

## VENERABLE MELANIA THE YOUNGER OF ROME

Saint Melania was born in Rome into a devout Christian family. Her parents married her at the age of 14 to an illustrious youth, Apinianus. Melania asked her husband to live with her in chastity or else release her from the marriage; but he answered her that once they have two children to inherit their property, “then we shall both renounce the world.” Soon Melania gave birth to a daughter, whom they dedicated to God. Continuing to live together in marriage, Melania secretly wore a hair shirt and spent her nights in prayer. Their second child, a boy, was born prematurely, with severe complications. They baptized him, and he departed to the Lord.

Seeing the suffering of his wife, Apinianus asked the Lord to preserve her life, and he vowed to spend their life together in chastity. Soon their daughter also died. Melania’s parents did not support the couple’s decision to dedicate their lives to God, but when her father became deathly ill, he then asked for their forgiveness and that they pray for him.

The saints then left Rome and began a new life completely dedicated to the service of God. They visited the sick, helped the indigent, visited the exiled and convicts in debtor’s prison. They sold their estates and helped monasteries, hospitals, widows and orphans in Mesopotamia, Syria, Egypt, Phoenicia, and Palestine.

They sailed for Africa, but a storm arose and carried the ship to an island on which barbarians had landed. The besiegers demanded a ransom from the inhabitants or would lay waste to the city. The saints supplied the ransom and saved the city and its people.

They resumed their trip to Africa and helped the needy there. They made offerings to churches and monasteries. St. Melania humbled her flesh by strict fasting, fortifying her soul by reading the Word of God. She made copies of the sacred books and distributed them to those who lacked them.

After 7 years in Carthage, they went to Jerusalem and distributed their remaining gold to the destitute and then spent their days in poverty and prayer. St. Melania secluded herself in a cell and rarely saw St. Apinianus. Later she founded a monastery and instructed sisters to be vigilant and to pray, to disdain their own opinions and cultivate first the love for God and one another, to keep the holy Orthodox Faith and to guard purity of soul and of body. When St. Apinianus died, St. Melania buried his relics and spent four years in fasting and unceasing prayer. She then built a monastery for men. She traveled to Constantinople and worked against the heresy of Nestorius, converting many people to Orthodoxy and working miracles through her prayers. Returning to her own monastery, she sensed the approach of death and told this to the priest and the sisters; they heard her final instructions with deep sorrow and tears. St. Melania peacefully gave up her soul to the Lord in 439.

[www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)



*SAINT JOSEPH THE BETROTHED*

**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](mailto:frchristopher@holy-trin.org)

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

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 9 - VOLUME LXI

TONE 5

DECEMBER 31, 2023

## THIRTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, the Brother of the Lord*  
*Ven. Melania the Younger of Rome;*  
*Bl. Theophylact of Ochrid; Ven. Chiriacos of Tazlu;*  
*New Hieromartyrs Thaddæus Uspénsky, Archbishop of Tver', and Nikolai, Archbishop of Velikii Ustiug*

Today the godly David is filled with gladness and Joseph offers praise with James. Having received the crown of their kinship with Christ, they rejoice, praising in song Him Who is inexpressibly born on earth, crying out: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor You!"

Kontakion, Tone III

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Mother, for you took up the Cross and followed Christ. By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away, but to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal. Therefore, your spirit, O holy Mother Melania, rejoices with the angels."  
Troparion, Tone VIII

TODAY'S EPISTLE: GALATIANS 1:11-19

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:13-23

### HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Monday, January 1	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - <b>Circumcision of our Lord</b>
Friday, January 5	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy; Blessing of Waters 6:00 p.m. Festal Vigil
Saturday, January 6	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - <b>Theophany of our Lord</b> Outdoor Blessing of Waters 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

**Please note change of services from calendar.**

### 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](http://www.oca.org/readings).

**COMING EVENTS**

**JANUARY:**

7, Sunday	9:00 a.m. Chrismation of Meagan Brill
11, Thursday	7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
14, Sunday	11:00 a.m. Book Study—conclusion Second Sunday Food Sale
21, Sunday	11:00 a.m. Parish Council meeting
25, Thursday	7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
29, Monday	Cooking for St. Herman’s House
31, Wednesday	Serving dinner at St. Herman’s House

**THEOPHANY SERVICES:**

This week’s celebration of The Theophany of our Lord will begin Friday with a 9:00 a.m. Liturgy followed by the indoor Great Blessing of Waters. There will be a 6:00 p.m. Vigil that evening. On Saturday, there is a 9:00 a.m. Liturgy. Then we will travel to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park for an outdoor blessing of the Cuyahoga River. Afterwards there will be a time of fellowship, with coffee, hot cocoa and snacks. Parking is at the Station Road Bridge lot, south of Rt. 82: 9141 Riverview Rd.; Brecksville, 44141. Visit the Cuyahoga Valley National Park website for detailed information.

**HOME BLESSINGS:**

Fr. Christopher will be offering home blessings in 2024, between Theophany and the beginning of Lent, January 7—March 17. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. You can also email Fr. Christopher; or you can call Janene in the church office Mon. or Thurs. mornings; or leave a message on the machine.

**PRAYER LIST:**

If you have a request for prayers, contact Mimi Matheis at 440-886-6945, or [mamatheis22@gmail.com](mailto:mamatheis22@gmail.com). The list is typically published on Sunday afternoons. If you are interested in receiving the Prayer List electronically, please email Mimi to be added to the distribution list.

**CHRISMATION:**

Next Sunday, January 7, will be the Chrismation of Meagan Brill, beginning at 9:00, during the Divine Liturgy.

