

MARTYR TERENCE AND 40 OTHERS BEHEADED AT CARTHAGE

The Holy Martyr Terence and his companions suffered under the emperor Decius (249-251). The emperor issued an edict commanding all subjects to offer sacrifice to the pagan idols. When the governor of Africa, Fortunianus, received this edict, he gathered the people into the city square, set out cruel instruments of torture and declared that everyone had to offer the sacrifice to the idols. Many were afraid and complied. However, St. Terence and 40 other Christians bravely affirmed their faith in the Savior and ridiculed the idols. Fortunianus was amazed at their boldness and asked how they as rational people could confess as God One Whom the Jews crucified as a malefactor. St. Terence answered that their belief was in the Savior, Who was voluntarily crucified and rose on the third day. Fortunianus saw that Terence inspired the others so he ordered Terence isolated in prison with Africanus, Maximus and Pompeius.

Then he tortured the other companions, including Zeno, Alexander and Theodore. They were burned with red-hot irons, and salt and vinegar were applied to their wounds; they were raked with iron claws, but they did not weaken in their confession of Christ. Fortunianus led them into the pagan temple and urged them to offer sacrifice to the idols. Instead, they cried out, "O Almighty God, Who once sent down fire on Sodom for its iniquity, destroy this impious temple of idolatry." The idols fell down with a crash, and then the temple lay in ruins. The enraged governor gave orders to execute them; and the martyrs, glorifying God, bowed their necks beneath the executioner's sword.

After executing these 36 martyrs, Fortunianus summoned Terence, Maximus, Africanus and Pompeius; he showed them the martyrs' bodies and again urged them to offer sacrifice to the idols. They refused. The governor put heavy chains on them and ordered them starved to death. But by night, an angel of the Lord removed the chains and fed them. In the morning, the guards found the saints cheerful and strong. So Fortunianus ordered snakes and all kinds of poisonous creatures into the prison. The guards looked in and saw the martyrs unharmed and praying, with snakes harmless at their feet. When the guards opened the cell door, the snakes bit them.

Furiously, Fortunianus had the saints beheaded. Christians took up their holy bodies and buried them with reverence.

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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 23 - VOLUME LIX

TONE 1

APRIL 10, 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

St. Mary of Egypt

*Martyrs Terence, Pompeius, Africanus, Maximus, Zeno,
Alexander, Theodore, Macarius, and 33 others, beheaded at Carthage;
Martyrs Jacob the Presbyter, and Azadanus and Abdicius the Deacons, of Persia*

“Your handmaiden, Mary, rejected the cares of this world as a burden, O Christ, preferring to renew her spirit by mastering her body through discipline and self-control. For this, You gave her a share in the glory of heaven. By her prayers, and those of the Theotokos, O Savior, enlighten us and save us.”

Exapostilarion, Tone III

“A chosen army of athletes from Africa contested nobly for the faith. They were of one mind and heart and of one accord in their struggles. Now they intercede that we all may be saved.”

Troparion, Tone IV

“O God of our Fathers, always act with kindness towards us; take not Your mercy from us, but guide our lives in peace, through the prayers of Saints Jacob, Azadanus, and Abdicius.”

Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY’S EPISTLE: HEBREWS 9:11-14
GALATIANS 3:23-29

TODAY’S GOSPEL: MARK 10:32-45
LUKE 7:36-50

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Today, April 10	5:00 p.m. Holy Unction Service at St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore
Wednesday, April 13	6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy
Friday, April 15	9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday, April 16	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - Lazarus Saturday 5:00 p.m. Vigil

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, April 11	Isaiah 48:17-49:4	Genesis 27:1-41	Proverbs 19:16-25
Tuesday, April 12	Isaiah 49:6-10	Genesis 31:3-16	Proverbs 21:3-21
Wednesday, April 13	Isaiah 58:1-11	Genesis 43:26-31; 45:1-16	Proverbs 21:23-22:4
Thursday, April 14	Isaiah 65:8-16	Genesis 46:1-7	Proverbs 23:15-24:5
Friday, April 15	Isaiah 66:10-24	Genesis 49:33-50:26	Proverbs 31:8-31
Saturday, April 16	Hebrews 12:28-13:8	John 11:1-45	

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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COMING EVENTS

APRIL:

10, TODAY Parish Council meeting
5:00 p.m. Holy Unction Service in Mogadore
13, Wednesday Soup Supper following Presanctified Liturgy

MAY:

6-7 Retreat at St. Matthew Church
14, Saturday Noon EOWG Pan-Orthodox Luncheon
22, Sunday 4:00 p.m. IOCC Anniversary Banquet

LENTEN CONFESSIONS:

Confessions for the week of April 10 will be: Wednesday, April 13, 4:30-6:00 p.m.; Friday, April 15, 8:00-9:00 a.m.; and Saturday, April 16, 8:30-9:00 a.m., 4:00-5:00 p.m., and after Vigil. 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 this evening, at 5:00 p.m. St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore will host, and Cleveland and Akron area clergy will be in attendance.

KEEPING WATCH AT THE TOMB:

There is a sign-up sheet at the candle counter if you can help to keep watch over the Shroud on Holy Friday and Holy Saturday.

RETREAT:

St. Matthew Church is hosting a retreat on May 6-7; the guest speaker is Fr. Stephen Freeman, author of Everywhere Present, Christianity In A One-Story Universe. Times are 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday, and 9:30-4:00 on Saturday with lunch provided between the Saturday sessions. Admission is a free-will offering. Further details are in the Fellowship Hall.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Michael and Lois Pilat.

LA COUPOLE:

Come in and browse to see the assortment of icons, Pascha cards, egg wraps and pysanky. Books for children are perfect for Easter baskets!

SAVE THE DATE!

On Sunday, June 19, there will be a retirement luncheon for Fr. Alexander at St. Michael's Woodside. More details will be posted here as the date nears.

PASCHA FLOWERS:

Your contribution towards the flowers that will adorn our church for Pascha are greatly appreciated. Please use the special envelope in your box.

IOCC BANQUET:

The 30th Anniversary Banquet of the IOCC is Sunday, May 22, at St. Sava Church in Broadview Hts. Doors open at 4:00, with dinner at 5:00. Your support will help families in the U.S., as well as Ukraine, Greece, Syria and Ethiopia. Tickets are \$50; see Diane Hastings or Paula Svilar. Details are in the Hall.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by the Bellack Family.

COFFEE HOUR:

Our refreshments today are donated by Diane Hastings and MaryAnn Bobulsky.

*** Donors are needed for NEXT Sunday, April 17, as well as May 22 and May 29.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, 4/3/2022	\$ 3324.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	25.00
BUILDING FUND	369.00
CANDLES	189.00
PASCHA FLOWERS	75.00
DEANERY COLLECTION	10.00
ROOF FUND	260.00
COFFEE HOUR, 3/27/22	236.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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**PASTORAL THOUGHTS ABOUT GREAT LENT –
PURITY OF HEART**

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” (Matthew 5:8)

To be pure in heart is the goal of every Christian for a simple reason – it is that for which we are created. Purity is what Adam and Eve lived in and lived for in Eden. They were created to be innocent and pure, sinless, free from guilt, “naked and not ashamed” (Genesis 2:25). The loss of purity came with the partaking of the forbidden fruit. Yet even after the Fall, purity remained the desired goal of our state of being. It is the condition of innocence in children, about which Jesus says, “such is the kingdom of heaven” (Mark 10:14). When we are baptized, purity of heart is confirmed sacramentally by the white robe with which we are clad, becoming our “garment of salvation.” In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that blessed are the pure in heart, who “shall see God.”

About purity of the heart, Christianity offers many profound teachings, inspired writings and lives of saints. St. Mary of Egypt, who is specially honored today, on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, is only one of many such saints who exemplify how the human heart, with sinful habits and passions, is shaken by conscience to repent, recover and come to a change of life. In St. Mary’s case, the recovery of purity of heart came after her recognition of the destructive powers of lust. But purity and impurity are more than about sex. Patience, forgiveness, righteousness and love abide in pure hearts; as anger, vengeance, calumny and hatred are traits of the impure heart. In his “Ladder of Divine Ascent,” St. John Climacus describes the pure heart as chastity unaffected by all passions, and as a discerning calmness in all situations, where a person is completely free from feelings of desire, dread or fear upon encountering any living thing.

Alas, keeping hearts pure is so difficult. A cruel fact of life is that diminishment and disappearance of purity begins in childhood. Great harm happens when children become exposed to obscenity, filthiness, anger, wickedness, foul language, etc. In the life that follows, the thin wall between decency and depravity is constantly demolished, and a victimized person begins to victimize others. To overcome spiritual and moral decrepitude takes effort. The task is augmented because the world is held in the grips of “rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12). “But thanks be to God, Who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Corinthians 15:57).

Purifying our hearts is achieved because “with God all things are possible.” One method helping us to do so is the experience of Great Lent. It is the time during which we can reassess our spiritual life and engage in a period of concerted recovery of virtues, among which purity is central. Throughout Lent, the Church’s hymns lay out the program for success: “Shining with the radiance of Christ’s holy commandments, with the brightness of love and the splendor of prayer, with the purity of holiness and the strength of good courage, we hasten to the Holy Resurrection.” When we finally come to Easter, we greet the Feast by singing: “Let us purify our senses, and so we shall see Christ, shining in the light of the Resurrection.” The miracle that is Pascha is that the soothing spiritual balm of Christ’s love and joy purifies even hard, sinful hearts.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus