being without a soul, in the same way it is impossible to imagine that one could live in Christ without prayer.”

Elder Amilianos, “The Living Witness of the Holy Mountain”

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, FEBRUARY 10	\$ 3051.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	840.00
BUILDING FUND	330.00
MORTGAGE FUND	285.00
CANDLES	123.00
ORTHODOX MISSIONS	50.00
PORK & SAUERKRAUT DINNER	1295.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 16 – Volume LVI

February 17, 2019

REFLECTIONS ON RELIGIOUS POETRY:
“THE PURSUIT” BY HENRY VAUGHAN

Lord! what a busy, restless thing
Hast Thou made man?
Each day, and hour he is on the wing,
Rests not a span,
Then having lost the Sun, and light
By clouds surprised
He keeps business in the night
With air disguised.
If Thou had given to this active dust
A state untired,
The lost son would not have left the husks,
Nor to home desired;
That was Thy secret, and it is
Thy mercy too,
For when all fails to bring us bliss
Then, this must do.
Ah! Lord! and what a Purchase will that be
To take us sick, that sound would not take Thee?

This fascinating and tricky but consoling poem was written by Henry Vaughan (1622-1695). He was born in Wales, educated in Oxford and was beginning a law career in London. When the English Civil War started in 1642, he returned home and served in the military. After that war, which greatly affected him, he quit law and began to study medicine, in time becoming a practicing physician. He also experienced a religious conversion; and his poetry, which he had been writing from his youth, acquired a heightened and refined Christian quality.

Like John Donne and George Herbert, who were featured previously, Henry Vaughan is one of England’s “Metaphysical poets.” Most of their poems have religious elements, but among them, Vaughan is considered to be “the most Biblical.” That designation can be confusing, because he rarely quotes directly from the Bible. Rather, he uses Biblical themes and images to describe spiritual conditions. You wouldn’t know it from the title, but “The Pursuit” is about the Prodigal Son. The title implies that God “pursues” us, to save us even when we, like the Prodigal Son, venture far from home and God. In this poem we see an unconventional conception of God’s given freedom expressed as mankind’s “restlessness.” However, while this provokes our going astray, as it did the Prodigal Son, the restless spirit is also the cause and motivation leading us to seek repentance and salvation!

“The Pursuit” is a challenging poem, but it is an example of Biblical theology expressed in poetic terms. God is love, the Apostle John wrote. The poet Vaughan envisions a “secret” aspect of that divine love, God’s “mercy too, ...when all fails to bring us bliss.” The Lord accepts us “sick” even when we, in good health, reject Him!

Fr. Alexander Garklaus