

HIEROMARTYR BLAISE, BISHOP OF SEBASTE

Hieromartyr Blaise was known for his righteous and devout life. Unanimously chosen by the people, he was consecrated Bishop of Sebaste; this was during Christian persecutions by Roman emperors. St. Blaise encouraged his flock, visited the imprisoned and gave support to the martyrs. Many hid themselves from the persecutors by going off to desolate places. St. Blaise also hid himself in a cave on Mt. Argeos. Wild beasts came up to him and meekly waited until the saint finished his prayer and blessed them. He healed sick animals by laying his hands upon them.

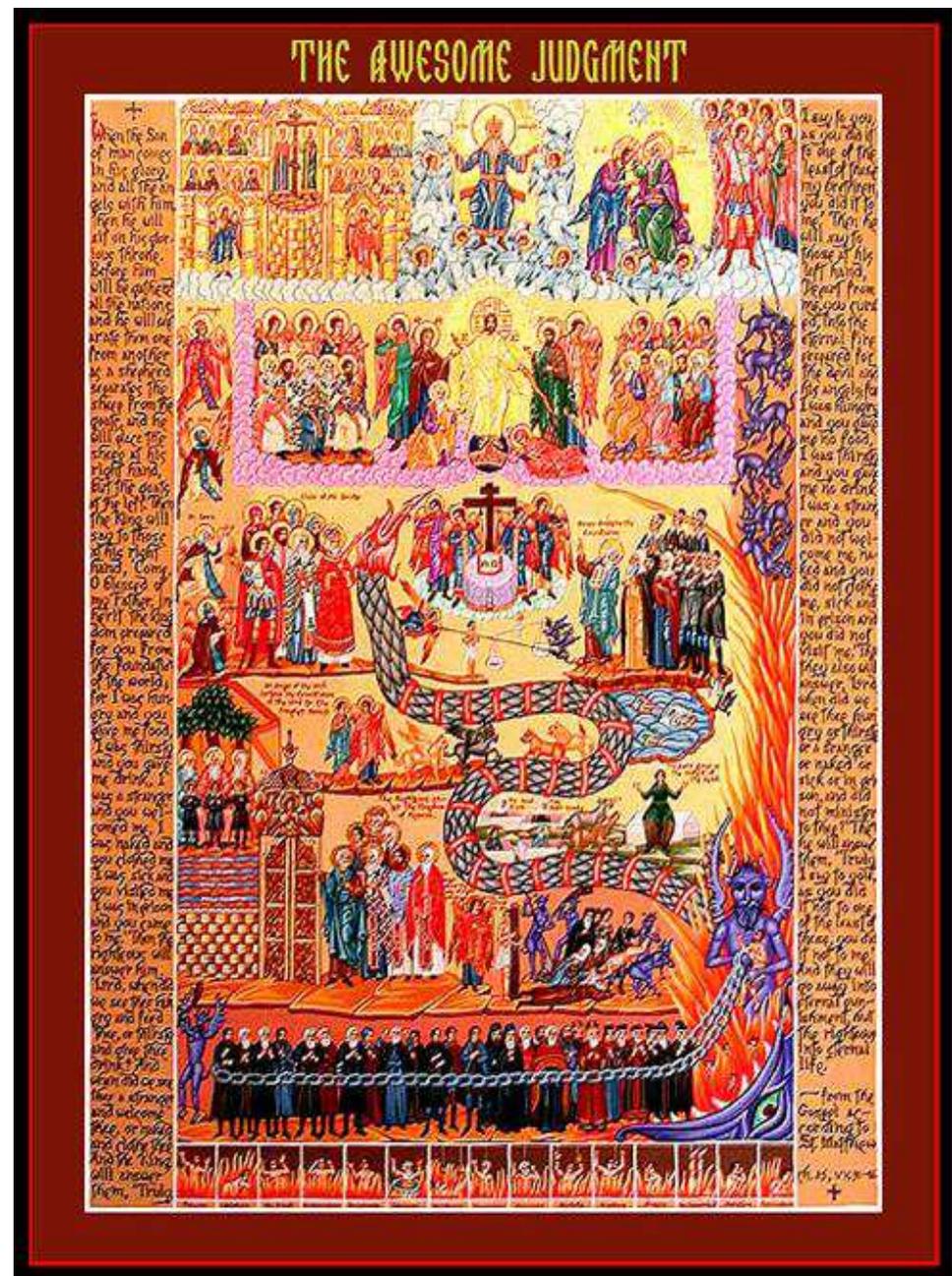
His refuge was discovered by servants of the governor Agrilaus, who had come to capture wild beasts to loose on the Christian martyrs. The servants reported that Christians were hiding on the mountain and were ordered to arrest them. But those sent there found only St. Blaise, who willingly followed the soldiers. Along the way he healed the sick and worked other miracles.

Agrilaus greeted the bishop with taunting and had him beaten and led to prison. On the way the saint was tortured. Seven women followed behind and gathered up the drops of blood. The women were arrested and forced to worship idols. They pretended to consent to this and then threw the idols into a very deep part of the lake. For this they were fiercely tortured. The women stoically endured the torments; strengthened by the grace of God, their bodies were transformed white as snow. One of the women had two young sons, who implored their mother to help them attain the Kingdom of Heaven, and she entrusted them to the care of St. Blaise. The seven holy women were beheaded.

St. Blaise continued to confess his faith in God before Agrilaus. Agrilaus ordered him thrown into a lake. St. Blaise, going down to the water, signed himself with the Sign of the Cross, and he walked on it as though on dry land. He challenged the pagans on shore to come to him by calling on the name of their gods. 68 of the governor's men entered the water and immediately drowned. The saint, however, heeding the angel who had appeared to him, returned to shore. Agrilaus was enraged over losing his finest servants, and he gave orders to behead St. Blaise, along with the two boys entrusted to him. Before his death, the martyr prayed for the whole world, especially those honoring his memory. The occurred in the year 316.

His relics were brought to the West at the time of the Crusades, and portions of the relics are preserved in many European lands. We pray to St. Blaise for the health of domestic animals and for protection from wild beasts.

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V. REV. ALEXANDER GARKLAVS, 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

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tone 3

FEBRUARY 11, 2018

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE

Sunday of the Last Judgment

Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste;

Ven. Dimitri, Wonderworker of Priluki;

Rt. Blv. Great Prince Vsévolod, Wonderworker of Pskov;

Righteous Theodora, wife of the Emperor Theophilus the Iconoclast

“All creation shall tremble, O Lord, when You come to earth in glory! Past Your throne will the river of fire flow, and the book of life will reveal the secrets of all. Then, rescue me from unquenchable flames, and count me worthy of standing at Your right.”

Kondakion, Tone I

“By choosing the apostles’ way of life, you succeeded to their throne. Inspired by God, you found the way to divine contemplation through the practice of virtue, and after teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the faith to the very shedding of your blood. O holy father, Blaise, entreat the Lord to save our souls.”

Kondakion, Tone IV

TODAY’S EPISTLE: I CORINTHIANS 8:8-9:2

TODAY’S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:31-46

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Today, February 11

Saturday, February 17

11:30 a.m. Memorial Service for Terry Van Gieson

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, February 12

Tuesday, February 13

Wednesday, February 14

Thursday, February 15

Friday, February 16

Saturday, February 17

(Departed)

III John 1:1-15

Jude 1:1-10

Joel 2:12-26

Jude 1:11-25

Zechariah 8:7-17

Romans 14:19-23, 16:25-27

Galatians 5:22-6:2

Luke 19:29-40; 22:7-39

Luke 22:39-42,45-23:1

Joel 3:12-21

Luke 23:2-34,44-56

Zechariah 8:19-23

Matthew 6:1-13

Matthew 11:27-30

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY:

11, TODAY 10:45 a.m. Second Sunday Food Sale
12, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
 7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD SALE:

Today is our Food Sale after the Divine Liturgy. Stop in the Fellowship Hall and purchase some of our parishioners' specialties.

ST. ELIZABETH BOOK CIRCLE:

The Book Circle will meet tomorrow at 12:30 p.m. Pick up The Liturgy of Death by Fr. Schmemmann and read Talks 1 and 2 (pages 19-100). Fr. Garklavs will lead the discussion. Books available in La Coupole.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Dave and Judy Howe.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by the Bellack Family in memory of John Bellack.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

The Parish Council is meeting tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Year-end statements of contributions are now available in the Fellowship Hall.

