

## FEBUARY:

19, Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal  
22, Saturday 11:00 a.m. Spring cleaning at HTOC  
24, Monday Cooking for St. Herman's House  
26, Wednesday Serving dinner at St. Herman's House

### SPRING CLEANING!

On Feb. 22, 11:00-4:30, the sanctuary and nave will be cleaned. On Feb. 28, 4:00-9:00, the chairs will be removed from the nave (and cleaned); the floor will be scrubbed with a walk-behind floor cleaner. Please volunteer any amount of time you can. Refreshments provided! Contact Rita Bellack (330-204-9513; reetbellack@hotmail.com).

### ST MARY OF EGYPT OUTREACH PROJECT:

Thanks and Blessings to all the parishioners who donated the shelf-stable food for our outreach project. Your generosity yielded slightly more than 300 units of food for their monthly distribution. The specific list helps them replenish their inventory they purchase from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and gives them the opportunity to purchase other foods.

### SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY CHOIR:

A choir is being organized for the March 9 service. Rehearsals will be at 6:30, St. Sava Cathedral, 6306 Broadview Rd., Feb. 18, 25, and March 4.

### YOUNG ADULT RETREAT:

"Living the Liturgy" is the theme for the March 14-16 retreat at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA. Please see details on the bulletin board.

### IOCC REBUILD IN TENNESSEE:

June 15-21, volunteers will be traveling to eastern Tennessee to help rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Helene. A group from HTOC is being organized by Diane Hastings; cars will leave after Liturgy on June 15. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old. 16 or 17 year olds must have a guardian with them. Complete information is posted on the bulletin board.

### SAVE THE DATE:

May 19 is the annual IOCC Banquet - 6:00 p.m. at Woodside Event Center. Diane Hastings will have tickets by the end of the month; deadline is May 2. \$70. Your support helps families throughout the world.

### TRINITARIAN COVERS:

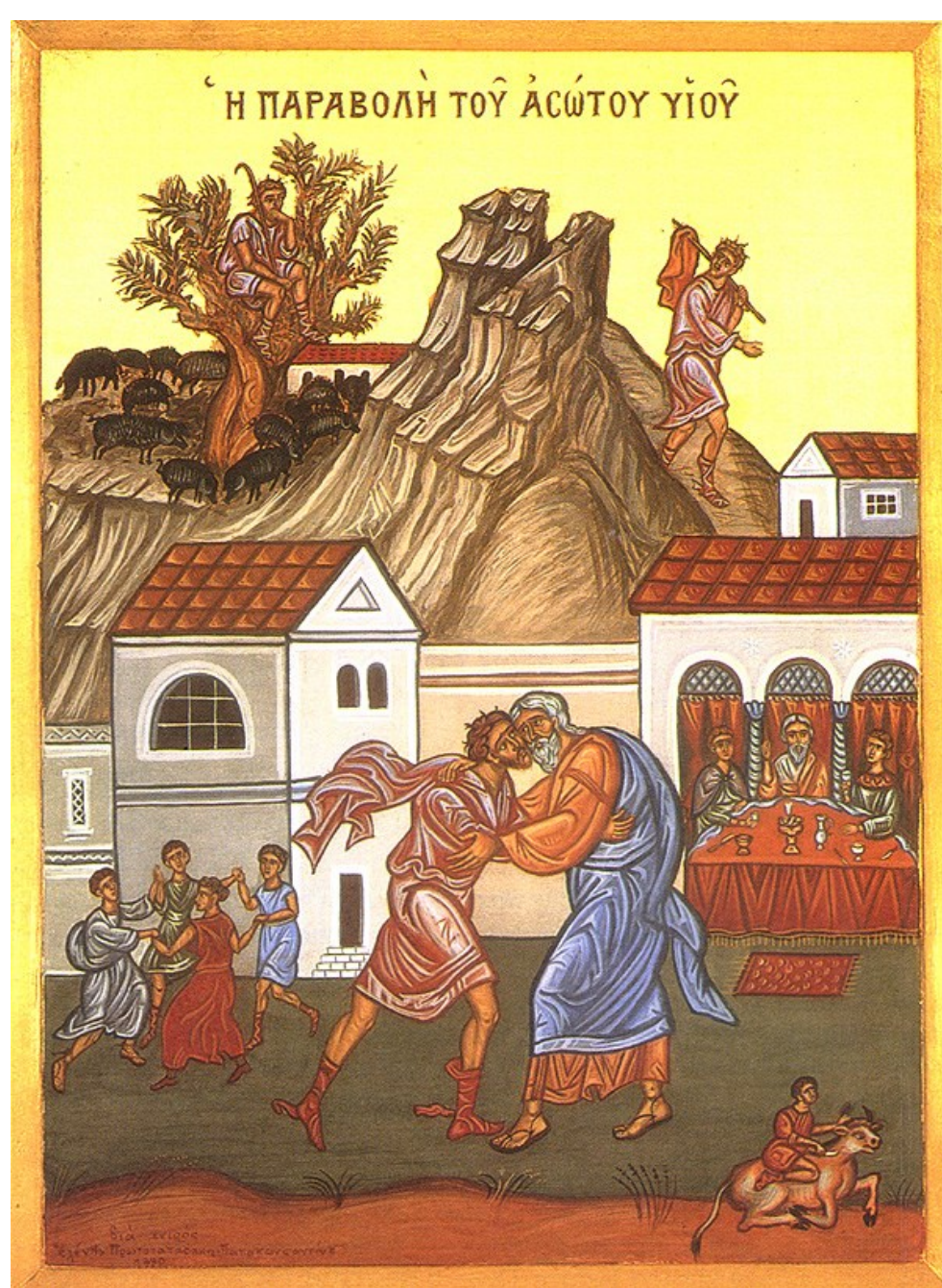
The covers today are offered by the Stoyka Family in blessed memory of Joanne's mother Helen Busch.

### COFFEE HOUR:

Today's Coffee Hour is hosted by the Geletka, Stoyka and Virosteck Families.

### HOUSE BLESSINGS:

Fr. Chris has generated an online registration process for House Blessings. Please go to <https://shorturl.at/PNY8S> or use this QR code. There is also a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. When selecting a date, keep in mind the region in which you are located.



**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
**6822 BROADVIEW ROAD**  
**PARMA, OHIO 44134**

# THE TRINITARIAN

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

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 15 - VOLUME LXII

TONE 1

FEBRUARY 16, 2025

## SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

*Martyrs Pamphilius the Presbyter, Valens the Deacon, Paul, Seleucus, Porphyrius, Julian, Theodulus, Elias, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Samuel, and Daniel, at Caesarea in Palestine; St. Maruthas, Bishop of Martyropolis in Mesopotamia; Persian Martyrs in Martyropolis; St. Nikolai, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Archbishop of Japan*

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father, and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You had given me. Therefore, I cry to You like the Prodigal: "I have sinned before You, O compassionate Father; receive me a penitent and make me as one of Your hired servants."

Kontakion, Tone III

Faced with terrible sufferings, the fearless athletes of the Lord rejoiced; they conversed with one another, ignoring the flesh. Therefore, they have inherited eternal glory, even praying for us who praise their struggles.

Kontakion, Tone IV,

Martyr Pamphilius and those with him

The parable of the Prodigal Son calls us to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong. ([www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org))

TODAY'S EPISTLE: I CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

TODAY'S GOSPEL: LUKE 15:11-32

### HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Friday, February 21 6:00 p.m. Vespers for Memorial Saturday  
Saturday, February 22 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy; Lity for the Departed  
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](http://www.oca.org/readings).

## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 15 – Volume LXII

February 16, 2025

On March 15th and 16th, His Eminence, our Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest, will be making an archpastoral visit to Holy Trinity to celebrate Great Vespers on Saturday and on Sunday to celebrate the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and to ordain Barry Gluntz to the diaconate. This is a special occasion for our church community, and I pray all parishioners will be able to attend services on both days.

This is not the first time that His Eminence has visited Holy Trinity since being established as the bishop of our diocese in 2022; but it is the first time he will be with us to serve the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, the form of the Liturgy which our Church considers to be the fullest expression of the assembly of the faithful: the bishop surrounded by the presbyters and the laity. And therefore we can often have a more elaborate liturgical celebration when the bishop is present.

The parish council recently asked if I would share about the bishop's coming, what we can expect and how we can be with our archpastor.

Most of us feel a sense of nervousness and uncertainty about how to be around a bishop, especially since most of us tend to interact with and see our bishops so irregularly, if ever. This actually is a bit lamentable, because ideally our Orthodox bishops should not have such spread-out lands as part of their diocese, but really should just be a bishop over a large city and its surrounding area. There should be one Orthodox bishop of Cleveland and all the surrounding area of Northeast Ohio. Instead, our archbishop is called on to pastor churches from Ohio to North Dakota! While we await that day, we remain grateful to our bishops in serving such a vast area. Some of us have gotten to meet His Eminence and spend some good time with him. And I think most of us have found him to be warm, pastoral, and easily approachable. It is good for us to get to know our bishop and not feel uncomfortable with him, but to be thankful for his presence and the ways he pastors us and represents Christ to us.

### Greeting a Bishop and Asking for a Blessing

Bishops have titles, and it's nice to know how to address them. Depending on their ranks they will have different titles. Our bishop is an *archbishop*, which in English brings with it the title "His Eminence." We address him as "Your Eminence." In many Slavic lands and traditions, it's also common to use the Slavic term for "master" when addressing a bishop, and you can also address our bishop as "Vladyko."

It is proper when greeting a bishop for the first time in a day or when you are taking leave to ask his blessing. You can bend and touch your right hand to the ground in a sign of respect and humility, say to him "Master, bless," and put your right hand over your left to make the shape of a cross with your hands. When His Eminence is ready, he will make the sign of the cross over you and offer his hand. You can receive his hand with your hands and bend down to kiss his hand. We do this in faith that we are receiving a blessing from the Lord himself, and it is the Lord's hand of blessing that we are ultimately kissing, whether we receive the blessing from a bishop or a priest.

*Fr. Chris*

## **St. Tikhon's Music/Conducting Conference**

Dear Father Chris, Holy Trinity Parish Council Members, and Parishioners,

I had the honor of attending St. Tikhon's Monastery's Music Program on choral conducting and singing the weekend of November 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of 2024, thanks to the generous support of the parish council. I learned a great deal and was given a boost of confidence because of the experiences.

Reverend Dr. Caleb Lewis, the Director of Music, at St. Tikhon's conducted the workshop and Father Paul Stetsenko accompanied us on a beautiful grand piano in the monastery's rehearsal hall. Father Dr. Caleb has his doctorate in music and had spent some time as a professor of music at a university in California, after his collegiate studies in Indiana. After a time, he attended seminary which created more opportunities for his musical ministry within the Orthodox Church. Father Paul is also a very accomplished musician and has written a book on church songs for children, which I did purchase.

Approximately forty singers and eleven conductors participated in the program. Father Caleb spent a great deal of time with vocal warm-ups which help to keep vocal cords healthy. He also focused on posture as well as other needs of church choir members. We were given music that we practiced throughout the day on the Saturday during our rehearsal. Conductors were called up one by one and announced the piece that would be conducted. Father Caleb gave much positive guidance and constructive criticism to help each conductor grow.

My confidence increased under his tutelage. The first time I had a chance to conduct, I announced the song we were to sing and waited for the members to give me eye contact. When finished, Father Caleb asked if I happened to be a teacher because I waited for the singers to be ready prior to the start. We shared a laugh, but he complimented that moment as a needed practice. Father Caleb thought my conducting was easy for the singers to follow and helped me with better direction on achieving dynamics. He also suggested that I incorporate a motion that reminds me of an infinity sign, for those who remember that math symbol, in order to encourage flow and progressive movement as we sing to keep up the energy. One other daring move was to encourage us not to feel the need to conduct all the time, especially when there are long periods of chant. Our choir is so greatly trained that I can start a phrase and help to finish the phrase but allow the choir to do what they do best in between! The point in all this is to keep the music moving with great energy, whether quiet or loud, with keen awareness of musicality, and to aid in everyone's chance to pray, meditate, and sing with us, when individuals are so moved.

We concluded Saturday evening with Vespers in which the Seminarians and monks sang, which was glorious and very moving. As the church darkened in the evening for Vespers, I noticed a truly heavenly sight above the iconostas of the rounded copula that looked like we were enjoying a night sky with stars of heaven itself. As a singer and parishioner, I enjoy being quiet and allowing the incense, prayers, and songs to envelop and surround me. In many ways, to me, this is perfection. I also find joy in watching young children participate in Liturgy in their own way. One young child, possibly three years of age, knelt down to prostrate to the ground. He stayed in that position for a while then gradually turned over and was fast asleep. What a joy to see children make the church their home. Sunday morning the singers who were in attendance joined the choir to sing the Divine Liturgy. We sang in the choir loft and witnessed conducting skills that were taught to us the previous day. Focus on attention to detail, dynamics, watching the conductor, and anticipating the next musical need were paramount. Both services were beautiful, and it was truly moving to participate.

If I have the opportunity to attend the workshop in the future, I would highly recommend the opportunity to anyone wanting to learn more about singing and/or conducting. Thank you very much to the church parishioners, parish council, and of course, Father Chris for this opportunity. I appreciate the chance to learn and grow.

Yours in Christ,

***Diane Hastings***