

# 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 9 - VOLUME XLVII

TONE 5

JANUARY 3, 2010

## THIRTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Forefeast of the Theophany

*Holy Prophet Malachi; Martyr Gordius at Caesarea in Cappadocia; Ven. Genevieve of Paris*

“O divinely inspired prophet, Malachi, you foretold the awesome day of the coming of Christ, proclaiming to all that the Messiah is over and above and before the law. You told your people that just as they had sought Him in the temple for so long, so indeed would He one day come. Pray to Him, O holy prophet, that He will save our souls.” Kondakion, Tone II

## THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Wednesday, January 6

“By revealing Yourself to the world, You made Your light shine forth on all creation. The salty sea of unbelief receded and the Jordan carried us to heaven by turning back on its course. By Your lofty commandments, O Christ our God, preserve us through the prayers of the Theotokos, and save us.” Jerusalem Troparion, Tone V

TODAY’S EPISTLE: II TIMOTHY 4:5-8

NEXT SUNDAY: EPHESIANS 4:7-13

TODAY’S GOSPEL: MARK 1:1-8

NEXT SUNDAY: MATTHEW 4:12-17

### HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Today, January 3	11:45 a.m. 40th Day Requiem for Jack Moga
Tuesday, January 5	7:00 p.m. Vigil of the Theophany
Wednesday, January 6	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - Holy Theophany; Blessing of Water
Saturday, January 9	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

### Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, January 4	Hebrews 11:17-23, 27-31	Mark 9:42-10:1
Tuesday, January 5	I Corinthians 9:19-27	Luke 3:1-18
	I Corinthians 10:1-4	Mark 1:9-11
Wednesday, January 6	Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7	Matthew 3:13-17
Thursday, January 7	Acts 19:1-8	John 1:29-34
Friday, January 8	James 1:19-27	Mark 10:17-27
	James 2:1-13	Mark 10:23-32
Saturday, January 9	Ephesians 6:10-17	Matthew 4:1-11
	Colossians 1:3-6	Luke 16:10-15

**THE NEW BLUE ALTAR SERVER VESTMENTS WILL BE BLESSED FOLLOWING TODAY’S LITURGY!**

**COMING EVENTS**

**JANUARY:**

- 4, Monday 7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting
- 6-12 Epiphany Home Blessings
- 10, Sunday 10:45 a.m. Women's Club meeting
- 16, Saturday 2:00 p.m. Youth Group skating at Winterhurst
- 17, Sunday 10:45 a.m. Annual Parish Meeting
- 18, Monday 9:30 a.m. Altar Servers' Rally
- 22, Friday March for Life - bus trip to Washington D.C.
- 23, Saturday Women's Club Chili Cook-Off

**MEMORY ETERNAL:**

Vera Frieg fell asleep in the Lord and was buried on January 2, 2010.

**HOUSE BLESSINGS:**

If you would like to be added or removed from the home blessing schedule for 2010, please call the rectory at 216-524-8989.

- Wed., Jan. 6 - Zones 44131, 44134
- Thurs., Jan. 7 - Zones 44129, 44130, 44144
- Fri., Jan. 8 - Strongsville, Brunswick, Medina, Hinckley, Richfield
- Sat., Jan. 9 - N. Royalton, Brecksville, Broadview Hts
- Sun., Jan. 10 - Avon, N. Ridgeville, Olmsted Twp., North Olmsted
- Mon., Jan. 11 - East side
- Tue., Jan. 12 - Others

\*\*Please turn off TV and radio. Prepare a table with: candle 2) bowl for holy water icon 4) list of baptismal names of those in household, living and departed

**MATINS:**

Please note: There will be no Matins on the first Sundays of January, February, and March.

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:**

Our 2010 parish meeting will be held on Sunday, January 17, following the Divine Liturgy.

**GOD'S BLESSINGS:**

Thank you to all who donated toward the new blue altar server vestments. They have been paid for in full and will be blessed today following Divine Liturgy.

**2010 OFFERING ENVELOPES:**

Collect your box of envelopes in the Fellowship Hall.

**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY FOOD SALE:**

Stuffed cabbage, breads, soups and more will be for sale on Thursday, Feb. 4, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and on Sunday, Feb. 7 following the Divine Liturgy. Cooking and baking will be Feb. 1, 2, and 3. Place orders by calling the rectory at 216-524-8989.

**ALTAR SERVERS RALLY:**

The Cleveland Deanery is once again holding a rally for all altar servers. It will be Monday, Jan. 18, at Archangel Michael Church, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The day will include prayer, presentations, lunch and games. See the bulletin board for details.

**COMING SOON!**

The Women's Club First Annual Chili Cook-off and Brownie Bake is Jan. 23 at 6:00 p.m. Tickets will be on sale Jan. 10; more details will follow next week.

**WANTED:**

Participants are needed to prepare their favorite chili or brownies for the Jan. 23 Cook-off. Contact Barbara Filipow (440-582-4352; filipowb@yahoo.com) by Jan. 15 if you would like to enter.

**WOMEN'S CLUB:**

There is a meeting next Sunday, Jan. 10, at 10:45.

**MARCH FOR LIFE:**

A bus will go to Washington DC for the 2010 March for Life on Jan. 22. See bulletin board for details.

**FLOWERS:**

The flowers today are offered by Ann Slota in memory of Steve Slota.

**TRINITARIAN COVERS:**

There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you wish to donate covers in 2010.

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

REGULAR COLLECTION, DECEMBER 27	\$ 3981.00
CHILDREN'S COLLECTION	3.00
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION	2509.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	1782.00
BUILDING FUND	317.00
MORTGAGE FUND	590.00
CANDLES	326.00
FLOWERS	45.00
ORTHODOX CHARITIES	30.00

**SINGING AWAY THE SOUL**

***“With the saints give rest, O Lord, to the soul of Your servant departed this life and let her memory be eternal” (Funeral hymn)***

Vera was part of our spiritual family from our very beginning. Before there was a church, she prayed with us when only the basement of our rectory was converted for worship. Forty-seven years later, she contracted a most fatal form of cancer, a sure fast track to death. Our deacon and I with our wives had been to the hospice to pray the poignant prayer of anointing. Before that the others left her room for her last Confession and Holy Communion. I suggested she lay in bed, but she took my hand to turn in a sitting position. We held hands for a long conversation – technically her confession, with appropriate prayers; however, what didn't I already know about her life? Unlike many in her situation, she talked in a gentle voice of her passing into eternity as if it were an adventure to some foreign location, which of course it would be. The blessing of priesthood is to share the experiences and act as a catalyst of transition in such circumstances. No other career that I know has such a glorious opportunity for providing a Christ-like comfort in such circumstances.

Our choir members traditionally visit our beloved in hospitals and institutions as well as other shut-ins during the Christmas season to sing hymns and carols. They visited the hospice where Vera lay waiting for the inevitable, composed and at rest. The nurse on duty told our carolers that it would be best not to enter her room. For several days there had been no response from Vera, who lay in the semi-dark room with the door ajar. The carolers decided to sing in any case, and then as they softly sang, two young ladies looked in the bed and noticed there was a stirring. They opened the door wider and went beside the bed, engaging in a conversation with Vera. Between their hymns the carolers all had the opportunity to speak with her, an experience they felt to be a gift from the Holy Spirit.

Once a non-Orthodox at the funeral of her father-in-law commented: *“It was as though Dad was being transported on the wings of your songs.”* Precisely. We tend to call the prayers for our beloved deceased a *Requiem*. That term comes from the first word of the Roman Catholic funeral, meaning “quiet rest.” Yet the proper Slavonic term *Otp'evanie* is *ot* meaning “away” and *p'evanie* meaning “singing.” Thus, we the Church are “singing away” the soul of one we love; or it could be thought of as singing with the saints and angels. What is happening then is that the soul once baptized alone now makes a journey alone – but not quite alone. She who was part of our family, with whom we had shared the precious gifts of Jesus Christ from the holy chalice, is transitioning to another form of existence. It doesn't mean she is no longer one of the family. We sing her away as if we were at the airport bidding her farewell.

Just as Vera was lying inert on her cot, her attending nurse assuming she was already on her way out of this lifetime and probably didn't want to be disturbed, her mind was not lifeless. She heard the familiar hymns sung outside her doorway. Hearing, as all who have to do with the unconscious and dying know, seems to be the last organ functioning. Many times I've been told by survivors that they heard my prayers but were unable to respond at the time.

So they pass from life as we best know it into life everlasting, the songs of the Church on earth singing them away lest they feel alone and unaccompanied – and then they hear voices on the other side of death's doors singing them in like living beacons, or more conventionally, like the control tower of Heaven. Those who are *“in Christ”* are never truly alone unless they want to be.

*Father Vladimir Berzonsky*

## **OUR COLLEGE KIDS**

An ongoing segment highlighting our HTOC children....

### **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**DAVID SVILAR**, son of Grace and Mark Svilar, earned his BS in Biochemistry, with honors, from Case Western Reserve University in May 2006 and is currently enrolled in a MD-PhD program at the University of Pittsburgh. He has completed two years of medical school and is currently working on the PhD portion of the dual-degree program. He has formalized his PhD dissertation research into a proposal that was recently reviewed and approved by his committee. He is investigating how/why some pediatric brain tumors become resistant to chemotherapy and is attempting to develop new adjuvant therapies so these tumors respond to cancer treatments. David announced his engagement to Shannon Boyan in June 2008, and they continue to make arrangements for their wedding this summer.

**NICK SVILAR**, son of Grace and Mark Svilar, graduated with a BA in Architecture from Clemson University in South Carolina in May 2008. As an undergrad, he spent a semester in Genoa, Italy, and traveled to many European cities with his architecture class as well as on his own. Nick is back in Europe, currently in Florence, Italy, for a semester abroad as part of his Masters in Architecture and Masters in Business Administration program at Kent State University. He has traveled to Berlin, Madrid, and the Netherlands (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht, Almere, and den Haag) with the school to study contemporary European capitals. He is scheduled to graduate from this dual-degree program in May 2011.