

## ***VENERABLE SYNCLETICA OF ALEXANDRIA***

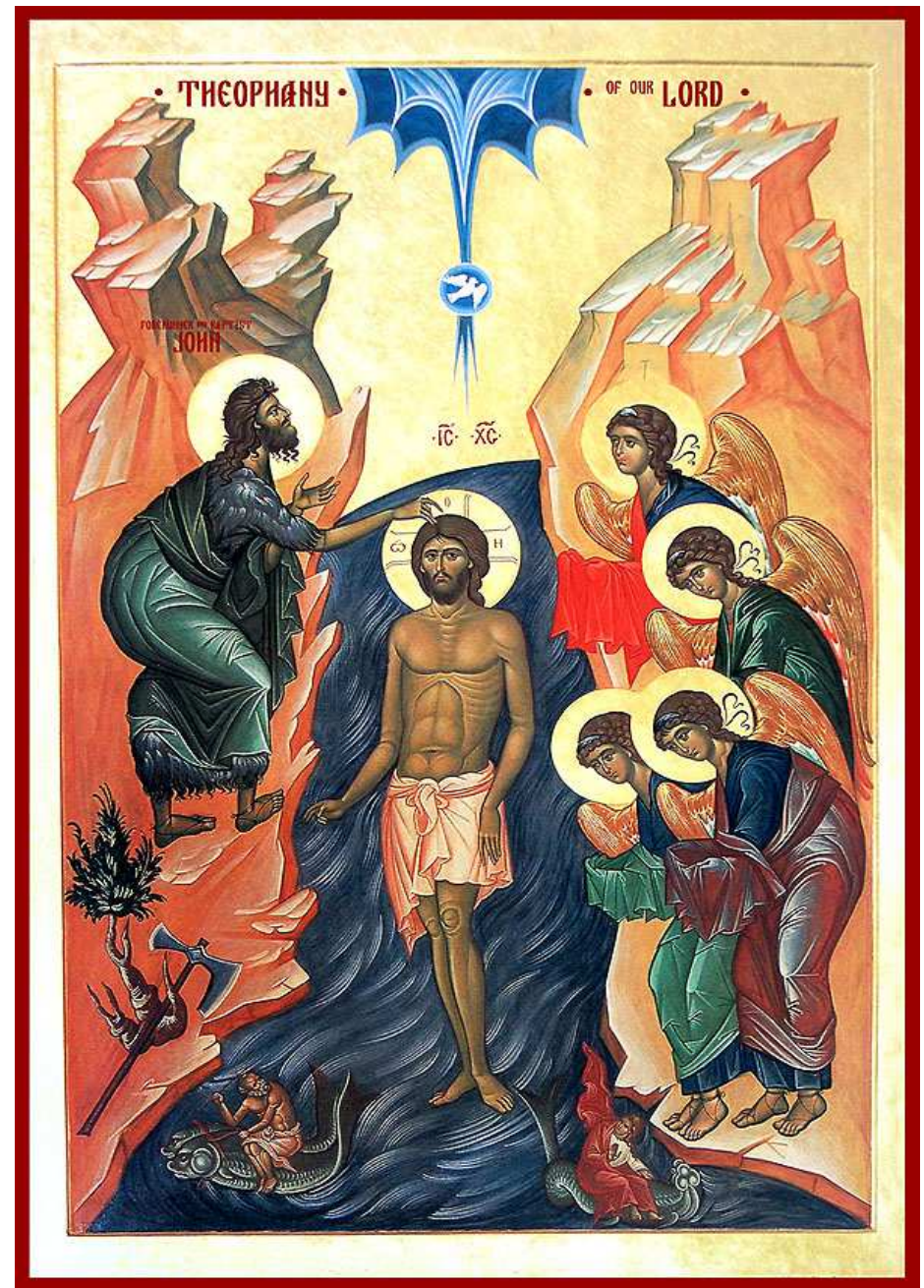
Saint Syncletica was a native of Alexandria, the daughter of rich parents. She was very beautiful, but from a young age she thought only about things pleasing to God. Loving the purity of virginity, she refused to marry anyone and spent all her time in fasting and prayer.

After the death of her parents, she distributed her inheritance to the poor. She left the city together with her younger sister and lived in a crypt for the rest of her life.

News of her ascetic deeds quickly spread throughout the vicinity, and many devout women and girls came to live under her guidance. During the course of her ascetic life, the saint zealously instructed the sisters by word and by deed.

In her eightieth year, she was struck by an intense and grievous illness. The nun bore her ordeal with true Christian endurance, and the time of her death was revealed to her in a vision. After giving final instructions to her nuns, she surrendered her soul to God around the year 350.

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

# THE TRINITARIAN

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**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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**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 10 - VOLUME LVII

TONE 4

JANUARY 5, 2020

## ***TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*** ***SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY*** ***EVE OF THE THEOPHANY***

***Hieromartyr Theopemptus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and Martyr Theonas;***  
***Ven. Syncletica of Alexandria;***  
***Prophet Micah; Virgin Apollinaris of Egypt; Ven. Phosterius the Hermit;***  
***Ven. Menas of Sinai; Ven. Gregory of Crete; Ven. Martyr Romanos***

“Today, the Trinity, which alone is divine, reveals itself to us in its unique, overflowing goodness. The Father speaks from the heavens as the Son is baptized, and the Holy Spirit, too, makes His presence felt. And we who perceive all this by faith, cry out together: Glory to You for revealing Yourself to us, O our God.”

Troparion, Tone IV

“Without stain was God’s image preserved in you, O holy mother, Syncletica, for you took up your cross and followed the Lord. By word and example you taught us to live in the spirit while still in the flesh, so that, now, you rejoice with the angels of heaven.”

Troparion, Tone VIII

TODAY’S EPISTLE: I CORINTHIANS 9:19-10:4

TODAY’S GOSPEL: LUKE 3:1-18

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

Today, January 5	11:40 a.m. 40th Day Memorial Service for Janice Podojil Noon Vespers for the Eve of Theophany
Monday, January 6	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - <b>Theophany of our Lord</b> Great Blessing of Waters
Saturday, January 11	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

### **Daily Scripture Readings**

Monday, January 6	Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7	Matthew 3:13-17
Blessing of Waters	I Corinthians 10:1-4	Mark 1:9-11
Tuesday, January 7	Hebrews 9:8-10,15-23	Luke 21:12-19
(Forerunner)	Acts 19:1-8	John 1:29-34
Wednesday, January 8	Hebrews 10:1-18	Luke 21:5-7,10-11,20-24
Thursday, January 9	Hebrews 10:35-11:7	Luke 21:28-33
Friday, January 10	Hebrews 11:8,11-16	Luke 21:37-22:8
	Ephesians 5:1-8	Luke 13:18-29
Saturday, January 11	Ephesians 6:10-17	Matthew 4:1-11
	II Corinthians 4:6-15	Matthew 11:27-30

**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY**

Bulletin 10 - Volume LVII

January 5, 2020

**COMING EVENTS**

**JANUARY:**

5, TODAY	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 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.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

There will be a Parish Council meeting next Sunday, January 12, at 11:45 a.m.

**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.

**LA COUPOLE:**

Stop by La Coupole and enjoy 50% savings on Christmas cards and ornaments; and 25% off all matryoshka dolls.

**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 Matushka Carol and Father Garklavs for our Coffee Hour refreshments today.

**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 needs ultrasound models to help prepare for new clients. Pregnant women will receive a free ultrasound; ZOE will gain more experience with the ultrasound procedure. For an appointment, please email: [Kmhorrattas@gmail.com](mailto:Kmhorrattas@gmail.com) or [cindygeorge127@gmail.com](mailto:cindygeorge127@gmail.com)

“How good Thou art, O Lord, and how near art Thou to us.

So near that we may always converse with Thee, be comforted by Thee, breathe through Thee,  
be enlightened by Thee, find peace in Thee.

Lord, teach me simplicity of love for Thee and my neighbor,  
so that I may ever be with Thee, that I may ever find peace in Thee.”

St. John of Kronstadt

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

REGULAR COLLECTION, DECEMBER 29	\$ 2110.00
BUILDING FUND	189.00
MORTGAGE FUND	75.00
CANDLES	126.00
FOR KITCHEN STOVES	50.00

**THE ARCHPASTORAL LETTER OF METROPOLITAN TIKHON**

*(This is from Metropolitan TIKHON's 2019 Christmas Pastoral Letter to clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America. His Beatitude's message is a thoughtful reflection that connects both the Feasts of the Nativity of our Lord and His Baptism which we celebrate on Theophany.)*

As we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ in the flesh, and His baptism in the River Jordan, we call to mind the important roles that his mother, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, and his Forerunner, John the Baptist, had in bringing about these events that manifested Christ to the world. For the Theotokos and the Baptist are indeed excellent examples for us, as we share the same calling to make Christ present in the world.

When Mary received the glad tidings that she was to become the Birth-giver of God, she humbly responded: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to thy word." She then visited her relative Elizabeth, who was six months pregnant, and when she greeted Elizabeth, the babe in her womb leaped for joy. That babe, as we know, was St. John the Baptist. The importance of John in the Gospels cannot be overemphasized. As the Forerunner of Christ, he not only proclaimed that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ, but also died a martyr's death for speaking the truth, foreshadowing that Christ, the Truth, would die for the Salvation of the world. As Forerunner to Christ's suffering and dying for the truth, John is also the Forerunner to all those who have died for Christ throughout the centuries, the countless martyrs who have struggled and been slain for Christ for more than two thousand years, continuing into this twenty-first century. We pray for strength and steadfastness for all Christians suffering persecution for the sake of Christ, and in turn we ask for the intercessions of those who have died martyr's deaths in witness of Christ.

Not all Christians are called to be slain for Christ. Neither are they all called to be like the Baptist as public preachers or wandering ascetics. For those who do not have that calling there is another route: the calling to live like the Theotokos. For while John made Christ known to the world, it was through the Virgin Mary that Christ came to be born in the flesh. As she was the bearer of the Lord Jesus Christ, Christians can "bear Christ" and make Him present. By mediating on God's works, we will become authentically humble, gentle and kind like Mary. And in the process of contemplating what Christ has done for us, we will gain boldness before Him in our private conversations with Him.

These two figures, Mary and John, help us to keep the meaning of the winter feasts of the Nativity and Theophany throughout the year. As we see in the Church's calendar, the day after the Nativity, December 26, is dedicated to the Lord Mother, and January 7, the day after Theophany is dedicated to John the Baptist. Hence the Church tells us that imitation of the Forerunner and the Theotokos are keys to making Christ's winter feasts more than just a few days of celebration. The Baptist shows us the way of outward witness while the Theotokos shows us the way of inner stillness and contemplation. And as Christians we can imitate either one, because ultimately they both are doing the same thing: witnessing to Christ and steadfastly remaining eternal witnesses to His death and resurrection.

So let us give glory to Christ on the feasts of His Nativity and Theophany, while honoring and magnifying in song the Theotokos and Mother of Light, and praising the Baptist as is his due. They reveal to us the different ways in which Christians can witness to Christ and are primary examples of how to live a Christian life throughout the entire year.

***With love in the New-Born Christ, +TIKHON  
Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada***