

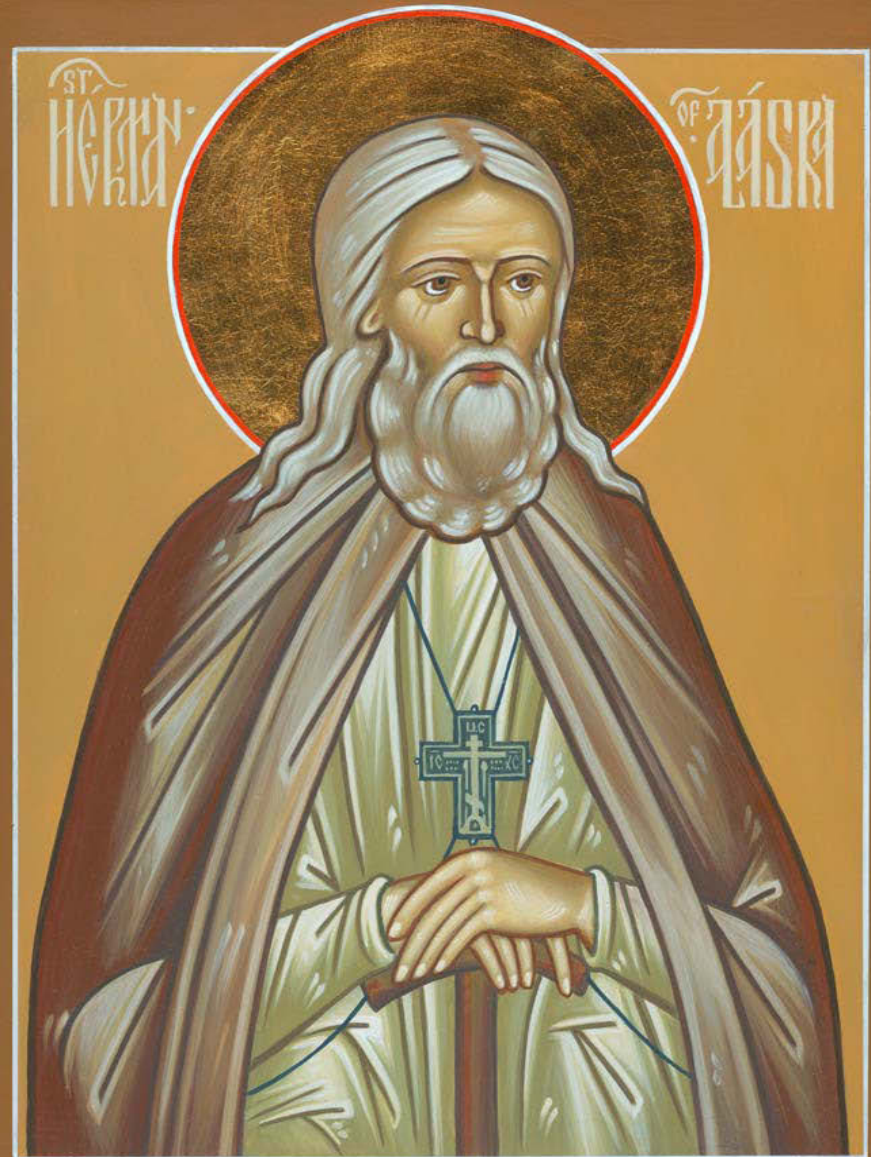
VENERABLE PATAPIUS OF THEBES

St. Patapius was born at Thebes into a pious Christian family. Reaching the age of maturity, he scorned the vanities of the world and so went into the Egyptian desert where he became known for his ascetic deeds. Though he wished to dwell in silence, people began to come to him for advice.

He eventually went to Constantinople, where he obtained a cell at the city wall, near the Blachernae church. But here, too, he quickly became known. The sick began to throng about, and having been vouchsafed the gift of healing, he began to help all the needy.

After a life adorned with virtue and miracles, St. Patapius fell asleep in the Lord and was buried in the church of St. John the Baptist.

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SAINT HERMAN OF ALASKA
December 13

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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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 6 - VOLUME LVII

TONE 8

DECEMBER 8, 2019

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ven. Patapius of Thebes;

Holy Apostles of the Seventy: Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Tychicus, Epaphroditus, Cæsar, and Onesiphorus;
Martyr Anthonia, at Rome; Holy Martyrs of Africa, martyred by the Arians;

Ven. Kirill, Abbot of Chelmogórsk

“The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Father, for you took up the Cross and followed Christ. By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh for it passes away, but to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal. Therefore, your spirit, venerable Patapius, rejoices with the angels.”

Troparion, Tone VIII

St. Herman of Alaska

Friday, December 13

“O joyful north star of the Church of Christ, guiding all men to the heavenly Kingdom, teacher and apostle of the true Faith, intercessor and defender of the oppressed. Adornment of the Orthodox Church in America, blessed Father Herman of Alaska, pray to our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of our souls!”

Troparion, Tone VII

TODAY’S EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 4:1-6

TODAY’S GOSPEL: LUKE 17:12-19

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Today, December 8	10:45 a.m. 40th Day Memorial Service for Olga Kulesh
Thursday, December 12	6:00 p.m. Great Vespers
Friday, December 13	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - St. Herman of Alaska
Saturday, December 14	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, December 9 (St. Anna)	I Timothy 1:1-7 Galatians 4:22-31	Mark 8:11-21 Luke 8:16-21
Tuesday, December 10	I Timothy 1:8-14	Mark 8:22-26
Wednesday, December 11	I Timothy 1:18-20, 2:8-15	Mark 8:30-34
Thursday, December 12	I Timothy 3:1-13 I Timothy 4:4-8,16	Mark 9:10-16 Mark 9:33-41
Friday, December 13	Galatians 5:22-6:2	Luke 6:17-23
Saturday, December 14	Galatians 3:8-12	Luke 14:1-11

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 8, TODAY | Second Sunday Food Sale
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 |

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL:

God's Blessings to our newly-elected Parish Council, being installed today after the Divine Liturgy:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Mary Ann Bobulsky | Stephanie McNeely |
| Theodore Bellack | Jerome Petrykowski |
| Marjorie Evanoff | Michael Sabat |
| Barry Gluntz | Rebecca Spak |
| Jared Griebel | Frank Stoyka |
| Robert Kapitan | Paula Svilar |

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

Parish Council will meet tomorrow, Dec. 9, at 7:00 p.m.

FOOD SALE:

Our monthly Food Sale is happening today in the Fellowship Hall. Please support this fundraiser.

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS:

La Coupole has books for children, infants through teens, as well as matryoshka dolls galore! Browse the selection of icons, books, Russian imports and jewelry. A new shipment of honey from St. Herman's House has arrived. Complimentary gift wrapping is available.

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.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Mary Ann Moga.

NATIVITY CONCERT:

The Pan-Orthodox Nativity Concert will be at 4:00 today - St. Demetrios Church in Rocky River.

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.

ORTHODOX MOMS' GROUP:

OMG of Cleveland is a Pan-Orthodox group of moms from local parishes. A meetup for fun and fellowship is tomorrow, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Mindala home. RSVP for directions. See details in the Fellowship Hall.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Pauline Smolarchuk in memory of her husband John.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:

Please donate for the flowers that adorn our church during the Nativity season. There is a special envelope in your box.

COFFEE HOUR:

Thank you to our hosts of Coffee Hour today: the Smolarchuk and Howe Families.

Please, volunteers are needed for January 12.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

	NOV. 24	DEC. 1
REGULAR COLLECTION	\$ 2479.00	\$ 3218.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	15.00	25.00
BUILDING FUND	324.00	1127.00
MORTGAGE FUND	45.00	35.00
CANDLES	142.00	78.00
SEMINARIAN	580.00	100.00
GUATEMALAN MISSIONARY	225.00	565.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	5.00	30.00
LOCAL CHARITIES		121.00
11/17 COFFEE HOUR		96.00
11/24 COFFEE HOUR		108.00
SECOND SUNDAY FOOD SALE 11/10		466.00

THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES
FOR THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST

II. Isaiah 9:6-7

The selections from the Prophet Isaiah occupy a special importance among the prophecies associated with the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord. This is not surprising, as Isaiah's prophecies are truly outstanding, and many were incorporated into traditional Christian theology. For that reason they are among those that are heard most frequently in the services of the Orthodox Church; they are read on weekdays throughout Great Lent and during Holy Week. In last week's Trinitarian we have noted that Isaiah 7:10-15 is perhaps the most famous of all prophecies (that is, "that a virgin shall bear a son, and his name shall be Emmanuel"). The selection at hand, Isaiah 9:6-7, is also famous and important.

For a child has been born for us, a son is given; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and of His peace there shall be no end. He shall sit upon the throne of David and shall establish His Kingdom with righteousness, and shall strengthen it with justice, henceforth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Portions of this passage are chanted in the Christmas Eve Compline service, between the refrain, "God is with us." They also appear in the oratorio The Messiah by George Handel. In this passage Isaiah is describing the appearance and characteristics of an anticipated "child" who would rescue and help God's people during their troubles. His description uses several striking words: Wonderful, Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. All of these have been utilized by the Church to be titles and names of Jesus Christ. Especially appropriate at Christmas but theologically significant as well is the reference to Jesus as a "child." Some of the Church Fathers point out that Christ is described as a child because He is pure and innocent. Jesus Himself would later say that children exemplify the qualities needed for salvation, for "of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Mark 10:14). Of course Jesus would grow to be a man, and it was as an adult that He would become the Savior; but the image of the Christ Child has remained a powerful image of divine comfort in the world.

Another fascinating image is of the Jesus Christ upon Whom, "authority rests upon his shoulders." The King James Bible version, which we will hear on Christmas Eve, is that "the government is upon His shoulders." At first this seems to make little sense, but it is actually a statement of great consequence. Here is how St. Ambrose of Milan comments on this: "Jesus Christ calls all nations to the grace of His resurrection, which is the rich and fertile Kingdom that bears everlasting fruits. He bowed His shoulder to labor, bowed Himself to the Cross, to carry our sins. For that reason the prophet says, 'the government is on His shoulder.' This means that in the passion of His body is the power of His divinity, referring to the Cross that towers above His body. Jesus was patient in the endurance of all insults, subject to affliction and wounded on account of our iniquities and sins." Isaiah's dynamic imagery has become the theological language of Christianity. Like learning a "foreign" language, theological language does require some effort, which is rewarded with marvelous and inspiring insights.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus