

SAINT ANASTASIUS OF THE STRUMITZA EPARCHY

The New Martyr Anastasius, a Bulgarian, was born in 1774 in the Strumnitsk diocese, in the village of Radovicha. His parents gave him over to military studies. When the youth was 20 years old, he happened to be with his teacher in Thessalonica. The master wanted to sell some Turkish clothes without paying the customary duty. He told his disciple to dress himself as a Turk and go into the city. The collectors of the duty stopped him and demanded the written receipt of duty payment. The youth answered that he was a Turk. Then the collectors demanded that he recite the salutation with the Moslem prayer. The youth became confused and quiet. They ordered him to appear before the commander, who in interrogating Anastasius suggested that he become a Moslem. He refused, and they led him away to the chief tax collector.

The official tried at first to flatter, then to threaten the martyr, who admitted his civil guilt but would not agree to betray the holy Faith. The tax collector made this known to the mufti, who in turn answered, "You have in one hand the sword, in the other, the law; use what you wish."

He knew that by law the tax collector ought to collect the tax from the youth, but then by judgment of the mufti, he would not be a follower of Mohammed, armed with a sword. When he had received such an answer, the commander of the haraje sent the youth to the local mullah together with five Turks, who were obliged to testify that the Christian had blasphemed the Moslem religion.

To the accusations of blasphemy against Mohammed by these witnesses, Anastasius honestly answered that he did not blaspheme him, but he did allow having shown disrespect to Moslem customs. They subjected him to torture and condemned him to hanging. Along the way, they continued to urge the martyr to renounce his faith, but bleeding and exhausted, he fell upon the wayside and died on August 29, 1794.

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THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

**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

RECTORY: 963 John Glenn Drive, Seven Hills, Ohio 44131 Phone 516-761-8772

BULLETIN 44 - VOLUME LVIII

TONE 1

AUGUST 29, 2021

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST THE BEHEADING OF THE HOLY, GLORIOUS, PROPHET, FORERUNNER, AND BAPTIST, JOHN

“Praise goes well with every just man’s memory, but for you, the witness of the Lord is more than enough. Of all the prophets, you are indeed the greatest, for while they could but foretell His coming, you were chosen to baptize Him in the Jordan. Truth has cost you much, O John, the Baptist, but joy has also filled your heart, for even those long dead were graced to hear your words: God has taken flesh to save the world from sin, and grant us His great mercy.”

Troparion, Tone II

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH NEW YEAR

Wednesday, September 1

“O Designer and Creator of all that is, in Your power You arranged the seasons and the times. So now, bless this year we begin through Your goodness, give all Your people lasting peace, and by prayers of the Theotokos, save us.”

Troparion, Tone II

TODAY’S EPISTLE: I CORINTHIANS 4:9-16
ACTS 13:25-33

TODAY’S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 17:14-23
MARK 6:14-30

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, September 4 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Reading

Monday, August 30	II Corinthians 2:3-15	Matthew 23:13-22
Tuesday, August 31	II Corinthians 2:14-3:3	Matthew 23:23-28
	II Corinthians 3:4-11	Matthew 23:29-39
Wednesday, September 1 (St. Simeon)	I Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 4:16-22
	Colossians 3:12-16	Matthew 11:27-30
Thursday, September 2	II Corinthians 4:1-6	Matthew 24:13-28
Friday, September 3	II Corinthians 4:13-18	Matthew 24:27-33,42-51
Saturday, September 4	I Corinthians 1:3-9	Matthew 19:3-12

TODAY IS A STRICT FAST DAY.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER:

6, Thursday Choir Picnic
12, Sunday Second Sunday Food Sale
 Parish Council meeting

MEMORY ETERNAL:

Theodore (Ted) Geletka fell asleep in the Lord on August 20, 2021, and was buried this past Tuesday.

IN GRATITUDE:

Thanks to all who donated and participated at the Parish Picnic last Sunday. Special thanks to Jared and Katie Griebel for organizing and coordinating. It was a perfect way to spend a Sunny Sunday Summer day!

ANNUAL CHOIR PICNIC:

The Choir is planning a Potluck Picnic for Thursday, September 6, 6:00 p.m., at the home of Karen and Michael Sherwood in Strongsville. Anyone interested in learning more about singing with the church choir is welcome. Please notify Karen Sherwood or Michael Pilat for further information. Attendees should be vaccinated.

LECTURE:

The annual Fr. Vladimir Preslopsy Lecture will be Sept. 23 at St. Michael’s Woodside Event Center. There is a meal at 6:30, with the lecture by Fr. Andrew Harmon, “The Orthodox Faith and Church as Portrayed in Russian Literature,” at 7:00; cost is \$15. To attend, call 440-526-5192; or info@stmichaelscleveland.org

WEDDING:

Aaron Rutz will marry Tatiana Kessler on September 5, 2021, at 3:30 p.m.

COFFEE HOUR:

Our refreshments today are donated by the Stoyka Family.

We are in need of Coffee Hour donors for the upcoming Sundays of 9/19, 9/26 and 10/3.

SPECIAL COLLECTION:

For the next couple of weeks we will be collecting for St. Vladimir’s Seminary. Traditionally, the Seminary has had a combination fund-raising/educational event called Education Day on the first Saturday of October at the Seminary campus. In preparation for it, parishes donated to the school to underwrite the event and to support theological education. This year the Seminary decided to “go on the road” with Education Day — and their first such venture is to Cleveland! On Saturday, October 2, this will take place at St. Mary’s Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, 3256 Warren Road. We are beginning our parish’s contribution efforts. If writing a check, please make it payable to “Holy Trinity Orthodox Church.”

GREETERS:

We are looking for new people to become greeters. If you are interested, contact Alex Cundik at 440-877-1980 or ajcundik@cox.net

MASKS:

We have received a reminder from Bishop Paul who recommends that people who have not been vaccinated wear masks during church services.

RUSSIAN FOOD FESTIVAL:

Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Lorain will hold a Russian Food Festival on Sept. 17-18. There will be continuous entertainment as well as dine-in or carry out meals: Pierogi, beef stroganoff, stuffed cabbage, kielbasa, Russian hoagies. See flyer on bulletin board.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The bulletin covers today are offered in memory of Dan Uziel by the Uziel Family.

Prayer is the holding of all men in our hearts through love;
 the descent of heaven into the soul;
 the abiding of the Most-holy Trinity in the soul,
 in accordance with that which has been said:
“We will come unto Him and make our abode with Him” (John 14:23).

St. John of Kronstadt

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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THOUGHTS ABOUT “THE END” (OF THE CHURCH YEAR)

During the past couple of weeks, three priests of the Orthodox Church in America passed away (Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky, Fr. Stephan Janos and Fr. Michael Koblosh). I knew all of them, served with them, dialogued and worked with them. One of them, Fr. Leonid, I have known for over 50 years. He was a mentor who played a decisive role during my seminary formation. I also learned about the death of several other people that I knew and respected. All of these departed servants of Our Lord were good, faithful Christians, who leave legacies of “lives worth living.” Another person who falls into this group is someone whose death we mourned and honored in our parish this week, Theodore Geletka.

There are those times when several people, family, acquaintances or friends, all die in close proximity. It’s not infrequent and it can take place at any time. But as we are now approaching the conclusion of the Church Year, I, for one, feel that this convergence of events dramatically and powerfully conveys a sense of “the End”! Of course, this is a fact of life, not confined to any season, but this time of the year accentuates the feeling of finality! “The End” comes to all things, seasons, processes and projects, cycles and celebrations; everything that comes into being, naturally at some point, comes to “the End.” Even physical and mechanical objects – engines, cars, trains, planes and tools – all have cycles of “life” and an inevitable end.

In August, the month which marks the end of the Church year, there are two feasts which are “the End” of two extraordinary people. On August 15 we celebrate the falling asleep or Dormition of the Mother of God. On August 29 the Church commemorates the Beheading of St. John the Baptist. Both of these holy days are about the inescapable fact of the termination of physical life. However, in honoring the Theotokos and St. John, their “ends” are understood as acts of God. Their lives and their deaths are part of God’s creation in which divine holiness is perceptible, and that holiness is also life! The falling asleep of the Mother of God and the beheading of St. John are celebrated with hymns of praise that elevate our hearts and minds from “death to life.” The Theotokos is seen in the icon lying on her funeral bier, but behind her Jesus Christ elevates her soul into the Kingdom of God. Thus, we can say, “she is translated from death to life.” In dying, St. John the Baptist becomes the one who proclaims the Risen Lord “even to those in the tombs.”

“If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so whether we live or we die, we are the Lord’s” (Romans 14:8). St. Paul’s words summarize a fundamental fact of Christian faith: We come into this world by God’s will and at the appointed time, comes “the End,” when God calls us out of this world. While we live, “the End” is an ever-present reality. In fact, our Orthodox theology endorses the concept of “realized eschatology,” which can be simply understood as accepting the fact that in Jesus Christ “the End” has come, and we are already, in anticipation, members of His eternal Kingdom. As the Church Year comes to an “end,” we seamlessly and effortlessly transition to a “new” Church Year - a transition that foreshadows our prayed-for passage from this life in the fallen world to life “with the Saints.”

Fr. Alexander Garklaus

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 VERY REVEREND ALEXANDER GARKLAVS

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Church New Year	2	3	4 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
5 11th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth	6	7	8 Nativity of the Theotokos 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy at Archangel Michael Church	9	10	11 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions
12 12th Sunday after Pentecost Second Sunday Food Sale Parish Council meeting	13 6:00 p.m. Vigil	14 THE EXALTATION OF THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	15	16	17	18 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
19 13th Sunday after Pentecost Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross Visit of Archbishop Paul	20	21	22	23	24	25 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions
26 14th Sunday after Pentecost Repose of St. John the Theologian	27 Cooking for St. Herman's House	28	29 Delivering food to St. Herman's House	30	October 1 Protection of the Theotokos 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	