

SAINT SPYRIDON OF TREMITHUS

Saint Spyridon was born towards the end of the third century on the island of Cyprus. He was a shepherd and had a wife and children. He used all his substance for the needs of his neighbors and the homeless, for which the Lord rewarded him with a gift of wonderworking. He healed those who were incurably sick and cast out demons.

A woman once came up to him with a dead child in her arms, imploring the intercession of the saint. He prayed, and the infant was restored to life. The mother, overcome with joy, collapsed lifeless, but through the prayers of the saint once again, the mother was restored to life.

Another time, hastening to save his friend, who had been falsely accused and sentenced to death, the saint was hindered by the flooding of a stream. He commanded: "Halt! For the Lord of all the world commands that you permit me to cross so that a man may be saved." The will of the saint was fulfilled, and the judge, apprised of the miracle, received St. Spyridon with esteem and freed the man.

St. Spyridon participated in the First Ecumenical Council in 325. He spoke against the Arian heresy: "There is one God Who created man from dust. He has ordered all things, both visible and invisible, by His Word and His Spirit. The Word is the Son of God, Who came down upon the earth on account of our sins. He was born of a Virgin, He lived among men, and suffered and died for our salvation, and then He arose from the dead, and He has resurrected the human race with Him. We believe that He is one in essence (consubstantial) with the Father, and equal to Him in authority and honor. We believe this without any sly rationalizations, for it is impossible to grasp this mystery by human reason."

At this Council, St. Spyridon displayed the unity of the Holy Trinity in a remarkable way. He took a brick in his hand and squeezed it. At that instant, fire shot up from it, water dripped on the ground, and only dust remained in his hands. "There was only one brick," he said, "but it was composed of three elements. In the Holy Trinity there are three Persons, but only one God."

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THE HOLY FOREFATHERS

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD
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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 6 - VOLUME LIX

tone 8

DECEMBER 12, 2021

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus

Hieromartyr Alexander, Bishop of Jerusalem;

Martyr Synesius of Rome; Ven. Ferapont, Abbot of Monza;

St. Mardirije of Libertyville, Bishop of America and Canada

“By faith You justified the Forefathers, when through them You betrothed Yourself beforehand to the Church of the Gentiles. The saints boast in glory, that from their seed there is a glorious fruit: she who bore You without seed. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.”

Troparion, Tone II

“You were revealed as a champion of the First Council and a wonderworker, our God-bearing father Spyridon. You spoke to one dead in the grave and transformed a serpent into gold. While chanting your holy prayers you had angels serving with you! Glory to Him Who gave you strength! Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!”

Troparion, Tone II

TODAY’S EPISTLE: COLOSSIANS 3:4-11

TODAY’S GOSPEL: LUKE 14:16-24

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, December 18 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, December 13	Galatians 4:8-21	Luke 10:16-22
Tuesday, December 14	I Timothy 1:1-7	Mark 8:11-21
	I Timothy 1:8-14	Mark 8:22-26
Wednesday, December 15	I Timothy 1:18-20, 2:8-15	Mark 8:30-34
Thursday, December 16	I Timothy 3:1-13	Mark 9:10-16
Friday, December 17	I Timothy 4:4-8,16	Mark 9:33-41
Saturday, December 18	Galatians 3:8-12	Luke 13:18-29
		Luke 14:1-11

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER:

12, TODAY 7:00 p.m. Zoom Virtual Tour of Bethlehem
19, Sunday Pre-Christmas Potluck Lunch
 Slavic Merchandise Sale
 3:00 p.m. Christmas Concert at St. Theodosius

GOD’S BLESSINGS:

Congratulations to the newly baptized:
Abraham Bobulsky Nicholas Bobulsky
 Madelyn Bobulsky
May God bless them and their parents for many years!

POTLUCK:

On Sunday, December 19, we will have a Pre-Christmas Potluck Lunch in the Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy. No meat dishes, please. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

SLAVIC MERHCANDISE:

Next Sunday, Dec. 19, in addition to the Potluck, there will be a sale of a large selection of Slavic merchandise (Rusyn, Polish, Ukrainian, Slovak, etc.). Items featured will include cards, books, CD’s, jewelry and especially embroidered imports from Ukraine. Many items will focus on Christmas themes. A percentage of sale proceeds will be donated to HTOC.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:

We appreciate your offerings for the flowers that will adorn our church during the Nativity season. There is a special envelope in your box.

DONATION ENVELOPES:

Your 2022 Offering Envelopes are available in the church vestibule. They are organized alphabetically. If you do not see a box with your name on it, or if your address needs correction, please contact Fr. Alexander.

EASTERN CHURCHES SEMINAR:

The 37th Eastern Churches Seminar, sponsored by Notre Dame College is now available for viewing. It features Bishop John Michael Botean of the Romanian Byzantine Diocese, speaking on “After the Deluge, What it means to be Church in Post-Pandemic Times.”
YouTube.com/NotreDameCollege.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT:

All are invited to the 44th Annual Christmas Concert at St. Theodosius Cathedral next Sunday, Dec. 19, at 3:00 p.m. Admission is free and open to all.

FOOD SALE:

Our Food Sale last Sunday realized a profit of \$406.

LA COUPOLE:

There is a selection of Orthodox Christmas ornaments and cards (\$3/ea or 2/\$5) available in La Coupole. All books are 20% off! Come in and browse the assortment of icons, prayer books and religious articles perfect for gift giving.

ST. ANDREW CELEBRATION:

On November 30, the Akathist to the Apostle Andrew was celebrated online. Following the service, Archbishop Paul gave an inspired sermon about St. Andrew, which was also a meditation in preparation for the Nativity of our Lord. Viewing is on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUW6f-E-Fgw>

HALL ROOF REPAIRS:

Work on the roof of the Fellowship Hall continues. Parishioners are reminded that this is an expensive project, and your support is needed and appreciated. To those who have already donated, much thanks!

VIRTUAL TOUR OF BETHLEHEM:

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America is sponsoring a “tour” of Bethlehem charitable event via Zoom. Reserve your spot by making a donation on the F.O.C.A. at Eventbrite. The tour is today, Sunday, Dec. 12, at 7:00 p.m. There is a flier in the Fellowship Hall with further details.

Visit the link: www.eventbrite.com/x/virtual-tour-of-the-city-of-bethlehem-tickets-189343931797

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Pauline Smolarchuk. If you would like to make an offering for Trinitarians in 2022, there is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

FLOWERS:

The flowers last Sunday were offered by Pauline Smolarchuk in memory of John Smolarchuk.

The flowers today are offered by Pat Schwartz and Family in memory of Harvey Schwartz.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, 12/5/21	\$ 4488.00
BUILDING FUND	555.00
CANDLES	139.00
FELLOWSHIP HALL ROOF	12,295.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	5.00
IN MEMORY OF ALEXANDER CHERNUSHIN	70.00
COFFEE HOUR, 11/28/21	99.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 6 – Volume LIX

December 12, 2021

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

This is my 500th contribution to the Trinitarian. Not all were original pieces, some were excerpts from the writings of Church Fathers and contemporary theologians, and a few were official communications. But this is the 500th time that I sat down in front of a computer to arrange in some order black words on a white screen. While 500 does not have any notable Biblical significance (like 3, 9, 12, 40 or 50), it does mark a passage of time; and so it prompted me to ask, “What does it mean?” By “it,” I mean: “What do these writings mean? Are they meaningful or meaningless? Are there any real benefits to them? Do they contribute or divert from the ‘needful thing’? How many people actually read them?”

The person who I would love to ask is my predecessor. Fr. Vladimir wrote some 2,500 pages for The Trinitarian! Many of those writings are collected in a book, “Embraced by Faith,” which is available in our parish library and for sale in La Coupole store. His writings covered a wide range of subjects: aspects of theology, Biblical books and verses, spiritual life, ethics and society, social and religious issues in contemporary life. While I don’t know how he characterizes his work, I believe that he wrote out of the conviction that it was important to do so and that parishioners would benefit from it.

I have that conviction as well. There is so much of Orthodox Christianity, so much of importance and interest to convey. Sharing as much as possible of our Orthodox faith is a prime reason for writing. Some things are communicated better through the written medium than in a sermon or talk, and difficult concepts are better understood when read and re-read leisurely. Provocative observations offered as food for thought can be misunderstood in a sermon. St. Paul was a dynamic and inspiring preacher, but he acknowledges the effectiveness of writing: “I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.” Fr. Vladimir and I cannot be compared to St. Paul, but like him, we write to express our thoughts and hopes from our heart.

My aims in writing for this page have been modest and simple: to share facts of interest about our Orthodox faith and some personal thoughts about spiritual life. One feature that I have been writing is about the saints who are depicted on the walls of our church. The iconography in our church is extraordinary, depicting an outstanding variety of holy men and women. As these saints literally surround us, I want to inform parishioners, who may know little about them, that these “spiritual friends” have rich legacies from which we can learn much. Another aim has been to share poems and thoughts about religious poetry. Although we may not realize it, poetry is embedded in Orthodox worship. The prayers and hymns that we constantly proclaim and hear in Church are all poetry. These are words that enliven and enlighten our souls. Many of the great Church Fathers wrote profound theology in poetic forms.

Writing is work, sometimes it “doesn’t come easy,” and sometimes it can be a chore. But I am grateful to have this opportunity to share with you this part of my ministry. I also want to express prayerful appreciation to the good and diligent parishioners who were responsible for producing The Trinitarian for the past 50+ years, especially the dearly departed Daria Petrykowski and Margaret Pinchot. For many years now, and for the ten years I’ve been here, Janene Hatch has faithfully made this publication possible, not missing a single week! She is a pleasure to work with. I and the parish owe her sincere thanks!

Fr. Alexander Garklaus