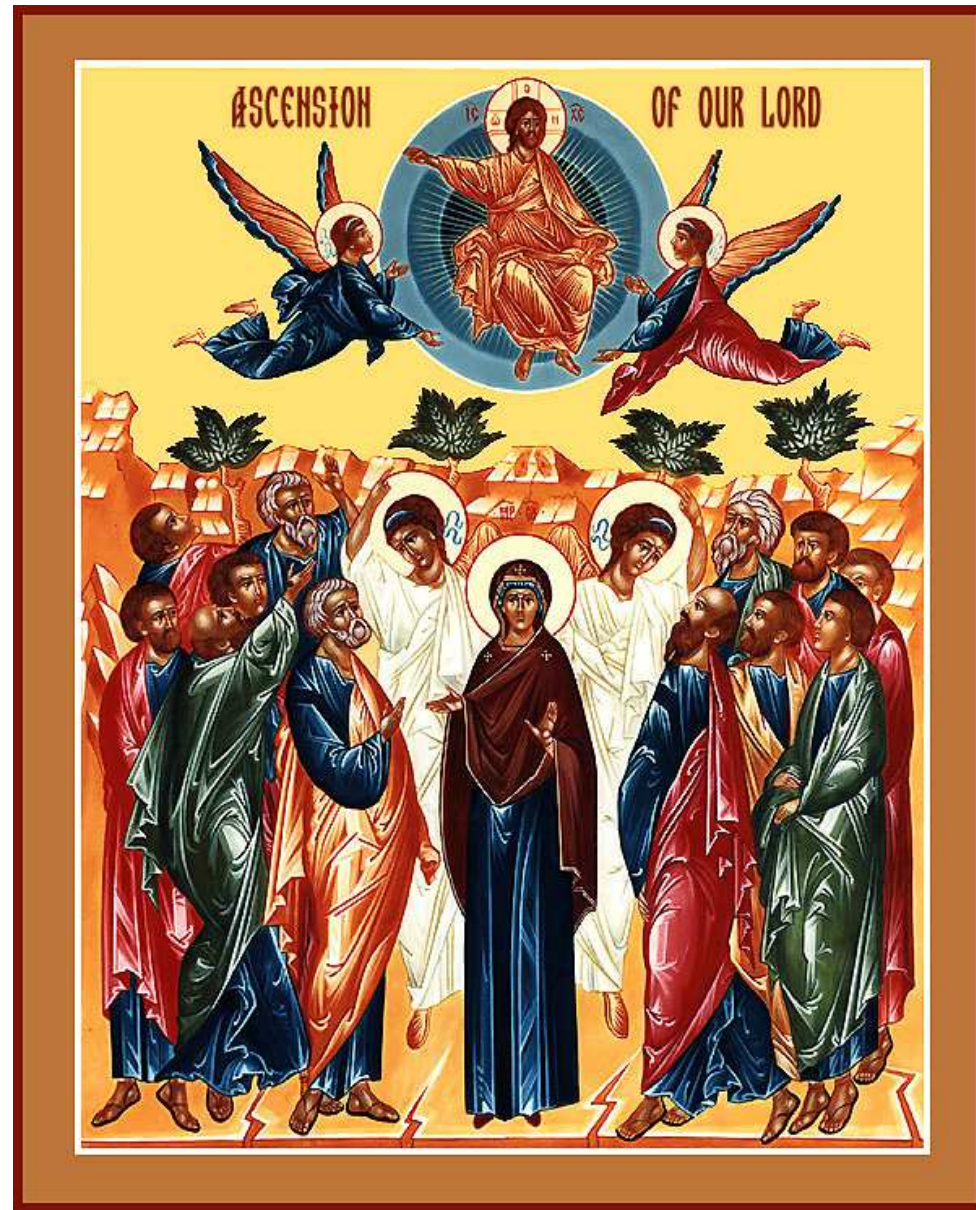


## THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Jesus does not return to His Father in isolation. It was the incorporeal Logos that descended among men. But today it is the Word made flesh, at the same time true God and true man, that enters the Kingdom of heaven. Jesus takes there with Him the human nature in which He is clothed. He opens the gates of the Kingdom to humanity. We take possession, in some way by anticipation, of the blessings which are offered to us and possible for us. Places are reserved for us in the Kingdom, provided we continue faithful. Our presence is desired and awaited there.

So the Ascension renders the thought of heaven more present and more alive for us. Do we think enough of our permanent dwelling-place? For most Christians, heaven is envisaged as a kind of postscript, an appendix to a book of which life on earth constitutes the actual text. But the contrary is true. Our earthly life is merely the preface to the book. Life in heaven will be the text — a text without end.

*A monk of the Eastern Church  
From The Time of the Spirit*



**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

RECTORY: 963 John Glenn Drive, Seven Hills, Ohio 44131 Phone 216-524-8989

BULLETIN 31 - VOLUME LVI

TONE 5

JUNE 2, 2019

## **SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA**

### ***Sunday of the Blind Man***

***St. Nicephorus the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople;  
Greatmartyr John the New of Sochi, who suffered at Belgrade;  
St. John the New of Suceava;***

***Glorification of Ven. Zabulon and Sosanna, parents of St. Nino, Enlightener of Georgia***

“The eyes of my inner life, O Lord and Savior, are blind from the darkness of sin. In Your deep and loving kindness, anoint them with humility, and bathe them in the tears of repentance.”

Exapostilarion, Tone II

## **THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

***Thursday, June 6***

“When You had joined earth to heaven and fulfilled Your plan of redemption, O Christ, our God, You ascended into heaven while remaining in our midst. For You assured us who love You that no one has any power over us, for You Yourself are with us.”

Kondakion, Tone VI

TODAY'S EPISTLE: ACTS 16:16-34

TODAY'S GOSPEL: JOHN 9:1-38

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

Wednesday, June 5  
Saturday, June 8

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - Leavetaking of Pascha  
5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

### **Daily Scripture Readings**

Monday, June 3	Acts 17:1-15	John 11:47-57
Tuesday, June 4	Acts 17:19-28	John 12:19-36
Wednesday, June 5	Acts 18:22-28	John 12:36-47
Thursday, June 6	Acts 1:1-12	Luke 24:36-53
Friday, June 7	Acts 19:1-8	John 14:1-11
Saturday, June 8	Acts 20:7-12	John 14:10-21

**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY**

**COMING EVENTS**

**JUNE:**

- 9, Sunday 1:30 p.m. Parma Crop Walk
- 10, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
- 16, Sunday HTOC Parish Potluck Coffee Hour
- 17, Monday Noon — St. Herman House-FOCUS Annual Golf Classic
- 23, Sunday 11:00 a.m. Parish Council meeting

**PENTECOST:**

On Pentecost Sunday, June 16, our Parish Feast Day, we will have a Parish Potluck Coffee Hour after the services. Plan to stay and celebrate with your HTOC family. There is a sign-up sheet in the Hall. Bring a favorite hors d'oeuvre, pastry or other specialty dish!

**GOLF OUTING:**

St. Herman House—FOCUS Cleveland is having the 6th Annual Golf Classic on June 17 at noon. It will be held at Tanglewood Club in Chagrin Falls. Many sponsorship opportunities are available if you do not golf. Details are posted in the Fellowship Hall.

**COFFEE HOUR:**

Thank you to our Coffee Hour hosts today: Table One.  
There are openings for donors on June 30, as well as July 14 and July 21.

**ST. ELIZABETH BOOK CIRCLE:**

The St. Elizabeth Book Circle will meet Monday, June 10, at 12:30 p.m. We will discuss pages 173-189 in Wounded by Love. All are welcome.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Don't forget to visit our website for updates. If you are on Facebook, please like and follow our page to see photos, announcements and motivating messages. If you are not on Facebook, you can still view from our website (upper right hand corner).  
<http://www.holy-trin.org>

**TRINITARIAN COVERS:**

The covers today are offered by Sandie Adamczek in memory of Tom.

**FLOWERS:**

The flowers are offered by Mary Ann Bobulsky.

**PARMA CROP WALK:**

The Parma Crop Walk is Sunday, June 9, at 1:30 p.m., beginning at the Zielinski Park Splash Pad, 7620 W. Ridgewood Dr., Parma. This Crop Walk is one of many throughout our country, sponsored by the Church World Service, a Christian outreach ministry in which the OCA is a member together with other Christian churches. The Walk, co-sponsored by local churches and Parma Family Collaborative, raises awareness about world hunger but also raises funds to feed the hungry; proceeds go to both local and international agencies. DONATIONS from our parish are appreciated. You can donate using the "Special Collection" envelope in the basket at the rear of the church. Checks can be made out to Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. Information about the Crop Walk is available on flyers in the Fellowship Hall.

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

REGULAR COLLECTION, MAY 26	\$ 2385.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	457.00
BUILDING FUND	80.00
MORTGAGE FUND	55.00
CANDLES	225.00
IOCC	170.00
CROP WALK	180.00
BRIGHT FRIDAY	1752.00
RUMMAGE SALE	135.00
COFFEE HOUR, 5/12/19	69.00
COFFEE HOUR, 5/19/19	93.00

**JESUS THE HEALER**

The imagery of light and darkness exists in nearly all cultures. Anyone who reflects on life in this world comes to those images of light and darkness, of clear vision and blindness. Light is also life-giving. Where there is darkness, there cannot be life. Genesis 1 says, “In the beginning God created heaven and earth. The earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.” In the Bible, the image of deep darkness is the opposite to the presence of God. These are the first words from the mouth of God in Scripture: “And God said, ‘Let there be light’: and there was light.”

Like Genesis, St. John’s Gospel begins at the beginning. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.” Light and life are connected. Jesus says, “I am the light of the world.” The light shines in the darkness, and darkness does not overcome it. The light always defeats the darkness. Darkness, by definition, is the absence of light.

In John 9 (which is the Gospel reading on the Sixth Sunday of Pascha), Jesus meets a man blind from birth. His disciples ask Him: “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” He comes to the blind man and gives him the light. He opens his eyes so that he may see. At the end of the beautiful event, Jesus says, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see...” Later, Jesus says, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become children of light.”

Jesus was referring to Himself as “the light.” He said, “the light is with you for a little longer” because He was going to be crucified. When He was crucified, the light of the sun was hidden, and as the Prophet Amos said, there was darkness at noon (see Amos 8:9). Everything was plunged into darkness on that day, according to the imagery of the Scriptures. Jesus continues: “He who believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And he who sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.”

Light is inseparable from love. We Christians are supposed to be light-bearers. We are supposed to have that very light that Christ Himself is, because He enlightens every man who comes into the world. He wants to enlighten us. We were baptized to be illumined. We know that those who keep God’s commandments, who love God and give themselves to Him completely, become light. This light attracts us, and at the same time it judges us. When we are in this light, we know that we are sinners. Nevertheless, this light is so beautiful and glorious. God will give it to anyone who desires it in the least way.

*From The Names of Jesus by Fr. Thomas Hopko*