

NINE MARTYRS AT CYZICUS

The city of Cyzicus is in Asia Minor on the coast of the Dardenelles. Christianity already began to spread there through the preaching of St. Paul. During the persecutions by the pagans, some of the Christians fled the city, while others kept their faith in Christ in secret.

At the end of the third century Cyzicus was still basically a pagan city, although there was a Christian church there. The situation in the city distressed the Christians, who sought to uphold Christianity. The nine holy martyrs Thaumasius, Theognes, Rufus, Antipater, Theostichus, Artemas, Magnus, Theodotus, and Philemon were of different ages and of various backgrounds: soldiers, countryfolk, city people and clergy. All of them declared their faith in Christ and prayed for the spread of Christianity.

The saints boldly confessed Christ and fearlessly denounced the pagan impiety. They were arrested and brought to trial before the ruler of the city. Over several days they were tortured, locked in prison and brought out again. They were promised freedom if they renounced Christ. But the valiant martyrs of Christ continued to glorify the Lord. All nine martyrs were beheaded by the sword and their bodies buried near the city.

In the year 324, when the Eastern half of the Roman Empire was ruled by Constantine the Great, and the persecutions against Christians ended, the Christians of Cyzicus removed the incorrupt bodies of the martyrs from the ground and placed them in a church built in their honor. Various miracles occurred from the holy relics: the sick were healed, and the mentally deranged were brought to their senses. The faith of Christ grew within the city through the intercession of the holy martyrs, and many of the pagans were converted to Christianity.

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HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD
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THE TRINITARIAN

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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

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

BULLETIN 26 - VOLUME LV

TONE 3

APRIL 29, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Sunday of the Paralytic

*Nine Martyrs at Cyzicus: Theognes, Rufus, Antipater, Theostichus,
Artemas, Magnus, Theodotus Thaumasius, and Philemon;*

Ven. Memnon the Wonderworker;

*Martyrs Diodorus and Rhodopianus—Deacon, at Aphrodisia in Anatolia;
St. Basil, Bishop of Ostrog in Montenegro*

“By the pool of Bethsaida the Lord found a man paralyzed from youth. In His compassion, He restored the man to health, saying: Take up your mat and go your way, along the path of righteousness.”

Exapostilarion, Tone I

“Behold these brave and handsome witnesses for Christ: Nine martyrs who openly professed the triple-sunned Divinity. When their trial began, they cried out with one accord: We offer You our souls and bodies drenched in our own blood, Master. In Your mercy, number us among the saints of heaven.”

Kondakion, Tone II

TODAY'S EPISTLE: ACTS 9:32-42

TODAY'S GOSPEL: JOHN 5:1-15

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Tuesday, May 1	6:00 p.m. Vespers
Wednesday, May 2	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy— Midfeast of Pentecost
Saturday, May 5	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, April 30	Acts 12:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
Tuesday, May 1	Acts 10:1-16	John 6:56-69
	Acts 10:21-33	John 7:1-13
Wednesday, May 2	Acts 14:6-18	John 7:14-30
	Hebrews 2:11-18	John 5:1-4
Thursday, May 3	Hebrews 13:7-16	Matthew 11:27-30
Friday, May 4	Acts 10:34-43	John 8:12-20
	Acts 10:44-11:10	John 8:21-30
Saturday, May 5	Acts 12:1-11	John 8:31-42

COMING EVENTS

MAY:

- 5, Saturday 10:00 a.m. Spring Cleaning at HTOC
 12:30 p.m. EOWG Pan-Orthodox Luncheon
- 6, Sunday Last day of Church School classes
- 14, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
 7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting

SPRING CLEANING:

Save Saturday, May 5, to help clean our church! We'll begin at 10:00 a.m. and plan to be done by 3:00 p.m. Any amount of time you can give is appreciated!!!

Light duty: dusting and polishing; vacuuming

More physical duty: window washing, cleaning floors

The more volunteers we have, the quicker we will accomplish the job!

Call Marilyn Cobbs with any questions at 440-237-1280.

ST. ELIZABETH BOOK CIRCLE:

The Book Circle will meet Monday, May 14, at 12:30 p.m. We will complete reading pages 65-147 of Becoming a Healing Presence by Dr. Albert Rossi. Please join us.

GOLF OUTING:

The 5th Annual Golf Classic to support St. Herman's House will be Monday, June 18, at Tanglewood in Chagrin Falls. Players and sponsors are needed. More information is in the Fellowship Hall, and questions can be sent to golfsthermans@focusna.org

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Andy and Dorothy Morilak.

PAN-ORTHODOX LUNCHEON:

The Eastern Orthodox Women's Guild will hold their annual Pan-Orthodox Luncheon on Saturday, May 5, at Archangel Michael Church's Shanty. The doors open at 11:30 a.m.; the meal is at 12:30. Reservations are required. Adults are \$15; children 6-12 are \$7.50. See Joanne Stoyka for tickets, or call her at 440-665-5884.

COFFEE HOUR:

Donors are always needed for our weekly Coffee Hour. Sign up in the kitchen to offer your help.

SENIOR HEALTH FAIR:

Seven Hills is sponsoring a Health Fair on May 30 at the Rec Center, 9:00-noon. See details in the Hall.

SPECIAL IOCC COLLECTION

During the next several weeks, we will be participating in our annual parish collection for the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). For over two decades, the IOCC has been a well-established and pro-active charitable agency that helps Orthodox, Christians and people in need throughout the world. The local Cleveland Chapter of the IOCC has actively supported the agency almost from the very beginning. Our collection here at Holy Trinity will be our parish's donation to their upcoming Annual Benefit Dinner on June 3.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, APRIL 22	\$ 2725.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	149.00
BUILDING FUND	179.00
MORTGAGE FUND	190.00
CANDLES	115.00
IN MEMORY OF HARRY FLEWELLING	50.00
IN MEMORY OF JOHN KRAFCIK	50.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 26 – Volume LV

April 29, 2018

A POST-PASCHAL SERMON BY ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

(A highlight of the Easter Matins service is the reading of the Paschal Sermon by St. John Chrysostom. In powerful and glorious language the Saint proclaims the all-encompassing spiritual joy that comes through the Resurrection of Our Lord. But as he was aware of the decrease in attendance and in the flagging of religious zeal after Pascha, St. John's commentary on what happens after the Feast are words to heed, appropriate today as they were centuries ago.)

Pascha comes and there is a great stir, a great burst of activity, crowds of people enter the churches. There are wonderful services, vigils and hymn-singing. What comes of all this? What is achieved? Not as much as should be, I say, for many come simply out of curiosity and vanity. Pascha goes, activity abates, excitement subsides, and then there sets in the indolence which speaks of much fruitlessness.

But “No,” you will say; “we pray, do we not? We go to church, is that not enough?” Let us remember what Christ said: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but those who do the will of My Father who is in Heaven” (Matthew 7:21). There is much to think of there. What are the results of our prayers and our church-going? What are the benefits of hearing the words of the Prophets, Apostles and even of Our Lord Himself? All of those discourses set forth the doctrines of our salvation, which can transform our character anew. But do we listen and absorb, do we take those words to heart?

Soldiers drill to become perfect in tactics; wrestlers frequent the gymnasium to gain skill in wrestling; physicians study carefully, listening to their teachers to become more competent. They all learn more and more, gaining more knowledge and experience, coming to fulfillment and excellence in their pursuits. What do we gain in our religious activity? If by our assembling in churches and by our religious activities we do not gather spiritual fruit, what is the point? Churches are built not just for us to gather, as we can at the market or theatres, but for us to study and learn how we can change for the better, how we can overcome our passions, how we can tame our anger, how we can develop our temperance, how we can perfect our love and compassions for others, how we can become children of God!

The summer will come, and then another winter. Do we sit idly, taken captive by evil passions, inert, unproductive, uncreative, broken, defeated? Look at the chariot-drivers, see how strict and careful they are with themselves and with their animals. They are attentive to long and hard training, to their diet and all other details. Why do I talk of this? To show that if by study and practice we can throttle into submission and control even wild horses, so much the more can we come to throttle and control the evil passions within us. Why do we fail continually to achieve this throughout our life? Because we do not seriously and sufficiently engage in Gospel teachings, nor struggle to overcome our evil ways. We participate in exercises and training for other things, but for spiritual virtue we give nothing of the sort. And so the wild beasts of evil passion, the anger, lust, greed, etc., always operate in us. But with effort, diligence and perseverance, we can grow into the full measure of faith and into the fullness of the glory of Christ's Resurrection.

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VERY REVEREND ALEXANDER GARKLAVS

MAY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:00 p.m. Vespers	2 Mid-Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	3	4	5 10:00 a.m. Spring Cleaning at HTOC 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
6 5th Sunday of Pascha Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Last day of Church School	7	8	9	10	11	12 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions
13 6th Sunday of Pascha Sunday of the Blind Man	14 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle 7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting	15	16 6:00 p.m. Vigil of the Ascension	17 Ascension of our Lord 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	18	19 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
20 7th Sunday of Pascha Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council	21	22	23	24	25	26 5:00 p.m. Vigil of Pentecost
27 8th Sunday of Pascha HOLY PENTECOST	28 Memorial Day 8:00 a.m. Grave blessings at St. Theodosius Cemetery	29 Cooking for St. Herman's House	30 Serving dinner at St. Herman's House	31		