

HIEROMARTYR CLEMENT, POPE OF ROME

Hieromartyr Clement was born at Rome into a rich and illustrious family. Separated from his parents in childhood, he was raised by strangers, but received a fine education and lived surrounded by luxury. Paganism and his comforts brought him no joy, and he pondered the meaning of life. He heard of Christ and traveled to the lands where the Apostles were teaching. At Alexandria, St. Clement met Apostle Barnabas and perceived the power and truth of the Word of God. In Palestine St. Clement was baptized by the Apostle Peter and became his zealous disciple and constant companion, sharing his toil and sufferings. Shortly before his death, St. Peter consecrated St. Clement as Bishop of Rome. The virtuous life, charitable works and prayerful activity of St. Clement converted many to Christ. He once baptized 424 people on the day of Pascha. Among the baptized were people of all social classes: slaves, officials, and even members of the imperial family.

The pagans, seeing the success of his apostolic preaching, denounced St. Clement to the emperor Trajan (98-117), accusing the saint of insulting the pagan gods. The emperor banished St. Clement to Crimea, to work at a stone quarry. Many of his disciples followed after him voluntarily, preferring to go into exile rather than live without their spiritual father. When St. Clement arrived at the place of exile, he found many Christian believers there, sentenced to labor under harsh conditions amidst a scarcity of water. He prayed with the condemned, and the Lord appeared to him in the form of a lamb and revealed the location of a spring, from which gushed forth a veritable river of water. This miracle attracted a multitude of people to St. Clement. Each day 500 or more men were baptized. And there in the stone quarry, a church was built.

The apostolic activity of St. Clement aroused the wrath of Trajan, and he ordered that St. Clement be drowned. They threw the martyr into the sea with an anchor tied to his neck. The people prayed that the Lord would permit them to see the martyr's body. The sea drew back a distance of 3 miles; and the people walked out on the seabed until they found a marble cave shaped like a church, which held the incorrupt body of St. Clement.

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HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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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 4 - VOLUME LVI

TONE 1

NOVEMBER 25, 2018

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Leavetaking of the Entry Into the Temple

Hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome;

Hieromartyr Peter, Archbishop of Alexandria; St. Peter Galata of Syria;

Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Clement, Bishop of Ochrid and Enlightener of the Bulgarians

“The pure and spotless grace of the Holy Spirit filled your hearts, O holy fathers, making you intrepid shepherds of the flock of Christ, the Savior. By your zeal for the faith and your courage to defend it, you provide all people with an example of the true hierarch. O wise and holy father, Clement, join Peter in saving us from the passions that assail us.”

Kondakion, Tone I

Holy and All-Praised Apostle Andrew the First-Called

Friday, November 30

“Let us praise the apostle and theologian, Andrew, a man of great courage. He was the brother of Simon Peter and the first disciple of the Lord, and just as once he called his brother to the Savior, so now does he beckon to us: Come, we have found the One for Whom the world has waited with great desire.”

Kondakion, Tone II

TODAY’S EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 5:9-19
HEBREWS 9:1-7

TODAY’S GOSPEL: LUKE 13:10-17
LUKE 10:38-42; 11:27-28

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, December 1 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, November 26	I Timothy 5:1-10	Luke 19:37-44
Tuesday, November 27	I Timothy 5:11-21	Luke 19:45-48
Wednesday, November 28	I Timothy 5:22-6:11	Luke 20:1-8
Thursday, November 29	I Timothy 6:17-21	Luke 20:9-18
	II Timothy 1:1-2,8-18	Luke 20:19-26
Friday, November 30	I Corinthians 4:9-16	John 1:35-51
Saturday, December 1	Galatians 5:22-6:2	Luke 12:32-40

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER:

25, TODAY No Church School classes

DECEMBER:

1, Saturday 9:30 a.m. St. Panteleimon Cookie Walk at HTOC
5-6 Celebration at St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore
9, Sunday Second Sunday Food Sale
10, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting
23, Sunday Church School Christmas Pageant; Potluck meal

LA COUPOLE CHRISTMAS SALE:

There is a 30-50% markdown on all Christmas cards and ornaments! There are new arrivals now available, including books for children and adults as well as icons, handmade ornaments and nesting dolls imported from Russia. Please stop in and browse!

COOKIE WALK:

On Saturday, Dec. 1, HTOC will again host the St. Panteleimon Annual Cookie Walk, 9:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. To donate cookies, please drop them off at the church on Thursday, Nov. 29, between 9:00-noon; or on Saturday, Dec. 1, before the sale begins. Plan to purchase cookies at the sale; or donate to St. Herman’s House via <http://cookiewalk18.eventbrite.com/> You can also pre-order your cookies at that link.

COFFEE HOUR:

Donors are needed for our weekly refreshments on December 2, 16, and 30; as well as throughout the month of January. There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen.

Many thanks to our donors in the month of November: the Bellack Family; Table of 8; the Evanoff Family; the Chandler Family.

PLEDGE CARDS:

Please remember to return your Pledge Card for the upcoming calendar year if you have not done so yet.

ST. ELIZABETH BOOK CIRCLE:

The Book Circle will meet on Monday, December 10, at 12:30 p.m. We will complete reading the book Crazy John, pages 85-132. Our next book will be Wounded by Love. It will soon be available in our bookstore.

FOOD SALES:

Many thanks to those who participated in November’s Food Sale last Sunday. Nearly \$450 was raised!

The next Second Sunday Food Sale is December 9. Please plan to offer some of your holiday specialties and shop for something new and different to serve your guests on Christmas!

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.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Steve and Janene Hatch.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to be a donor for covers in 2019. Your offering helps cover the printing costs of our weekly bulletin.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, NOVEMBER 18	\$ 2928.25
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	31.25
BUILDING FUND	136.25
MORTGAGE FUND	166.25
CANDLES	117.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 4 – Volume LV

November 25, 2018

REFLECTIONS ON RELIGIOUS POETRY – “PRAYER” BY GEORGE HERBERT

George Herbert (1593-1633) is considered one of the greatest of English Christian poets by virtue of the fact that everything he wrote was religious in nature and Christian in content. Like John Donne, whose poem we recently featured, Herbert is a member of the group of seventeenth century English writers who are called “Metaphysical Poets.” They are noted for a writing style characterized by flexible word order, unusual rhyming patterns, ingenious imagery and a frequent use of religious themes. George Herbert was an Anglican priest, and during his short life, he wrote a good deal of poetry as well as a treatise on pastoral life called “A Priest to the Temple.” He died at forty before his works were published. He wrote two poems called “Prayer,” this one being the most famous.

Prayer, the Church’s banquet, Angel’s age,
God’s breath in man returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet sounding in heaven and earth;
Engine against the Almighty, sinner’s tower,
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,
The six-days world transposing in an hour,
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;
Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,
Exalted Manna, gladness of the best,
Heaven in ordinary, man well dressed,
The Milky Way, the bird of Paradise,
Church bells beyond the stars heard, the soul’s blood,
The land of spices, something understood.

On first reading, this is confusing. Why is “God’s breath in man returning to his birth”? Or, what is the “Engine against the Almighty, sinner’s tower”? (Answer: God’s breath is the Holy Spirit by which God breathed life into man; now that breath is Spirit-filled man “returning” to paradise through prayer. The “engine” is an image of mankind’s scientific and technological achievements which often produce things contrary to God’s creation, as the sinner’s tower [of Babylon].). The images and phrases are remarkable on their own simply as words, but they gain in beauty and significance after careful consideration. However, even without analysis, what strikes us is that it was written by one who truly practiced the art of prayer. Not prayer as mechanical repetition but as the experience of a humble soul finding a relationship with God through divinely-given intelligence and creative human resolve. For us who struggle with prayer, here, in poetry, is a compact and inspirational primer.

Herbert’s seventeenth century language and unconventional imagery challenge modern American readers. Like any great poem, it requires more than one reading. As passages of scripture become more meaningful upon repetition, occasional returns to this poem will reward with gems of insight, such as prayer being in “the soul’s blood,” a mystical journey into the distant lands beyond “the land of spices” [the Far East] to the “Milky Way,” yet “something understood” as “gladness of the best”!

Fr. Alexander Garklaus