

THE HIEROMARTYR PANCRATIUS, BISHOP OF TAORMINA IN SICILY

The Hieromartyr Pancratius was born when our Lord Jesus Christ yet lived upon the earth.

His parents were natives of Antioch. Hearing the good news of Jesus Christ, Pancratius' father took his young son with him and went to Jerusalem in order to see the great Teacher for himself. The miracles astonished him, and when he heard the divine teaching, he then believed in Christ as the Son of God. He became close with the disciples of the Lord, especially with the holy Apostle Peter. It was during this period of his young life that Pancratius got to know the holy Apostle Peter.

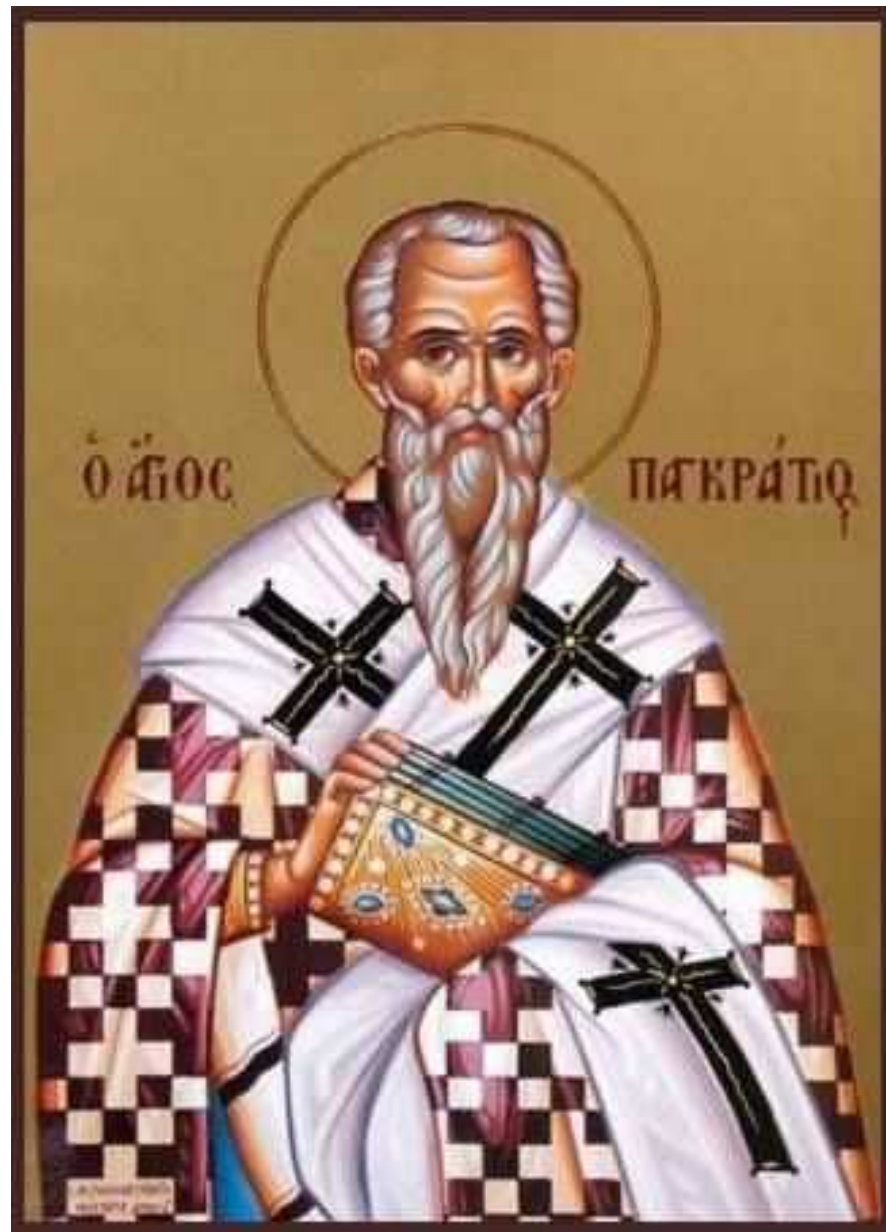
After the Ascension of the Savior, one of the Apostles came to Antioch and baptized the parents of Pancratius together with all their household. When the parents of Pancratius died, he left behind his inherited possessions and went to Pontus and began to live in a cave, spending his days in prayer and deep spiritual contemplation. The holy Apostle Peter, while passing through those parts, visited Pancratius at Pontus. He took him along to Antioch and then to Sicily, where the holy Apostle Paul was currently visiting. There the holy Apostles Peter and Paul made St. Pancratius Bishop of Taormina in Sicily.

St. Pancratius toiled zealously for the Christian enlightenment of the people. In a single month he built a church where he celebrated divine services. The number of believers quickly grew, and soon almost all the people of Taormina and the surrounding cities accepted the Christian Faith.

St. Pancratius governed his flock peacefully for many years. However, pagans plotted against the saint; and, seizing an appropriate moment, they fell upon him and stoned him. Thus, Saint Pancratius ended his life as a martyr.

The saint's relics are in the church named for him in Rome. He is also commemorated on February 9.

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BISHOP OF TAORMINA IN SICILY*

**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD
PARMA, OHIO 44134**

THE TRINITARIAN

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

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 36 - VOLUME LX

TONE 4

JULY 9, 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily;

Hieromartyr Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna in Crete;

Martyrs Paternuthius, Coprius, and Alexander the Soldier, in Egypt;

Ven. Paternuthius and Coprius, Ascetics, of Egypt; St. Theodore, Bishop of Edessa;

Ven. Dionysius the Orator of St. Anne Skete; Ven. Metrophanes, disciple of Ven. Dionysius;

The KOLOCHSKAYA Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos

As a flaming arrow you were sent from on high to the throne of Taormina to wound godless impiety and to illumine the hearts of the faithful, confirming them in the faith through the word of God. And having completed your course you did suffer unto bloodshed. O Hieromartyr Pancratius, pray for all who praise your memory.

Troparion, Tone VIII

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, you became a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith, even to the shedding of your blood. Hieromartyr Cyril, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY'S EPISTLE: ROMANS 10:1-10

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 8:28-9:1

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, July 15

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

WELCOME GUESTS!

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, July 10
(St. Anthony)

Romans 16:17-24
Galatians 5:22-6:2

Matthew 13:10-23
Matthew 4:25-5:12

Tuesday, July 11

I Corinthians 1:1-9

Matthew 13:24-30

Wednesday, July 12

I Corinthians 2:9-3:8

Matthew 13:31-36

Thursday, July 13

I Corinthians 3:18-23

Matthew 13:36-43

Friday, July 14

I Corinthians 4:5-8

Matthew 13:44-54

Saturday, July 15

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 9:18-26

Galatians 1:11-19

John 10:1-9

COMING EVENTS

JULY:

- 9, TODAY Second Sunday Food Sale
 Parish Council meeting
- 10, Monday 6:30 p.m. Bagging food at St. Mary of Egypt Mission
- 13-15 10th Parish Development Forum, at HTOC
- 16, Sunday Donations begin for Rummage Sale
- 24, Monday Cooking for St. Herman's House
- 26, Wednesday Serving dinner at St. Herman's House

FOOD SALE:

Our July Second Sunday Food Sale is today in the Fellowship Hall. Please stop by the tables and support this fundraiser.

RIDES TO CHURCH:

We are initiating a ministry of providing rides to church for those who wish to come for services and other events but often find it difficult to travel on their own. If you have a need for rides to church or if you would like to provide transportation for someone in our community, please contact Stephanie McNeely at: srmcneely@gmail.com or 216-225-3018.

ST. MARY OF EGYPT MISSION:

St. Mary of Egypt Mission is seeking individuals to help bag nonperishable food items for their monthly distribution. The next bagging event is tomorrow, July 10, at 6:30 p.m. The Mission is located at 4345 State Rd. in Cleveland. Please call or text Nicholas Bodle at 216-904-8537.

RUMMAGE SALE:

Please continue to save rummage items (no clothing or large furniture), plastic bags, and newspaper for our sale; the sale will be Thursday, August 24—Saturday, August 26. We will begin accepting donations on Sunday, July 16. Please place your rummage in one of the classrooms designated for that purpose. Watch for details later about various jobs and time slots; this event takes many hands and many hours of set-up, as well as helpers needed during the days of the event.

PARISH DEVELOPMENT FORUM:

Holy Trinity will host the 10th Parish Development Forum this coming week, July 13-15th. The Forum will bring together Orthodox Christians sharing ideas about how to keep our parishes thriving amidst societal, cultural, demographic and technological trends. Sessions will cover clergy-laity dynamics, attracting and integrating converts, and connecting parishes with their neighborhood. This is a great opportunity for all of us to participate! If you are interested in attending, please contact Fr. Christopher.

COFFEE HOUR:

Our refreshments today are donated by the Howe Family.

There is now a sign-up sheet in the kitchen for dates throughout the autumn months. Please look ahead and plan to help. Refreshments can be as simple as donuts, coffee and juice; and you can join together with others if you prefer to share the duties.

HOMESCHOOL GROUP:

St Matthew Church offers an enrichment program for home-schooled children, ages 0-13, on Fridays. Classes are 9:30-1:30, August-April. For more information, contact Olivia Harmon: oharmon15@gmail.com

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by the Jason Howe Family.

“Time passes without stopping, and, my body, even during my lifetime, constantly changes and passes on, and the whole world as is seen in its motion, also passes on, as though it were hurrying to its appointed end, like a machine in motion.

Where, then, is constancy?

Constancy is that which moves and directs all this to its purpose. God, the first Cause of all that is complex and created, is constant, being Himself not complex, and therefore not passing, but eternal.

The souls of angels and men, created after the image of the first Cause, are also constant.

Everything else is like a soap bubble.”

St. John of Kronstadt

FOR CHRIST IS THE END OF THE LAW

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

(Romans 10:4, English Standard Version)

We hear this verse read at the epistle today and we may be drawn to think that here is a clear example where the bible says that Christ ended the Law, and created a new path for a relationship with God and worship of God. But how does that square with what Christ says in Matthew 5:17: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”?

Our answer lies in how we read the word “end” which is the Greek word “telos” from where we get our word telescope (to see to the end). “Telos” does not mean end in the sense of being done, over with, finished. “Telos” means fulfillment, completion, goal. So when Paul says Christ is the end of the law, it means that Christ is the fulfillment of the law, just as he says in Matthew 5. Christ is the one who was faithful to the end, who completed the requirements and commands of the Torah (the law, the way of being in the world). By being united to Christ in his death and resurrection in our baptism, and by continuing our life in him, we also participate in his perfect completion of the Law, which has not gone away.

Fr Stephen DeYoung speaks of this in his recent book Religion of the Apostles:

“in keeping with Christ’s statement in Matthew 5, every commandment of the Torah is done, taught, and continues to live in the life of the Orthodox Church. All the commandments— both as a united whole and in their particulars— continue to be relevant and applicable. They apply in a deeper, fuller sense because of what Christ accomplished in the gospel. Fulfillment is here seen as a lens through which the commandments are read rather than a veil, as now, knowing Christ, one can understand the real meaning, force, and life-giving power of the commandments.”

What does this mean for us? It means that Christ has done all things necessary to graft us into his life and keep us in a great relationship with him. We participate in resurrectional life as telos to the sabbath. We participate in Christ’s circumcision and the circumcision of the heart which is our part of being the people of God. We participate in Christ’s sacrifice to end all sacrifices—his fulfillment in offering himself on behalf of all and for all—which is done in the Divine Liturgy and Eucharist. We continue with concentric circles of priesthood in the church with Christ as our chief priest, bishops as successors to the apostles, priests, deacons, and the people of God in the church as priests to the world around us.

For as Paul continues his encouragement to the Romans: “*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 *because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.* (Rom 10:8-10)

It becomes therefore that all find their telos in Christ, all find him as their savior and their final goal. We do not need to travel to the heights of heaven, or descend to the lowest depths. Christ has already gone there for your salvation and is present with you today. He is the Word that is near you, and the word in your heart and your mouth is heard and received by him. Call on him, stay in his life for your salvation.

Fr. Christopher Moore