

Hieromartyr Cyprian, Virgin-Martyr Justina, and Martyr Theoctistus, of Nicomedia

St. Cyprian, a native of Antioch, was raised by misguided parents who dedicated him to the service of pagan gods. Once he attained eminent wisdom in pagan philosophy and the sorcerer's craft, he was initiated into the pagan priesthood. He amazed people with his ability to cast spells, to summon pestilence and plagues, and to conjure up the dead. He brought many people to ruin, teaching them to serve the demons and to cast magic spells. He killed many with his spells and potions, and he murdered people as sacrifices to gods.

The holy virgin Justina also lived in Antioch. After turning her parents away from the error of paganism and leading them to faith in Christ, she dedicated herself to the Heavenly Bridegroom and spent her time in fasting and prayer. When the young man Aglaidas proposed marriage, Justina refused; she wished to remain a virgin. Aglaidas sought Cyprian's help, who said he would arrange for Justina's heart to be filled with lust for Aglaidas. But no matter what Cyprian tried, the Saint overcame all the wiles of the devil by fasting and prayer.

Enraged, Cyprian sent down pestilence and plague upon Justina's family and the entire city. Word spread that the city was being punished because Justina would not wed Aglaidas. Several people went to her and demanded that she marry Aglaidas so the afflictions would end. Justina calmed them and prayed to God; the power of the demons was destroyed, and everyone was healed.

People praised Christ and mocked Cyprian. He came to his senses and realized he had been corrupted. He threw all of his books into flames, went into the church and repented. By his efforts to follow righteousness, he made up for his 30 years of service to Satan. He was baptized, then tonsured a reader, then subdeacon, then deacon. After a year he was ordained a priest, and later elevated to bishop. He converted so many pagans to Christ that in his diocese no one was left to sacrifice to idols, and the pagan temples fell into disuse. St. Justina withdrew to a monastery and was chosen as its Superior.

During the persecution against Christians under the Emperor Diocletian, Bishop Cyprian and St. Justina were arrested, tortured, and beheaded. Seeing these torments, a soldier named Theoctistus fell at Cyprian's feet and declared himself a Christian; he was beheaded with them.

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Divine Liturgy on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 48 - VOLUME LIX

TONE 7

OCTOBER 2, 2022

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Hieromartyr Cyprian, Virgin-Martyr Justina, and Martyr Theoctist, of Nicomedia;
Martyrs David and Constantine, Princes of Georgia;
Bl. Andrew, Fool-for-Christ, at Constantinople;
Repose of Rt. Blv. Princess Anna of Kashin; Van. Cassian of Uglich;
Righteous Warrior Theodore Ushakov*

“You abandoned the darkness of impiety, becoming a beacon of truth, O Cyprian; you were illustrious as a pastor; you were glorified in contest. O venerable Father, intercede with the Creator for us, together with the divinely-wise Justina.”

Troparion, Tone IV

“Your lamb Justina calls out to You, O Jesus, in a loud voice: ‘I love You, my Bridegroom, and in seeking You I endure suffering. In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in You, and I died so that I might live with You. Accept me as a pure sacrifice, for I have offered myself in love.’ Through her prayers save our souls, since You are merciful.”

Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY’S EPISTLE: II CORINTHIANS 6:1-10

TODAY’S GOSPEL: LUKE 6:31-36

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, October 8 4:30 p.m. One Year Memorial Prayers for Alexander Chernushin, Jr.
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

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| Monday, October 3 | Ephesians 1:22-2:3 | Luke 6:24-30 |
| Tuesday, October 4 | Ephesians 2:19-3:7 | Luke 6:37-45 |
| Wednesday, October 5 | Ephesians 3:8-21 | Luke 6:46-7:1 |
| | Ephesians 4:14-19 | Luke 7:17-30 |
| Thursday, October 6 | Hebrews 7:26-8:2 | John 10:9-16 |
| Friday, October 7 | Ephesians 4:17-25 | Luke 7:31-35 |
| Saturday, October 8 | I Corinthians 14:20-25 | Luke 5:27-32 |

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 48 - Volume LIX

October 2, 2022

OCTOBER:

- 2, TODAY Opening Day of Church School; Ice Cream Social
- 9, Sunday Meatloaf Luncheon to benefit St. Herman's House
- 13, Thursday 7:00 p.m. EOWG 60th Anniversary Banquet at St. Sava's
- 24, Monday Cooking dinner for St. Herman's House
- 6:00 p.m. IOCC Wine Tasting and Dinner at Woodside
- 26, Wednesday Delivering dinner to St. Herman's House
- 30, Sunday Annual Parish Meeting

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| <p><u>FIRST DAY!</u> Today is the first day of Church School classes. Church School students and parents are welcome to join in the Ice Cream Social at the stage area of the Fellowship Hall.</p> <p><u>EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD:</u> This is EOWG's 60th Anniversary year. Their banquet will be October 13, 7:00 p.m., at St. Sava Cathedral on Broadview Rd. Adult tickets are \$25. See Joanne Stoyka. Details are posted in the Hall.</p> <p><u>100th ANNIVERSARY:</u> November 5-6 is the 100th Anniversary Memorial Weekend for Archangel Michael Church! Metropolitan Tikhon and Bishop Daniel will come to celebrate. Plan to participate in the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy on Saturday, Nov. 5, 9:30 a.m. A Grand Banquet will follow at 1:00 p.m. To RSVP for the banquet and for further details, visit the Archangel Michael Church website. https://stmichaelscleveland.org</p> | <p><u>ST. HERMAN'S MEATLOAF LUNCHEON:</u> Meatloaf Luncheon and Basket Raffle will be next Sunday! Tickets are available in the Fellowship Hall after Liturgy today and until Oct. 5. Tickets are \$15 for ages 12 and older; no charge for those ages 11 and younger. Church School students and teachers will be served directly after Liturgy. Others will be served after classes begin. Carry-outs will be available and can be picked up after the Liturgy. Contact Judy Howe for tickets: 216-741-1448.</p> <p><u>FLOWERS:</u> Today's flowers are offered by the Bellack Family. The flower sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. Flowers are \$15, and payment should be made to Mary Ann Schmidt or Nancy Scardon.</p> <p><u>BAPTISM:</u> Luke Badgett, son of Sarah and Matthew Badgett, will be baptized on Saturday, October 15, at 1:00 p.m.</p> |
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WINE TASTING TO BENEFIT IOCC

Monday, October 24, 2022

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

*Enjoy a four-course dinner with wine pairings, basket raffle, and cash bar.
And learn how your gifts help families in need around the world.*

St. Michael's Woodside Event Center; 5025 Mill Road in Broadview Hts.
Tickets are \$60; See our HTOC representative Diane Hastings.

Or mail a donation for IOCC to Julie Hall; PO Box 560185; Macedonia, OH 44056

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

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|--------------------------------|------------|
| REGULAR COLLECTION, 9/25/2022 | \$ 2964.00 |
| BUILDING FUND | 425.00 |
| CANDLES | 130.00 |
| SPECIAL PROJECTS, ROOF REPAIRS | 195.00 |
| LOCAL CHARITIES | 25.00 |
| IN MEMORY OF MARY ANN MOGA | 350.00 |
| COFFEE HOUR, 9/18/22 | 56.00 |

SACRIFICE AS AROMA

We are certainly feeling the fall season encroach upon us these days, with the dip in temperatures and the steady rainfall. I love fall, and one thing I love about it is the smells. You may think I'm strange, but taking in a deep breath of cool crisp autumn air through my nose is one of my treasured sensations. I also love the smell of autumn leaves, bonfires, caramel corn being cooked at harvest festivals, freshly picked apples at the orchard, and roasted burgers and brats at tailgate parties.

Have you ever gotten a whiff of something and it takes you back to a particular time or moment of your life? Our sense of smell is something that we often overlook but is deeply connected to our memories and experiences. And perhaps for this reason, aroma has been a part of sacrifice since the ancient world.

Many of us, when we smell the savors of roasting meat, are drawn in and want to come eat of them. While we today freely cook meat from the store for every-day meals and special occasions, in the ancient world it was almost unheard of to eat meat without it being first offered as a sacrifice. Those smells we find so enticing were also perceived to be enticing to the various gods, including the Almighty God, Yahweh, the God of the Israelites. However, for our Lord,

“it's not the smell alone that moves the heart of God, but the intentions that the inviting aroma represents. Therefore, when sacrifice is hypocritically offered by those in open rebellion against Him, the Lord will refuse to give them any attention: ‘If, after these things, you do not obey Me and [instead] walk contrary to Me, in My anger I Myself will walk with you in contrary anger and will discipline you seven times for your sins, ... and I will not smell the aroma of your sacrifices’ (Leviticus 26:27-31).” [Davis, Jeremy. *Welcoming Gifts: Sacrifice in the Bible and Christian Life*, (p.53).]

The sacrificial offering and ritual had to be coupled with a heart of gratitude, love, and a commitment to following after God's ways. Otherwise, the Lord would not accept the sacrifice.

Coupled with the smell of the roasting meat that was offered as a food sacrifice for communion with God, incense was offered as a sweet and enticing smell, masking “ordinary, earthy, and unpleasant smells in order to create a pleasant and inviting atmosphere” (ibid., 54). In fact, the Lord commanded the Israelites that only one recipe for incense was to be made for use in temple worship and that this recipe should be used nowhere else (Exodus 30:34-38).

These two aromas together were pleasant and inviting for the worshipers of God as they came to the temple, and thus they had a unique experience and memory of smells that existed in connection to offering sacrifice and absent from other parts of their lives. These aromas were also to be inviting to the Lord, an offering of a pleasant environment to attract the Lord's presence to be with His people, especially when such sacrifices were offered from open and honest hearts.

Our church continues to offer incense before the Lord. Incense in liturgical worship is not offered without the bishop or priest's blessing, at which he offers the following prayer: “We offer You incense, O Christ our God, as a sweet spiritual fragrance. Receive it upon Your holy altar and send down upon us in return the grace of Your All-Holy Spirit.”

Incense in the church indeed is a sweet smelling fragrance for most of us. It's a nice smell we get to enjoy when we come to church. But it is also something more. Incense offered in faithfulness and purity of heart is therefore an expeller of evil (sin and demonic activity) and a sanctifier (make this place, these things, and these people holy), because it is offered as a sacrifice, i.e., it is offered as a seeking of God's presence and activity among us (“send down...the grace of Your All-Holy Spirit”) and communion with God.

Let's give thanks to God for the wonderful smells He has created for us to enjoy. And the next time the priest or deacon is censuring at church, pray along with the priest for God's holy presence to come among us and that we can offer up worship in purity of heart.

Fr. Christopher Moore