

***For House Blessings
the following order can be used:***

On a clean table, place an icon and a lit candle. Holy Water can be put into a bowl and sprinkled with an evergreen branch or by hand.

Begin by saying:

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Then:

“O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, etc.”

And the Trisagion (Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal....etc. through the “Our Father....”)

While sprinkling Holy Water through the home, the Tropar can be sung or said:

When in Jordan, You were baptized, O Lord,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest,
for the voice of the Father bore witness to You,
calling You His beloved Son,
and the Spirit in the form of a dove,
confirming the truthfulness of His word.
O Christ, our God, having revealed Yourself,
And having enlightened the world, glory to You!

After the blessing of the house, the following prayer may be said:

O Lord, God, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who was baptized in the Jordan by John, and who entered the home of Zacchaeus bringing salvation to his habitation, do You, O Lord, bless this home, keep safe from harm all those who live here (*names can be inserted*), and also (*names*) who are absent. Fulfill their good desires, grant them Your blessings of bodily and spiritual well-being, protection from visible and invisible dangers, and all their petitions which are unto salvation and life eternal. For You are Our God, and to You we ascribe glory and honor, with Your Father, who is without beginning and the Holy, Good and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

VENERATION OF THE CHAINS OF SAINT APOSTLE PETER



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

THE TRINITARIAN

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CHURCH WEBSITE: <http://www.holy-trin.org>
V. REV. ALEXANDER GARKLAWS, 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 11 - VOLUME LIX

TONE 5

JANUARY 16, 2021

THIRTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

***Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and All-glorious Apostle Peter
Bl. Martyrs Speusippus, Eleusippus, and Meleusippus, brothers, their grandmother, Leonilla,
and with them Neon, Turbo, and the woman, Jonilla, in Cappadocia;
Martyr Danax the Reader, in Macedonia;
St. Honoratus, Archbishop of Arles and founder of the Abbey of Lérins;
Maxim of Tot'ma, Fool-for-Christ; Hieromartyr Damascene of Chilandari***

“Without leaving Rome, you appear in our midst in your chains, O you who preside over the apostles of the Lord. Our faith impels us to kiss these chains of yours in spirit, O holy Peter, and we entreat you: By your prayers, beg Christ, our God, to grant us His great mercy.”
Troparion, Tone IV

“You appeared as a bright star announcing Christ with your radiance, which is repulsive to this world, O Martyr Danax. Extinguishing the allure of false gods, you enlighten the faithful, always interceding for us all.”

Kontakion, Tone II

“Having served God blamelessly in the priesthood, you chose foolishness in the midst of worldly vanity; you took up the Cross and followed Christ with unswerving will and love. Forsaking earthly things, you received heavenly things. O Blessed Maxim our Father, entreat Christ God to preserve the city of Tot'ma unharmed, and that our souls may be saved.”
Kontakion, Tone IV

TODAY'S EPISTLE: COLOSSIANS 3:12-16

TODAY'S GOSPEL: LUKE 18:18-27

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Today, January 16
Saturday, January 22

Prayers for the Installation of Parish Council Members
5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, January 17
Tuesday, January 18

Wednesday, January 19
Thursday, January 20
Friday, January 21

Saturday, January 22

Hebrews 13:17-21

Hebrews 11:17-23,27-31

Hebrews 12:25-26, 13:22-25

James 1:1-18

Hebrews 13:17-21

James 1:19-27

James 2:1-13

Colossians 1:3-6

Luke 6:17-23

Mark 8:11-21

Mark 8:22-26

Mark 8:30-34

Luke 6:17-23

Mark 9:10-16

Mark 9:33-41

Luke 14:1-11

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY:

16, TODAY

Installation of Parish Council; Parish Council meeting
6:00 p.m. Prayers for the Unborn at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
Cooking for St. Herman's House

24, Monday

PARISH COUNCIL:

New members of our Parish Council will take their oath of office following the Divine Liturgy today:

Ted Bellack MaryAnn Bobulsky Marjorie Evanoff
Barry Gluntz Jared Griebel Jason Howe
Robert Kapitan Stephanie McNeely Michael Sabat
Rebecca Spak Frank Stoyka Paula Svilar

May God bless and guide them!

The new Council will meet today following Coffee Hour.

HOLY WATER:

The Holy Water that was blessed on Theophany has remained in the font in the church vestibule for people to drink and to take in bottles for home use.

2022 CALENDARS:

Church calendars for this new year are now available in the vestibule.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Judy Howe in blessed memory of Dave Howe.

SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY:

ZOE for Life! and St. Sava Cathedral will offer a prayer service for the unborn this evening, January 16, at 6:00 p.m.; 6306 Broadview Rd. His Grace Bishop Irinej of the Serbian Orthodox Church is the Guest Speaker.

PLAN AHEAD!

Rummage Sale dates are July 28, 29, and 30, 2022. Please start saving items to donate. Just as last year, everything should be in good condition; no clothes, shoes, or upholstered furniture. Let's make this sale another great sale! Thank you.

COFFEE HOUR:

The Coffee Hour today is donated by the Howe Family.

2022 COVERS:

If you would like to make an offering for Trinitarians in 2022, there is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Or call Janene at the church office on Monday or Thursday mornings (216-524-4859) to select a date.

VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS CHAINS OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PETER

In about the year 42, on the orders of Herod Agrippa, the Apostle Peter was thrown into prison for preaching about Christ the Savior. In prison he was held secure by two iron chains. During the night before his trial, an angel of the Lord removed these chains from the Apostle Peter and led him out from the prison (Acts 12:1-11).

Christians who learned of the miracle took the chains and kept them as precious keepsakes. For three centuries, the chains were kept in Jerusalem, and those who were afflicted with illness and approached them with faith received healing. Patriarch Juvenal (July 2) presented the chains to Eudokia, wife of the emperor Theodosius the Younger, and she in turn transferred them from Jerusalem to Constantinople in either the year 437 or 439.

Eudokia sent one chain to Rome to her daughter Eudoxia (the wife of Valentinian), who built a church on the Esquiline hill dedicated to the Apostle Peter and placed the chain in it. There were other chains in Rome, with which the Apostle Peter was shackled before his martyrdom under the emperor Nero. These were also placed in the church.

On January 16, the chains of Saint Peter are brought out for public veneration.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 11 – Volume LIX

January 16, 2022

HOUSE BLESSING AT THEOPHANY

When the month of January comes around, people think about various things: whether or not their New Year's resolutions were really that important, or about whether or not it will be a snowy month; and if they're young, hoping that school days will be cancelled; or if they are skiers, whether or not they'll get some good skiing done; or perhaps they have thought about going to Florida for a few weeks; or about any number of other things. For Orthodox priests, the month of January brings thoughts about "House Blessings." If you put a couple of priests in a room together, they would engage in a spirited conversation about their experiences, with heroic accounts of blessing a hundred homes in a day, or driving through a white-out snowstorm on an unmarked back road, or about intriguing stories of older people who told tales of coming to America before World War I, or about children and pets who become so excited with the visit of a priest that they literally jumped up and down, or about other colorful and memorable things that happened.

In the course of an Orthodox priest's lifetime, there is nothing else quite like the tradition of House Blessings! It became a formal pastoral custom in recent times, but the tradition is an ancient one. The prayer of the Great Blessing of Water indicates that this Holy Water will be used for "cleansing of souls and bodies, unto healing of passions and unto the sanctification of homes." Blessing homes is simply a natural extension of the ritual of sanctification that takes place in the church. In times past, following the church services, priests would walk throughout the neighborhood to the surrounding houses. In my first parish in Buffalo, I actually did walk around the couple blocks to bless about a dozen homes. As nowadays parishioners live some distance from the church, car travel is necessary. And gone are the days when somebody was always at home, requiring in-advance planning between priest and parishioners.

The tradition of House Blessing was diminishing even before Covid. Most priests will tell you that it was never easy and it was not about getting a bit of extra cash. Back in the 1950's and 1960's, when priests were receiving miniscule salaries without any pension plans, house blessings were often a source of some supplemental income. But even then the real purpose was pastoral and not pragmatic. For a priest to be with parishioners at their homes, to bless their dwellings, to share in fellowship and conversation is a beautiful and meaningful spiritual experience. I always found such experiences rewarding and treasure memories of some really memorable visitations.

Because of the current Covid surge, I am not going "on the road" this year, but parishioners with special requests can call to arrange a blessing. In fact, however, house blessing does not require that it be done by a priest. It is easy enough to do, taking only ten minutes, if that. What a great way for a family to get together for a brief and inspiring spiritual experience. Parishioners can help themselves to the recently-blessed Holy Water, which will remain in the vestibule for another week. We are printing a brief "House Blessing Service" on the end page of *The Trinitarian*.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus