

THE RIGHTEOUS GIDEON

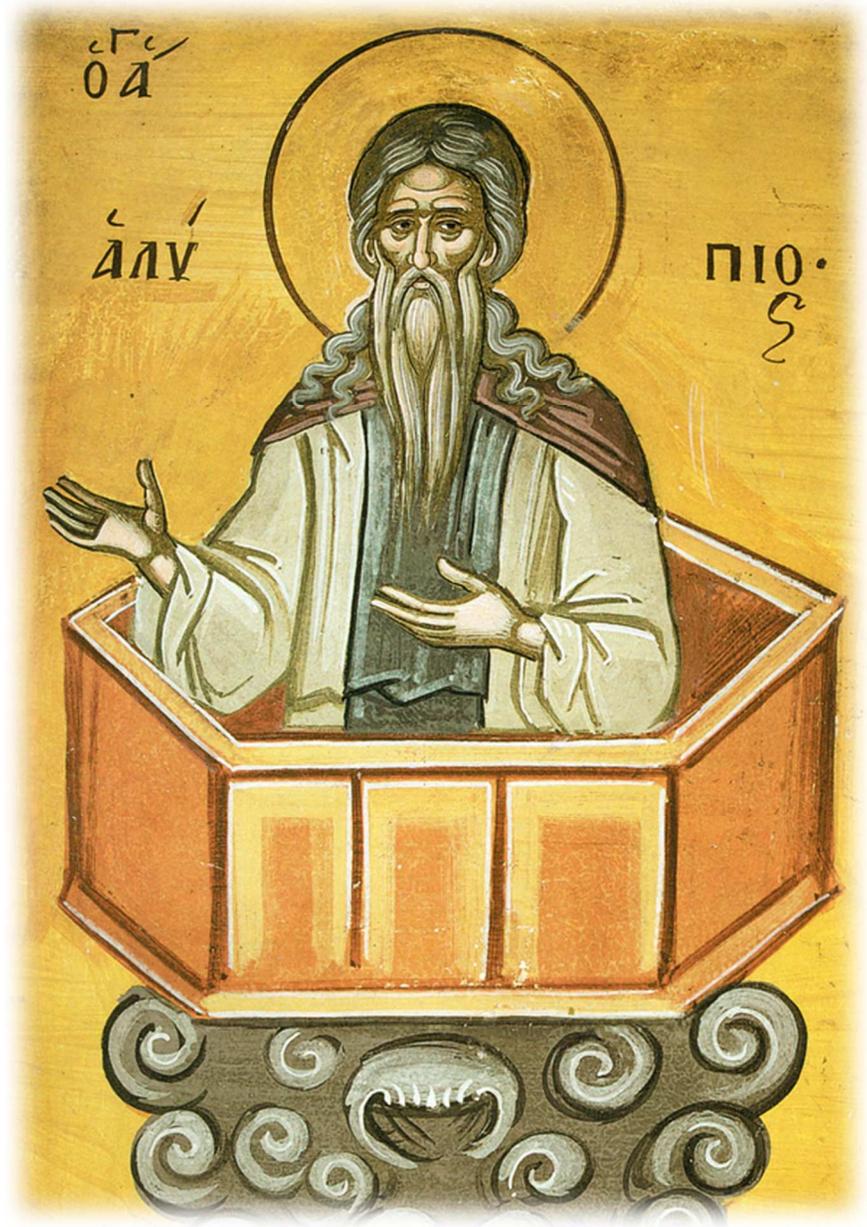
The Righteous Gideon, whose name means “destroyer,” appears in chapters 6-8 of Judges. He was the son of Joash the Abiezrite. One day, as he was beating out wheat in the wine press, the Angel of the Lord appeared to him and commanded him to deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Gideon gathered an army of men from various towns to fight the Midianites, then asked God to give him a sign that he would be able to deliver Israel. First, he placed a fleece of wool on the floor of the threshing room. Then he said, “If there is dew on the fleece alone, and if the ground is dry, then I shall know that Thou wilt deliver Israel by my hand, as Thou hast said.”

The next morning Gideon got up early and squeezed the fleece, wringing out enough water to fill a bowl. Then he asked God to let the fleece remain dry and to let there be dew on the ground; the next day this had been done. When Gideon saw this, the powerful warrior of Manasseh led an army of 300 men to victory over the Midianites.

The people entreated him to be their ruler, and also his son and his grandson, but he would not agree to this, because the Lord was their ruler. However, Gideon was Judge for forty years, and during that time the land had rest.

The righteous Gideon is referenced in Ode 9 of the second Canon for the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos: “Let us magnify the radiant cloud, in which the Master of all descended, as dew from Heaven upon the fleece” (Judges 6:37). Gideon is also mentioned in Hebrews 11:32 with others “who through faith conquered kingdoms.”

www.oca.org



VEN. ALYPIUS THE STYLITE

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD
PARMA, OHIO 44134

THE TRINITARIAN

Published Weekly by the
HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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 3 - VOLUME LXI

tone 8

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Ven. Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis;
Ven. James the Solitary of Syria; Righteous Gideon;
Dedication of the Church of the Greatmartyr George at Kiev;
Repose of St. Innocent, First Bishop of Irkutsk*

You were a pillar of patient endurance, having imitated the forefathers, O Venerable One: Job in suffering, and Joseph in temptations, your lived like the Bodiless Ones while yet in the flesh, O Alypius, our Father. Beseech Christ God that our souls may be saved.

Troparion, Tone I

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile, and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe! O our holy father James, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

Troparion, Tone VIII

Let us the faithful lovingly glorify the irreproachable shepherd and preacher of faith among the peoples of Mongolia, the glory and adornment of the flock of Irkutsk, for he is the guardian of Siberia and intercessor for our souls.

Kontakion for St. Innocent, Tone II

TODAY'S EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 4:1-6

TODAY'S GOSPEL: LUKE 13:10-17

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, December 2

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

NOVEMBER:

26, TODAY Last day to order nut rolls
 11:30 a.m. Parish Council meeting
 27, Monday 9:00 a.m. Decorating the church for Christmas
 30, Thursday 10:00 a.m. Festal Divine Liturgy and luncheon at St. Andrew Church

DECEMBER:

3, Sunday St. Nicholas Potluck Luncheon (Lenten foods)
 10, Sunday Second Sunday Food Sale; Pick-up of nut, poppyseed, apricot rolls
 4:00 p.m. Nativity concert at Archangel Michael Church

HTOC CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE:

This year Holy Trinity is working with Parma City Schools to sponsor a Christmas giving tree. The district has identified children of families in need. The tree will be set up in the Fellowship Hall Nov. 26 -Dec. 17. Fliers are available with complete information. Stop by during coffee hour to choose an ornament for the tree and make a *Child's Christmas Bright!* If you have any questions, please see Valerie Spoerl or Karen Sherwood.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON:

We will have our annual St. Nicholas celebration next Sunday. Plan to join with fellowship and food following the Divine Liturgy. There is a sign-up sheet in the Hall. Please bring foods that are meatless.

BOOK STUDY:

Fr. Christopher is offering classes covering Let Us Attend: A Journey Through the Orthodox Divine Liturgy by Fr. Lawrence Farley. Books are available in our bookstore, or order online. Remaining classes are Dec. 10 (Ch. 9-12); Dec. 17 (Ch. 13-Conclusion).

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

The Parish Council will meet today.

ZOE HOUSE:

ZOE House is always looking for more volunteers, usually 2-hour shifts or more each week. Substitutes who can be available often with less than a day's notice are especially needed. Talk with Joanne Stoyka, Barbara Chandler, or Susan Range to find out more about this opportunity.

NUT, POPPYSEED AND APRICOT ROLLS:

In addition to nut rolls, both poppyseed and apricot rolls are offered, \$15 each. Order forms are available during coffee hour today, which is the last day to order. (Or call or text Rita Bellack 330-204-9513.) Pick up and pay for rolls on 12/10 during the Second Sunday Food Sale.

RETREAT:

St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore is hosting a Pan-Orthodox "3ETREAT" Dec. 9 for youth and anyone who cares about young people. Please see the bulletin board for details and registration information.

JOB OPPORTUNITY:

FOCUS North America has need of a Social Media Coordinator/Administrative Assistant. The job posting is on www.orthodoxjobs.com and currently appears on the home page. Scroll down to find the posting for the FOCUS Cleveland position.

FEAST DAY OF APOSTLE ANDREW:

St. Andrew Church invites all to attend their Divine Liturgy on Thursday, Nov. 30, at 10:00 a.m. An advent meal will follow the liturgy; if you plan to attend, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall so meal preparations can be made.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Gil and Pat George.

COFFEE HOUR:

Our refreshments today are hosted by Stone Soup.

Charity is the seed.

If you desire that it bring forth good fruit, make the seed good by bestowing your charity with simplicity and from a good, merciful and compassionate heart.

You will lose nothing,

but you will obtain infinitely more if you give it from a good heart and with faith in the Recompenser.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

(Matthew 25:40)

St. John of Kronstadt

REMAINING FAITHFUL, REMAINING IN TRUTH

“As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.” (1 Timothy 1:3–4)

Timothy was a young bishop with a Greek father and a faithful Jewish mother who passed on that faith to him. Timothy's Jewish faith led him to receive Jesus as the Messiah and become a spiritual son of the Apostle Paul.

He was assigned to be a Christian leader in a large city with many religious practices, including the cult of Artemis (Acts 19:21-41). The religious devotees to this pagan goddess, and also the men appearing to be Christian leaders but presenting a “different doctrine” were perhaps enough to make Timothy exhausted. Maybe he felt like looking for reasons to get away for a while and spend time with Paul, or even to flee his post all together.

These so-called teachers were wanting to add to the deposit of faith (1 Tim 6:20) that was received from the Lord and passed to his disciples. These myths (foundational stories that were intended to shape a community) and endless genealogies (perhaps taken from extra-biblical 2nd Temple Judaic literature that was being read and discussed among Jewish religious leaders) were leading to teaching that was not in line with the Gospel. An issue that continues to resurge in the pages of the New Testament is the one of circumcision. Many felt that converts to Christianity must be circumcised to fully be in the faith, but this was not the definitive decision of the Church (Acts 15). Instead, converts participated in the faith of Christ and his own circumcision by being united to him in baptism.

One can imagine the challenge that Timothy had in order to maintain unity among his flock and to rightly divide the word of truth. And Paul at the very beginning of this first letter wastes no time speaking to this challenge.

God is calling each of us to different roles within the church. We have received different spiritual gifts and are called to offer those for the building up of the body of Christ. And these verses are a reminder that there are going to be times that we want to shy away from those God-given gifts, talents, and roles that we serve in. But just like Timothy was to remain at Ephesus, so often we too are to patiently endure in our roles and talents for God's glory.

There is a call here also for us to always be students of the true teachings found in Christ which we experience to a great extent in the holy scriptures and also the divine services and hymns. Just when we think we've heard it all and come to the full understanding of our faith, there's always deeper to go, always more to fuel our curiosity about Christ and the faith, not toward distractions and myths, but in humility seeking God's prompting and guidance. We as Christians have the Holy Spirit in us, and I think that when we come with honest open hearts and humility, the Holy Spirit does guide us into all truth (John 16:13). The Spirit hasn't left His Church but is leading us to be good stewards and managers of all that He has entrusted to us.

Fr. Chris

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD; PARMA, OHIO 44134
REVEREND CHRISTOPHER MOORE

DECEMBER 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers |
| 3 26th Sunday after Pentecost Prophet Zephaniah 10:45 a.m. St. Nicholas Potluck Meal | 4 | 5 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers | 6 St. Nicholas the Wonder-worker 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy | 7 | 8 | 9 “3ETREAT” for Youth; St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers |
| 10 27th Sunday after Pentecost 11:00 Book Study Food Sale 4:00 p.m. Nativity Concert; Arch. Michael’s | 11 | 12 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers | 13 St. Herman of Alaska | 14 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal | 15 | 16 1:00 p.m. Baptism of Aya Amani 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers |
| 17 28th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday of the Forefathers Churching for Tyler Pask 11:00 a.m. Book Study | 18 | 19 6:00 p.m. Vespers and Small Compline | 20 6:00 p.m. Vespers and Small Compline | 21 | 22 9:00 a.m. Royal Hours | 23 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers |
| 24 29th Sunday after Pentecost Eve of the Nativity of Christ 7:00 p.m. Festal Vigil | 25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil | 26 T H I S | 27 I S A | 28 F A S T - | 29 F R E E | 30 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers W E E K . |
| 31 30th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Righteous Ones 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers | January 1 Circumcision of Christ 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy | F R E E | E D A | Y S | January 5 9:00 a.m. Royal Hours 6:00 p.m. Festal Vigil Strict Fast | January 6 Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers |