

***FIVE NUNS BEHEADED IN PERSIA:  
MARTYRS THECLA, MARIAMNE,  
MARTHA, MARY AND ENMATHA***

During the time of the Persian king Saphor II (ca. 330 A.D.), a priest by the name of Paul was living near the village of Aza. He was wealthy and a lover of money, and he had with him five women who had consecrated their virginity to God. Saints Thecla, Mariamne, Martha, Maria and Enmatha were adorned with the splendor of virtues. They were wealthy, and they entrusted their Spiritual Father with all their money. The greedy man prayed and chanted the Psalms with them, but he kept their money for himself.

When they learned that the priest Paul was rich, the Persians threatened to kill him and the five virgins if he did not deny Christ and give them some of his treasure. Since Paul preferred earthly riches, he accepted the Persian religion. The holy virgins said that they would rather suffer torture and death than deny Christ. Paul beheaded the women with a sword when they refused to follow his treacherous example. He did not enjoy his wealth for very long, however. The Persian drowned him the following evening in order to obtain all of the money. The five holy virgins received their incorruptible crowns of glory from Christ in the year 346.

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***HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL***

***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 32 - VOLUME LVI

TONE 6

JUNE 9, 2019

## **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA**

***Holy Fathers of the First Œcumenical Council***

***Afterfeast of the Ascension***

***St. Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria;***

***Five Nuns beheaded in Persia: Martyrs Thecla, Mariamne, Martha, Mary and Enmatha;***

***St. Columba, Enlightener of Scotland; Ven. Kirill, Abbot of Belozérsk;***

***Ven. Alexander, Abbot of Kushta; Georgian Martyrs slain in Persia***

“Today, as we honor the memory of those divinely inspired fathers, with their encouragement, we entreat You, O all merciful Lord: Keep us from being led astray by those who delight in error and falsehood. And deem us worthy of praising Father, Word, and Spirit.”

Exapostilarion, Tone I

“As a beacon of truth for the whole world, O holy father, Cyril, you open to us the deep theology that flows from the Savior Himself, so that truth wins out over error and the flock is preserved on the right path, for you reveal to us the mysteries of God.”

Kondakion, Tone VI

TODAY’S EPISTLE: ACTS 20:16-18,28-36

TODAY’S GOSPEL: JOHN 17:1-13

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

Saturday, June 15

5:00 p.m. Vigil - Eve of Pentecost

### **Daily Scripture Readings**

Monday, June 10

Acts 21:8-14

John 14:27-15:7

Tuesday, June 11

Acts 21:26-32

John 16:2-13

(Sts. Bartholomew and Barnabas)

Acts 11:19-26,29-30

Luke 10:16-21

Wednesday, June 12

Acts 23:1-11

John 16:15-23

Thursday, June 13

Acts 25:13-19

John 16:23-33

Friday, June 14

Acts 27:1-44

John 17:18-26

Saturday, June 15

Acts 28:1-31

John 21:15-25

(Departed)

I Thessalonians 4:13-17

John 5:24-30

**COMING EVENTS**

**JUNE:**

- 9, TODAY 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: The Svilar and Griebel Families.

There are openings for donors on June 30, as well as July 7 and July 21. As always, your help is greatly appreciated.

**MANY THANKS:**

And God's Blessings to those who gave their time and talents sprucing up our church last weekend: Father Alexander and Matushka Carol, Eric and Marjorie Evanoff, Shirley Kules, Karen Yenkochic, Marilyn Cobbs, Maribeth Lucak, Barry Gluntz, Becky Romanchik, and Mark Karpowicz.

**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.

**TRINITARIAN COVERS:**

The covers today are offered by Gene and Barbara Filipow in celebration of their 51st Anniversary.

**FLOWERS:**

The flowers today are offered by Marilyn Cobbs in memory of her father Thaddeus Przybys.

**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, JUNE 2	\$ 3572.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	317.00
BUILDING FUND	215.00
MORTGAGE FUND	150.00
CANDLES	130.00
ORTHODOX SEMINARIES	50.00
CROP WALK	125.00
COFFEE HOUR, 5/26/19	97.00

**THE SAINTS AMONG US -  
FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**

Previously we have dealt with individual saints whose icons are in our church. Most of those are on the north and south walls, and on the medallions above the north and south alcoves. The larger icons in the church are of feasts, including the Twelve Great Feasts, and some of the miracle stories from the life of Jesus Christ. One of the unique icons in our church is that of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicea. This was the gathering in May of 325 of the ruling Christian bishops who met in the city of Nicea to discuss and resolve several important issues of theology and church order. A consensus was reached on an understanding about the nature of Jesus Christ, which became the accepted Christian dogma and is still acknowledged today in the Nicene Creed. Another important decision was the formulating of the method of determining the date of Pascha. Today, June 9, the Sunday after the Ascension, is the commemoration of the Council and provides us with a good opportunity to look at that icon.

The icon is in the south-east corner of our church, in the alcove where our choir now sings; and looking at it, one immediately notices just how full of people it is. There are some two dozen halos, representing the 318 Fathers who were at the Council. Highlighted in the lower foreground are some of the more noteworthy attendees. In the center is St. Constantine, the first Christian emperor, under whose authority the Council was convened. To his left is St. Alexander, the Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria, who advised the emperor to call the Council. Next to St. Alexander is St. Spyridon, Bishop of Trimythous in Crete, a pious man who was esteemed by his people for his humility; he was a real shepherd in life even as a bishop. With him is St. Eustathius, Patriarch of Antioch. On St. Constantine's right is St. Sylvester, who was the Bishop and Pope of Rome. He was represented by delegates and did not actually attend; but as Bishop of Rome, his approval of the Council's decisions was important. At our far left sits St. Macarius, the Bishop-Patriarch of Jerusalem. You can also see him nearby in the icon (on the right of the same wall) of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, as the discovery of the Cross of the Lord occurred during his episcopate in Jerusalem. Between Sts. Macarius and Sylvester is perhaps the most "famous" of all the saints who attended the First Ecumenical Council: St. Nicholas. His role in the deliberations may have not been decisive, but as he became one of the most beloved of all saints, his being in Nicea at that historic event is noteworthy.

The upper part of the icon depicts something that occurred some years before the Council. It is the vision that St. Peter of Alexandria had of a young Jesus Christ with a shorn robe. That vision was interpreted as a prophetic insight cautioning against the false teaching of Arius. The robe falling off the Christ Child was seen to be the false teaching which separated the human from the divine nature of Christ. Arius himself is at the bottom of the icon, denounced and humiliated on his side. Although not named, there is a young beardless man in the back row, who a careful observer will note is not dressed in hierarchical attire as are all the others. That is St. Athanasius, who attended the Council as a deacon assisting St. Alexander. He would succeed him as Bishop of Alexandria, becoming one of the great Church Fathers; and it is as such that he is depicted elsewhere in our church, on the back wall of our sanctuary together with several other famous hierarchs.

*Fr. Alexander Garklaus*