

## ***VENERABLE THEODORE THE SANCTIFIED, DISCIPLE OF VEN. PACHOMIUS THE GREAT***

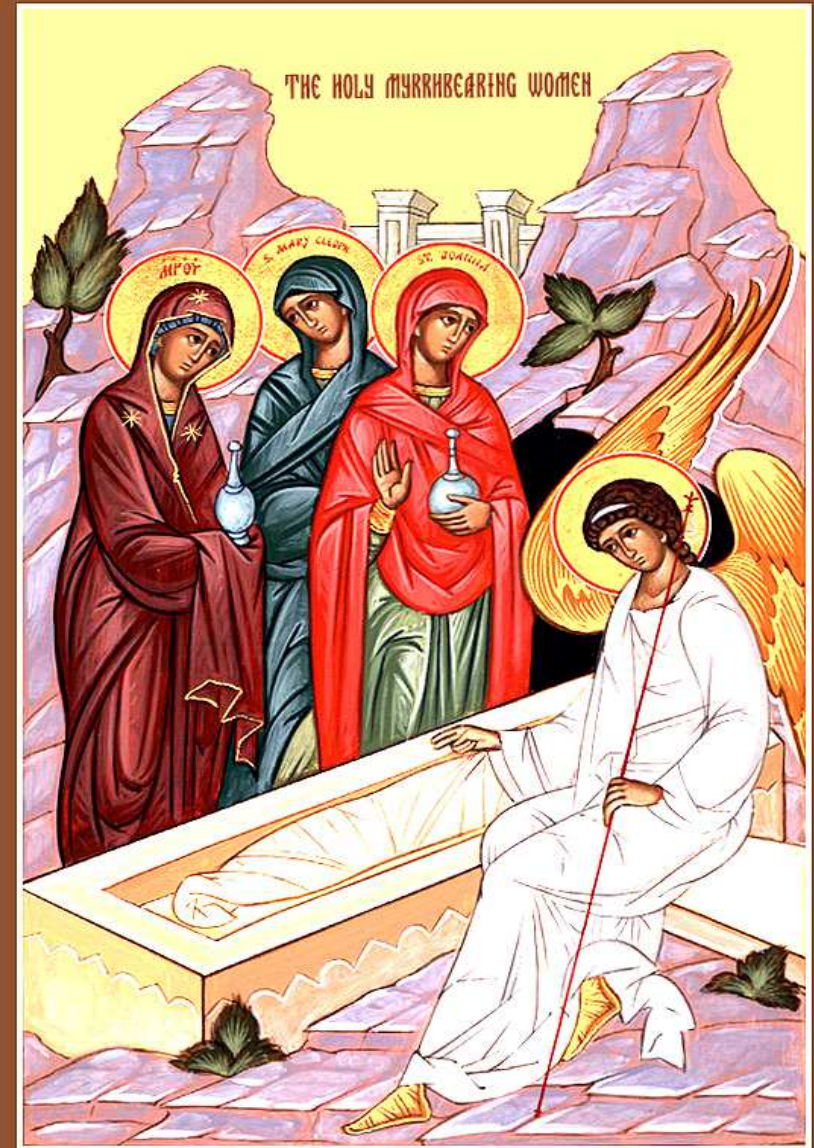
St. Theodore was called “Sanctified” because he was the first in his monastery ordained to the priesthood.

St. Theodore came from Egypt and was the son of rich and illustrious Christian parents. The yearning for monastic life appeared early in him. Once there was a large party at the house of his parents during the feast of Theophany. The boy did not take part in the festivities, grieving that because of earthly joys, he might be deprived of joys in the life to come. He secretly left home when he was 14 and entered one of the monasteries.

Hearing about Pachomius the Great, he burned with the desire to see the ascetic. St. Pachomius received the young man with love, having been informed by God beforehand about his coming. Remaining at the monastery, St. Theodore quickly succeeded in all his monastic tasks, particularly in the full obedience to his guide, and in his compassion towards the other brethren. Theodore’s mother, learning that he was at the Tabennisi monastery, came to St. Pachomius with a letter from the bishop, asking to see her son. St. Theodore did not wish to break his vow to renounce the world, so he refused to meet with his mother.

Seeing St. Theodore’s strength of mind and ability, St. Pachomius once told him to instruct the brethren on Holy Scripture. St. Theodore was then only 20 years old. He obeyed and began to speak, but some of the older brethren took offense that a new monk should teach them; and they departed. St. Pachomius said to them, “You have given in to the devil and because of your conceit, your efforts will come to naught. You have not rejected Theodore, but rather the Word of God, and have deprived yourselves of the Holy Spirit.”

St. Pachomius appointed St. Theodore as overseer of the Tabennisi monastery, and withdrew to a more solitary monastery. St. Theodore with filial love continued to concern himself over his instructor, and he looked after St. Pachomius in his final illness. After the death of St. Pachomius, St. Theodore directed the Tabennisi monastery and later was the head of all the Thebaid monasteries. He was famed for his holiness of life and great gift of wonderworking. St. Theodore reposed in his old age in the year 368.



***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

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BULLETIN 29 - VOLUME LVIII

tone 2

MAY 16, 2021

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF PASCHA**

### ***Holy Myrrhbearing Women***

***Ven. Theodore the Sanctified, disciple of Ven. Pachomius the Great;***

***St. Alexander, Archbishop of Jerusalem;***

***Martyrs Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia, at Lucania;***

***Bl. Child Musa of Rome; Ven. Brendan the Navigator; St. George, Bishop of Mitylene;***

***Ven. Cassian and Lavrentii, Abbots of Komel';***

***Translation of the Relics of Ven. Ephraim, Abbot of Perekop***

“Listen, women, to the voice of gladness, for hell, the tormentor, I have crushed once and for all, lifting the world from the mire of corruption. Hurry, then, and tell the news to My friends, that joy may break forth upon this creation, wherein grief and sorrow first appeared.”

Exapostilarion, Tone I

“Like an angel in the flesh you lived in the desert, O God-bearing father, Theodore, 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:**

Saturday, May 22

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

### **Daily Scripture Readings**

Monday, May 17

Acts 6:8-7:5,47-60

John 4:46-54

Tuesday, May 18

Acts 8:5-17

John 6:27-33

Wednesday, May 19

Acts 8:18-25

John 6:35-39

Thursday, May 20

Acts 8:26-39

John 6:40-44

Friday, May 21

Acts 8:40-9:19

John 6:48-54

(Sts. Constantine & Helen)

Acts 26:1-5,12-20

John 10:1-9

Saturday, May 22

Acts 9:20-31

John 15:17-16:2

**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY**

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**COMING EVENTS**

**MAY:**

16, TODAY

Coffee Hour resumes following the Divine Liturgy

23, Sunday

Parish Council meeting

31, Monday

Memorial Day Blessing of Graves at St. Theodosius Cemetery

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

The Parish Council will meet Sunday, May 23, following the Divine Liturgy.

**COFFEE HOUR:**

Join the HTOC family in the Fellowship Hall today for Coffee Hour, following the Divine Liturgy.

**EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD:**

The next event for the EOWG will be Saturday, June 12, at 10:00 a.m. The Guild will meet at Monastery Marcha for a Potluck Picnic, followed by a book review of Everywhere Present by Fr. Stephen Freeman.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY:**

FOCUS North America is seeking to hire a Development Director for the National Office, located in Carnegie, PA. The job description and details can be found at:  
[www.focusna.org](http://www.focusna.org)  
or [www.orthodoxjobs.com](http://www.orthodoxjobs.com)

**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 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!

**MEMORIAL DAY GRAVE BLESSINGS:**

There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule for Memorial Day grave blessings at St. Theodosius Cemetery.

**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.

**TRINITARIAN COVERS AND FLOWERS:**

The covers and flowers today are offered by Pauline Smolarchuk in blessed memory of her brother John Plavko.

Live as members of one body, as children of God,  
in love and harmony, in peace and tranquility, esteeming one another,  
being indulgent to one another  
as the Lord is indulgent to us.

Do not be proud, do not envy, do not bear ill-will;  
subdue all carnal desires; preserve chastity; abstain from every unnecessary thing;  
do not be slothful in prayer; begin and end the day with fervent prayer to God,  
to our heavenly Lady and to your Guardian Angel;  
pray for all as for yourself; wish well to all as to yourself;  
and do not wish or do evil to anyone.

St. John of Kronstadt

**Pride caused the fall of Lucifer and Adam.  
If you should ask me the ways of God,  
I would tell you that the first is humility, the second is humility,  
and the third is still humility.**

**Not that there are no other precepts to give,  
but if humility does not precede all that we do,  
our efforts are fruitless.**

**St. Augustine**

## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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### THE MYRRHBEARING WOMEN

Listening to the account of Christ's crucifixion and death during Holy Week, I am invariably struck by one detail in the story: the loyalty to the very end of a handful of people, mostly women, about whom the gospels tell us almost nothing else. What we know is that the disciples, all of them, ran away and left Him behind. After the crucifixion, at dawn on the third day, the same women came to the grave, in keeping with the custom of that time, to anoint the dead body with aromatic spices. And it was precisely to them that the risen Christ first appeared. They were the first to hear from Him that "Rejoice" which forever afterwards became the essence of Christian strength. Christ had not revealed the mystery of the future to these women, as He did to the twelve chosen apostles. They knew neither the meaning of His death nor the mystery of His approaching victory in the resurrection. For them, the death of their teacher and friend was simply death, the end; even worse, it was a terrible and shameful death, a terrible and abrupt end. They stood at the Cross only because they loved Jesus, and in loving Him, suffered with Him. They did not leave His poor, tortured body, but did all that love has always done at the final separation.

Those whom Christ had asked to stay with Him at the hour of His agonizing struggle, dropped Him, ran away and renounced Him. But those from whom He asked nothing remained faithful in their simple human love. "Mary stood weeping outside the tomb" (John 20:11). Down the centuries, love has always wept in this way, as Christ wept at the grave of His friend Lazarus. Here then, it is this love which first learns of the victory; this love, this faithfulness is the first to know that there is no longer any need for weeping, for "death is swallowed up in victory" (I Corinthians 15:54), and hopeless separation is no more.

This is what the Sunday of Myrrhbearing Women means. It reminds us that the love and faithfulness of a few individuals shone brightly in the midst of hopeless darkness. It calls us to ensure that in this world love and faithfulness do not disappear or die out. It judges our lack of courage, our fear, our endless and servile rationalizations. The mysterious Joseph and Nicodemus, and these women who go to the grave at dawn, occupy so little space in the gospels. Precisely here, however, is where the eternal fate of each of us is decided.

I think that today especially, we are in need of recovering this love and basic human loyalty. For we have entered a time when even these are being discredited by harmful concepts of the person and human life now prevailing in the world. For centuries, the world still had the weak, but still flickering and shining, glow from that faithfulness, love and co-suffering which was silently present at the suffering of the Man cast aside by all. And we need to cling, as if to a last thread, to everything in our world that still thrives on the warm light of simple, earthly, human love. Love does not ask about theories and ideologies, but speaks to the heart and soul. Human history has rumbled along, kingdoms have risen and fallen, cultures have been built and bloody wars fought, but what has remained unchanging on earth and in this troubled and tragic history is the bright image of the women. An image of care, self-giving, love, compassion. Without this presence, this light, our world would be a world of terror.

*From the writings of Fr. Alexander Schmemmann*