

***VENERABLE JOHN,  
DISCIPLE OF VEN. GREGORY  
OF DECAPOLIS***

Saint John was born at the end of the eighth century. At a young age he became a disciple of Saint Gregory of Decapolis and accepted monastic tonsure from him at a monastery in Thessalonica. Under the guidance of this experienced teacher, Saint John attained great spiritual perfection.

When the emperor Leo the Armenian (813-820) renewed persecution against Orthodox Christians because they venerated the holy icons, Saint Gregory of Decapolis and Saint Joseph the Hymnographer and his disciple Saint John went from Thessalonica to Constantinople to raise opposition to the Iconoclast heresy.

In spite of persecution, Saints Gregory and John fearlessly defended Orthodoxy for several years and preached the veneration of icons. After many hardships, Saint Gregory died (around 820), and soon after, his faithful disciple John also departed to the Lord. Saint Joseph the Hymnographer transferred the relics of Saints Gregory and John and placed them in the church of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker.

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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  
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD, PARMA, OHIO 44134  
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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 516-761-8772

BULLETIN 25 - VOLUME LVIII

TONE 4

APRIL 18, 2021

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

### *St. Mary of Egypt*

*Ven. John, disciple of Ven. Gregory of Decapolis;  
Martyrs Victor, Zoticus, Zeno, Acindynus, and Severian, of Nicomedia;  
St. Cosmas, Bishop of Chalcedon, and his new fellow ascetic, St. Auxentius;  
New Martyr John the New of Epirus; Ven. Evfimii, Enlightener of Karelia*

“Your handmaiden, Mary, rejected the cares of this world as a burden, O Christ, preferring to renew her spirit by mastering her body through discipline and self-control. For this, you gave her a share in the glory of heaven. By her prayers, and those of the Theotokos, O Savior, enlighten and save us.”

Exapostilarion, Tone III

“Like an angel in the flesh, you lived in the desert, O Godbearing father, John, and there you performed great wonders. Through fasting, watchfulness, and prayer, you obtained heavenly gifts, and with these you heal the souls of the needy who approach you in faith. Glory to Him who gave you this power. Glory to Him who crowned you. Glory to Him who heals us all through you.”

Troparion, Tone I

### HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Wednesday, April 21	6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy
Friday, April 23	9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday, April 24	9:00 a.m. Vigil - <b>Lazarus Saturday</b>

### Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, April 19	Isaiah 48:17-49:4	Genesis 27:1-41	Proverbs 19:16-25
Tuesday, April 20	Isaiah 49:6-10	Genesis 31:3-16	Proverbs 21:3-21
Wednesday, April 21	Isaiah 58:1-11	Genesis 43:26-31; 45:1-16	Proverbs 21:23-22:4
Thursday, April 22	Isaiah 65:8-17	Genesis 46:1-7	Proverbs 23:15-24:5
Friday, April 23	Isaiah 66:10-24	Genesis 49:33-50:26	Proverbs 31:8-31
Saturday, April 24	Hebrews 12:28-13:8	John 11:1-45	

**COMING EVENTS**

**MAY:**

15, Saturday          Noon    EOWG Annual Pan-Orthodox Luncheon at HTOC

**REGARDING CONFESSIONS DURING GREAT LENT:**

Fr. Alexander will be hearing private confessions in church at set times, which are posted in the Trinitarian every week. Those coming are asked to wear masks. We will maintain some distance between priest and confessee. Because that distance will make confession somewhat less intimate, people who are waiting to go to confession will remain at the back of the church until their time to come forward. Parishioners who plan to go to confession are encouraged to do so at the designated times; but with questions and special requests, you can phone or email Fr. Alexander (516-761-8772; garklavs@cox.net).

Another option for confession, blessed by Archbishop Paul, is to do so by phone. To do so, you can call the church office phone number at certain hours in the week, which will be posted weekly in The Trinitarian.

**For this Fifth Week of Lent**, confessions will be heard in church Wednesday, April 21, 4:00-6:00 p.m.; Friday, April 23, 8:00-9:00 a.m.;      Saturday, April 24, 8:15-9:00 a.m.; 4:00-5:00 p.m., and after Vigil.

On Thursday, April 22, parishioners can call the church office (216-524-4859) from 10:00 a.m. until noon, for confession over the phone.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION:**

Today, on the Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, and next week, we are having a special collection for St. Mary of Egypt Mission. The Mission has been offering food and assistance to needy Clevelanders since 1993. Our parish has been involved in helping them for years; and we again want to assist them in this charitable Christian work. Please use the designated basket at the rear of the church. If donating by check, make out to "Holy Trinity Orthodox Church" and designate the Mission on the memo line; we will combine our donations into one larger sum.

