

HIEROMARTYR ANTHIMUS, BISHOP OF NICOMEDIA, AND THOSE WITH HIM

Hieromartyr Anthimus suffered during the persecution of Christians under emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). The persecution became particularly intense after a fire at the imperial court at Nicomedia. The pagans accused the Christians and reacted against them with terrible ferocity. On the day of the Nativity of Christ, as many as 20,000 Christians were burned inside a church.

Sts. Dorotheus, Mardonius, Migdonius, Peter, Indes and Gorgonius died during this period. One was beheaded, others perished by burning, being buried alive, or drowned in the sea. The soldier Zeno boldly denounced the emperor Maximian, for which he was stoned and then beheaded. A former pagan priestess, the virgin Martyr Domna, and also St. Euthymius, perished at the hands of the pagans because of their concern that the bodies of the holy martyrs should be buried. Bishop Anthimus, who headed the Church of Nicomedia, hid himself in a village at the request of his flock. From there he sent letters to the Christians, urging them to cleave firmly to the holy Faith and not to fear tortures.

One of his letters, sent with Deacon Theophilus, was intercepted and given to Maximian. Theophilus was interrogated and died under torture, without revealing to his torturers the whereabouts of Bishop Anthimus. Yet Maximian learned where St. Anthimus was hiding and sent soldiers after him.

The bishop met them along the way, but the soldiers did not recognize him. He invited them to join him and provided a meal, after which he revealed he was the one they sought. The soldiers did not know what to do; they wanted to leave and tell the emperor they had not found Anthimus. But the bishop would not tolerate a lie and did not consent to this.

The soldiers came to believe in Christ and were baptized. The saint ordered them to carry out the emperor's instructions. When he was brought before the emperor, Maximian ordered instruments of execution be placed in front of St. Anthimus. "Do you think, emperor, to frighten me with these tools of execution?" asked the saint. "No indeed, you cannot frighten one who wishes to die for Christ! Execution is frightening only for the cowardly, for whom the present life is most precious." The emperor then had the saint fiercely tortured and beheaded. Bishop Anthimus glorified God with his last breath.



HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD
PARMA, OHIO 44134

THE TRINITARIAN

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6822 BROADVIEW ROAD, PARMA, OHIO 44134
CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 216-524-4859
CHURCH WEBSITE: <http://www.holy-trin.org>
REVEREND CHRISTOPHER MOORE, PASTOR
Phone: 440-447-7704
Email: frchristopher@holy-trin.org

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

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 44 - VOLUME LX

TONE 4

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and those with him;
Ven. Theocistus; St. Phœbe, Deaconess at Cenchreae near Corinth;
Martyr Basilissa of Nicomedia; Martyr Aristion, Bishop of Alexandria;
St. Joannicius, Archbishop of Serbia; Bl. John, Fool-for-Christ at Rostov*

You protected your flock with your blood, not fearing your adversaries. Now you rejoice in heaven standing before the throne. Glory to Christ who has strengthened you; glory to your courage; glory to your endurance, O holy Hieromartyr Anthimus!

Troparion, Tone I

THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

Friday, September 8

By your Nativity, O Most Pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death. And we, your people freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you: The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life.

Kontakion, Tone IV

TODAY'S EPISTLE: I CORINTHIANS 16:13-24

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:33-42

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Thursday, September 7	6:00 p.m. Vigil of the Nativity of the Theotokos
Friday, September 8	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - Nativity of the Theotokos
	6:00 p.m. Vespers with His Eminence Archbishop Daniel
Saturday, September 9	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. During each Sunday service we offer Holy Communion. If you are a practicing Orthodox Christian and have come prepared to receive Christ's Body and Blood through fasting and prayer, please come forward to partake. All guests are invited to come forward at the end of the service to greet Fr. Christopher and 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!

Families with children: we encourage children of all ages to be present and participate as they are able during worship. We know sometimes kids need a break, so please take good advantage of our Rest and Refocus Room located on the south side of the lobby/narthex when coming in the main entrance. If you have pre-school and school age children, we invite you to send them to Church School directly after the Divine Liturgy throughout the academic year. May God bless you!

Daily Scripture Readings can be found in the St. Tikhon's Wall Calendar or at www.oca.org/readings.

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER:

- 8, Friday 6:00 p.m. Visit of His Eminence Archbishop Daniel
- 14, Thursday 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
- 19, Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Fr. Prislopsky Memorial Dinner/Lecture at Woodside Party Center
- 24, Sunday First Day of Church School
- 28, Thursday 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

RUMMAGE SALE:

The Rummage, Bakery, Food, and Jewelry Sale last week was a HUGE SUCCESS! A BIG thank you to all who organized, worked, donated items - so many participated in the sale in various ways! Thank you to those who baked and cooked items for sale, who moved furniture, who organized the jewelry - every detail was taken care of by our church family. Without you, we wouldn't have had such success. We surpassed last year with a total of \$7,410; and there are still items that will be sold on Ebay. THANK YOU, to each of you!

ARCHBISHOP DANIEL:

We will host His Eminence Archbishop Daniel at a Vespers service on Friday, Sept. 8, 6:00 p.m., The Nativity of the Theotokos. Both Protodeacon Anthony and Reader Michael Pilat will be honored by the Archbishop. Plan to attend and stay for a brief reception afterward in our Fellowship Hall.

