

VENERABLE EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

St. Ephraim was born at the beginning of the fourth century in Mesopotamia into a family of impoverished farmers. He was raised in piety, but from his childhood, he was known for his quick temper and impetuous character. He often had fights, acted thoughtlessly, and even doubted God's Providence. He finally recovered his senses by the grace of God and embarked on the path of repentance and salvation. He then went to the mountains to join the hermits. Under the direction of the holy hierarch St. James of Nisibis, a noted ascetic, St. Ephraim attained Christian meekness, humility, submission to God's will, and the strength to undergo various temptations without complaint.

After 14 years, St. Ephraim went to a monastery near Edessa, where he combined asceticism with a ceaseless study of the Word of God, taking from it both solace and wisdom for his soul. The Lord gave him the gift of teaching, and people came to him, wanting to hear his counsel. He began with self-accusation and instructed everyone in repentance, faith and piety. He denounced the Arian heresy, which at that time was causing great turmoil. Pagans who heard his preaching were converted to Christianity.

St. Ephraim wrote the first Syriac commentary on the Pentateuch ("Five Books") of Moses. He wrote many prayers and hymns, enriching the Church's liturgical services. He composed hymns for the Twelve Great Feasts of the Lord and for funerals. His Prayer of Repentance, "O Lord and Master of my life..." is recited during Great Lent and summons Christians to spiritual renewal.

In many of St. Ephraim's works are glimpses of the life of Syrian ascetics, which centered on prayer and working in various obediences for the common good of the brethren. The monks believed that the goal of their efforts was communion with God and the acquisition of divine grace. For them, the present life was a time of tears, fasting and toil.

Believing himself the least and worst of all, St. Ephraim went to Egypt at the end of his life to see the efforts of the great ascetics. He was welcomed and received great solace from conversing with them. He then visited St. Basil the Great in Cappadocia, who wanted to ordain him as a priest; but St. Ephraim considered himself unworthy. At St. Basil's insistence, he consented to be ordained as a deacon.

Returning to his Edessa wilderness, he hoped to spend the rest of his life in solitude, but there was a devastating famine in the region. The saint persuaded the wealthy to render aid to the needy. From the offerings of believers he built a poor-house for the poor and sick. St. Ephraim then withdrew to a cave near Edessa, where he remained till the end of his days.

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THE TRINITARIAN

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

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 13 - VOLUME LXI

TONE 8

JANUARY 28, 2024

THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia

*Ven. Ephraim the Syrian; Ven. Theodosius, Abbot, of Tot'ma;
Ven. Efrem, Abbot and Wonderworker of Novotórzhszk; St. Efrem, Bishop of Pereyaslavl';
Ven. Palladius the Hermit, of Antioch; St. Isaac the Syrian, Bishop of Nineveh*

Today the New Martyrs of Russia stand in white robes before the Lamb of God, and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory: "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor, and power, and strength be to our God unto the ages of ages. Amen." Kontakion, Tone III

Ever anticipating the hour of Judgment, you lamented bitterly, venerable Ephraim. Through your deeds you were a teacher by example; therefore, universal Father, you rouse the slothful to repentance. Kontakion, Tone II

THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Friday, February 2

By Your birth, You sanctified the Virgin's womb, and You blessed Simeon's hands as was meet, O Christ God; by anticipation You have saved us even now. Grant peace to Your faithful people, and strengthen the Hierarchs You have loved, O only Lover of mankind. Kontakion, Tone I

TODAY'S EPISTLE: ROMANS 8:28-39

TODAY'S GOSPEL: LUKE 21:8-19

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Thursday, February 1	6:00 p.m. Festal Vigil
Friday, February 2	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - The Meeting of our Lord in the Temple
Saturday, February 3	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

JANUARY:

28, TODAY 5:30 p.m. Celebration for Fr. Andrew Clements
 29, Monday Cooking for St. Herman's House
 31, Wednesday Serving dinner at St. Herman's House

FEBRUARY:

4, Sunday 8:45 a.m. Baptismal Liturgy of Nathan Seese
 7, Wednesday 7:00 p.m. "Blessed are Those..." Lecture Series at St. Luke Church
 8, Thursday 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
 10, Saturday 10:00 a.m.—Noon Pick-up of pierogies at Sts. Peter and Paul Church
 11, Sunday Second Sunday Food Sale
 22, Thursday 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

<p><u>WELCOME!</u> We are pleased that the faithful servants of God, Fr. Michael & Mat. Valerie Zahirsky, have chosen to make Holy Trinity their home in retirement! They began attending HTOC in mid-December and were welcomed by Fr. Christopher and the community. Please greet them warmly and introduce yourself!</p> <p><u>HOME BLESSINGS:</u> 2024 Theophany Home Blessings continue. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, as well as an online Sign-Up Genius link, which has been emailed.</p> <p><u>ENVELOPES:</u> Offering envelopes are available in the vestibule.</p> <p><u>TIME, TALENT, TREASURE:</u> If you did not already receive a Time, Talent, Treasure form for 2024, these forms are also available on the table in the vestibule. Please fill one out and return to the designated box today.</p> <p><u>PIEROGI SALE:</u> Sts. Peter & Paul Church offers specialty pierogies. Order by Feb. 5. See details on the bulletin board.</p>	<p><u>BAPTISM:</u> Next Sunday, February 4, we will celebrate the Baptism of Nathan Seese. The Baptismal Liturgy will begin with initiatory prayers at 8:45 a.m.</p> <p><u>LECTURE SERIES:</u> St. Luke Church in Bainbridge is offering a free series of lectures exploring the Beatitudes. See the flier on the bulletin board for details. The dates are Feb. 7, Feb. 21, and March 6, all at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>RUMMAGE SALE 2024:</u> This year's dates are July 25-27 for our Sale. Consider donating toys, books, seasonal decorations, household items, and small furniture in good condition. Contact Rita Bellack with questions: reetbellack@hotmail.com or call 330-204-9513.</p> <p><u>COFFEE HOUR:</u> The refreshments today are hosted by the Howe Family.</p> <p><u>TRINITARIAN COVERS AND FLOWERS:</u> The covers and flowers today are offered by Judy Howe in blessed memory of David Howe.</p>
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CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS

Maintaining and restoring our beautiful facilities is part of our stewardship of God's resources with which we have been blessed. When you designate a special gift or a part of your regular proportional giving to the Building Fund, your donation assists with the following major projects:

Recently completed: parking lot repair/sealing, parish hall soffit & Metal flashing, parking lot trench drain replacement.

Upcoming anticipated: parish hall stanchion reinforcement, church gutter and drainage repair/roof snow guard installation/wood paneling replacement, parish hall chimney grout work, church LED lighting conversion.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, 1/21/2024	\$ 2474.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	3000.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDS	829.00
CANDLES	141.00
HOME BLESSINGS	100.00
SECOND SUNDAY FOOD SALE	338.00
NUT ROLLS	60.00
HALL RENTAL	75.00
FOR POSTAGE STAMPS	40.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 13 – Volume LXI

January 28, 2024

**A FEW OF THE HOLY FATHERS ON THE LAST VERSE
OF TODAY'S EPISTLE READING:**

“you have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.” Col 3:10–11.

Gregory the Theologian

“But God will be all in all in the time of restitution; not in the sense that the Father alone will be, and the Son be wholly resolved into him, like a torch into a great pyre, from which it was pulled away for a short time and then put back ... when we shall be no longer divided (as we are now by movements and passions) and containing nothing at all of God, or very little, but then we shall be entirely like God, ready to receive into our hearts the whole God and him alone. This is the perfection to which we press on. Paul himself indeed bears witness to this.” – Orations 30.6.

John the Golden-Mouthed

“Behold! here is a third encomium of this “man.” With him, there is no difference admitted either of nation, or of rank, or of ancestry, seeing he hath nothing of externals, nor needeth them; for all external things are such as these, “circumcision, and uncircumcision, bondman, freeman, Greek,” that is, proselyte, “and Jew,” from his ancestors. If you have only this “man,” you will obtain the same things with the others that have him.

“But Christ,” he saith, “is all, and in all”: Christ will be all things to you, both rank, and descent, “and” Himself “in you all.” Or he says another thing, namely, that you all have become one Christ, being His body.” –Homily VIII on the Epistle to the Colossians

Maximos the Confessor

The divine apostle says that in Christ “there is neither male nor female, neither Jew nor Greek, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision, neither barbarian nor Scythian, neither slave nor free,” but he is “all things and in all.” In his infinite wisdom, he encloses all things in himself according to the one, simple power of goodness, just as a center defines the lines that originate straight from it....

Therefore, the holy Church is the image of God, as it has been said, because she works the same oneness around the faithful as God does. And even if they are different in their characteristics, and from different places, and have different customs, those who are present are made one according to the same oneness through faith. God himself works this oneness by nature without confusion around the substances of the things that are, alleviating and making identical that which is different around them by the reference to and oneness with himself as their cause and beginning and end” –On the Ecclesiastical Mystagogy, 1

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REVEREND CHRISTOPHER MOORE**

FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 p.m. Festal Vigil	2 The Meeting of our Lord in the Temple 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	3 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
4 35th Sunday after Pentecost Afterfeast of the Meeting Baptismal Liturgy of Nathan Seese, Initiatory Pray- ers at 8:45 a.m.	5	6	7	8 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	9	10 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
11 36th Sunday after Pentecost 11:30 a.m. Memorial Prayers for George Pavisich Second Sunday Food Sale	12	13	14	15	16	17 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
18 37th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday of Zacchaeus Churching of Logan Temari	19	20	21	22 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	23	24 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
25 38th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee Parish Council meeting	26 Cooking for St. Herman's House	27	28 Serving dinner at St. Herman's House	29		