

VENERABLE ROMANUS THE MELODIST

Saint Romanus the Melodist was born in the fifth century in the Syrian city of Emesa of Jewish parents. After moving to Constantinople, he became a church sacristan in the temple of Hagia Sophia. The monk spent his nights alone at prayer in a field or in the Blachernae church beyond the city.

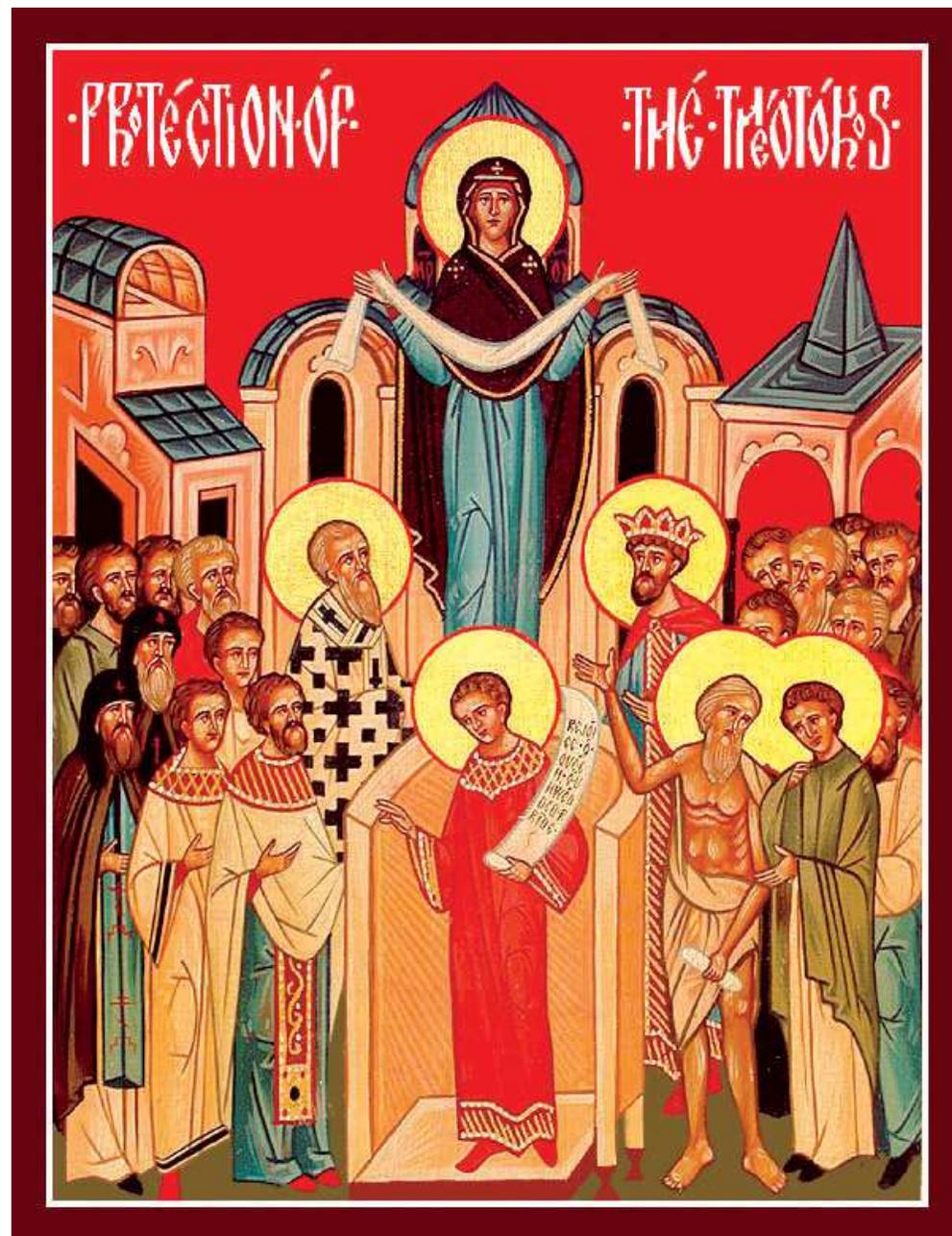
St. Romanus was not a talented reader or singer. Once, on the eve of the Nativity of Christ, he read the kathisma verses. He read so poorly that another reader had to take his place. The clergy ridiculed Romanus, which devastated him.

On the day of the Nativity, the Mother of God appeared to the grief-stricken youth in a vision while he was praying before her Kyriotissa icon. She gave him a scroll and commanded him to eat it. Thus was he given the gift of understanding, composition, and hymnography.

That evening at the all-night Vigil, St. Romanus sang, in a wondrous voice, his first Kontakion: "Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One..." All the hymns of St. Romanus became known as kontakia, in reference to the Virgin's scroll. St. Romanus was also the first to write in the form of the Oikos, which he incorporated into the all-night Vigil at his places of residence (in Greek, "oikos").

For his zealous service, St. Romanus was ordained as a deacon and became a teacher of song. Until his death, which occurred about the year 556, the hierodeacon Romanus the Melodist composed nearly a thousand hymns, many of which are still used by Christians to glorify the Lord. About eighty survive.

www.oca.org



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 48 - VOLUME LX

TONE 8

OCTOBER 1, 2023

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST THE PROTECTION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

*Apostle Ananias of the Seventy, first bishop of Damascus;
Ven. Romanus the Melodist; Martyr Domninus of Thessalonica;
Martyr Michael, Abbot in Armenia, and 36 Fathers with him;
Ven. John Koukouzelis of the Great Lavra on Athos*

On this day we, the Orthodox people, joyously keep festival, illumined by your coming, O Mother of God; and, beholding your most pure image, we cry out with compunction: "Cover us with your Protecting Veil and deliver us from all evil, entreating your Son, Christ our God, to save our souls."
Troparion, Tone IV

You were adorned from childhood with the godly virtues of the Spirit; you were a precious adornment of the Church of Christ, all-wise Romanus, for you made it lovely with beautiful hymnody. Therefore, we entreat you, grant your divine gift to those who desire it, that we may cry out to you: "Rejoice, all-blessed Father, beauty of the Church."

Kontakion, Tone VIII

TODAY'S EPISTLE: II CORINTHIANS 6:16-7:1
HEBREWS 9:1-7

TODAY'S GOSPEL: LUKE 6:31-36
LUKE 10:38-42; 11:27-28

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Today, October 1 Blessing of the Prayer Walk
Saturday, October 7 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

OCTOBER:

- 1, Sunday 11:00 a.m. Prayer Walk Blessing
- 12, Thursday 6:00 p.m. EOWG Fundraising Dinner and Social at HTOC
- 15, Sunday Food Sale
- 16, Monday 6:00 p.m. IOCC Winetasting at St. Michael’s Woodside
- 22, Sunday Parish Council Meeting
- 23, Monday Cooking for St. Herman’s House
- 25, Wednesday Serving dinner at St. Herman’s House
- 26, Thursday 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
- 29, Sunday Annual Parish Meeting

PRAYER WALK:

Our rejuvenated Prayer Walk will be blessed today after the Divine Liturgy.

BASKET AUCTION:

In conjunction with the Meatloaf Luncheon, we will hold a basket auction on Sunday, October 8. The baskets are on display now in our Fellowship Hall. This fundraiser helps cover the costs of our supplied meals to St. Herman’s House.

Basket tickets will be sold today and at the event on October 8. Winners need not be present.

MEATLOAF LUNCHEON:

Tickets are now available in the Fellowship Hall. Adult - \$16; Students 6-14 years - \$8; Children 5 and under - no charge. The last day for ticket sales is October 4. Contact Jewelann at 216-402-8599.

EOWG:

The Eastern Orthodox Women’s Guild is currently holding their annual Membership Drive. Please see Joanne Stoyka if you are interested.

The EOWG will be having a Pan-Orthodox dinner on Thursday, October 12, at HTOC Fellowship Hall. Doors open at 6:00; dinner at 7:00. Adults \$15; Children 6-12 \$7.50; under 6 Free. See Joanne Stoyka for tickets.

FOOD SALE:

Our monthly Food Sale will be on Sunday, Oct. 15. Please plan to cook and bake some items!

IOCC:

The annual Winetasting event for the IOCC is Monday, October 16. Buy tickets from Diane Hastings. There will be a 4-course dinner with wine pairings as well as a silent auction. Learn how your financial support is helping families around the world.

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.

COFFEE HOUR:

The refreshments today are donated by Pauline Smolarchuk and Judy Howe.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Marsha Uziel in blessed memory of Bob and Anne Manning

PARISH MEETING:

Our annual Parish Meeting is Sunday, October 29.

FLOWERS:

The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

“If you share your prosperity with your neighbor - if you have it in common with him, then all God’s blessings will be in common with you. Ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you. All Mine are thine and thine are Mine” (John 15:17, 17:10).

GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, 9/24/23	\$ 1423.00
BUILDING FUND	128.00
CANDLES	165.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDS	448.00
COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES	310.00
COFFEE HOUR, 9/17	84.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 48 – Volume LX

October 1, 2023

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS A KONTAKION? AND WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH ST. ROMANOS THE MELODIST (Oct. 1st)?

“The kontakion is a homily or sermon in verse that was chanted to music. The word “kontakion” probably comes from the word *kontos*, “pole” or “rod”, and refers to the wooden rod round which the parchment containing the text was rolled and which was unrolled vertically by the chanter... A kontakion generally consists of a short prelude, called in Greek *koukoulion* (but which in current service books is now called simply *kontakion*), followed by a number of longer stanzas, usually between eighteen and twenty-four, all in identical meter, called *ikoi*... The initial letters of each stanza commonly form an acrostic. Those of St Romanos normally take the form OF THE HUMBLE ROMANOS, often with the added description HYMN, POEM, CHANT, or something similar... The music to which the kontakia were chanted is lost; that found in the manuscripts does not go back further than the thirteenth century, while the melodies used at the present day are later still. On the other hand, it is not impossible that the general method of chanting the kontakia was not unlike that still employed in the Greek Church for the most famous kontakion of all, the Akathist to the Mother of God...which dates from the fifth or sixth century and is thought by many to be the work of St Romanos, and which is still chanted in full on the fifth Saturday of Lent. If St Romanos was the greatest writer of kontakia, he was almost certainly not the inventor. A number of early anonymous kontakia survive, including the Akathist, which, though they cannot be dated precisely, may well be earlier than those of St Romanos. By the middle of the seventh century the kontakion was in decline and was supplanted in popularity by the canon, a product of the monastic office that still forms the most striking feature of the Morning Office (Matins) of the Orthodox Church. Today, with the exception of the Akathist to the Mother of God, the kontakion only survives in the services of the Church in the form of the prelude and first stanza, which are read, or sometimes chanted, during the canon at Matins.”

(On the Life of Christ: Kontakia, translated by Archimandrite Ephrem Lash, pages xxvii-xxxii)

Excerpts from the kontakion *On the Mother of God* by St Romanos:

As once there was fire in the bush shining brightly and not burning the thorn,
so now the Lord is in the Virgin
For God did not wish to delude Moses or to terrify him,
but, making known to him what was to come in the future,
he showed the bush bearing fire, that
he might learn that, to Christ

a Virgin gives birth, and after childbirth remains still a virgin

The Scriptures reveal you, Jesus. One indicates manna and a jar,
while another makes known a flower from a rod,
and they call your mother Flower, Rod, Ark, who carries you in her bosom,
who was opened through the Spirit
and after this remained closed,
so that everyone will say,

a Virgin gives birth, and after childbirth remains still a virgin

(On the Life of Christ, Lash, p 19)