

SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND THE OTHER BODILESS POWERS

The Synaxis of the Chief of the Heavenly Hosts, Archangel Michael and the Other Heavenly Bodiless Powers: Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jehudiel, Barachiel and Jeremiel was established at the beginning of the 4th century at the Council of Laodicea, which met several years before the First Ecumenical Council. The 35th Canon of this Council condemned and denounced as heretical the worship of angels as gods and rulers of the world, but affirmed their proper veneration.

A Feastday was established in November, the ninth month after March (with which the year began in ancient times) because there are Nine Ranks of Angels. The 8th day of the month was chosen for the Synaxis of all the Bodiless Powers since the Day of the Dread Last Judgment is called the Eighth Day by the Holy Fathers. After the end of this age (characterized by its seven days of Creation) will come the Eighth Day, and then “the Son of Man shall come in His Glory and all the holy Angels with Him (Matthew 25:31).

The Angelic Ranks are divided into three Hierarchies: highest, middle and lowest. The Highest Hierarchy includes the Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones. The Middle Angelic Hierarchy consists of three Ranks: Dominions, Powers and Authorities. The Lowest Hierarchy includes three Ranks: Principalities, Archangels, and Angels.

All the Ranks of the Heavenly Powers are called angels, although each has its own name and position by virtue of their service. The Lord reveals His will to the highest ranks of the angels, and they in turn inform the others.

Over all the Nine Ranks, the Lord appointed the Holy Archangel Michael (his name in Hebrew means “who is like unto God”), the faithful servitor of God, as Chief Commander. He cast down from Heaven the arrogantly proud Lucifer and the other fallen spirits when they rebelled against God. Michael summoned the ranks of angels and cried out, “Let us attend! Let us stand aright before our Creator and do not consider doing what is displeasing unto God!”

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***HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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THE TRINITARIAN

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6822 BROADVIEW ROAD, PARMA, OHIO 44134

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 2 - VOLUME LVIII

TONE 5

NOVEMBER 8, 2020

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

***Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the other Bodiless Powers:
Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jegudiel, and Barachiel***

“Commanders of the heavenly hosts, we who are unworthy beseech you, by your prayers, encompass us beneath the wings of your immaterial glory, and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry to you: Deliver us from all harm, for you are the commander of the powers on high!”

Troparion, Tone IV

“Commanders of God’s armies and ministers of the divine glory, princes of the bodiless angels and guides of mankind, ask for what is good for us, and for great mercy, supreme commanders of the Bodiless Hosts.”

Kontakion, Tone II

TODAY’S EPISTLE: GALATIANS 6:11-18
HEBREWS 2:2-10

TODAY’S GOSPEL: LUKE 8:41-56
LUKE 10:16-21

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, November 14 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, November 9	I Thessalonians 1:1-5	Luke 12:13-15,22-31
Tuesday, November 10	I Thessalonians 1:6-10	Luke 12:42-48
Wednesday, November 11	I Thessalonians 2:1-8	Luke 12:48-59
Thursday, November 12	I Thessalonians 2:9-14	Luke 13:1-9
	I Thessalonians 2:14-19	Luke 13:31-35
Friday, November 13	Hebrews 7:26-8:2	John 10:9-16
Saturday, November 14	II Corinthians 8:1-5	Luke 9:37-43
(Apostle Philip)	I Corinthians 4:9-16	John 1:43-51

**“I know that whatever things God does, they shall be forever.
Nothing can be added to or taken away from these things,
For God did them that men would fear before Him.” (Ecclesiastes 3:14)**

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER:

14, Saturday 10:00 a.m. EOWG meeting at Buna Vestire Church
15, Sunday Parish Council meeting
"Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America" Sunday
16, Monday Beginning of Nativity Fast
St. Herman House Fundraising Week begins

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD SALE

TODAY!

Tables are set up in our Fellowship Hall with bakery and food specialties from our parishioners.

Stop by during Coffee Hour and purchase your favorites!

MEMORY ETERNAL:

Dimitry Bakan has fallen asleep in the Lord and was buried yesterday, November 7, 2020. Dimitry's 100th birthday was Friday, November 6.

ST. HERMAN'S HOUSE:

An online fundraiser will be held the week of Nov. 15 -22 for St. Herman's House. This will be in lieu of the annual November speaker's event and December spaghetti dinner. There will be videos and other info posted on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to highlight the issue of hunger and homelessness, and to raise funds for St. Herman's.

