

## ***SYNAXIS OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD***

On the second day of the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, the Church celebrates the Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God. The name signifies the gathering of the faithful in order to praise and glorify the Theotokos. This Feast dates back to very ancient times. In the 4th century, some Holy Fathers, such as St. Epiphanius of Cyprus, were already preaching about it. In the ancient Menaia, the Feast was called “the Nativity of Gifts.” This refers to the gifts which the Magi from the East brought to the newborn King of the Jews - the Divine Child Jesus.

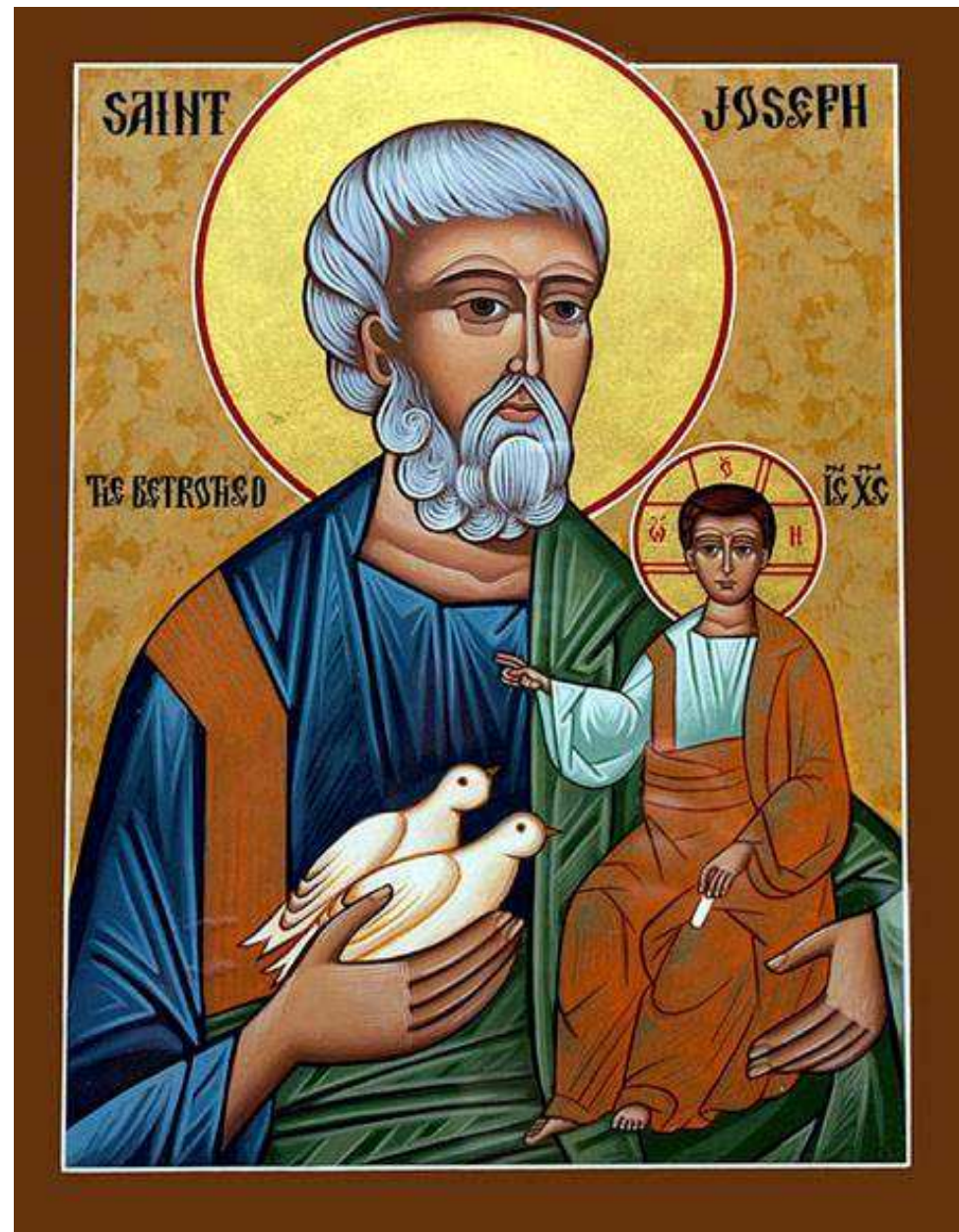
On December 26, the early Church commemorated the Wise Men who came to worship the Savior, and the flight into Egypt, as well as the Synaxis of the Mother of God. That is why some icons of the Nativity of the Lord depict His Birth, the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, as well as the Flight into Egypt. The inscription sometimes reads “The Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos.” Now, however, we commemorate “the Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthasar, and the shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks and came to see the Lord” on the first day of the Nativity (December 25), but the Flight into Egypt is commemorated separately on December 26.

Before the massacre of the 14,000 Holy Innocents (Dec. 29), an angel warned St. Joseph to take the Child and His Mother and flee to Egypt and to remain there until the angel brought him word that it is safe for him to return to Nazareth, “for Herod will seek the Child to destroy Him” (Matthew 2:13).

In the icon of the Flight into Egypt, there are mountains. The Virgin sits on a donkey with her Child, looking back at Joseph. He holds a staff, and his cloak is thrown over his shoulder. A young man (Tradition says this was St. Joseph’s son James, the Brother of the Lord) leads the donkey, carrying a rush basket, and looks back at the Virgin. Behind them is a fortified town with idols toppling from the walls. This event was prophesied by Isaiah: “Behold, the Lord sits on a swift cloud\* and shall come to Egypt, and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at His presence, and their heart shall faint within them” (Isaiah 19:1); and the Prophet Hosea alludes to it: “Out of Egypt have I called My Son” (Hosea 11:1). This is also mentioned in the Church’s hymns.

\*that cloud is seen as an image, or type, of the Virgin

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

# THE TRINITARIAN

*Published Weekly by the*  
**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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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

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BULLETIN 8 - VOLUME LIX

tone 2

DECEMBER 26, 2021

## ***TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*** ***SECOND DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY***

***Sunday After the Nativity***

***Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King,***  
***and James the Brother of the Lord***

***Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos***

***Hieromartyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis; Ven. Constantine of Synnada;***

***Ven. Evaristus of the Studion Monastery; Ven. Nicodemus of Tishmana;***

***Hieromartyr Constantine the Russian of Lavra***

“Today, the divinely favored David is ecstatic with joy, and, indeed, Joseph and James join him in celebrating, for they beam with pride in being relatives of the Lord Jesus. They exult in that ineffable birth that brought Him to earth, crying out with one accord: O generous One, save all those who are truly devoted to You.”

Kontakion, Tone III

“He who comes forth before the dawn from His Father without a mother, today comes into this world from you without a father, and a star reveals the news to men of learning, as angels join shepherds in praising your ineffable childbearing, O full of grace.”

Kontakion, Tone VI

TODAY'S EPISTLE: GALATIANS 1:11-19  
EPHESIANS 6:10-17

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:13-23  
LUKE 18:18-27

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

Today, December 26  
Saturday, January 1

Noon Baptism of Axel Uziel, son of Adam Uziel  
5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

### **Daily Scripture Readings**

Monday, December 27  
(St. Stephen)

II Timothy 2:20-26

Mark 10:46-52

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

Matthew 21:33-42

Tuesday, December 28

II Timothy 3:16-4:4

Mark 11:11-23

Wednesday, December 29

II Timothy 4:9-22

Mark 11:22-26

Thursday, December 30

Titus 1:5-2:1

Mark 11:27-33

Friday, December 31

I Timothy 6:11-16

Matthew 12:15-21

Titus 1:15-2:10

Mark 12:1-12

Saturday, January 1

Colossians 2:8-12

Luke 2:20-21,40-52

I Timothy 3:14-4:5

Matthew 3:1-11

Hebrews 7:26-8:2

Luke 6:17-23

**THIS IS A FAST-FREE WEEK.**

**COMING EVENTS**

**JANUARY:**

9, Sunday            Second Sunday Food Sale  
16, Sunday            Parish Council meeting

**GOD’S BLESSINGS:**

Congratulations to the newly baptized Madeline Avery Pask. May God bless her, her parents Kelly and Kevin, and her Godparents for many years!

**MANY THANKS:**

Our Potluck tables last Sunday were laden with many delicious choices! Thank you to all who contributed! Special thanks to Judy Howe and Marilyn Cobbs for coordination and set-up work and to those who saw a need and pitched in to help.

**2022 CALENDARS:**

Church calendars for the coming year are now available in the vestibule.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:**

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

**REMINDER:**

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.

**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.

**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!

**TRINITARIAN COVERS:**

The covers today are offered by Marge Sabol and Helen Stoyka.

If you would like to make an offering for Trinitarians in 2022, there is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

**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](https://www.youtube.com/NotreDameCollege).

Take the trouble to spend only one single day according to God’s commandments,  
and you will see for yourself how good it is to fulfill God’s will.  
Love God with all your heart at least as much as you love your father, mother  
and your benefactors;  
value with all your strength His love and His benefits to you  
and how He endlessly forgives you your sins.

*St. John of Kronstadt*

**THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE**

REGULAR COLLECTION, 12/19/21	\$ 3235.00
BUILDING FUND	370.00
CANDLES	83.00
FELLOWSHIP HALL ROOF	5750.00
CHRISTMAS	50.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	260.00
COFFEE HOUR, 12/12/21	43.00

## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 8 – Volume LIX

December 26, 2021

### *THE SPIRITUALITY OF DECEMBER*

If asked, “What one word do you think of when you think of December?” most of us would respond “Christmas.” But December is more than one day. It has qualities that make it stand out among the other eleven months. At first it arrives somehow unexpectedly, like a “surprise package,” and we wonder, “Wow, it’s December; how did that happen?” But then we remember that we were waiting for it all along, anticipating it to be an agreeable conclusion to an unsatisfactory year, a hoped-for offering of good things to come. There is no other month that compels us to look back with the feeling that maybe, just maybe, the unpleasant things that occurred will not be repeated. Such thoughts are understandable, optimism is inbred in the human condition (“hope springs eternal”). But December does not coddle us, it does not tease with false comforts. It is not conducive for lethargic behavior, and the bracing cold air makes insouciance impossible. Then too, the leafless trees and barren fields makes seeing clearer and further. Such seeing and feeling prevents us from burying our thoughts in the darkness and realizing that while we pray for things to be better, hope is not a virtue of wishful thinking.

December offers an opportunity to ponder the meaning of time in a unique way. This happens in the contemplation of memories which are connected to the experiences of Christmas traditions. December memories are special. Most of us have more memories associated with December than the other months. This is somewhat strange because it is a month of bleak and grey days, damp and cold weather, and the darkest time of the year. Yet, it is the month when we feel so full of light and vigor, celebrating with high purpose and confidence, enjoying the comforts of faith and friendship. Memories about Christmas encompass lifetimes: excitement of preparation, trips on buses or trains, going to glowing stores in old downtowns or malls, sending and receiving cards to friends, religious and secular events, giving and receiving gifts, the smiles on the faces of children, the tears of joy in the eyes of adults, the songs, the stories, the movies, the foods, the meats, the candies, the drifting off to afternoon naps, the getting up on cold mornings to new snow, laying beside warm fireplaces, combinations of the above that produce the extraordinary sensation that “peace among men of good will” is possible, even if that thought lasts but a minute.

The fact is that December compels us to think about eternity. There is the sobering truth that more people die in this month than in others. Yet for Christians this is neither a problem nor cause for fear. After all, Christ’s birth is when time was recalibrated and humanity’s access to eternity became possible. Jesus’ birth was in a place, Bethlehem, and at a time, during the reign of Caesar Augustus; but it is the universality and timelessness of the event that we celebrate. That Christmas came to be observed in December is the product of scientific fact and spiritual intuition. The New Testament does not give definite clues about what time of the year it took place. The astronomical and seasonal reality of these being the shortest days and longest nights in the Northern Hemisphere provided ideal reasons for Christians to determine that the birth of the Messiah should be commemorated when creation was renewing itself with the amplification of light. Jesus Christ, the “Sun of Righteousness,” was born to enlighten and leads all humanity forward into the never-setting light of divine peace. December may be the end of the calendar year, but it marks the beginning of humanity’s eternal salvation.

*Fr. Alexander Garklaus*

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 6822 BROADVIEW ROAD; PARMA, OHIO 44134  
 VERY REVEREND ALEXANDER GARKLAVS

# JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1 The Circumcision of our Lord</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
<b>2 28th Sunday after Pentecost</b> Sunday before the Theophany	3	4	<b>5 Eve of the Theophany</b> 6:00 p.m. Vigil  <b>Strict Fast Day</b>	<b>6 Holy Theophany of our Lord</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy; Blessing of Waters	7	<b>8</b>  5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions
<b>9 29th Sunday after Pentecost</b> Afterfeast of the Theophany  Second Sunday Food Sale	10	11	12	13	14	<b>15</b>  5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
<b>16 30th Sunday after Pentecost</b>  Parish Council meeting	17	18	19	20	21	<b>22</b>  5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions
<b>23 31st Sunday after Pentecost</b> New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia	24	25	26	27	28	<b>29</b>  5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
<b>30 32d Sunday after Pentecost</b> Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom	31					