YOUTUBE VIDEO:

There is a short video posted on YouTube filmed during the ordination of Fr. Jacob Hatch from inside the sanctuary of St. Justin the Martyr Church. Log onto YouTube and search "Ordination of Dn. Jacob to the Holy Priesthood."

BAPTISM:

Jaxson William Fischer will be baptized on Saturday, Feb. 24, at noon.

SUMMARY OF THE SPECIAL PARISH MEETING

Thank you to all who braved the cold and snowy weather last Sunday, Feb. 4, to attend the Divine Liturgy and also stayed for the Special Parish Meeting. There were only 2 items on the agenda—the approval of the sale of the rectory to Fr. Alexander; and the selection of Parish Representatives to the upcoming All-American Council. After presentation and discussions, the parish overwhelmingly approved the sale of the rectory. Representing the parish at the Council in July will be MaryAnn Bobulsky; elected as Alternate is Barry Gluntz. This will be the 19th All-American Council, which is the gathering of Orthodox Church in America parish priests and lay representatives from throughout North America. Traditionally, it convenes every three years in different cities. The 18th All-American Council was in Atlanta, Georgia, and the 17th All American Council was held in our Holy Trinity Church here in Parma, OH.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

This summer the Orthodox Church in America will gather in St. Louis for the 19th All American Council. As our Diocese of the Midwest is hosting this Council, our Bishop Paul has asked that Diocesan parishes take up special collections to help our Orthodox brothers and sisters who live in Alaska and Mexico. Economic conditions and the high cost of travel from these distant locations make their coming to the Council extremely difficult; the combined collections from all of the Diocesan parishes will enable some of the clergy and laity from faraway to travel to St. Louis and participate in this important gathering.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, FEBRUARY 4	\$ 2476.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	2405.00
BUILDING FUND	35.00
MORTGAGE FUND	95.00
CANDLES	136.00
IN MEMORY OF ANNE HANEK	100.00
ORTHODOX MISSIONS	25.00
PORK & SAUERKRAUT DINNER	855.00

SELECTIONS FROM ST. MAXIMUS THE CONFESSOR - II

25. God by His nature is good and free of passion and loves all in an equal way as His creatures. He glorifies the virtuous for having become His friend through His intention and has mercy on the wicked out of His goodness and converts them by chastening them in this life. So also those who are good and without passion through their intention love equally all people – the virtuous because of their nature and good will and likewise the wicked because of their nature. Through compassion pity those who are foolish and enable them to make their way out of darkness.

26. The disposition to love is made manifest not only in the sharing of money but much more in sharing the word of God and physical service.

31. As the memory of fire does not warm the body, so faith without love does not bring about the illumination of knowledge in the soul.

33. The pure mind is removed from ignorance and illumined by divine light.

34. The soul is pure when it has been freed from the passions and rejoices unceasingly in divine love.

36. Detachment is a peaceful state of the soul in which it becomes resistant to vice.

37. The one who zealously acquired the fruits of love does not change from it even though he experiences countless ills. Let St. Stephen, Christ's disciple, and those like him, persuade you, as well as Christ Himself who prays for His murderers and asks forgiveness of His Father as for those acting in ignorance.

40. The work of love is the deliberate doing of good to one's neighbors as well as long-suffering and patience and the use of all things in the proper way.

42. The one who loves God leads an angelic life on earth, fasting and being watchful and singing psalms and praying and always thinking good of everyone.

44. Do not stain your flesh with indecent actions; do not defile your soul with evil thoughts; and God's peace will come upon you and bring love.

79. Almsgiving heals the craving part of the soul; fasting extinguishes the lusting part, and prayer purifies the mind and prepares it for the contemplation of reality.

80. "Learn of Me," Christ says, "because I am meek and humble of heart." Meekness keeps the temper steady, and humility frees the mind from conceit and vanity.

91. It is a great thing not to be affected by things; but it is much greater to remain detached from the thought of them. Therefore, the demons' battle against us through thoughts is more severe than through deeds.

96. We do not know God from His being but from His magnificent works and His Providence for creation. Through these as through mirrors we perceive His infinite goodness and wisdom and power.