

VENERABLE MARCELLUS, ABBOT OF THE MONASTERY OF THE “UNSLEEPING ONES”

St Marcellus was born in Apamea in Syria to wealthy parents who died when he was young. He studied at Antioch and then at Ephesus. He distributed his many possessions to the poor, sundering his ties to the world.

Under the guidance of an experienced elder at Ephesus, Marcellus followed the path of asceticism. He later went to Byzantium to St. Alexander, igumen of the monastery named “the Unsleeping.” There the psalmody was done constantly, both day and night, by alternating groups of monks. Marcellus was zealous in watchfulness, fasting and prayer, receiving great spiritual talents and the gift of clairvoyance. He foresaw the day of Abba Alexander’s death and his own election as igumen; Marcellus felt he was too young to rule others so he slipped away to visit and learn at other monasteries.

He later returned, to the great joy of the brethren. Abba John made Marcellus his closest assistant. Upon the death of Abba John, St. Marcellus was chosen igumen, despite his own wishes, and he remained in this position for 60 years.

News of his saintly life spread, and people came from afar for help. Many times they saw angels encircling the saint, attending and guarding him. The monastery thrived. So many monks came to place themselves under his direction that it was necessary to enlarge the monastery and church. Saint Marcellus received donations from believers for the expansion. A large church, hospital and hostel for the homeless were built. By his prayers, St. Marcellus treated the sick, cast out devils and worked miracles.

A monk sent to Ankara fell ill; near death he called out to his abba. At that very hour St. Marcellus heard his disciple and began to pray for him; the monk recovered at once.

When a ship with his monks came into danger on the Black Sea, the saint calmed the tempest by his prayers. When he was told of a fire raging at Constantinople, he prayed tearfully for the city, and the fire subsided as if extinguished by the tears of the monk.

St. Marcellus peacefully departed to the Lord in the year 485. His faithful disciple Lukian grieved terribly over him, but on the fifth day after the death, St. Marcellus appear to him and comforted him, foretelling his own impending end.

www.oca.org



HOLY RIGHTEOUS 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

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

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 8 - VOLUME LXII

TONE 2

DECEMBER 29, 2024

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday After the Nativity

***Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord;
The 14,000 Infants slain by Herod at Bethlehem;
Ven. Marcellus, Abbot of the Monastery of the "Unsleeping Ones"
Ven. Mark the Grave-digger, Theophilus, and John, of the Kiev Caves***

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

When the King was born in Bethlehem, the Magi came from the east. Having been guided by the star on high, they brought Him gifts. But in his exceeding wrath, Herod mowed down the infants as wheat, lamenting that the rule of his kingdom had come to an end.

Kontakion, Tone VI

TODAY'S EPISTLE: GALATIANS 1:11-19

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:13-23

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Tuesday, December 31	5:00 p.m. Vespers
Wednesday, January 1	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy — The Circumcision of our Lord Jesus Christ
Friday, January 3	9:00 a.m. Royal Hours
Saturday, January 4	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.

This is a Fast Free week.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

DECEMBER:

29, TODAY Potluck Meal following Divine Liturgy

JANUARY:

5, Sunday 11:30 a.m. Blessing of Waters at Cuyahoga Valley National Park

12, Sunday Second Sunday Food Sale

Wedding of Thomas Virosteck and Alicia Reinhardt

15, Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES:

Pick up your box of offering envelopes from the table in the narthex. Please take only the box of envelopes that belongs to you.

TIME, TALENT, TREASURE:

The Time, Talent & Treasure information for 2025 is now available in the narthex. Please take a packet home with you today.

OUTREACH PROJECT:

We will be collecting the following for our Parish January/February Outreach Project to benefit St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Mission.

If you'd like to participate, bring in our items and place on the table in the Hall **beginning on January 12.**

These items will be blessed on Saturday, February 1, after the Vigil of the Entrance of our Lord in the Temple.

To balance donations for distribution, our parish is asked to give:

Canned meat (tuna, ham, chicken); boxes of pasta, cans of soup, boxes of crackers.

Questions? Matushka Dianna Kall 216-741-2888.

HOME BLESSINGS:

With the Theophany season comes the opportunity for you to have your home blessed by Fr. Chris. You will be able to sign up online via Sign-up Genius, or you can also contact Janene in the church office.

THEOPHANY 2025:

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 5, we will have an outdoor Blessing of Waters at the Cuyahoga River in the National Park near Brecksville. Our Coffee Hour will take place there after the service. Plan to be a part of this occasion! Driving directions will be available next Sunday.

2025 CALENDARS:

Church calendars are available in the narthex.

LA COUPOLE:

Stop by the store and browse the assortment of gifts. All children's books are 20% off this month!

COFFEE HOUR:

Our refreshments today are hosted by the Evanoff Family.

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE:

Individuals or groups hosting coffee hours can now reserve dates on a new 18-month calendar hanging on the kitchen door. Ideas and guidelines for refreshments are available at the kitchen as well.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for dates in 2025. Your \$10 donation will help with our printing costs.

A Christian should pray for all Christians, as for himself, that God may prosper them in life, in faith and in spiritual wisdom and that they may be free from sins and passions.

Why?

For Christian love sees all Christians as members of Christ, the common Savior of all, and desires for them the same as he desires for himself, and strives by every means to do for them as he does for himself.

St. John of Kronstadt

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, 12/22/2024	\$ 4755.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS	1825.00
CANDLES	131.00
FLOWERS	50.00
COFFEE HOUR	50.00



Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Wednesday, 25 December 2024

The Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

№. 200

ARCHPASTORAL GREETINGS OF
THE MOST REVEREND DANIEL
ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO AND THE MIDWEST

ON THE RADIANT FEAST OF OUR LORD'S NATIVITY – 25 DECEMBER 2024

*Make ready, O Bethlehem!
Let the manger be prepared!
Let the cave show its welcome!
The Truth comes and the shadow flees.
God is born of a Virgin and is revealed to men.
He is clothed in our flesh and makes it divine.
Therefore Adam is renewed and cries out with Eve:
“Thy favor has appeared on earth, O Lord,
for the salvation of the human race.”*

(from the Royal Hours of the Nativity of Christ)

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

“God is born of a Virgin and is revealed to men”: as we sing these words, we recall the great mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. Gathering in these holy days to celebrate in the churches and chapels throughout our Diocese, to reflect upon this great mystery, let us also turn our thoughts to the one who was instrumental in fulfilling God’s plan for our salvation: Mary, the “One who gave birth to God the Word” and “truly Theotokos.”

We are first introduced to Mary of Nazareth at the beginning of the Gospel of Luke when, just after having spoken her “yes” to the angel in the moment of the Annunciation, she begins her trip “in great haste” from her hometown of Nazareth to the hill country of Judah, to be with her elderly relative Elizabeth in her time of need. The angel Gabriel had revealed to Mary that Elizabeth was in her sixth month of pregnancy (Luke 1:26-38). This explains why Mary, who carried within her an even greater mystery, goes to see Elizabeth and stays with her for three months, until Elizabeth gives birth to John, the Forerunner and Baptizer of Christ.

In the meeting between these two women, it is the young one, Mary, who offers the first greeting. The Gospel tells us: “she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth” (Luke 1:40). After this greeting, Elizabeth feels enveloped in great wonder as she is filled with the Holy Spirit. This wonder and joy is echoed in her response to Mary: “And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

In celebrating the Nativity, we ourselves are called to recognize the moments of the miraculous which are part of our daily lives. And what are these miraculous moments in everyday life? The first place is in *the other*, in those around us, in whom we recognize a brother or sister, because since the birth of Jesus occurred, every human face is marked with the image of the Son of God. Above all, we encounter this miraculous presence of Christ in the face of the poor, because God Himself entered the world poor, and it was to the poor, in the first place, that He revealed Himself.

Another place in which we recognize the miraculous is within history, the chronicle of human life and experience. However, we run the risk of reading history backwards and outside of its Christian context. For example, we

generally think that history is defined by the rise and fall of governments, wars and conflicts, regulated by business and finances, and dominated by the powers of this world. But it is God, the God of Creation who entered human life, who defines and rules over human history. As Mary sings in the *Magnificat*, it is the Lord who puts down the mighty from their thrones and exalts those of low degree, who fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away empty (Luke 1:52-53).

Yet another miraculous encounter is within the Church. To perceive the Church as miraculous means not limiting oneself to consider it only as a religious institution, but to embrace the Church as a mother who, despite any blemishes and wrinkles, allows the features of the beloved Bride of Christ the Lord to shine through—a Church that is able to recognize the signs of faithful love that God continuously sends her. This is the Church that always has her doors open wide, and her arms open to welcome everyone. Moreover, the Church, our Mother, goes out from her own doors to seek with a loving smile and warm embrace all those who are far off in order to bring them to the mercy of God. The Church herself provides this miraculous moment which we are invited to experience in these holydays of light and love.

God has given us all of Himself by giving His Only Son, who is all His joy. It is only with the heart of Mary, the humble and poor daughter of Zion, who became the Mother of the Son of the Most High, that it is possible to rejoice and be glad for the great gift of God and for His unpredictable surprise. Through the birth of Jesus, may she help us to perceive the miraculous which surrounds us every day—in our brothers and sisters, in the lived experience of history, and within the Church. In the birth of Jesus may we recognize the Gift of Gifts, the undeserved Gift who brings us His salvation.

In the spiritual atmosphere of joy and peace of the Nativity of Christ, I greet all of you with the joy of the Feast. Once again, I state my prayerful wish for peace: peace in families and homes, peace in parishes, peace in the ministry of our clergy and faithful, and peace for those who are suffering the horrors of war throughout the world, especially our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and in the Middle East.

As you gather with family, with your parish communities, and with all your loved ones, I send you my sincere fatherly greetings and archpastoral blessings. May the Lord grant you a bright and blessed celebration of the Birth of Christ and a New Year filled with an abundance of heavenly blessings.

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

With love in the Incarnate Son of God,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 8 – Volume LXII

December 29, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Holy Trinity,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

I would like to assemble an ongoing Building & Grounds Team for the continued care and maintenance of our facilities. We have many who offer their time and abilities regularly for the maintenance and good function of our church and I am so thankful to everyone who helps in big and small ways. I would like to coordinate our efforts by establishing a Building and Grounds Team that seeks to fulfill the items listed below. The initial meeting of the team will take place on January 26th after coffee hour, at which time, a schedule of regular meetings can be developed. Having experience in building and grounds maintenance is a plus, but participation is open to all who can give time and a helping hand. Please let me know if you'd like to participate on the team or you can just come to our organizational meeting.

Building and Grounds Team

- The team is open to any parishioners who wish to offer their assistance to the upkeep and maintenance of our building and grounds. Ideally, one or two of our council members will be a part of this team.
- The team will report to the council on a regular basis regarding its work.
- The team will determine a team leader to report to the council and to arrange team meetings.
- The team will meet on a regular basis throughout the year for planning and organizing of projects and activities. The team ideally would meet once a month, but should meet no less than 4 times a year.
- The team will conduct indoor and outdoor walkthroughs of the building and grounds, taking note of the condition of our facilities and what needs to be monitored and repaired.
- The team will help maintain a list, along with the parish council, of the top maintenance priorities of the church. This list will be kept in an accessible online location.
- The team will seek to determine which maintenance issues can be done in house and which might require hiring a contractor. Maintenance or building projects which require a contractor will need to be approved by the parish council.
- The team will be responsible for planning and enacting seasonal maintenance (e.g. winterization, landscaping and yard care, heaters, thermostat schedules, etc.)
- The team will plan multiple all-parish work days throughout the year (e.g. spring cleaning before Holy Week, outdoor work days).
- The team will seek to be informed of the weekly work our hired custodian does and the team will communicate with the priest and the custodian if special cleaning work needs to be done by the custodian.

With love in Christ,

Fr Chris