STEWARDS OF THE OCA SUNDAY:

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has designated November 15 as "Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America Sunday." Support the work of the OCA by becoming a Steward, which will aid the work of ministries and departments that serve the entire Church by providing resources such as liturgical texts, music, educational material and educational events, as well as projects currently being developed. To learn more, visit oca.org/stewards which also has a schedule of online events that highlight the OCA work and plans.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Jewelann Stefanar in memory of Andrew Stefanar.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Matushka Claudia Virostek in loving memory of Protodeacon Dennis and Matushka Helen Lucak on the second anniversary of their falling asleep in the Lord.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR ST. HERMAN'S HOUSE:

For the next couple of weeks we are collecting donations for St. Herman's House of Hospitality. Our parish has supported this great outreach ministry for years in different ways. The Covid outbreak has brought about changes, making it impossible to continue our parish's tradition of preparing and serving monthly meals for St. Herman's. But St. Herman's continues to provide the meals and services, which are needed now more than ever. There will be special programs during the week of Nov. 15 (see item in previous column), and in conjunction with that, we will be offering our support through collected funds. Use the designated basket, and mark the envelopes, "St. Herman's House." If writing a check, please make it payable to "Holy Trinity Orthodox Church."

EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD:

The Guild will have their meeting at Buna Vestire Church on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 10:00 a.m. The church address is 7140 Fitch Road in Olmsted Falls. The program is a pre-Advent mini retreat. The speaker is Fr. Petru Neaga; refreshments will be served after the program. All women are welcome, even if you have not yet had the chance to join the Guild.

If you are interested in joining the EOWG, please see Joanne Stoyka or Dianna Kall.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE:

Are you an Orthodox woman age 18-55 willing to share your opinions about women's healthcare needs in America? Please see further details in the Fellowship Hall; or contact Kimberly at 440-708-8434; email Kimberly.babichspeck@otterbein.edu

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 2 – Volume LVIII

November 8, 2020

THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

Sometimes small surprises come along that make us feel angelic! This happened to me this week when, thinking about the coming Feast of the Angels, I picked up a book called Jacob's Ladder, by Fr. Sergius Bulgakov, one of the great Orthodox theologians of the 20th century. Born the son of rural Russian priest in 1871, he was attracted to political philosophy but returned to the Church and was ordained at the age of 47. Following the 1917 Revolution, he was forced to emigrate and spent the last years of his life teaching at the seminary in Paris, dying in 1944. His book about angels is a deeply thought out, thoroughly Orthodox reflection about angels. It is not an easy book to read, but what he wrote about the guardian angel is one of the most inspiring and beautiful theological passages that I have ever read. - Fr. AG

When the noise of life subsides and its dissonant voices fall silent,
When the soul is washed in quiet and filled with silence,
When its childhood element is laid bare and the shrouds weighing it down disappear,
When the soul is freed from the captivity of this world and stays one on one with God,
When the fetters of earthly nature are dissolved, and the soul finds its own self,
When it is separated from the earthly shell and finds itself in a new world,
When it is filled with light and washed with the rays of immortality,
Then does it feel bending over it with inexpressible love a being,

so near, so similar, so tender, so calm, so loving, so faithful, so mild, so affectionate, so bright – that joy, peace, blessedness, things unknown on earth, bubble up in the soul. It feels then its non-solitude, and rushes to meet the unknown and near friend. For the soul will come to know that friend about whom its whole life it dreamt and for whom it pined, seeking to flow together with the other to the end, to surrender to him wholeheartedly, to find its other I in him. This *other* for each human being, this friend, given by God and fashioned for each, is each one's **guardian angel**, who is ever keeping watch over each one, living with each one. He is most near, although also far, for he is unseen, unheard, inaccessible to every bodily and even psychic perception. So silent and gentle is his spiritual touch that his very presence for a human is unnoticed. But language bears witness to us that we notice him unconsciously. For unwittingly we call our neighbors who are full of love, affection, gentleness, and concern our "guardian angels," without understanding the meaning of our words. They comprise for us light and air, but like those indiscernible things, they are known by us in their whole significance only when we lose them. Similarly, while always being overshadowed by the guardian angel's wing, we do not distinguish this overshadowing in our consciousness; it is as if we do not notice it, even though it is always with us. ... As "the guardian of our souls and bodies," he is terrible and insuperable in interceding for us against the impure and wicked spirits which overwhelm us. In a spiritual battle, our nature would be destroyed and poisoned, corrupted and annihilated without this defender. This commander, this spiritual warrior, always protects us from that. In this he is actively energetic, unceasingly taut; he acts with all his power. But he does not coerce the earthly friend, the human protected by him, and he does not want to nor can he coerce. He nurses and cherishes the human's soul, his whisper in audible silence blows blessed thoughts to it, which are born in it, but in such quiet and gentleness that the soul does not directly know it.

Father Sergius Bulgakov