

## ***SAINT MICHAEL THE CONFESSOR, BISHOP OF SYNNA DA***

St. Michael longed for the monastic life from his youth. He was sent by Patriarch Tarasius (784-806) to a monastery on the coast of the Black Sea. St. Theophylactus, the future Bishop of Nicomedia, also entered the monastery with him.

At the monastery, both monks engaged in spiritual struggles and were soon glorified by gifts from the Lord. Once, during a harvest, when the people were weakened by thirst, an empty metal vessel was filled with water by the prayer of the monks.

Patriarch Tarasius consecrated St. Michael as bishop of the city of Synnada. Through his holy life and wisdom, St. Michael won the love of believers and the notice of the emperors Nicephorus I (802-811) and Michael I Rangabe (811-813). St. Michael attended the Seventh Ecumenical Council at Nicea in 787.

When the Iconoclast heretic Leo the Armenian (813-820) assumed the throne, he began to expel Orthodox hierarchs from their Sees, appointing heretics in their place.

St. Michael defended Orthodoxy, bravely opposing the heretics and denouncing their error. Leo the Armenian brought Saint Michael to trial; but not fearing torture, he answered resolutely, "I venerate the holy icons of my Savior Jesus Christ and the All-Pure Virgin, His Mother, and all the saints, and it is to them I bow down. I shall not obey your decrees to remove icons from churches."

Leo then banished St. Michael to the city of Eudokiada, where the confessor died about the year 821. The head of St. Michael is preserved in the Great Lavra of St. Athanasius on Mount Athos, and part of the relics are at the Ive'ron monastery.



**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH  
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD  
PARMA, OHIO 44134**

# THE TRINITARIAN

*Published Weekly by the*  
**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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 516-761-8772

BULLETIN 30 - VOLUME LVIII

TONE 3

MAY 23, 2021

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF PASCHA**

### ***Sunday of the Paralytic***

***St. Michael the Confessor, Bishop of Synnada;***

***Martyr Michael "the Black-robed" of St. Sabbas Monastery;***

***Uncovering of the Relics of St. Leonty, Bishop and Wonderworker of Rostov;***

***Synaxis of the Saints of Rostov-Yaroslavl'; Ven. Euphrosyne, Abbess of Polótsk;***

***Ven. Paisii, Abbot of Galich***

“By the pool of Bethsaida the Lord found a man paralyzed from youth. In His compassion, He restored the man to health, saying: Take up your mat and go your way, along the path of righteousness.”

Exapostilarion, Tone I

“As a most honorable hierarch and champion of true piety, undaunted by fear of the notorious tyrant, you conquered his heretical opposition, freely proclaiming in a loud voice: ‘I venerate the icon of Christ and of His all-pure Mother!’ Therefore, we honor you, O Michael!”

Kontakion, Tone VIII

### **HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:**

Tuesday, May 25	6:00 p.m. Vespers
Wednesday, May 26	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - <b>Midpentecost</b>
Saturday, May 29	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

### **Daily Scripture Readings**

Monday, May 24	Acts 10:1-16	John 6:56-69
Tuesday, May 25	Acts 10:21-33	John 7:1-13
(Forerunner)	II Corinthians 4:6-15	Matthew 11:2-15
Wednesday, May 26	Acts 14:6-18	John 7:14-30
(At Blessing of Waters)	Hebrews 2:11-18	John 5:1-4
Thursday, May 27	Acts 10:34-43	John 8:12-20
Friday, May 28	Acts 10:44-11:10	John 8:21-30
Saturday, May 29	Acts 12:1-11	John 8:31-42

# ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 30 - Volume LVIII

May 23, 2021

## COMING EVENTS

### MAY:

23, Sunday Parish Council meeting  
31, Monday Memorial Day Blessing of Graves at St. Theodosius Cemetery

### JUNE:

12, Saturday 10:00 a.m. EOWG meeting / potluck luncheon

## NEWS RELEASE FROM ARCHBISHOP PAUL

“I am lifting the mandate to wear masks while in the churches of the Diocese of the Midwest. Wearing a mask is recommended, but not mandated. This will be left up to personal discretion and consultation with one’s physician.

While the vaccine is recommended by the CDC, those who have not yet received their vaccination, or those who choose not to receive a vaccine, assume all and any risk by entering the temple without a mask and going against the recommendations of the CDC, which are also mine.”

*(Fr. Alexander will read the entire message)*

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

The Parish Council will meet today following the Divine Liturgy.

### SUMMER CAMP:

St. Vladimir’s Camp will be open this summer! With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Paul, the local Orthodox Camp will re-open this year. Closed last year because of the Covid pandemic, it will be open for 3 one-week sessions beginning June 27. Special protocols will be in place. For information call the St. Michael’s Church Office: 440-526-5192.

### 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.

### COFFEE HOUR:

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

### MEMORIAL DAY GRAVE BLESSINGS:

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

### 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, 5095 Broadview Rd, Richfield; for a Potluck Picnic, followed by a book review of Everywhere Present by Fr. Stephen Freeman.

### TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by the Stoyka Family.

## THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

	5/2	5/9	5/16
REGULAR COLLECTION	\$3282.00	\$2015.00	\$ 5178.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	300.00	320.00	385.00
BUILDING FUND	250.00	165.00	760.00
CANDLES	53.00	253.00	273.00
PASCHA FLOWERS		10.00	5.00
ST. MARY OF EGYPT	91.00		
PALM SUNDAY		145.00	10.00
HOLY FRIDAY		295.00	40.00
HOLY SATURDAY		365.00	1045.00
MIDNIGHT VIGIL		1315.00	50.00
PASCHA	300.00	1845.00	260.00
BASKET BLESSING		101.00	50.00

## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 30 – Volume LVIII

May 23, 2021

### *THE SAINTS AMONG US - RIGHTEOUS MELCHIZEDEK, KING OF SALEM*

On May 22, the Church commemorates one of those saints who are well known but about whom we know virtually nothing: the Righteous Melchizedek. He first appears in Genesis (Genesis 14:18-20), identified as both king and priest, where he greets Abraham returning from a successful military encounter. Melchizedek greets the victor with bread and wine, and Abraham in turn gives him a tithe (a tenth) of everything. This is the Biblical establishment of the precedent of tithing (that is, giving 10% of our income to religious institutions). Although there is so little information about Melchizedek, his name reappears in the Bible, in Psalm 110 and several times in the Epistle to the Hebrews. Melchizedek is like other personages in Genesis (Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Enoch, etc.), about whom there are few details, but who enter into the long saga of “salvation history” and have positions of lasting theological significance.

The name “Melchizedek” should not be foreign to the ears of Orthodox Christians, because we hear it in several liturgical services. Genesis 14:17-20 is read as one of the Old Testament readings on eves of day commemorating the Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils. In Great Lent we read the Epistle to the Hebrews, and on a couple of the Sundays we will hear the epistle reader say, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” As these are readings in Great Lent, the Church is calling special attention to them. But what does it mean that Jesus is “a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek”?

The Epistle to the Hebrews was written in order to convince people that Jesus Christ evolved out of the religious tradition of the Old Testament. That tradition is rich with a great history of holy people, wise prophets, exceptional kings and leaders, all of whom have left an impressive spiritual legacy. A key part of that legacy is that it predicted that fulfillment would come in a person with very special qualities. That person is Jesus who fulfills the “old” and initiates the “new,” changing religion in both form and content. But some questioned if Jesus was a true offspring of the Old Covenant and whether His connection to Jewish traditions was genuine. Specifically, some doubted Jesus’ credentials because He did not come from one of the tribes which were the exclusive possessors of religious authority. This is the point that the Book of Hebrews refutes by pointing out that in the Old Testament there was priesthood without any connection to Levitical tribes, and the proof of this is Melchizedek: “He is without father or mother or genealogy, and has neither beginning of days nor end of life but resembles the Son of God, he continues a priest forever” (Hebrews 7:3). Jesus’ authority does not come from Him being a member of a Jewish tribe, but from His being the Son of God and His priesthood is not of a Levitical nature but as appointed by God.

In our church, Melchizedek is not easy to spot. He is on the inside of one of the side doors of the iconostasis. It is more visible on Pascha and through Bright Week when those doors remain open. The placement of the icon of Melchizedek in the altar is significant. He is a Biblical precursor of Jesus Christ, and arrayed in royal kingly attire, he is an iconographic depiction of how humans achieve righteous dignity in performing sacrificial offerings.

*Fr. Alexander Garklaus*