**BOOK STUDY:**

The final class has been rescheduled for Sunday, Jan. 14, at 11:00 a.m. Discussion will cover Chapter 13-conclusion.

**CALENDARS:**

2024 Lectionary Wall Calendars are available in the vestibule.

**IN SEARCH OF SEAMSTRESSES:**

Some of our altar servers robes are in need of minor mending. If you are able to assist in this project, please see Protodeacon Anthony.

**NEEDED FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION:**

Please save your plastic grocery bags (all colors). Bring them to church and place them in the plastic bin marked “Plastic Bags for St. Mary of Egypt.” These bags will be used for food distribution to the needy.

**FR. ANDREW CLEMENTS:**

Fr. Andrew, pastor of St. Nicholas Church in Mentor, is celebrating 40 years of service in the Priesthood. He will be honored with a dinner on Sunday, Jan. 28, at 5:30 p.m.; Pine Ridge Country Club in Wickliffe. See details on the bulletin board. Reservations must be made by January 14, 2024.

**COFFEE HOUR:**

The refreshments today are hosted by the Evanoff Family.

The sign-up sheet is in the kitchen for future dates. Feel free to get a group together for hosting a coffee hour. Refreshments do not have to be elaborate.

**THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE**

REGULAR COLLECTION, 12/24/2023	\$ 8567.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDS	4133.00
CANDLES	163.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	25.00
LOCAL CHARITIES	51.00
IN MEMORY OF OLGA LOBAS	16.00
NUT ROLL SALE	1240.00
COFFEE HOUR, 12/17	53.00

**MESSAGE OF HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP DANIEL**  
**ON THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST**

Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Venerable Monastics, and Beloved Faithful,

***“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light”***  
***(Isaiah 9:2)***

As we gather in the spirit of joy to celebrate the Nativity of Christ, these words of the holy Prophet Isaiah resound once again in our ears and in our hearts. Year after year, this ancient yet ever-new prophecy takes on renewed significance as we contemplate the mystery of Our Savior’s birth. In the Gospel of Saint Luke, we recall how the watchful shepherds, tending to their flocks in the dark of night in the hills of Bethlehem, suddenly experienced “the glory of the Lord shining on them” (*Luke 2:9*). The prevailing darkness of this world was pierced by a heavenly brightness: Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, who even now continues to enlighten the darkness of our earthly existence.

How do we today come to experience this Light, which dispels darkness and destroys it? We encounter it primarily as Divine Love: that Love which has altered the course of history, freed us from evil, filled our hearts with peace and joy, and brought life to the world. In the darkness of our night, the Love of God has been revealed to us: it is Jesus, the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary. He is “God’s love poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (*Romans 5:5*).

Yes, “the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all people” (*Titus 2:11*): in our jubilant celebration of the Lord’s birth, we take to heart that Christ our Lord irrupted into human lives and affairs as we went about our usual business, and radically changed all things. The grace of God, this unmerited and transformative gift, continues to be given to us in the Person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. The Feast of the Nativity poignantly reminds us that God’s love is unceasing, and that it outlasts the most harrowing circumstances and the worst instances of human sin. It is this love for mankind that we find encapsulated in the well-known words of the Gospel of St John: “God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (*John 3:16*).

The love of God, revealed in his Son by the Holy Spirit, is neither conditional nor temporary, and does not depend on us or our “worthiness.” Even when we fall into sin, God continues to love us—but how often do we wrongly perceive God’s goodness as a response to our virtue, or divine punishment in our misfortunes! Yet despite our weakness and sinfulness, God’s love remains steadfast: it does not change nor is it fickle; it is faithful and ever patient. This is this incomparable gift that we encounter as we celebrate the Nativity of Christ. Each year, we remember and celebrate that the Lord has revealed himself to us as absolute, tender, and unfailing Love. His glory does not overwhelm us; rather, he is born in complete and utter poverty to bring all of his creation into the abundant wealth of his love.

Beloved Flock, “the grace of God has appeared” to shine forth in your life, in your hearts, and in the world we inhabit. Receive this grace as the unmerited gift of God’s love, and the light of Christ, born on this sacred night, will shine forth in you and through you, piercing the darkness that envelops this world.

Be assured of my fervent prayers and best wishes for you and all your loved ones during this holy season. May your celebration of the Lord’s birth may be adorned with radiance and joy, and may the coming New Year be enriched with abundant blessings, through the unceasing prayers and intercessions of our Most Holy and Most Pure Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary.

**With love in the Newborn Savior,**  
**+DANIEL**  
**Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest**

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

# JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <b>Circumcision of Christ</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	2	3	4	<b>5</b> <b>Eve of the Theophany of Christ</b> 9:00 a.m. Vesperal Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Festal Vigil <b>Strict Fast Day</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
<b>7 31st Sunday after Pentecost</b> Synaxis of St. John the Baptist 9:00 a.m. Chrismation of Meagan Brill	8	9	10	11  7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	12	13  5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
<b>14 32d Sunday after Pentecost</b> Leavetaking of the Theophany  11:00 a.m. Book Study Second Sunday Food Sale	15	16	17	18	19	20  5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
<b>21 33d Sunday after Pentecost</b> Ven. Maximus the Confessor  11:00 a.m. Parish Council meeting	22	23	24	25  7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	26	27  5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
<b>28 34th Sunday after Pentecost</b> New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia	<b>29</b> Cooking for St. Herman's House	30	<b>31</b> Serving dinner at St. Herman's House	<b>Feb. 1</b> <b>Eve of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple</b> 6:00 p.m. Festal Vigil	<b>Feb. 2</b> <b>The Meeting of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	<b>Feb. 3</b> 11:00 a.m. Baptism of Nathan Seese