2023-2024 FELLOWSHIP GROUPS:

If you have not already done so, please consider signing up in the parish hall by September 10 for a Fellowship Group. Groups of 4-ish single/couple/family units will be created from the sign-up list. By joining, you're committing to meeting with your group once a quarter for a year. Let's keep deepening our ties as a community and getting to know each other better! See Matushka Jen with any questions.

CARE PACKAGES:

We are initiating a ministry of supplying care packages to college students several times throughout the school year. Any parishioners who would like to donate to this project, please contact Valerie: valspoerl@gmail.com or 216-513-4199

CHOIR REHEARSALS:

Monthly Choir rehearsals will resume in September, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

IOCC:

The annual Winetasting event for the IOCC is Monday, October 16. Buy tickets now from Diane Hastings at the special price of \$60; after October 1, the ticket price will be \$70.

Donations are being requested—bottles of wine to be used as gifts/prizes, as well as items that can be used for a HTOC basket to be auctioned.

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 or if you can provide transportation, contact Stephanie McNeely at: srmcneely@gmail.com or 216-225-3018.

MEMORIAL DINNER / LECTURE:

The annual dinner and lecture in memory of Fr. Prislopsky will be Tuesday, Sept. 19, at Woodside Party Center. A chicken paprikash dinner will be served at 6:30, followed by keynote speaker Fr. Memorich on the topic of "Feasting and Fasting in the Orthodox Church. Cost is \$15; RSVP by Sept. 7. 440-526-5192; or info@stmichaelscleveland.org

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

Our covers today are offered by Frank and Joanne Stoyka in honor of their wedding anniversary.

COFFEE HOUR:

The refreshments today are donated by the Stoyka Family.

GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, 8/27/23	\$ 3043.00
BUILDING FUND	796.00
CANDLES	130.00
IN MEMORY OF MARIE BORLAND	50.00
CHURCH SCHOOL	20.00
KITCHEN STOVES FUND	142.00
PARKING LOT FUND	825.00

TOOLS FOR ORTHODOX FAMILIES, PART 3 – PREPARING FOR LITURGY

I love having families and children in our church and for the liturgical services. From the time they are infants, it's good for children to begin participating in worship. Why? They hear the beautiful words and singing. They see the pictures around our church that tell the ongoing story of God and mankind. They hear the Gospel stories and Epistle readings and they internalize so much more than we realize. If we wait to give them this experience until they are at an age we think they can "behave" in church, then we miss an opportunity to help them feel like church is their home, a blessed place to be, and miss an opportunity to help them internalize and ground them in the teachings of our faith from that early age.

But actually getting there every Sunday is not so easy. Yet, if we believe the teaching of our church about the Divine Liturgy—that it is an encounter and union with the living God, that it is participation in the eternal and timeless Kingdom of God, that it is the core of church and parish life around which all ministries and activities revolve, that it is work that is *good*, and that it is an essential part of our life as Christians—then preparing ourselves and our family for this worship is a rhythm that we build into our lives. I use the word "build" because building and crafting something beautiful is something that takes time and often trial and error. We can start small and build over time in our efforts to prepare our hearts and minds. Getting ready Saturday night can help set the tone for that early Sunday morning. Here are some things that can be helpful in preparing for Liturgy:

Saturday Vespers - This is the first service at which we celebrate the Sunday resurrection. It prepares our hearts for that beautiful event of being together again on Sunday. If it's hard to come every weekend to Vespers, make a plan to start coming at least once a month and build from there!

Prayers before Communion - Instead of your regular evening prayers on Saturday night, flip to a different section of your prayer book and read a portion of the prayers before communion as a family. Adults have more focus to read a fuller extent of the prayers, but for families, just a portion of the prayers or a portion of the Canon in Preparation for Holy Communion is usually enough. Reading these other prayers helps us all have the reminder of the awesome and life changing worship that we are about to enter into.

Let us Attend - antiochian.org/regulararticle/809 www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/letusattend

The Antiochian Archdiocese sponsors 2 short podcasts and handouts for younger and older children that includes the reading Gospel passage Sunday and a set of questions. It can be a great before-bedtime activity for our kids (and all of us!) to think about the Gospel and how it applies to our lives. This way your kids can come to church familiar with the Gospel reading and more attentive to what it says! (A note here that sometimes the Gospel readings in the Slavic and Byzantine lectionaries can get off by a week, especially between September and the beginning of Lent. So it's a good idea to check the OCA calendar to see how it compares. There is podcast archive of many years of recordings, so if needed, you can scroll to a previous year to find the correct Gospel reading)

Communion Fast - Because of the special, personal, and holy event of receiving the Body and Blood of Christ into us and being united to Christ at Holy Communion, it is our practice in the Orthodox Church to fast beginning at least from midnight before a morning Liturgy and beginning at least 6 hours before an evening Liturgy. How do we build and encourage this habit in our children? Again, I find the advice in [Blueprints for the Little Church](#) a helpful start, and I would be glad to talk more fully with any of you on the matter. "Opinions on when a child should begin to fast before Holy Communion vary, and as with all fasting, the schedule should be adjusted for the specific child and his or her needs. Many families begin by first asking the child to eat only a light fasting meal before church. Over time, you might talk with the child about undertaking a complete fast, and allow them to choose when they are ready to make this offering. Of course, if the child reaches some maturity (the teen years, certainly) and has not yet begun to attempt it, at some point the parent should require it."

There are more topics and tools/resources to come. If you have come across some helpful resources, I'd be glad to hear from you!

Fr. Chris