

**14,000 INFANTS (THE HOLY INNOCENTS)
SLAIN BY HEROD AT BETHLEHEM**

14,000 Holy Infants were killed by King Herod in Bethlehem. When the time came for the Incarnation of the Son of God and His Birth, Magi in the East beheld a new star in the heavens, foretelling the Nativity of the King of the Jews. They journeyed immediately to Jerusalem to worship the Child, and the star showed them the way. Being warned by God in a dream, they went back to their country by another way, instead of returning to Jerusalem to Herod, as he had ordered them. When Herod realized his scheme to find the Child had failed, he ordered that all male children two years old and younger in the Bethlehem area be killed.

The murdered infants thus became the first martyrs for Christ. The rage of Herod fell also on Simeon the God-Receiver, who declared before everyone in the Temple that the Messiah had been born. When the holy Elder died, Herod would not give permission for him to be properly buried. On the orders of King Herod, the holy prophet and priest Zachariah was also killed. He was murdered in Jerusalem between the Temple and the altar (Matthew 23:35) because he would not tell the whereabouts of his son John, the future Baptist of the Lord.

The wrath of God soon fell upon Herod himself: a horrid condition struck him down and he died, eaten by worms while still alive. Before his death, the impious king murdered the chief priest and scribes of the Jews, and also his brother, and his sister and her husband, and also his own wife Mariam, and three of his sons, and 70 men of wisdom who were members of the Sanhedrin. He initiated this bloodbath so that the day of his death would not be one of rejoicing but one of mourning.

The Christian Church very rightly proclaimed the murdered children as Saints. They may not have been baptized in water, but they were baptized in the blessed blood of their martyrdom. Some of their relics are found in Constantinople, in the Church of St. James the Brother of the Lord, built by Emperor Justin.

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HOLY RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH THE BETROTHED

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

6822 BROADVIEW ROAD

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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

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BULLETIN 9 - VOLUME LVII

TONE 3

DECEMBER 29, 2019

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday After the Nativity

Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord

The 14,000 Infants slain by Herod at Bethlehem;

Ven. Thaddæus the Confessor, of the Studion;

Ven. Marcellus, Abbot of the Monastery of the "Unsleeping Ones;"

Ven. Mark the Gravedigger, Theophilus, and John, of the Kiev Caves;

Ven. Theophil of Luga and Omutch; Ven. Vasilisk of Siberia

“Today, the divinely favored David is ecstatic with joy, and, indeed, Joseph and James join him in celebrating, for they beam with pride in being relatives of the Lord Jesus. They exult in that ineffable birth that brought Him to earth, crying out with one accord: O Generous One, save all those who are truly devoted to You.

Kondakion, Tone III

“Fearing the power of the newborn Child and angered at the wise men for outwitting him, Herod ordered the murder of the children lest any rebellion be raised in their name, for he failed to see in Christ his Creator and Lord, the only One who grants the world great mercy.”

Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY'S EPISTLE: GALATIANS 1:11-19

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:13-23

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Friday, January 3 9:00 a.m. Royal Hours
Saturday, January 4 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, December 30	Hebrews 3:5-11,17-19	Mark 12:13-17
Tuesday, December 31	Hebrews 4:1-13	Mark 12:18-27
Wednesday, January 1	Colossians 2:8-12	Luke 2:20-21,40-52
	Hebrews 7:26-8:2	Luke 6:17-23
Thursday, January 2	Hebrews 7:1-6,18-25	Mark 12:38-44,13:1-8
(St. Seraphim)	Galatians 5:22-6:2	Luke 6:17-23
Friday, January 3	Hebrews 7:18-25	Mark 13:1-8
Saturday, January 4	I Timothy 3:14-4:5	Matthew 3:1-11
	Ephesians 2:11-13	Luke 18:2-8

THIS IS A FAST-FREE WEEK.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY:

- 5, Sunday Church School classes resume
- 12, Sunday Food Sale
- 11:45 a.m. Parish Council meeting
- 13, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
- 30, Thursday 6:00 p.m. IOCC Dinner at Woodside

THEOPHANY WORSHIP:

The evening service for the Feast of Theophany will be Vespers on Sunday, Jan. 5, at noon. The Great Blessing of Water will be on Monday, Jan. 6, at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

THEOPHANY HOME BLESSINGS:

There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you would like Fr. Alexander to bless your home during the season of Theophany.

CHURCH SCHOOL:

There are no Church School classes today; classes will resume on Sunday, January 5.

IOCC DINNER:

The International Orthodox Christian Charities will hold a Wine Tasting / Dinner on Thursday, Jan. 30; 6:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Woodside. Tickets are available from Diane Hastings or Paula Svilar.

2020 CALENDARS:

Calendars for the new year with holy days, Lenten periods and daily scripture readings designated on them are now available at the back of the church nave.

COFFEE HOUR:

Thank you to our Coffee Hours hosts today: The Chandler Family.

FOOD SALE:

Our next Food Sale will be Sunday, January 12. Please plan to help by cooking, baking and purchasing home-made goods!

ST. ELIZABETH BOOK CIRCLE:

The Book Circle will meet Monday, January 13, at 12:30 p.m. We are reading pages 44 to the end in On the Holy Spirit, by Father Cyril Argenti. All are welcome.

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES:

Your new box of Offering Envelopes is available in the Fellowship Hall. Please do not take a box to deliver for another person; take only the box with your name.

If you do not have envelopes, please see David Howe. Due to a reduction in the quantity of envelopes we ordered for 2020, the envelope numbers of 151-200 have not been used. If you had one of those numbers, you have been reassigned a new number.

ZOE FOR LIFE:

ZOE Women's Center on State Rd. in Parma is reaching out for ultrasound models to help prepare for new clients. Pregnant women will receive a free ultrasound and much gratitude; ZOE will gain more experience with the ultrasound procedure. For an appointment or for more information, please email: Kmhorrattas@gmail.com or cindygeorge127@gmail.com

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, DECEMBER 22	\$ 2623.00
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION	2396.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	15.00
BUILDING FUND	384.00
MORTGAGE FUND	35.00
CANDLES	140.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	125.00
IN MEMORY OF HARVY SCHWARTZ	1073.00
COFFEE HOUR, 12/15	112.00
COFFEE HOUR, 12/22	92.00

The Christmas Tree

It's
A time
To return
Back to when
There was
So little
But
Oh
It was nice,
And I remember
Father and brother
Went to a near-empty
Lot and bought the last tree
Pathetic and pitiful, but famous
Some years later by Charles Brown;
Then it was a necessity, but we would
Learn that this for society is calming balm,
A guarantee return to innocence and peace,
Conditioning a fearlessness in knowing the end
That must come to childhood's kingdom is all right
Like nervous parents at Christmas whose vulnerability
To weather, working too much, lack of sleep, and slights
Is displaced by the satisfying security that even on winter
Days there can be brilliant sunshine as to make one a mystic,
As some reasons for lamentation in getting old are reasonable,
Think about selecting which memories to cherish and which to lose
And enjoy the travelling down endless highways to be found and lost
As friendship's joys console delivered sorrows, there is joy wrapped in foil
Shining smartly like those December lights that assuage everything unfulfilled
As reason for the season is the knowledge that incarnation makes all things new
With a humble
Heart warmed
By tears of joy
Strengthen by
Kind thoughts
To all that you
Have met and
Loved; look to
A silent symbol:
The Christmas Tree

Fr. Alexander Garklaus