

***GREATMARTYR EUSTATHIUS,
MARTYR THEOPISTES, AND MARTYRS
AGAPIUS AND THEOPISTUS***

Greatmartyr Eustathius was named Placidus before his Baptism. He was a Roman military commander in the first century. Even before he came to know Christ, he performed charitable acts, helping the poor and destitute.

The Lord appeared to him, saying it was not fitting for such a righteous man to worship idols and not know the truth. Placidus took his family to the Christian bishop who baptized and renamed them. The family set sail for Jerusalem. But the ship owner, enchanted by Theopistes' beauty, set Eustathius and his sons ashore, keeping the wife for himself.

In great sorrow, the saint continued on his way. At a river, he went to carry his two sons across in turn. When he had one in his arms, a lion seized the other. As he turned back towards the other, a wolf dragged the first boy into the forest.

Eustathius found work in a village and toiled for 5 years. He did not know that shepherds and farmers had saved his sons, and they lived near him. His wife had also been freed when the ship owner was killed by a terrible disease.

Meanwhile, emperor Trajan had difficulties raising an army; the soldiers would not go into battle without their commander Placidus. They searched until they located him; he returned to Rome and again became a general. New recruits were drafted into the army, among them were Eustathius' sons. He did not know them, nor did they know each other. In talking, one shared his story of how he lost his family, and the other realized they were brothers. Their tent was pitched near a woman's home; she overheard them and realized they were her sons! She went to their commander to ask that she be taken back to Rome with the army, as she had been a prisoner. Then she recognized the commander as her husband, and the whole family was reunited.

They returned to Rome, Eustathius in honor and glory. However, emperor Trajan had died, and emperor Hadrian wanted all soldiers to celebrate with an offering to pagan gods. St. Eustathius refused. The emperor had the family thrown alive into a red-hot brass bull, where they endured a martyr's death. Three days later, the bull was opened, and the bodies were found unscathed.

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***GREATMARTYR EUSTATHIUS PLACIDAS, MARTYR THEOPISTES,
AND THEIR SONS, MARTYRS AGAPIUS AND THEOPISTUS***

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

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BULLETIN 47 - VOLUME LVII

TONE 6

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Greatmartyr Eustathius, Placidus, his wife Martyr Theopistes, and their children,

Martyrs Agapius and Theopistus, of Rome;

Holy Martyr and Confessor Michael and his councilor, Theodore, Wonderworkers of Chernigov;

Rt. Blv. Oleg, Prince of Briansk; Monk-Martyr Hilarion of St. Anne's Skete

“As You were voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power, granting them victories over their adversaries, by bestowing on them the Invincible trophy, Your weapon of Peace.”

Kontakion, Tone IV

“Your holy martyr Eustathius and his wife and sons, O Lord, through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our God. For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. Through their intercessions, save our souls!”

Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY'S EPISTLE: GALATIANS 2:16-20
II CORINTHIANS 4:6-15

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MARK 8:34-9:1
MATTHEW 22:35-46

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, September 26 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, September 21	Galatians 4:28-5:10	Luke 3:19-22
Tuesday, September 22	Galatians 5:11-21	Luke 3:23-4:1
Wednesday, September 23 (Forerunner)	Galatians 6:2-10 Galatians 4:22-31	Luke 4:1-15 Luke 1:5-25
Thursday, September 24 (New Martyrs)	Ephesians 1:1-9 Romans 8:28-39	Luke 4:16-22 Luke 21:12-19
Friday, September 25	Galatians 5:22-6:2	Luke 6:17-23
Saturday, September 26	I John 4:12-19	John 19:25-27; 21:24-25

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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COMING EVENTS

20, TODAY	10:45 a.m. Church Council meeting
23, Wednesday	7:00 p.m. Online with Dr. Al Rossi
27, Sunday	“S.O.S. Sunday” Support Our Seminarians
30, Wednesday	7:00 p.m. Online with Dr. Al Rossi

<p><u>SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS:</u> September is the month designated for financial support to our diocesan seminarians. Please be generous and send in your donations to: Diocese of the Midwest; 5037 W. 83rd St.; Burbank, IL 60459. Or donate online at: domoca.org/donate-online All funds will directly benefit the seminarians.</p> <p><u>CHURCH COUNCIL:</u> The Parish Council will meet today, September 20, following the Divine Liturgy.</p>	<p><u>CHAIRS AVAILABLE!</u> There are several hundred steel folding chairs in the basement of our Fellowship Hall that are no longer of any use here. Perhaps some parishioners can use a couple of such chairs at your home. They are available for the asking, but a nominal donation is appreciated.</p> <p><u>TRINTARIAN COVERS:</u> The covers today are offered by Claudia Virosteck in blessed memory of Koscianski Family members who have fallen asleep in the Lord.</p>
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ALL IS WELL

That’s a good thought, but actually as we see, things are not well. But ALL IS WELL is the title of a book by Dr. Al Rossi, who teaches pastoral theology and spirituality at St. Vladimir’s Seminary. His thoughtful and inspiring book was planned before the pandemic, but seems to be just right for these times. There are two remaining sessions to listen online to Dr. Rossi on Wednesday evenings, September 23 and 30, at 7:00 p.m.

To access the sessions:

ONLINE <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84601604835>

PHONE 1-301-715-8592

Father Alexander will also be sending out a link in email before the sessions begin.

September 23 Chapters 6, 7 and 8

September 30 Chapters 9, 10 and 11

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, through 9/13/20	\$ 7286.00
BUILDING FUND	2215.00
CANDLES	206.00
SEMINARIAN FUND	55.00
IN MEMORY OF NICK LESNICK	460.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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MY JOURNEY TO THE CROSS WITH JESUS CHRIST

We celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross for eight days, during which time we are given the opportunity to meditate on the profound meaning of the Cross in our lives. In today's reflection, St. Gregory invites us to become directly involved in the drama of Jesus' Passion and Crucifixion, leading us from our sinful state to joyous salvation.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Lord's Cross, let us fully partake of the experience, as it is ever new and is ours to learn and His to teach and communicate, as the Word to His disciples. Come therefore, and let us participate in His life, but genuinely in a Gospel manner; perfectly, not imperfectly; eternally, not temporarily. Let us make our Head, not the earthly Jerusalem, but the heavenly City; not that which is now trodden under foot by armies, but that which is glorified by Angels. Let us sacrifice not young calves, nor lambs that put forth horns and hoofs, but let us sacrifice to God the sacrifice of praise upon the heavenly Altar. Shall I say that which is a greater thing yet? Let us sacrifice *ourselves* to God; or rather, let us go on sacrificing throughout every day and at every moment. Let us accept anything for the Word's sake. By sufferings let us imitate His Passion: by our blood let us reverence His Blood: let us gladly mount upon the Cross. Sweet are the nails, though they be very painful. For to suffer with Christ and for Christ is better than a life of ease with others.

Let us be like Simon of Cyrene, taking up the Cross and following. Acknowledge God as a *penitent* robber. Worship Him Who was hanged for you, even if you yourself are hanging; make some gain from your wickedness; purchase salvation by your death; enter with Jesus into Paradise. Contemplate the glories that are there; and if you be a Joseph of Arimathea, beg the Body from him that crucified Him. If you be a Nicodemus, the worshipper of God by night, bury Him with spices. If you be a Mary, or another Mary, or a Salome, or a Joanna, weep in the early morning. Be first to see the stone taken away, and perhaps you will see the Angels and Jesus Himself. Say something; hear His Voice. If He says to you, "Touch Me not," stand afar off; reverence the Word, but grieve not; for He knows those to whom He appears first. Keep the feast of the Resurrection; come to the aid of Eve who was first to fall, of her who first embraced the Christ, and made Him known to the disciples. Be a Peter or a John; hasten to the Sepulchre, running together, running against one another, vying in the noble race. And if, like a Thomas, you were left out when the disciples were assembled to whom Christ shows Himself, when you do see Him, be not faithless; and if you do not believe, then believe those who tell you; and if you cannot believe them either, then have confidence in the print of the nails. As He descended into Hell, descend with Him. Learn to know the mysteries of Christ there also, the providential purpose of His descent, to save all men absolutely by His manifestation.

Many indeed are the miracles of that time: God crucified; the sun darkened and again rekindled; for it was fitting that the creatures should suffer with their Creator; the veil rent; the Blood and Water shed from His Side; the one as from a man, the other as above mankind; the rocks rent for the Rock's sake; the dead raised for a pledge of the final Resurrection of all men; the Signs at the Sepulchre which none can worthily celebrate; and yet none of these equal to the Miracle of my salvation. A few drops of Blood recreate the whole world, drawing us together and compressing us into unity.

From the writings of St. Gregory the Theologian