**LA COUPOLE GRAND REOPENING SALE:**

La Coupole is open! Stop by after the Divine Liturgy to browse. Russian imports are reduced just in time for Easter and Mother's Day gift giving. Amber jewelry, matryoshka dolls, hand-painted plates, boxes and icon eggs are all 30% off. Plus, 50% of Daria's jewelry! Cards for Pascha and egg wraps are also available.

**TRINITARIAN COVERS:**

The covers today are offered by Eric and Marjorie Evanoff in blessed memory of Carl Evanoff.

**LIBRARY:**

Tamara Lesnick has a table of Lenten reading material displayed outside of the Library, which is in the vestibule of the Fellowship Hall.

**PASCHA FLOWERS:**

Your donations for Pascha flowers to adorn our church are greatly appreciated. Please use the special envelope in your box.

**ST. HERMAN'S HOUSE GOLF OUTING:**

Please save the date of June 14 for the annual Golf Classic at Tanglewood Club in Chagrin Falls to benefit St. Herman's House. Details will be forthcoming.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

The EOWG will have their annual Pan-Orthodox Benefit Luncheon on Saturday, May 15, at noon. The venue has changed and will be held in our HTOC Fellowship Hall. See Joanne Stoyka for tickets.

**REMINDER:**

Before entering the nave of the church for services, please remember to put your cell phone on "Silent Mode."

Pray not to this end, that your own desires be fulfilled.  
You can be sure they do not fully accord with the will of God.  
Once you have learned to accept this point, pray instead that  
"Thy will be done" in me.

In every matter, ask Him in this way for what is good  
and for what confers profit on your soul,  
for you yourself do not seek this so completely as He does.

*Evagrius Ponticus*

## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 25 – Volume LVIII

April 18, 2021

### NEW MARTYR ST. ELIZABETH'S PRAYER

The New Martyr St. Elizabeth is one of the more beloved and honored of 20<sup>th</sup> century Orthodox saints. Her life is extraordinary, a combination with elements of a love story, drama, political factions, evangelical devotion, inspired Christian charity and, finally, martyrdom. She is truly a saint for our time because she exemplifies that one can be a faithful and pious Orthodox Christian and also a person with modern sensibilities. Information about her is easy to find on the internet. There is a book biography of her, available in our parish library and for purchase in the La Coupole store.

She created a prayer by combining three separate Biblical passages that had special meaning for her. It may not appear to be anything exceptional, but looking at how each of the passages reveals distinct spiritual qualities, we see that here is a prayerful meditation that can strengthen our faith during times of doubts and weakness.

Those who wait for the Lord,  
shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint. (*Isaiah 40:31*)  
Lord, I believe, help my unbelief. (*Mark 9:24*)  
Let us not love in word or speech,  
but in deed and in truth. (*I John 3:18*)

The first part of the prayer is about faith, not as “blind faith,” but as *trust*. It comes from the 40<sup>th</sup> Chapter in the Book of Isaiah, where the Prophet addresses the people during a time of great crisis with words of comfort. Here the word “wait” does not mean “waiting for something,” but rather *standing firm*, that is, *trusting* God. Isaiah motivates the people by assuring them that if they *stand firm* in the Lord, God will lift them “like eagles,” and they will not “be weary” nor “faint.”

The quote from St. Mark’s Gospel, “Lord, I believe, help my unbelief,” appears to be about “unbelief” or doubt. This passage acknowledges that even with our doubts Jesus is sympathetic about us. There is certainly a comforting truth there. However, if we recall the context of what was taking place in St. Mark’s Gospel, Jesus was speaking about faith *in Him*, that is, *in* Jesus Christ. That is the faith by which “all things are possible.” Jesus Christ makes it possible for us to accept, overcome, endure and survive “all things.”

Finally, the passage from the First Epistle of St. John is about faith in God *as love*. Love and faith are connected because, as we read in St. John’s First Epistle, “God is love.” For Christians, to believe in God is to believe in love! God’s love is the basis of creation and salvation, and all of Jesus Christ’s life and teachings can be summarized by one word: love. “To love God and each other” is the guiding principle of Christian faith, activity, ethics, prayer and spirituality. If we need some confirmation about how God’s love becomes actualized in real life, we have the outstanding example of St. Elizabeth’s life and martyrdom.

*Fr. Alexander Garklaus*