

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>
V. REV. VLADIMIR BERZONSKY, PASTOR

Divine Liturgy at 9:00 A.M.
Church School Every Sunday at 10:45 A.M.
(During the Months of September thru May)

Vespers - Every Saturday - 5:00 P.M.
Choir Rehearsals Every Thursday at 7:30 P.M.
Michael N. Pilat, Choir Director

RECTORY: 963 John Glenn Drive, Seven Hills, Ohio 44131 Phone 216-524-8989

BULLETIN 6 - VOLUME XLVII

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DECEMBER 13, 2009

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ***SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS*** ***REPOSE OF VEN. HERMAN OF ALASKA,*** ***WONDERWORKER OF ALL AMERICA***

Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes, at Sebaste;
Virgin Martyr Lucia of Syracuse; Ven. Arkady of Novotorsk;
Ven. Mardarii, Recluse, of the Kiev Caves; Ven. Arsenius of Latros;
Ven. Nicodemus; St. Dosoftei, Metropolitan of Moldova

“Guided by the eternal light of Christ, O wise and holy father, you made your way to America to proclaim the gospel of peace. Now, as you stand before the throne of glory, intercede for this land and its people: Obtain peace for the world and salvation for our souls.”

Kondakion for St. Herman, Tone III

TODAY’S EPISTLE: COLOSSIANS 3:4-11
GALATIANS 5:22-6:2

TODAY’S GOSPEL: LUKE 14:16-24
LUKE 6:17-23

NEXT SUNDAY: HEBREWS 11:9-10,17-23,32-40

NEXT SUNDAY: MATTHEW 1:1-25

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Today, December 13	11:45 a.m. 40th Day Requiem for Ann Darcy
Saturday, December 19	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, December 14	II Timothy 2:20-26	Mark 8:11-21
Tuesday, December 15	II Timothy 3:16-4:4	Mark 8:22-26
Wednesday, December 16	II Timothy 4:9-22	Mark 8:30-34
Thursday, December 17	Titus 1:5-2:1	Mark 9:10-16
Friday, December 18	Titus 1:15-2:10	Mark 9:33-41
Saturday, December 19	Galatians 3:8-12	Luke 13:18-29
	Ephesians 1:16-23	Luke 14:1-11

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER:

- 13, TODAY 10:45 a.m. Women' Club meeting
 St. Nicholas Tree gift donation deadline
- 5:00 p.m. Inter-Orthodox Nativity Concert at St. Paul's, 4548 Wallings Rd.
- 18, Friday 6:00 p.m. Outreach dinner to Parma area families
- 20, Sunday 10:30 - 12:30 Ethnic Foods Sale
- 30, Wednesday 9:00-11:30 a.m. Youth Group Laser Tag outing

CHURCH COUNCIL:

There are 2 slots open for next year's Council. If you are interested in serving a 2-year term, please see Tim Klembara or Nick Wislocki.

OUTREACH OFFERING:

A giving tree in the Fellowship Hall holds gift tags waiting for donors; select the gift card you would like to offer to a Parma-area family in need, and the purchase will be made and donated for you.

PARMA AREA FAMILY DINNER:

HTOC will be reaching out to our Parma families by hosting a dinner in partnership with the Parma Area Family to Family Collaborative on Dec. 18 at 6:00 pm (www.parmacityschools.org/family2family). Volunteers are needed; sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Jack Palivoda for more info, 216-235-2990.

YOUTH GROUP LASER TAG:

Join our Youth Group on Wednesday morning, Dec. 30, 9:00 - 11:30, for excitement at Laser X Treme, 13409 Smith Rd. in Middleburg Hts. Contact Mike Burgan (440-832-9877; burganmj@yahoo.com). The low price of only \$5/person covers all play and food.

PHOTOS:

Visit our HTOC website www.holy-trin.org to view photos of St. Nicholas visiting our parish, Jacob Hatch's ordination, Metropolitan Pavle's visit, church school pumpkin carving, and other parish events.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Marie Borland. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you wish to donate covers in 2010.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Jewelann Stefanar.

ETHNIC FOODS SALE:

On Sunday, December 20, the Ethnic Foods Group will have a sale, including Christmas goodies, between the hours of 10:30 and 12:30.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:

Again this year we will adorn our church with flowers donated in memory or in celebration of loved ones. Forms are in the Fellowship Hall or see Barbara Filipow or Arlene Czajkowski. Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity Orthodox Church.

ETHNIC FOODS GROUP OUTREACH:

Once again this year, the Ethnic Foods Group is collecting items to donate to our Orthodox monks at St. John's Monastery in Hiram. They are in great need of a new all-weather screen door (or cash toward its purchase) as well as: Giant Eagle gift cards; paper towels, Kleenex, toilet tissue, cleaning supplies (degreaser, Windex, Pledge, Mr. Clean, dish soap, laundry detergent, etc.); sponges, towels, hand and body soap, hand sanitizer, large wooden spoons, potholders, tea, coffee. Place items in the vestibule of the Fellowship Hall in the decorated boxes.

ALTAR SERVER VESTMENTS:

We plan to outfit our altar servers with new blue vestments. The cost of the materials is \$1840.40. Please consider a Christmas donation.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS:

Today is the last sale day for Entertainment Books. They have many money-saving coupons and make excellent Christmas gifts. One size fits all!

COFFEE HOUR:

Donations are needed for our weekly coffee social. Please contact Arlene at 440-888-2052.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, DECEMBER 6	\$ 4825.00
CHILDREN'S COLLECTION	10.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	710.00
BUILDING FUND	193.00
MORTGAGE FUND	711.00
CANDLES	210.00
ORTHODOX CHARITIES	145.00
LOCAL CHARITIES	224.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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BORN AGAIN ORTHODOX

“The order is rapidly fadin’ / and the first one now will later be last / For the times they are a changin’....” (The Times They Are A Changin’ Bob Dylan, 1963)

I’m told that at the Diocesan Assembly of the South this year, the 300+ delegates were asked to rise if they had been baptized Orthodox Christian at birth. Only ten members from the clergy and laity stood. What a glorious celebration! The Holy Spirit is alive. Here in the United States of America, of the first-born on the continent, our beloved Church has hemorrhaged uncounted thousands of our ethnics, nearly all having been baptized into the faith, brought by parents to the sacred services, having once recited morning and evening prayers in the tongues of their ancestors. Now long gone. For a variety of reasons they just drifted away from the Orthodox Church.

Some sociologists say that it takes three generations before normalcy sets into an immigrant family in regard to coming to appreciate their heritage. The immigrants seek out their own in a land that is as foreign to them as they are to the indigenous citizens. They may live and work during the week among those who call the land theirs, struggling to grasp the language and accommodate themselves to the life styles of those who have their roots here; but the weekend is for being with their own. We still find parishes with “Cultural Center” under the name of the church. Their children often shake off the trappings of their parents’ cultural and national identity. Their first language soon is English; they may cut off the foreign tails of their surnames and pass for typical *Americans* as soon as possible, even at the cost of hurting feelings of their parents. Then it happens that their children become curious about their ethnic roots. They too go through their formative years like their parents, eager to pass as typical Americans; however, later they become curious and search out their ancestry. They may struggle to learn the language of the Old World and even become involved in the Orthodox Christian Church their parents sloughed off in the eagerness to blend in with neighbors and social peers.

Thank the Lord and because of the Lord that process need not be the salvation of the Orthodox Christian Church on this continent. Praise the Lord we have been discovered, like it or resent it. Resent? We see the anti-evangelical spirit in so many of our parishes, even jurisdictions, that would rather cater to the social and ethnic “needs” of the immigrants than to open their doors, arms and hearts to the converts who have been eager to embrace holy Orthodoxy despite the reluctance of those parishes to welcome them. There are now seminary and parish bookstores where one can find out about our beloved faith. The phenomenon of the computer age is another vehicle of learning and understanding Orthodoxy, its doctrines, traditions, history and worship. So much once only available in foreign tongues is translated into English. Praise the Lord as well for the perseverance of those in search of a living, trusted, tried and true faith for the salvation of their souls who would not be put off by an indifferent attitude from those who consider the Orthodox Church something for their own people, not to be shared with the world. If it should be the will of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, the immigrant parishes and those who have a fortress attitude towards preserving the ethnic “purity” of the faith will fade away and play the role suggested by St. John the Baptist: *“He must become greater: I must become less”* (John 3:30). Transfiguration is a sacred term in the holy gospels, and it’s not a matter of if it will happen; it’s already taking place. Have a look at the roster of our clergy. Priests and deacons are from so many backgrounds that are not traditionally Orthodox, and thank the Lord for that as well, for as in Bob Dylan’s song: *“The times they are a-changin.”*

Father Vladimir Berzonsky

SAINT HERMAN OF ALASKA

Celebrated December 13th

He was born into a merchant-class family in Serpukhov near Moscow in about 1758. He entered a monastery early in his life and was tonsured a monk with the name Herman. In 1779 he moved to the famous Valaam Monastery in Russian Finland.

In 1793, Metropolitan Gabriel of Novgorod asked Herman's abbot, Nazarius, to choose some monks for a mission team leaving to evangelize the natives of Russian Alaska. The missionary monks journeyed for a year crossing Russia and landed on Kodiak Island in 1794. Herman moved to Spruce Island sometime between 1808-1818. He lived in acetic solitude - praying, conversing with angels, teaching, and caring for orphans and natives. They loved him and referred to him as *Grandpa*.

He labored in acetic holiness, he wore sixteen-pound chains, slept on boards, and wore the same patched cassock year-round. He was gifted with prophetic insight. He was a great talker and often conversed with visiting Russians to bring them to fervent faith in Christ. He lived in holiness until 1837, when he died in peace. He was glorified in 1970, a wonder-worker before death and after, a true light and North Star guiding the Orthodox in the new land he made his home.

ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA

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