

VENERABLE JOANNICIUS THE GREAT

St. Joannicius the Great was born in Bithynia in 752 in the village of Marikat. His parents were destitute and could not provide him even the basics of an education. He had to tend the family cattle, their sole wealth. Love for God and prayer completely dominated the soul of the child Joannicius. He often shielded the herd with the Sign of the Cross and went to a secluded place and spent the whole day praying, yet neither thieves nor wild beasts came near his herd.

Joannicius was drafted into the imperial army. He earned the respect of his fellow soldiers for his good disposition, but he was also a brave soldier who struck fear in the hearts of his enemies. He served for 6 years and more than once was rewarded by his commanders and the emperor; but his soul thirsted for spiritual deeds and solitude.

He renounced the world and spent two years at a monastery, becoming accustomed to monastic obedience, rules and practices. He studied reading and writing, and he learned 30 Psalms of David by heart. He then withdrew into the wilderness and remained in deep solitude for 3 years. Once a month a shepherd brought him some bread and water. The ascetic spent day and night in prayer. After each verse of singing the Psalms, St. Joannicius made a prayer, which the Orthodox Church keeps in a similar form to this day, "The Father is my hope, the Son is my refuge, the Holy Spirit is my protection."

After 12 years of ascetic life, the saint accepted monastic tonsure. He spent 3 more years in monastic seclusion and then spent 3 years at Chelidon with the great ascetic St. George. St. Joannicius settled in the Antidiev monastery and dwelt there until his death. St. Joannicius had spent 70 years in ascetic deeds and attained a high degree of spiritual perfection. Through the mercy of God, the saint acquired the gift of prophecy, and he also levitated above the ground when he prayed. Foreseeing his death, St. Joannicius fell asleep in the Lord on November 4, 846, at the age of 94.

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***UNMERCENARY PHYSICIANS,
STS. COSMAS AND DAMIAN***

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

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

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BULLETIN 1 - VOLUME LVI

TONE 6

NOVEMBER 4, 2018

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ven. Joannicius the Great;
Hieromartyrs Nicander, Bishop of Myra, and Hermas, Presbyter;
Ven. Merkúry, Faster, of the Kiev Caves;
Ven. Nikander, Abbot of Gorodénsk

“You struggled against the hostility of the flesh like a courageous soldier, battling invisible enemies as a disciplined ascetic. You won a great victory in the unseen warfare, vanquishing legions of demons by simple humility. Since you have won from the Lord the power of working wonders, O venerable father, beseech Him now to save our souls.”

Troparion for Joannicius, Tone IV

“In your manner a participant, and in your throne a successor of the Apostles, you discovered action an entrance into visions, O inspired one of God. Therefore teaching the Word of truth, you suffered for the faith even unto blood. O Bishop and Martyr Nicander, pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved!”

Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY’S EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 2:4-10

TODAY’S GOSPEL: LUKE 8:41-56

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, November 10 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, November 5	I Thessalonians 2:20-3:8	Luke 12:13-15,22-31
Tuesday, November 6	I Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 12:42-48
Wednesday, November 7	I Thessalonians 4:1-12	Luke 12:48-59
	I Thessalonians 5:1-8	Luke 13:1-9
Thursday, November 8	Hebrews 2:2-10	Luke 10:16-21
Friday, November 9	I Thessalonians 5:9-13,24-28	Luke 13:31-35
Saturday, November 10	II Corinthians 11:1-6	Luke 9:37-43

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER:

- 4, TODAY Meatloaf Luncheon and Basket Auction
- 5, Monday 7:00 p.m. FOCUS Cleveland Speaker Series
- 11, Sunday Recognition of our 90+ HTOC Family members
- 12, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting
- 15, Thursday Beginning of the Nativity Fast
- 16, Friday 8:00 p.m. Virtual Retreat for Orthodox Youth; St. Michael's Woodside
- 18, Sunday "Third" Sunday Food Sale

FOCUS CLEVELAND:

The 6th Annual Speaker Series to benefit St. Herman's House is tomorrow, November 5, 7:00, at Annunciation Church; 2187 W. 14th St. The topic is the Impact of Addiction in our Communities. Doors open at 6:30; appetizers will be served 6:30-7:00; the presentation and panel discussion will be from 7:00-8:30. Details are on the bulletin board. See Jewelann Stefanar for tickets.

90+ RECOGNITION DAY:

Next Sunday, November 11, we will have a special celebration honoring our 90+ senior parishioners. A light luncheon will follow the Divine Liturgy.

We are compiling a list for this day; if you are anywhere in the age group, please inform Marilyn Cobbs (440-237-1280).

DIOCESAN YOUTH RETREAT:

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to St. Michael's Woodside on Friday, November 16, 8:00 p.m., for a Virtual Retreat, fellowship and refreshments. Orthodox youth from 6 locations will join together with Bishop Paul via teleconferencing to explore ways they can carry out the statement #IAMORTHODOX. See the bulletin board for further details.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Jewelann Stefanar in memory of Andrew Stefanar.

ST. HERMAN'S FUNDRAISER:

We are having our annual Meatloaf Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall today, November 4, to raise funds for the monthly meals we serve at St. Herman's House.

ST. ELIZABETH BOOK CIRCLE:

The Book Circle will meet on Monday, November 12, at 12:30. Please read through page 84 in our new book, Crazy John. Copies are available from Tara Reidy. All are welcome.

"THIRD" SUNDAY FOOD SALE:

Please note that our Food Sale this month will be on November 18. We will highlight bakery and foods for your Thanksgiving week.

PLEDGE CARDS:

Please remember to return your Pledge Card for the upcoming calendar year. Our fiscal year has already begun and pledges are needed for financial planning.

ST. JOHN CHURCH ANNUAL DINNER:

See info in Fellowship Hall for dinner and \$1000 raffle at St. John's Church in Campbell on Nov. 11.

ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION:

See details in the Fellowship Hall for the Dec. 5-6 events at St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore. Bishop Paul will be in attendance for the 6:00 Vigil on Dec. 5, as well as the Divine Liturgy on St. Nicholas Day.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, OCTOBER 28	\$ 2275.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	55.00
BUILDING FUND	75.00
MORTGAGE FUND	85.00
CANDLES	114.00
SEMINARIAN	50.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 1 – Volume LVI

November 4, 2018

THE UNMERCENARY SAINTS

On November 1 the Church commemorates Saints Cosmas and Damian. They were twin brothers who lived in the 3rd Century in the Middle East, in the region of today's Syria. As physicians who took no payment for their healing services, they have been given the title "Un-mercenaries." That name has become associated with a category of saints, all of whom were physicians or healers, and many were also martyrs. Among some Orthodox Churches, the Sunday following November 1 has been designated as the "Sunday of the Unmercenaries," to honor all of them. Today, November 4, is that Sunday.

During today's preparatory Proskomedia Service, which we did openly for parishioners to observe, we made note of the fact that the Unmercenary Saints are among the nine categories of saints that are commemorated in a special way. The Church acknowledges these saints' unique qualities by including them in the Proskomedia, which is essential to every Divine Liturgy service. In this way they are recognized as foundational parts of the body of Christ together with the great Prophets, Apostles, Fathers and Martyrs.

While Sts. Cosmas and Damian are especially venerated as healer-saints within Western Christianity, the most prominent in the Orthodox Church is St. Panteleimon (sometimes called "Panteleon"). Born in the later part of the 3rd century and raised as Christian by his mother, St. Eubula, he studied medicine and was mentored in the spiritual healing arts by St. Hermolaus, who is also included with the Unmercenaries. As a proficient doctor, his fame spread, and he became the physician at the imperial court. Envious colleagues denounced Panteleimon's Christianity to the Emperor who, after torturing the Saint, had him beheaded. St. Panteleimon is commemorated on July 27 with a full liturgical service. His icon is found in many Orthodox Churches, including ours, on the South (right) wall where he is holding a small medicinal chest. There are a few Orthodox Churches dedicated to him, including the suburban Chicago parish where I grew up.

Among other traditional Unmercenary Saints are Sampson and Diomedes, and Cyrus and John. The list can also include two Russian saints, St. Agapet of the Kiev Caves (11th c.) and the bishop-surgeon, St. Luke Voyno-Yasenetski, a modern Unmercenary who died in 1961. Unmercenary Saints are invoked at healing services and are much admired by pious Orthodox Christians. When I go to commune sick parishioners, I always include St. Panteleimon in the blessing prayer.

The Unmercenary Saints do not dispense of the actual healing but are rather the living spiritual links to the One Healer, Our Lord Jesus Christ. The healing that we seek comes from God, and it is, as we say in our prayers, "for our souls and bodies." It comes in different forms: as a miracle, as a successful operation through the skill of a surgeon's hands, as recovery through therapy, as comfort from loving friends, and in other ways. Spiritual healing can be a cure from physical ailments or the gift of holy peace when our bodily organs cease to function.

Our Church School students are currently working on a special project focusing on spiritual healing which includes learning about the Unmercenary Saints. They will present their project in the Fellowship Hall later in the school year.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus