

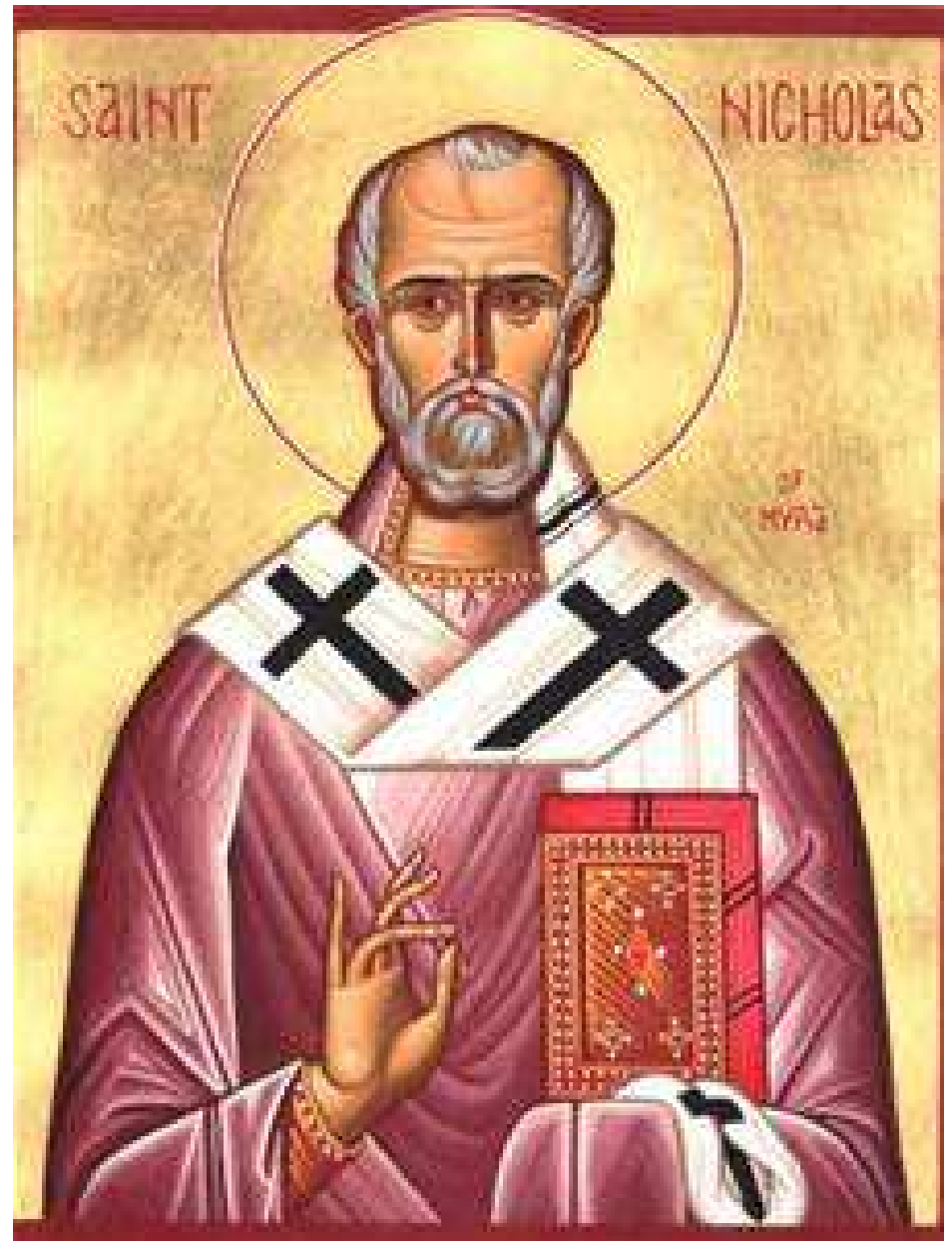
PROPHET NAHUM

The Holy Prophet Nahum, whose name means “God consoles,” was from the village of Elkosh (Galilee). He lived during the seventh century B.C. The Prophet Nahum prophesied the ruin of the Assyrian city of Nineveh because of its iniquity, the destruction of the Israelite kingdom, and the blasphemy of King Sennacherib against God.

The Assyrians had invaded Israel and Judah several times in the eighth and seventh centuries B.C. They were ruthless and cruel to the conquered peoples, deporting them to other lands and bringing in foreigners to mingle with the few Jews who were left. The prophet Jonah was sent by God to preach to the inhabitants of Nineveh during this time, and they repented. However, within a few generations, the evil and wickedness of their forefathers returned and the city was at its zenith of power and wickedness when Nahum prophesied its destruction. The Assyrian king Ashurbanipal died in 632 B.C., and over the next two decades, his empire began to crumble. Nineveh fell in 612 B.C.

Nahum differs from most of the prophets in as much as he does not issue any call to repentance, nor does he denounce Israel for infidelity to God.

Details of the prophet’s life are unknown. He died at the age of 45 and was buried in his native region. He is the seventh of the Twelve Minor Prophets.



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

THE TRINITARIAN

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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

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

BULLETIN 5 - VOLUME LVII

TONE 7

DECEMBER 1, 2019

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

***Prophet Nahum;
Righteous Philaret the Merciful of Amnia in Asia Minor;
Martyr Ananias of Persia***

“Responding to the inner promptings of the life-giving Trinity, O holy prophet, Nahum, you warned the idol-worshipping Ninevites of their impending doom. Through martyrdom you joined the heavenly choirs of angels, so that now you rejoice with them in the triple-splendored light of divinity. Since you enjoy the favor of the Lord, pray for us who honor your memory.”

Kondakion, Tone VIII

***St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia
Friday, December 6***

“O Nicholas, holy hierarch, your flock has recognized you by the brilliance of your works. You are a model of kindness and rule of faith, a teacher of self control. Your lowliness has raised you to the heights of fame, and your poverty has filled your hands with riches. Beg Christ, our God, to save our souls.”

Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY'S EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 2:14-22

TODAY'S GOSPEL: LUKE 18:18-27

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Thursday, December 5	6:00 p.m. Great Vespers
Friday, December 6	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
Saturday, December 7	4:00 p.m. Memorial Service for John Smolarchuk
	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, December 2	II Thessalonians 1:1-10	Luke 20:27-44
Tuesday, December 3	II Thessalonians 1:10-2:2	Luke 21:12-19
Wednesday, December 4 (St. Alexander Hotovitzky)	II Thessalonians 2:1-12 Hebrews 13:7-16	Luke 21:5-7,10-11,20-24 Luke 12:32-40
Thursday, December 5	II Thessalonians 2:13-3:5 Galatians 5:22-6:2	Luke 21:28-33 Matthew 11:27-30
Friday, December 6	Hebrews 13:17-21	Luke 6:17-23
Saturday, December 7	II Thessalonians 3:6-18 Galatians 1:3-10	Luke 21:37-22:8 Luke 13:18-29

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 5 - Volume LVII

December 1, 2019

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER:

- 6, Friday 7:00 p.m. Orthodoxy on Tap
- 7, Saturday St. Panteleimon Cookie Walk
- 8, Sunday 11:00-5:00 Annual St. Nicholas Spaghetti Dinner to benefit St. Herman's House
4:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Nativity Concert
- 9, Monday 9:00 a.m. Cleveland Orthodox Mom's Group
12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting
- 22, Sunday Church School Christmas program

SPECIAL COLLECTION:

Last Sunday we had a visit from Fr. Juvenaly RePass, a missionary priest who is working in Guatemala. Fr. Juvenaly is not a stranger to us and is now visiting U.S. parishes to share with us about his exciting missionary work and also to obtain support. We are conducting a Special Collection for him; please use the "Special Collection" envelopes in the basket at the back of the church. If writing a check, make it out to "Holy Trinity Orthodox Church."

ZOE FOR LIFE:

ZOE 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 needed; see Susan Range for details.

LA COUPOLE CHRISTMAS SHOP:

There is something for everyone on your gift list! New arrivals include matryoshka dolls, Christmas ornaments, Orthodox Christmas cards and hand-painted plates, boxes and ladies pins imported from Russia. See the beautiful selection of Baltic amber jewelry. Complimentary gift wrapping is available! La Coupole is open every Sunday during Coffee Hour.

NATIVITY CONCERT:

The annual Pan-Orthodox Nativity Concert is hosted by St. Demetrios Church in Rocky River on Sunday, Dec. 8, 4:00 p.m. Free will donations will benefit local Orthodox ministries.

COFFEE HOUR:

Thank you to our host of Coffee Hour today: Alex Cundik.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Mary Ann Moga in memory of her daughter Diane.

ORTHODOXY ON TAP:

The young adult (ages 21-35ish) group will get together Friday, Dec. 6, 7:00 p.m., at St. Matthew Church in North Royalton, Fr. Harmon will lead a panel in discussing "Why I Became Orthodox." Details are in the Fellowship Hall.

COOKIE WALK:

The St. Panteleimon Outreach Ministry will be having their annual Christmas Cookie Walk in our Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 7.

ST. ELIZABETH BOOK CIRCLE:

The Book Circle will meet Monday, Dec. 9, at 12:30 p.m. We are reading through page 43 in On the Holy Spirit, by Father Cyril Argenti.

HTOC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

The Church School invites all parishioners to the Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec. 22, followed by a Lenten Potluck. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

SPAGHETTI DINNER:

The annual FOCUS Spaghetti Dinner to benefit St. Herman's House is Sunday December 8, 11:00-5:00. It will be held at St. Malachi's Parish Hall, 2459 Washington Ave. Take-out orders are also welcome, and a meatless option is available. Adults, \$8; Kids 6-12, \$5. Dinner sponsors and additional donations are welcome. See details in the Fellowship Hall.

ORTHODOX MOMS' GROUP:

OMG of Cleveland is a Pan-Orthodox group of moms from local parishes. A meetup for fun and fellowship will be Monday, Dec. 9, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Mindala home in Strongsville. RSVP for the address to Angelika Mindala at 609-500-2696 or amindala@icloud.com. Children are welcome. Coffee, light refreshments and childcare are provided.

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

1. Isaiah 7:10-15

The Orthodox Church provides us with a treasure of scriptural and liturgical material to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, as indeed it does for all of the Great Feasts. Christmas, as well as Pascha and Theophany, stands out in that there are more-than-usual amounts of material, which underscore the spiritual importance of the feast. One of the ways in which this is done is by discerning in the Old Testament the specific prophecies which have reference to the event which is being celebrated. There are several such Old Testament selections connected to Christmas which are read on the days immediately preceding the feast, in the services of the Royal Hours and Christmas Eve. They have great historic and theological significance, but regrettably we rarely pay much attention to them. Starting with this and in the next couple of issues of The Trinitarian, we will highlight passages from several of these Old Testament readings, adding some explanatory notes. The first one is from Isaiah 7:10-15:

*The LORD spoke to King Ahaz, saying: Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him **Emmanuel**. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.”*

This is one of the most famous of all Old Testament prophecies. That it would come to be associated with Jesus Christ is self-evident. In his Gospel, the Apostle Matthew refers to this passage: “a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and his name shall be Emmanuel,” which, the Evangelist adds, “means, ‘God with us’” (Matthew 1:23). There are different opinions on the translation of the word, “virgin,” as the original Hebrew word can be translated as “young woman.” That’s how it will be found in most English translations of Isaiah. But to St. Matthew and in the history of the Church, there was no doubt that what Isaiah intended was “virgin.”

There is no question that the Prophet Isaiah, who lived 700 years before Jesus, had specific circumstances in mind. The Kingdom of Judah was under threat of enemies, both within and without, and the prophet’s concerns were about the spiritual and social welfare of his people. His prophetic vision could not imagine the scene of a Mary and Joseph in a stable outside of Bethlehem. However, he did envision something which presaged the coming of Christ. In commenting on this passage, St. Basil the Great says that we “must have faith in the Scriptures as containing the divine mind, and thus proceed to the understanding of what is written in them.” Isaiah foresaw the necessity that his people should know about “God with us.” But this necessity resonated even more intensely for the Apostles and the community of believers who in truth encountered Emmanuel, that is, Jesus Christ. That truth resonates with us as well. In fact, for us Orthodox Christians, “God is with us.” is a liturgical sequence and one of the highpoints on Christmas Eve.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus