

MARTYR MATRONA OF THESSALONICA

The Holy Martyr Matrona suffered in the third or fourth century. She was a slave of the Jewish woman Pautila, wife of one of the military commanders of Thessalonica. Pautila constantly mocked her slave for her faith in Christ, and tried to convert her to Judaism. St. Matrona, who believed in Christ from her youth, still prayed to the Savior Christ and secretly went to church, unbeknownst to her vengeful mistress.

Pautila, learning that St. Matrona had been to church, asked, "Why won't you come to our synagogue, instead of attending the Christian church?" St. Matrona boldly answered, "Because God is present in the Christian church, but He has departed from the Jewish synagogue." Pautila went into a rage and mercilessly beat St. Matrona, tied her up, and shut her in a dark closet. In the morning, Pautila discovered that St. Matrona had been freed of her bonds by an unknown Power.

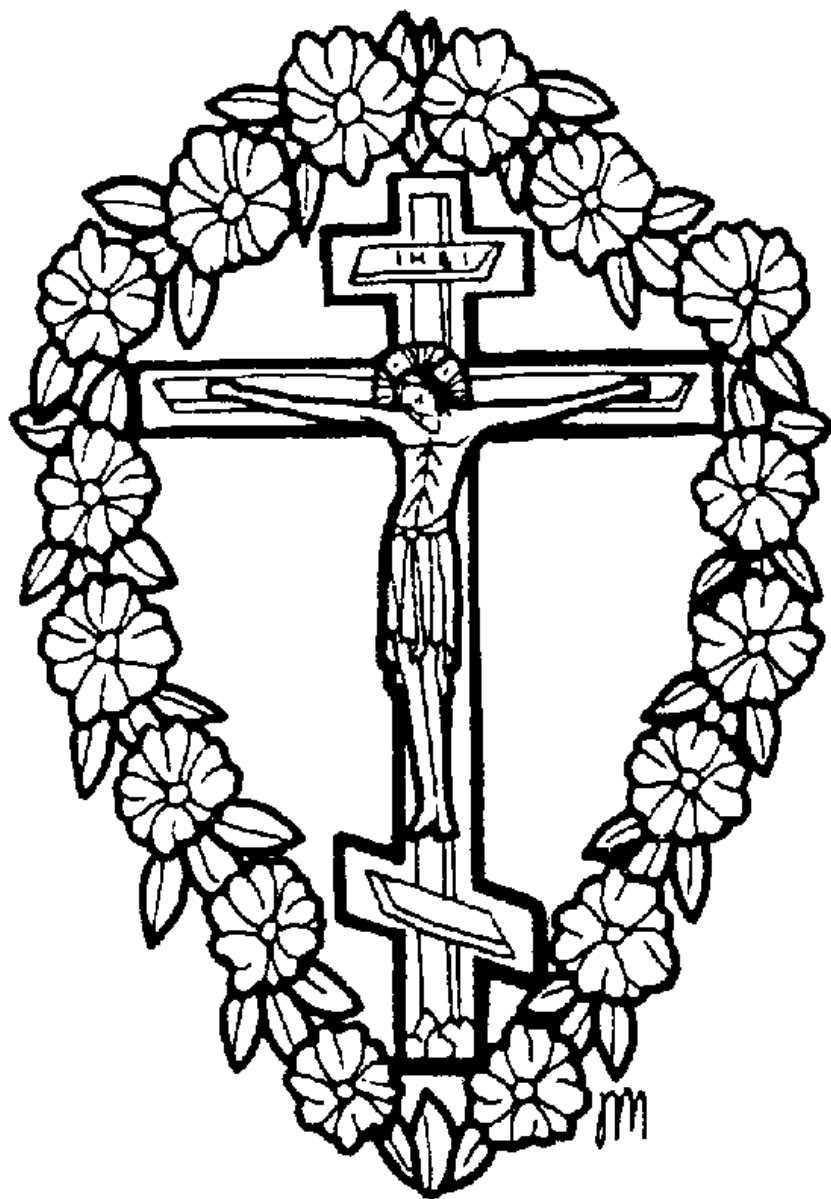
In a rage, Pautila beat the martyr almost to death, then bound her even more tightly and locked her in the closet. The door was sealed so that no one could help the sufferer. The holy martyr remained there for four days without food or water, and when Pautila opened the door, she again found St. Matrona free of her bonds, and standing at prayer.

Pautila flogged the holy martyr and left the skin hanging in strips from her body. The fierce woman locked her in the closet again, where St. Matrona gave up her spirit to God.

Pautila had the martyr's body thrown from the roof of her house. Christians took up the much-suffered body and buried it. Later, Bishop Alexander of Thessalonica built a church dedicated to the holy martyr. Her relics, glorified by many miracles, were placed in this church.

The judgment of God soon overtook the evil Pautila. Standing on the roof at the very place where the body of St. Matrona had been thrown, she stumbled and fell to the pavement below.

www.oca.org



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 21 - VOLUME LIX

TONE 7

MARCH 27, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Veneration of the Cross

Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica;

Martyrs Manuel and Theodosius;

Ven. John the Clairvoyant, Anchorite of Egypt;

The "Glykophylousa" and the "Akathist" Icons of the Most-Holy Theotokos on Mt. Athos

"Today the precious Cross is placed before us. In worship let us fall before it and rejoice in faith. With love let us greet Him who freely gave His life thereon, that He may find us worthy of adoring His passion and reaching the resurrection, free of condemnation."

Exapostilarion, Tone II

"With great love, the virgin martyr, Matrona, cries out to her Lord, offering Him the martyrdom she endured for Him. As by baptism she was buried with Him that she might rise with Him, so, by her sufferings, she died to live in Him. Having given Christ the pure oblation of her life, she now reigns with Him in glory. By her prayers, O Christ, in Your mercy save our souls."

Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY'S EPISTLE: HEBREWS 4:14-5:6

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MARK 8:34-9:1

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Wednesday, March 30

6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, April 2

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, March 28

Isaiah 14:24-32

Genesis 8:21-9:7

Proverbs 11:19-12:6

Tuesday, March 29

Isaiah 25:1-9

Genesis 9:8-17

Proverbs 12:8-22

Wednesday, March 30

Isaiah 26:21-27:9

Genesis 9:18-10:1

Proverbs 12:23-13:9

Thursday, March 31

Isaiah 28:14-22

Genesis 10:32-11:9

Proverbs 13:19-14:6

(St. Innocent)

Hebrews 7:26-8:2

John 10:9-16

Friday, April 1

Isaiah 29:13-23

Genesis 12:1-7

Proverbs 14:15-26

Saturday, April 2

Hebrews 6:9-12

Mark 7:31-37

(Departed)

I Corinthians 15:47-57

John 5:24-30

COMING EVENTS

MARCH:

27, TODAY	Lenten Brunch in honor of Fr. Alexander Garklavs
28, Monday	Cooking for St. Herman's House
30, Wednesday	Soup Supper following Presanctified Liturgy

APRIL:

1, Friday	10:00 a.m. HTOC Spring Cleaning
6, Wednesday	Soup Supper following Presanctified Liturgy
10, Sunday	Parish Council meeting
	5:00 p.m. Holy Unction Service in Mogadore

LENTEN CONFESSIONS:

Confessions for the week of March 27 will be: Wednesday, March 30, 4:30-6:00 p.m.; and Saturday, April 2, 4:00-5:00 p.m., and after Vespers. Call Father Alexander if you have any questions.

HOLY UNCTION SERVICE:

This year's mission service sponsored by the Cleveland Deanery will be a Holy Unction service on Sunday, April 10, at 5:00 p.m. St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore will host, and Cleveland and Akron area clergy will be in attendance.

A Lenten Meal will follow the service. In order to prepare, the parishioners of St. Nicholas are asking parishes to provide an approximate count of attendees. If you plan to go, please call the HTOC office and leave a message. 216-524-4859

HONORING FATHER ALEXANDER:

The 40th Anniversary of Fr. Alexander's ordination into the priesthood was on Annunciation, March 25. There is a free-will offering Lenten Brunch following Divine Liturgy today to celebrate this blessed event. All are welcome!

SPRING CLEANING:

We're cleaning our church for Pascha! Join us on Friday, April 1, at 10:00 a.m. There are jobs for everyone, regardless of skill level! Bring cleaning supplies if you can; if not, there will be supplies available. Please donate any time that you can. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by the Bellack Family.

Do not be offended if anyone speaks or behaves insincerely to you,
for do yourself always speak and behave sincerely with others?

Are you not often hypocritical?

Do you always converse sincerely, not hypocritically with God in prayer?
Do not your lips often pronounce the words of truth, while your heart lies?

Do you walk before God in sincerity, in simplicity?

If you yourself are not right before God and men,
if you are false and hypocritical,

then do not be angry if others behave insincerely and hypocritically towards you.

"Wherewithal a man sinneth, by the same also shall he be punished." (Wisdom 11:16)

Be indulgent to others in that in which you yourself sin.

St. John of Kronstadt

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, 3/20/2022	\$ 4311.00
BUILDING FUND	1625.00
CANDLES	129.00
UKRAINIAN RELIEF	1680.00
COFFEE HOUR, 3/6 AND 3/13/22	82.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 21 – Volume LIX

March 27, 2022

**PASTORAL THOUGHTS ABOUT GREAT LENT –
THE HOLY CROSS**

*“O mighty Cross of the Lord, show yourself: show me the divine vision
of your beauty, and grant me worthily to venerate you. For I speak to you and
embrace you as if you were alive!”*

(From the Matins Service – 3rd Sunday of Great Lent)

The Third Sunday of Lent brings us to the middle of our spiritual journey: the Veneration of the Holy Cross. This commemoration is similar to the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14); and like that feast, it has an interesting origin. The Exaltation is in honor of the discovery of the Cross in Jerusalem by St. Helen early in the 4th century. For three centuries it was the main object of veneration in the Holy Sepulcher. Early in the 7th century the Persian armies attacked Jerusalem and confiscated the Holy Cross. The byzantine Emperor Heraclius fought and overcame the Persians, recaptured the Holy Cross and triumphantly returned it to Jerusalem in March, 630. As the finding of the Cross by St. Helen was the basis of the Feast of the Exaltation in September, the return of the Cross to Jerusalem was also seen as a decisive moment that should be commemorated. Because it occurred during a penitential season, the event could not be properly celebrated on weekdays and so was designated for observance on the Third Sunday of Great Lent.

The history is fascinating, but it has no bearing on the liturgical hymns of this Feast. All those hymns emphasize the spiritual qualities of the Holy Cross. Rather than focus on past history, the Church’s hymnography directs our attention to the impact of the Cross on our lives. This is accomplished by relating the real Cross on which Jesus died to the Cross that is venerated in Church. Between those two “Crosses” is our “cross,” the one that each of us must bear. As we venerate, kiss, and pray before the Cross in our Church, it is as if we are in the presence of the miraculous “true Cross” on which Christ was crucified. It is, in a way, a “sacramental experience,” as physical aspects of the Cross become subjective, “spiritual” qualities. The veneration ritual is a feature of Christian piety, an observance of ancient tradition; but the spiritual significance, in real place and time, enables us to “see the beauty of the Cross as if in divine vision.”

The universality of the Holy Cross cannot be measured. Its miraculous and life-affirming powers extend throughout creation. In particular, for every true Christian, the Cross is intimately personal, an identifying mark and the consummate goal of spiritual life. This is directly conveyed in this Sunday’s Gospel: Jesus said to His disciples, “If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me” (Mark 8:34). When our Lord spoke this way, before His suffering and crucifixion, it confused the disciples, who saw no reason to attach themselves to an instrument of horrific death. After the Resurrection and Pentecost, they came to understand the “glory” of the Cross, through which “joy came into the world!” The Cross is the key to the Resurrection, making it possible for us to bear our crosses here and now, in preparation for life with our Resurrected Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD; PARMA, OHIO 44134
VERY REVEREND ALEXANDER GARKLAVS

APRIL 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10:00 a.m. HTOC Spring Cleaning	2 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
3 4th Sunday of Great Lent St. John Climacus	4	5	6 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy Soup Supper	7	8 5:00 p.m. Akathist	9 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
10 5th Sunday of Great Lent St Mary of Egypt Parish Council meeting 5:00 p.m. Holy Unction Service in Magadore	11	12	13 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy Soup Supper	14	15 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy	16 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Vigil Lazarus Saturday
17 Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem 5:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins	18 Great and Holy Monday 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins	19 Great and Holy Tuesday 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy	20 Great and Holy Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Matins with Anointing	21 Great and Holy Thursday 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Matins with 12 Passion Gospels	22 Great and Holy Friday 9:00 a.m. Royal Hours 2:30 p.m. Vespers with Entombment 6:30 p.m. Matins	23 Great and Holy Saturday Noon—Divine Liturgy Blessing of Baskets 11:00 p.m. Nocturnes, Paschal Matins, Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Baskets
24 Holy Pascha Noon Paschal Matins	25 Bright Monday 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy THIS	26 IS A	27 FAST	28 FREE	29 WEEK	30 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers