

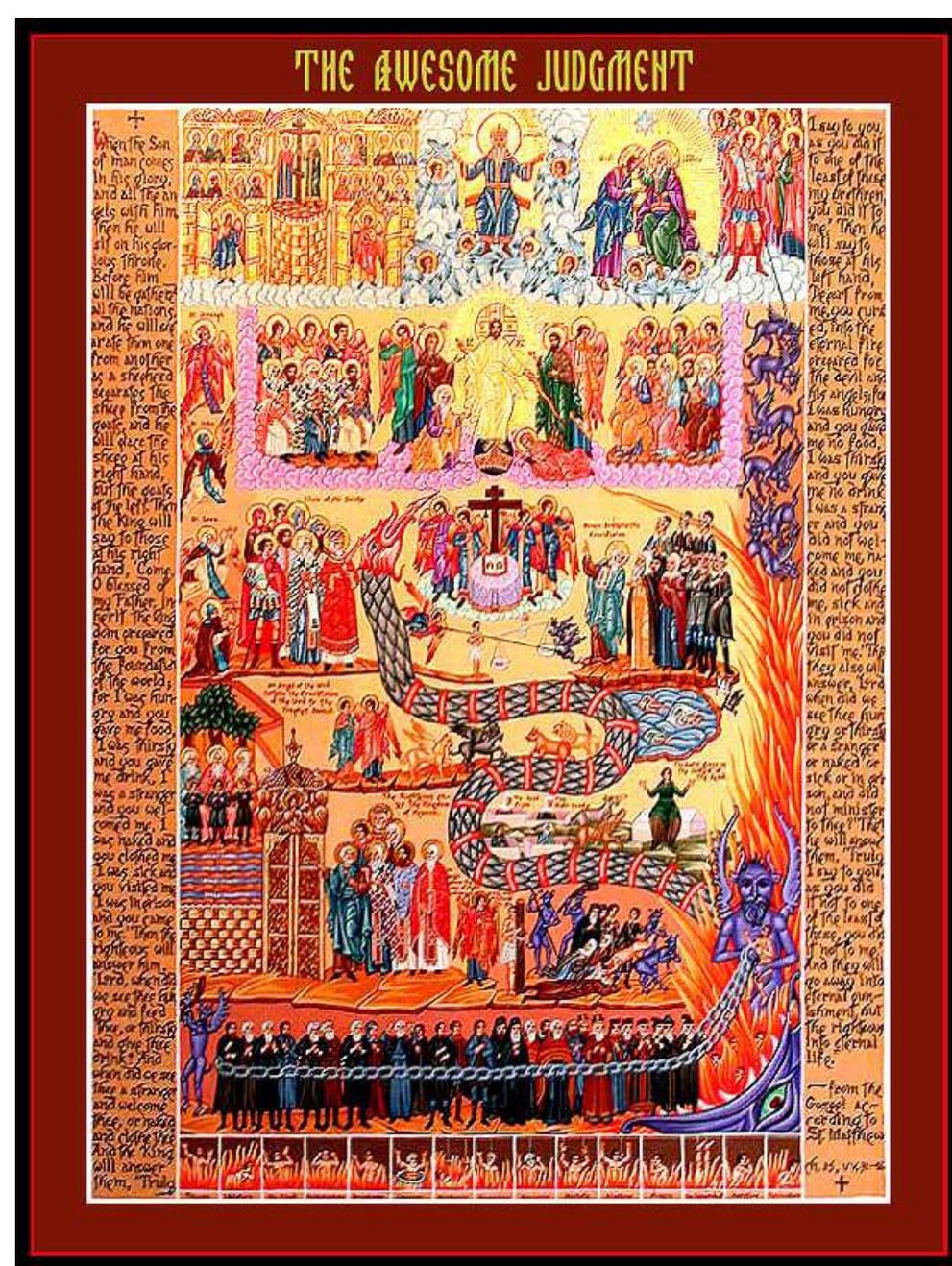
HIEROMARTYR POLYCARP, BISHOP OF SMYRNA

St. Polycarp was orphaned at an early age and raised by a pious widow, Kallista. After her death, Polycarp gave away his possessions and began to lead a chaste life, caring for the sick and infirm. He was close to St. Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna, who ordained Polycarp a deacon, entrusting to him to preach the Word of God in church. He also ordained him to the holy priesthood. The holy Apostle John the Theologian was still alive at this time, and St. Polycarp was especially close to him, sometimes accompanying him on his apostolic journeys.

Shortly before his death, St. Bucolus expressed his wish that Polycarp be made Bishop of Smyrna. St. Polycarp guided his flock with apostolic zeal and was greatly loved by the clergy.

Emperor Marcus Aurelius came to the Roman throne and started fierce persecutions against Christians. The pagans demanded that the judge search for St. Polycarp, “the father of all the Christians” and “the seducer of all Asia.” St. Polycarp’s flock urged him to stay in a small village away from Smyrna. When the soldiers came for him, he went out and invited them in to eat. He asked for time to pray, in order to prepare himself for martyrdom.

Having been brought to trial, St. Polycarp firmly confessed his faith in Christ and was condemned to be burned alive. The executioners wanted to nail him to a post, but he declared that God would give him the strength to endure the flames, so they could merely tie him with ropes. The flames encircled the saint but did not touch him, coming together over his head in the shape of a vault. Seeing that the fire did him no harm, the pagans stabbed him with a dagger. So much blood flowed from this wound that it extinguished the flames. The body of the hieromartyr Polycarp was then cremated. The Christians of Smyrna reverently gathered up what remained of his holy relics, and each year they celebrated the day of his martyrdom.



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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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 17 - VOLUME LVII

TONE 3

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

MEATFARE SUNDAY

Sunday of the Last Judgment

*Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna; Ven. Gorgonia, sister of St. Gregory the Theologian;
Ven. John, Antiochus, Antoninus, Moses, Zebinas, Polychronius, Moses, and Damian, Ascetics;
Ven. Alexander, founder of the Monastery of the "Unsleping Ones;"
Ven. Damian of Esphigmenou; Monk-Martyr Damian of Philotheou (1280);
Monk-Martyr Damian of Philotheou (1568); Ven. Polycarp of Briansk*

"When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory, all things shall tremble and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat; the books shall be opened and the hidden things disclosed! Then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, righteous Judge!"

Troparion, Tone I

"Making reverence for God the beginning of your wisdom, and following the steps of perfection to which it leads, you became famous for your zealous ministry, as well as for drinking the cup of martyrdom to the full. O colleague of the apostles and blessed father, Polycarp, beg Christ, our God, to save our souls."

Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY'S EPISTLE: I CORINTHIANS 8:8-9:2

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:31-46

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, February 29 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

| | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Monday, February 24 (Forerunner) | III John 1:1-15 | Luke 19:29-40,22:7-39 |
| Tuesday, February 25 | II Corinthians 4:6-15 | Matthew 11:2-15 |
| Wednesday, February 26 | Jude 1:1-10 | Luke 22:39-42,45-23:1 |
| Thursday, February 27 (St. Raphael) | Joel 2:12-26 | Joel 3:12-21 |
| Friday, February 28 | Jude 1:11-25 | Luke 23:2-34,44-56 |
| Saturday, February 29 (Monastics) | Hebrews 13:17-21 | John 10:9-16 |
| | Zechariah 8:7-17 | Zechariah 8:19-23 |
| | Romans 14:19-23,16:25-27 | Matthew 6:1-13 |
| | Galatians 5:22-6:2 | Matthew 11:27-30 |

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY:

- 24, Monday Cooking for St. Herman’s House
- 26, Wednesday Serving dinner at St. Herman’s House
- 28-29 Retreat at St. Innocent Church

MARCH:

- 8, Sunday 5:00 p.m. Sunday of Orthodoxy Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Demetrios
- 9, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle

NEW DIRECTORIES:

Updated Parish Directories are now available in the Fellowship Hall. One per family, please. Check your contact information. If corrections are needed, please notify Janene Hatch; email jmhatch8@gmail.com

HALL KITCHEN NEWS:

The mini-renovation of the Fellowship Hall kitchen continues. The initial project, already underway, is removal and replacement of two of the stoves. As these are commercial grade and quality, they are not inexpensive. Parishioners contributions to offset the cost are appreciated. Use your donation envelope and mark in the small empty box, “Kitchen.” Other improvements to the kitchen will be forthcoming.

BOOK CIRCLE:

The St. Elizabeth Book Circle will meet Monday, March 9, at 12:30 p.m. We will discuss pages 83-105 in Treasures New and Old.

COFFEE HOUR:

Our refreshments are offered by the Haverly Family.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Statements for donations made to HTOC during 2019 are now available in the Fellowship Hall.

BOOK SALE:

As you consider books to read during Great Lent, visit La Coupole and enjoy **50% off** a selection of books by authors such as Fr. John Behr. All other books for children and adults are **20% off** during February.

PRE-LENTEN RETREAT:

On Feb. 28-29, at St. Innocent Church, 8526 Usher Rd, Olmsted Falls, a retreat will be held with the theme of “Paradise in the Desert: A Paschal Ecology for Great Lent.” The guest speaker is Dr. Tracy Gustilo, a St. Vladimir Seminary instructor. See details in the Hall.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to make an offering toward costs of The Trinitarian.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Nancy Scardon.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

This year’s Sunday of Orthodoxy celebration will take place on Sunday, March 8, at St. Demetrios Church, 22909 Center Ridge Rd., Rocky River. The Vespers will begin at 5:00 pm., and the guest speaker will be Fr. Martin Ritsi, the Executive Director of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center. The Greater Cleveland Council of Orthodox Clergy solicits donations to underwrite this event and to support the Orthodox ministries in our area. Please use the basket at the rear of our church for your donation, and in return you will be listed as a “Patron” in the handout at the Pan Orthodox Vespers. Make your check payable to: Greater Cleveland Council of Orthodox Clergy; and please contribute no later than February 23.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| REGULAR COLLECTION, FEBRUARY 16 | \$ 2597.00 |
| CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT | 225.00 |
| BUILDING FUND | 254.00 |
| CANDLES | 95.00 |
| KITCHEN STOVE FUND | 535.00 |
| ORTHODOX MISSIONS | 20.00 |
| 2/9 FOOD SALE | 335.00 |
| 2/9 COFFEE HOUR | 125.00 |

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD; PARMA, OHIO 44134
VERY REVEREND ALEXANDER GARKLAVS

MARCH 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 Cheesefare Sunday Forgiveness Sunday Expulsion of Adam from Paradise 5:00 Vespers | 2 Beginning of Great Lent 9:00 a.m. Lenten Hours 6:00 p.m. Great Canon | 3 9:00 a.m. Lenten Hours 6:00 p.m. Great Canon | 4 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Great Canon | 5 6:00 p.m. Great Canon | 6 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy | 7 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers |
| 8 First Sunday of Great Lent Sunday of Orthodoxy 5:00 Pan Orthodox Vespers at St. Demetrios | 9 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle | 10 | 11 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy Soup Supper | 12 | 13 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Memorial Vespers | 14 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers |
| 15 2nd Sunday of Great Lent St. Gregory Palamas Parish Council meeting | 16 | 17 | 18 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy Soup Supper | 19 | 20 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy | 21 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers |
| 22 3rd Sunday of Great Lent Veneration of the Cross | 23 | 24 6:00 p.m. Vigil of the Annunciation | 25 Annunciation of the Theotokos 6:00 Divine Liturgy Soup Supper | 26 | 27 | 28 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers |
| 29 4th Sunday of Great Lent St. John Climacus | 30 | 31 | | | | |

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 17 – Volume LVII

February 23, 2020

THE LAST THINGS: JUDGMENT

As children of Adam and Eve, we share in the weakness of our ancestors. They forgot the commandment which had been given to them and were overcome by the desire to taste – a bitter taste for them. And straightway they were banished from the tree of life, from paradise, and from God, because of their weakness, and were clothed with coats of skin, that is, the grosser kind of flesh, which is mortal and rebellious. In this they became conscious of shame and thought they could hide from God. Yet in his mercy God not only saw all but had mercy in granting them the benefit of death, thus cutting sin short, so that evil would not become immortal. The penalty and God's method of punishment turns out to be an act of mercy.

You hear of the book of the living, and the book of those who are not being saved. There all shall be inscribed or rather have been inscribed already, according to the results of each man's life on this earth. Wealth has no advantage there, poverty no disadvantage; nor is justice corrupted, as here, by favor or hatred or any other such influence. We have all been entered in the book by God's finger, and that book will be opened in the day of revelation.

I know the purifying fire, which Christ "came to throw upon the earth," and Christ is himself allegorically spoken of as fire. This fire is able to consume base matter and the evil dispositions; and Christ wishes it to be kindled with all speed, for he longs to hasten his beneficent work, since he gives us coals of fire for our assistance. I also know the fire which is not purifying, but punitive; whether the fire of Sodom, which rains down on all sinners, mixed with "sulphur and tempest," or that which is "prepared for the devil and his angels," or that which "goes before the face of the Lord and will burn up his enemies round about." There is yet a more fearful fire, which is found with the unsleeping worm, a fire which is not quenched, an everlasting fire for the punishment of sinners. All those fires have the power of annihilation; unless one prefers even here to suppose the kindly fire which is an interpretation more in keeping with him who imposes chastisement.

Christ will come again in the glory of the Father, to show his body to those who put God to death. Then comes the resurrection, the re-uniting of soul and body in a composite being. Then the final consummation, the dissolution of all that is; and there is a kind of change into a better state. There follows the fearful judgment. And what is that judgment? The weight which each person feels within their conscience, or the lightness, and the weighing of their lives against the law. Blessedness, I think, is living well. And what is the Kingdom? To behold God, and to sing his praise with the angels. But the darkness for the wicked is to fall away from God: and the "worm" and the "fire" stand for the dissolution of carnal passion.

Pray to the Saints, that they would welcome us when we depart this life, to live together with them and gaze directly and perfectly at the holy and blessed Trinity, of which here on earth we have been granted fleeting glimpses. There we shall attain the fruition of our desires, and receive the reward for the battles we have fought and the attacks we have resisted.

From the writings of St. Gregory the Theologian