

HIEROMARTYR BABYLAS, BISHOP OF ANTIOCH, AND THOSE WITH HIM

The Hieromartyr Babylas and with him the 3 youths Urban, Prilidian, Epolonius and their mother Christodoula, died as martyrs under the emperor Decius (249-251). During his stay in their city of Antioch, the emperor arranged for a large festival in honor of the pagan gods. Babylas, the holy and God-fearing Bishop of Antioch, was serving the Divine Liturgy in church. Decius was curious and decided to enter. But the bishop blocked his path, unwilling to permit impiety in the temple of God. The emperor wanted to take revenge on the saint immediately, but he feared the large throng of Christians might riot.

The next day, the angry emperor ordered the church be set on fire and the bishop brought before him. Decius asked why he had been insulted by being forbidden entrance into the church. The holy bishop answered, "Anyone who would rise up against God and want to desecrate His sanctuary is not worthy of respect, but has become the enemy of the Lord."

Decius declared that Babylas must worship the idols or face execution. The bishop remained steadfast in his faith. Decius ordered him chained and led through the city in disgrace. But Babylas replied, "Emperor, these chains are as venerable for me as your imperial crown is for you. For me, suffering for Christ is as desirable as the imperial power is for you. Death for the Immortal King is as precious to me as your life is to you."

At the trial with Bishop Babylas were 3 young brothers, who did not forsake him even in this most difficult moment. Seeing them, the emperor asked, "Who are these children?" The saint replied, "These are my spiritual children, and I have raised them in piety, I have given them an education, cultivated them with guidance and here before you in a small body are these great young men and perfect Christians. Test them and see."

The emperor tried all ways to entice the youths and their mother to renounce Christ, but in vain. They were then whipped and tortured. He told the bishop that the children had renounced Christ, but Babylas did not believe the lie. Then Decius commanded all the martyrs be tied to a tree and burned with fire. Seeing the stoic bravery of the saints, the emperor finally condemned them to be beheaded with the sword.



**THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY
THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY**
Thursday, September 8

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD
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Divine Liturgy on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 44 - VOLUME LIX

TONE 3

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Hieromartyr Babylas, Bishop of Antioch, and with him Martyrs Urban, Prilidian, and Epolonius;
and their mother, Christodula;*

*Holy Prophet and Godseer Moses; Martyr Hermione, daughter of St. Philip the Deacon;
Martyr Babylas of Nicomedia, and with him 84 children;*

*Martyrs Theodore, Mianus, Julian, Kion, and Centurionus, of Nicomedia;
Uncovering of the Relics of St. Joasaph, Bishop of Belgorod;
The Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos "The UNBURNT BUSH"*

“By choosing the apostles’ way of life, you succeeded to their throne. Inspired by God, you found the way to divine contemplation through the practice of virtue, and after teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the faith to the very shedding of your blood. O holy father, Babylas, entreat the Lord to save our souls.”
Troparion, Tone IV

THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY *Thursday, September 8*

“Of old, the prophet foresaw the virgin as the gate through which God alone would pass. And indeed, the Lord has passed through her, the Mighty One of Israel has come forth from her, yet He left the seal of her virginity unbroken, while rescuing our life from corruption.”

Jerusalem Troparion, Tone II

TODAY’S EPISTLE: I CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

TODAY’S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 19:16-26

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Today, September 4	Prayer Service for the beginning of the school year
Tuesday, September 7	6:00 p.m. Vigil
Wednesday, September 8	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - The Nativity of the Theotokos
Saturday, September 10	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are very glad you have come to worship the Holy Trinity with us this morning! Please participate in the services at your comfort level. Our greeters will kindly assist you with whatever questions or needs you may have. The communion of Christ’s Body and Blood is reserved for practicing Orthodox Christians. All are invited to come forward at the end of the service to receive the blessed bread. Please stay after the Divine Liturgy for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall so we can get to know you better!

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, September 5	II Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 3:6-12
Tuesday, September 6	II Corinthians 8:16-9:5	Mark 3:13-19
Wednesday, September 7	II Corinthians 9:12-10:7	Mark 3:19-27
	II Corinthians 10:7-18	Mark 3:28-35
Thursday, September 8	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28
Friday, September 9	II Corinthians 11:5-21	Mark 4:1-9
Saturday, September 10	I Corinthians 2:6-9	Matthew 10:37-11:1
		Matthew 22:15-22

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

SEPTEMBER:

- 10, Saturday 10:00 a.m. EOWG meeting at St. Matthew’s Church; North Royalton
- 11, Sunday Food Sale
- 26, Monday Cooking for St. Herman’s House
- 28, Wednesday Delivering dinner to St. Herman’s House

NEW SCHOOL YEAR:

At the end of the Liturgy today we will offer a prayer for all students and teachers as we begin the new school year. We invite all who are beginning a new academic year (grade school students, college students, teachers, school secretaries, etc.) to come forward for a blessing.

CORRECTION TO CALENDAR:

Please note: The services listed on the calendar published last week for Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 will not be held at HTOC, as the enthronement of His Grace Bishop Daniel in Chicago is scheduled that weekend.

CHURCH SCHOOL:

We are preparing our classrooms for the beginning of Church School on October 2. We need hands to clear rooms, clean and generally make the classrooms ready. Paula Svilar has volunteered to take on the blessed task of Church School Coordinator. Questions may be directed to her. Contact Paula at paulasvilar@gmail.com ; or phone 216-372-1862.

A flier is attached with details about the school year. We will celebrate Opening Day with an Ice Cream Social! Please register your children by September 18.

NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS:

This week we celebrate the Nativity of the Theotokos, one of the 12 Great Feasts of the Church year. We will offer Vigil at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7 and Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 8. Blessed feast to all!

FOOD SALE:

We will hold a Food Sale on Sunday, September 11. Please cook or bake and offer your favorite foods for this fundraiser. Plan to shop that morning after the Divine Liturgy!

EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN’S GUILD:

The EOWG is holding their annual membership drive. Please consider joining. If you have any questions about the organization, see Joanne Stoyka. Joanne also has membership forms.

The first meeting of the season is Saturday, Sept. 10, 10:00 a.m., at St. Matthew’s Church on Albion Road.

TRINITARIAN COVERS & COFFEE HOUR:

Our covers are offered today and our refreshments are hosted by the Stoyka Family, celebrating Frank and Joanne’s 15th Anniversary.

ENTHRONEMENT OF BISHOP DANIEL

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has set the date for the enthronement of His Grace Bishop Daniel of Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest for Saturday, October 1, 2022, the Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos.

Everyone is invited! All diocesan clergy are encouraged to attend, and parishes are welcome to send at least one lay representative as well. The Enthronement has been scheduled for a Saturday so that priests who are traveling can return to their parishes for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy. Given the importance of the Enthronement of a new bishop in the life of our diocese, His Grace has blessed parishes to cancel Vespers / Vigil services on Saturday evening or to provide for a reader service.

GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

	8/21	8/28
REGULAR COLLECTION	\$ 3,316.00	\$2,383.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	5.00	15.00
BUILDING FUND	680.00	115.00
CANDLES	194.00	146.00
FOR ALTAR CANDLES AND BURNERS	203.64	
ROOF REPAIRS	20.00	5.00
IN MEMORY OF MARY ANN MOGA		25.00
FROM ST. POKROVA FOR PARKING LOT	1000.00	
COFFEE HOUR	8/14 43.00	8/21 290.00

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW PRIEST - PART III

FAMILY BEGINNINGS & A GROWING SENSE OF MISSION

As I previously shared, music has been a major part of my life. And it was largely through music that I really came to know my love and best friend, Jennifer. We both went to Butler University and had known of each other in different ways during those years. Eventually we were in a saxophone quartet together our senior year, spending many hours sitting next to each other in rehearsal. This closeness swelled into a spring of love between us by the end of our final semester. Yet we quickly saw our paths parting. Jen had enlisted in the Peace Corps and was being sent to Ukraine to teach English. I was off to pursue a bit more education. Somehow the Lord kept a longing in us, and we made a long-distance relationship work over the next two years, writing letters nearly every day and making international phone calls every weekend. The years apart actually seemed to give us a deeper appreciation and a treasured understanding of each other.

Jen's mission with the Peace Corps in a small town in central Ukraine was just one stop on the journey of missions and international service in which our family has been involved. In my experience growing up as an Evangelical Protestant Christian, I remember missionaries coming over to my house to share their experiences. And some of my friends from church were part of families that had been missionaries. In my early 20's I attended a megachurch that succeeded in having the majority of its budget go to missions. I also worked a number of years for a Baptist missions organization.

All these experiences built in me a foundation of taking seriously Christ's final words to His disciples in Matthew 28. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you." A dear priest and mentor of mine pointed out that the command of Christ in these words is not "go," but "make disciples." In fact, the verb for "go" in the Greek is probably better translated as "you are going." How interesting that we see in the Greek text that we as Christ's disciples are expected to be going out into the world! As Christians having experienced real encounters of being filled by God's love and changed by that love, it's natural for us to want to *be going* and sharing the Good News that tops all other good news.

This best of news is that Christ has conquered His enemies who from the beginning throw us down and seek to destroy us: namely, the devil, sin, and death. And therefore a path is opened up for us even now to begin experiencing never-ending joy, eternal life, and endless growth into becoming perfectly who God made each of us to be. Christ told His disciples in Acts 1:8 that they would be His witnesses of these things in Jerusalem (the local city), Judea (their region), Samaria (the neighboring region filled with people the Jews disliked), and the ends of the earth. Our call as disciples of Christ is the same: how are we being witnesses of God's love and supporting mission in our city, our region, and our world? It's a question that we as individuals and as a parish need to keep seriously considering.

If it hadn't been for dedicated Christians and mission-minded local churches that financially supported us with monthly gifts and prayed for us regularly, our family would not have had the opportunity to serve as missionaries and build connections with so many people in the world with the desire to see Christ establish His Church and His Kingdom more fully in the earth.

Next week I will wrap up this introduction to my family and me (which is turning out to be too long, I think!), exploring briefly our continued years of missionary service.

Fr. Christopher Moore