

SAINT PORPHYRIUS, BISHOP OF GAZA

Saint Porphyrius was born about the year 346 at Thessalonica. His parents were people of substance, and this allowed him to receive a fine education. He desired a monastic life, so at age 25 he went to Egypt, where he lived in the Nitrian desert under the guidance of St. Macarius the Great. He went to Jerusalem on pilgrimages and then moved into a cave in the Jordanian wilderness for prayer and ascetic deeds.

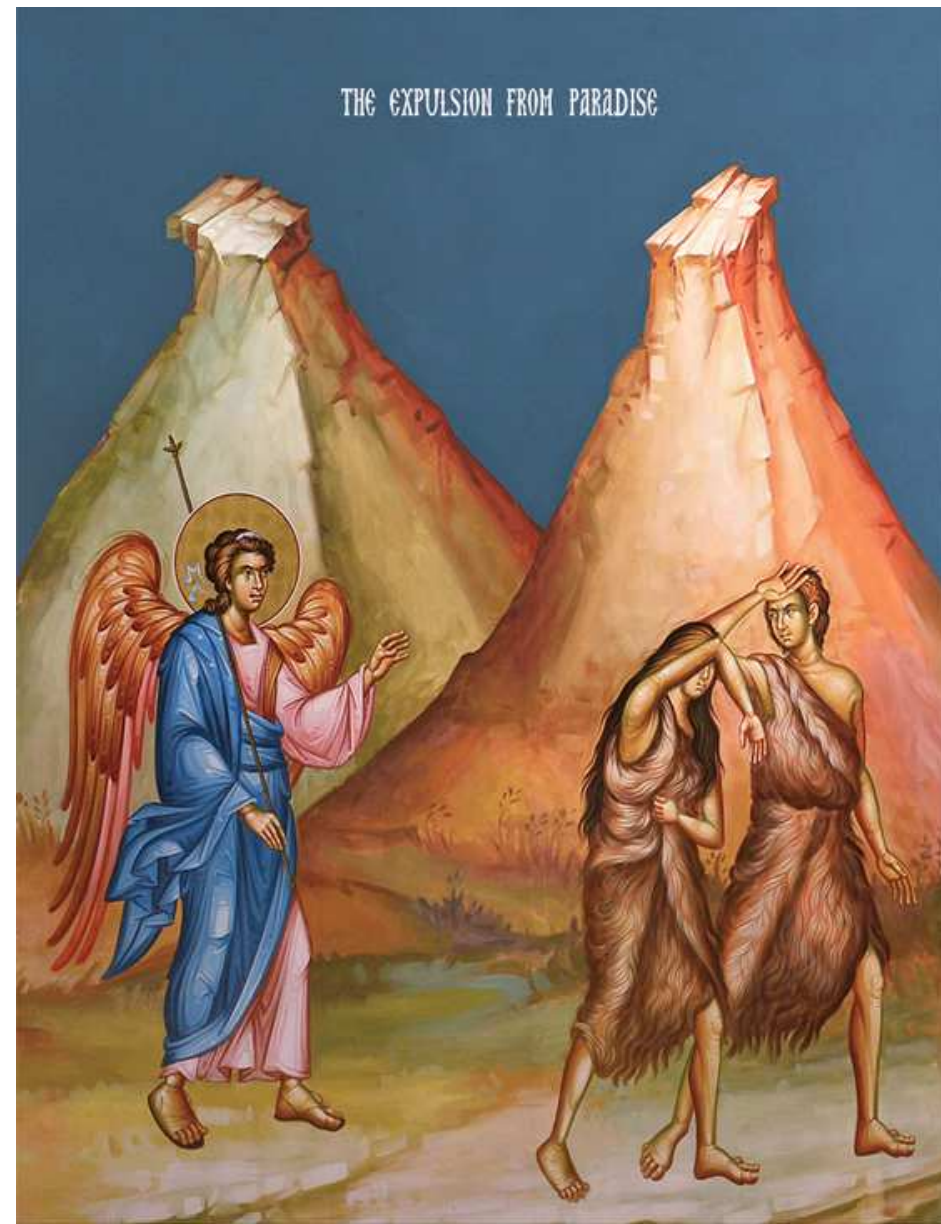
After five years, St. Porphyrius was afflicted with a serious malady of the legs and decided to go to the holy places of Jerusalem to pray for healing. At the foot of Golgatha, he fell into a sort of trance and beheld Jesus Christ descend from the Cross and saying to him, "Take this Wood and preserve it." Coming out of his trance, he found himself healthy and free from pain. He gave away all his money to the poor and the churches and supported himself for a time as a shoemaker. When he was 45, the patriarch of Jerusalem ordained St. Porphyrius to the holy priesthood and appointed him custodian of the Venerable Wood of the Cross of the Lord, fulfilling the words of the Savior.

In 395, the bishop of Gaza (in Palestine) died and Porphyrius was appointed to the office. In Gaza there were only 3 Christian churches, but there were a great many pagan temples and idols. During this time there had been a severe drought, not eased by the pagan priests' offerings to their idols. St. Porphyrius imposed a fast for all the Christians; he then served an all-night Vigil, followed by a church procession around the city. Immediately the sky covered over with storm clouds and abundant rains poured down. Many pagans were converted because of this miracle.

The pagans continued to harass the Christians, burdening them with taxes. St. Porphyrius and Metropolitan John of Caesarea journeyed to Constantinople to seek redress from the emperor. St. Chrysostom received and assisted them. While there they prayed to the Lord for a son to be born to the empress Eudoxia, who had only daughters. An heir was born to the imperial family, and the grateful emperor then issued an edict for the destruction of pagan temples in Gaza and a restoration of privileges to Christians. He gave money to the saints for the construction of a new church.

St. Porphyrius upheld Christianity in Gaza to the very end of his life. He guarded his flock from pagans and was responsible for numerous miracles and healings. He reposed in 420 at an advanced age.

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THE TRINITARIAN

Published Weekly by the
HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Divine Liturgy on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 17 - VOLUME LX

TONE 4

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

CHEESEFARE SUNDAY

Forgiveness Sunday

The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise

St. Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza; Martyr Sebastian; Ven. Sebastian of Poshekhónsk

“O Master, Guide to wisdom, Bestower of Prudence, Instructor of the foolish, and Defender of the poor: make firm my heart and grant it understanding. O Word of the Father, give me speech, for behold, I shall not restrain my lips from crying out to Thee: “Have mercy, have mercy on me who have fallen.”

Kontakion, Tone VI

TODAY’S EPISTLE: ROMANS 13:11-14:4

TODAY’S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:14-21

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Today, February 26	5:00 p.m. Forgiveness Sunday Vespers
Monday, February 27	9:00 a.m. Lenten Hours
	6:00 p.m. Compline with Great Canon
Tuesday, February 28	9:00 a.m. Lenten Hours
	6:00 p.m. Compline with Great Canon
Wednesday, March 1	9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy
	6:00 p.m. Compline with Great Canon
Thursday, March 2	6:00 p.m. Compline with Great Canon
Friday, March 3	6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday, March 4	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, February 27	Isaiah 1:1-20	Genesis 1:1-13	Proverbs 1:1-20
Tuesday, February 28	Isaiah 1:19-2:4	Genesis 1:14-23	Proverbs 1:20-33
Wednesday, March 1	Isaiah 2:3-11	Genesis 1:24-2:3	Proverbs 2:1-22
Thursday, March 2	Isaiah 2:11-21	Genesis 2:4-19	Proverbs 3:1-18
Friday, March 3	Isaiah 3:1-15	Genesis 2:20-3:20	Proverbs 3:19-34
(St. Raphael)	Proverbs 10:31-11:12	Wisdom of Solomon 4:7-15	
Saturday, March 4	Hebrews 1:1-12	Mark 2:23-3:5	
(St. Theodore)	II Timothy 2:1-10	John 15:17-16:2	
(St. Raphael)	Hebrews 13:17-21	John 10:9-16	

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY:

26, TODAY Mission Sunday

MARCH:

4, Saturday FOCUS / St. Herman's Program following Vespers
5, Sunday 5:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers at HTOC
8, Wednesday Soup Supper following Presanctified Liturgy
11, Saturday 10:00 a.m. EOWG service and program at St. Sava Cathedral
12, Sunday Second Sunday Food Sale
19, Sunday 5:00 p.m. Sunday of the Cross Akathist at Archangel Michael Church

MISSION SUNDAY:

Feb. 26 is Mission Sunday for Orthodox Christians. A special collection is being taken today to support our Missionary programs.

FOCUS / ST. HERMAN'S HOUSE:

Following Vespers this Saturday, March 4, the national director of FOCUS and the new regional director of our local St. Herman's House will present a brief program. They are eager to meet our parishioners and to share updates of developments at St. Herman's House.

ST. MARY OF EGYPT FOOD DRIVE:

Thank you to all who donated and made our St. Mary's food collection such a huge success!

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY:

This year Holy Trinity will host the Pan-Orthodox Vespers service that is celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, which is March 5. Please plan to attend the service and offer to help with hosting duties.

TRAINING FOR AN EMERGENCY:

On March 13 we will have a class in EMT/AED at 6:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall. Please see Frank Stoyka if you would like to participate or need further information.

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD SALE:

We will have our next monthly food sale on March 12. Please plan to support this fundraiser.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by MaryAnn Bobulsky in blessed memory of Jerome and Daria Petrykowski.

COFFEE HOUR:

The refreshments today are provided by Oksana, Sasha, and Tanya.

LENTEN SERVICES:

In addition to our weekly Lenten services here at HTOC, there are Pan-Orthodox services offered in our diocese:

On March 19, Archangel Michael Church is having a Sunday of the Cross Akathist at 5:00 p.m.

On April 2 there will be a Holy Unction Service at St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore, 5:00 p.m.

EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD:

The EOWG will have their annual Memorial Service at St. Sava Cathedral on Saturday, March 11, at 10:00 a.m. There will be refreshments and fellowship, as well as a program, "Heavenly Worship in Orthodoxy."

LENTEN RETREAT:

Archangel Michael Church invites all to an afternoon retreat on March 11, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Fr. Thomas Soroka will present "Being Orthodox: Resilience in a Time of Doubt." Registration is \$15; call 440-526-5192 or visit info@stmichaelscleveland.org

YEAR-END FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Statements of your weekly donations to HTOC are now available in the vestibule.

SUMMER CAMP:

St. Vladimir's Orthodox Summer Camp is currently registering youth ages 8-17 for summer sessions. Session 1 is July 2-8, for ages 8-12; Session 2 is July 9-15 for ages 10-17; and Session 3 is July 16-22 for ages 13-17. The Camp is located in Farmdale, OH; photos and complete registration information can be found at www.stvladimirscampohio.com

IOCC ANNUAL BANQUET:

Save the date of Monday, May 8, 6:00-9:00 p.m., for the IOCC Banquet at St. Michael's Woodside. Tickets are \$60, for sale now until 2 weeks prior to event. See Paula Svilar or Diane Hastings. Sponsor donations will be advertised in a booklet that evening if you would like to donate additional funds.

**APPROACHING THE FAST THROUGH THE SPIRITUAL TEACHING
OF THE TRIODION**

Excerpt from The Meaning of the Great Fast in the Introduction to the Lenten Triodion

If we are to understand correctly the text of the Triodion and the spirituality that underlies it, there are five misconceptions about the Lenten fast against which we should guard. In the first place, the Lenten fast is not intended only for monks and nuns, but is *enjoined on the whole Christian people*...By virtue of their Baptism, all Christians—whether married or under monastic vows—are Cross-bearers, following the same spiritual path. The exterior conditions in which they live out their Christianity display a wide variety, but in its inward essence the life is one. ...

In the second place, the Triodion *should not be misconstrued in a Pelagian sense*. If the Lenten texts are continually urging us to greater personal efforts, this should not be taken as implying that our progress depends solely upon the exertion of our own will. On the contrary, whatever we achieve in the Lenten fast is to be regarded as a free gift of grace from God. The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete leaves no doubt at all on this point: “I have no tears, no repentance, no compunction; But as God, You Yourself, O Savior, bestow them on me.”

In the third place, our fasting *should not be self-willed but obedient*. When we fast, we should not try to invent special rules for ourselves, but we should follow as faithfully as possible the accepted pattern set before us by Holy Tradition. This accepted pattern, expressing as it does the collective conscience of the People of God, possesses a hidden wisdom and balance not to be found in ingenious austerities devised by our own fantasy. ...

If proud and willful, our fasting assumes a diabolical character, bringing us closer not to God but to Satan. Because fasting renders us sensitive to the realities of the spiritual world, it can be dangerously ambivalent: for there are evil spirits as well as good.

In the fourth place, paradoxical though it may seem, the period of Lent is a time *not of gloom but of joyfulness*. It is true that fasting brings us to repentance and to grief for sin, but this penitent grief, in the vivid phrase of St. John Climacus, is a ‘joy-creating sorrow’. The Triodion deliberately mentions both tears and gladness in a single sentence: “Grant me tears falling as the rain from heaven, O Christ, As I keep this joyful day of the Fast.”

It is remarkable how frequently the themes of joy and light recur in the texts for the first day of Lent...Lent signifies not winter but spring, not darkness but light, not death but renewed vitality...

Fifthly and finally, our Lenten abstinence *does not imply a rejection of God’s creation*. As St. Paul insists, ‘Nothing is unclean in itself’ (Rom. 14:14). All that God has made is ‘very good’ (Gen. 1:31): to fast is not to deny this intrinsic goodness but to reaffirm it. ‘To the pure all things are pure’ (Titus 1:15), and so at the Messianic banquet in the Kingdom of heaven there will be no need for fasting and ascetic self-denial. But, living as we do in a fallen world, and suffering as we do from the consequences of sin, both original and personal, we are *not* pure; and so we have need of fasting. Evil resides not in created things as such but in our attitude towards them, that is, in our will. The purpose of fasting, then, is not to repudiate the divine creation but to cleanse our will. During the fast we deny our bodily impulses—for example, our spontaneous appetite for food and drink—not because these impulses are in themselves evil, but because they have been disordered by sin and require to be purified through self-discipline. In this way, asceticism is a fight not *against* but *for* the body; the aim of fasting is to purge the body from alien defilement and to render it spiritual. By rejecting what is sinful in our will, we do not destroy the God-created body but restore it to its true balance and freedom.

“The Meaning of the Great Fast,” in *The Lenten Triodion*, trans. Kallistos Ware with Mother Mary, The Service Books of the Orthodox Church (South Canaan, PA: St. Tikhon’s Seminary Press, 2002), 21–25.

Holy Trinity Outreach Prayer List for week of February 19, 2023 Update

Memory Eternal

- 1 Richard Holl has entered into eternal rest. May his memory be eternal+
- 2 Former parishioner **Arlene (Budko) Neale** has fallen asleep in the Lord. May her memory be eternal+
- 3 May the Lord God receive the soul of His servant, the newly-departed **Archpriest Daniel Rentel**, into the mansions of the righteous. Memory Eternal+
- 4 **Matthew**, 54, cousin of Laura Gluntz has fallen asleep in the Lord. May his memory be eternal+
- 5 **Lois**, mother of Barry Gluntz has entered into eternal rest. May her memory be eternal+

Specific Prayer Requests

- 1 Please offer prayers for Lara Chandurkar's father-in-law **Sudhakar**, who is hospitalized.
- 2 Paula Svilar asks for prayers for health and healing for her cousin **Amy**.
- 3 Marin and Adam Uziel ask for prayers for their mother **Marsha** who is recovering from surgery.
- 4 Joanne Stoyka asks for prayers for her cousin **Jeanie** who is recovering from surgery.
- 5 Joanne and Frank Stoyka ask for prayers for health and healing for their friend **Neil Quint**.
- 6 Joanne and Frank Stoyka ask for prayers for health and healing for their friend **George**.
- 7 Marsha Uziel asks for prayers for her friend **George** who is having serious health issues. Please also pray for his wife **Joyce** who is also suffering health issues.
- 8 Please offer prayers for health and healing for **Rachel** and **Pamela**.
- 9 Please offer prayers for **Valerie Spoerl** who is recovering from surgery.
- 10 Bruce Billow asks for prayers for **Roy** - from Saint Herman's who fell and has been hospitalized. Please pray for his speedy and full recovery.
- 11 Jessie Pechuch asks for prayers for continued health and healing for her father **George** following surgery.
- 12 Please offer special prayers for health and healing for **Ruth Flewelling**.

Continued prayers for the health, peace and well-being of:

- 1 **Becky and Evie**
- 2 **V. Reverend Father Vladimir and Margarita Berzonsky**
- 3 **Carol Bohurjak**
- 4 **Tommy Bohurjak**
- 5 **Marie Borland**
- 6 **Christine** who is undergoing cancer treatment
- 7 **Jennie Cundik**
- 8 **Baby Emilija Markov**, granddaughter of Ana Billow
- 9 **Anna DiDonato**
- 10 **Eva**, daughter of Nadine Svilar's cousin
- 11 **Barb Fillipow**
- 12 **Ruth Flewelling**
- 13 **Gil and Pat George**
- 14 Pauline Smolarchuk's friend's son **Jimmy**

- 15 **Mark Karpowicz**
16 **Lydia Kelbach**
17 **Liam James Kepner**
18 **John Kules**
19 **Olga Lobas**
20 **Kalle Lyytinen**
21 **George Mravitz**
22 **Michael**, nephew of Pauline Smolarchuk
23 **Ellen Myerly**, daughter of Pat Schwartz
24 **Peter, and Rebecca**, nephew and niece of Ruth Flewelling.
25 **Jessica Pecuch**
26 **Kira Pilat**
27 **Olga Przybys**
28 **Carol Range**
29 **Betty Reis**
30 **Mark S.** friend of Michael Sabat
31 **Betty Scherry**
32 **Pat Schwartz**
33 **Gregg Sepic**
34 **Pauline Smolarchuk**
35 **Eleanor Steve**
36 **Ernie and Maryann Schmidt**
37 **Nadine Svilar**
38 **Teresa**, friend of Pauline Smolarchuk
39 **Tressa Thorpe**, friend of Jessie Pecuch
40 **Marsha Uziel**
41 **Marge Virosteck**

A Prayer for Deliverance From Illness

O most Holy God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Trinity undivided;
pour forth Thy mercy upon Thy sick servant (name);
take away all (his/her) pain and anguish, forgive all (his/her) sins, grant relief from all suffering, restore
health and strength to body and soul.
Grant Thy servant peace, patience and understanding of Thy will for (his/her) life, that (he/she) may
return from the bed of sickness
completely restored to health and able to praise Thy Holy Name, O Lord God and our Creator.

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REVEREND CHRISTOPHER MOORE

MARCH 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
February 26 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers	February 27 9:00 a.m. Lenten Hours 6:00 p.m. Compline with Great Canon	February 28 9:00 a.m. Lenten Hours 6:00 p.m. Compline with Great Canon	1 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Compline with Great Canon	2 6:00 p.m. Compline with Great Canon	3 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy	4 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers FOCUS / St. Herman House presentation
5 1st Sunday of Great Lent Sunday of Orthodoxy 5:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers at HTOC	6	7	8 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy Soup Supper	9	10 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy	11 10:00 a.m. EOWG service at St. Sava 1:00-4:00p.m. Retreat at St. Michael Church 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
12 2nd Sunday of Great Lent St. Gregory Palamas Second Sunday Food Sale	13 6:00 p.m. EMT / AED training	14	15 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy Soup Supper	16	17 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy	18 3:45 p.m. First Confession 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
19 3rd Sunday of Great Lent Veneration of the Cross First Confession Brunch 5:00 p.m. Akathist at St. Michael's	20	21	22 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy Soup Supper	23	24 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Vigil of the Annunciation	25 Annunciation of the Theotokos 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
26 4th Sunday of Great Lent St. John Climacus Parish Council meeting	27 Cooking for St. Herman's House	28 Serving dinner at St. Herman's House	29 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy Soup Supper	30	31 6:00 p.m. Akathist	

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APRIL 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10:00 a.m. Spring Cleaning 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
2 5th Sunday of Great Lent St. Mary of Egypt 5:00 p.m. Holy Unction at St. Nicholas in Mogadore	3	4	5 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy Soup Supper	6	7 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy	8 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Vigil Lazarus Saturday
9 Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem 5:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins	10 Great and Holy Monday 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins	11 Great and Holy Tuesday 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy	12 Great and Holy Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Matins with Anointing	13 Great and Holy Thursday 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Matins with 12 Passion Gospels	14 Great and Holy Friday 9:00 a.m. Royal Hours 2:30 p.m. Vespers with Entombment 6:30 p.m. Matins	15 Great and Holy Saturday 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 11:00 p.m. Nocturnes, Paschal Matins, Liturgy Blsg. Baskets
16 HOLY PASCHA 11:00 a.m. Paschal Vespers	17 Bright Monday 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy T H I S	18 I S A	19 F A S T	20 F R E E	21 W E E K .	22 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
23 ANTI-PASCHA 2nd Sunday of Pascha St. Thomas Sunday	24 Cooking for St. Herman's House	25	26 Serving dinner at St. Herman's House	27	28	29 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
30 3rd Sunday of Pascha Holy Myrrhbearing Women						