

## ***GREATMARTYR GEORGE THE NEW AT SOFIA***

The Holy Martyr George was born into an illustrious Bulgarian family, living in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. He received a fine upbringing, he attentively studied the Holy Scriptures, and he was pious and chaste. His parents died when George was 25. At that time Bulgaria was under the rule of the Turks, who forcibly converted Christians to Islam.

Several Moslems tried to convert George. They put a fez on his head, but George threw the fez on the ground. The Turks took the martyr to their governor with beatings and abuse.

The governor was impressed with St. George's appearance and bearing, and he urged him to accept Islam, promising honors and wealth from Sultan Selim (1512-1520). The saint boldly and steadfastly confessed his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and reproached the errors of Islam. The governor in a rage gave orders to beat St. George with rods, but the saint persevered in his confession of faith in Christ.

The governor ordered the tortures to be increased. The passion-bearer bore all his sufferings, calling on the Lord Jesus Christ for help. Then they led the martyr through the city to the beat of a drum and shouts: "Do not insult Mohammed nor abase the Moslem faith."

Finally, a large fire was lit in the city, to burn St. George. Weakened by his wounds, the saint fell to the ground. They threw him into the fire still alive, and they threw corpses of dogs on top of him so that Christians would not be able to find the relics of the martyr.

Suddenly, a heavy rain fell and extinguished the fire. With the onset of darkness, the place where the body of the martyr was thrown was illumined with a bright light. They gave permission to a certain Christian priest to take the venerable relics of the martyr for burial. Informed about the occurrence, Metropolitan Jeremiah and his clergy went to the place of execution. On May 26, 1515, in the ashes, they located the body, placed it in a coffin and carried it to the church of St. George the Great Martyr in Sofia, where the relics have remained ever since.

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***THE SAMARITAN WOMAN***

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

# THE TRINITARIAN

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**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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**CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 216-524-4859**  
**CHURCH WEBSITE: <http://www.holy-trin.org>**  
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 30 - VOLUME LVI

TONE 4

MAY 26, 2019

## ***FIFTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA***

***Sunday of the Samaritan Woman***

***Apostles Carpus and Alphæus of the Seventy;***

***Martyrs Abercius and Helen, children of the Apostle Alphæus;***

***St. Augustine of Canterbury, Evangelizer of England;***

***St. John Psichaita the Confessor, of Constantinople; Greatmartyr George the New at Sofia;***

***Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Makáry, Abbot of Kalyazin***

“At Jacob’s well, O almighty Savior, You engaged the Samaritan woman in conversation. And although of old it was You who made water gush forth from solid rock for the Hebrews, You now asked this woman for water. And You brought her to believe in You, O Christ, so that now she enjoys the eternal kingdom on high.”

Exapostilarion, Tone I

“The Church ever sees you as a shining star, Apostle Carpus. Your miracles have brought her great enlightenment. Save those who in faith honor your memory.”

Kondakion, Tone IV

TODAY’S EPISTLE: ACTS 11:19-26,29-30

TODAY’S GOSPEL: JOHN 4:5-42

### **HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:**

Monday, May 27

8:30 a.m. Grave Blessings at St. Theodosius Cemetery

Saturday, June 1

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

### **Daily Scripture Readings**

Monday, May 27

Acts 12:12-17

John 8:42-51

Tuesday, May 28

Acts 12:25-13:12

John 8:51-59

Wednesday, May 29

Acts 13:13-24

John 6:5-14

Thursday, May 30

Acts 14:20-27

John 9:39-10:9

Friday, May 31

Acts 15:5-34

John 10:17-28

Saturday, June 1

Acts 15:35-41

John 10:27-38

**COMING EVENTS**

**MAY:**

27, Monday 8:30 a.m. Memorial Day Grave Blessings at St. Theodosius Cemetery  
30, Thursday 9:00 a.m.—noon Ultrasound Scanning at ZOE House

**JUNE:**

1, Saturday 9:00 a.m. HTOC Spring Cleaning Day  
9, Sunday 1:30 p.m. Parma Crop Walk  
10, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle

**GRAVE BLESSINGS:**

Fr. Alexander will be blessings graves tomorrow morning at St. Theodosius Cemetery, beginning at 8:30 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

**PENTECOST:**

On Pentecost Sunday, June 16, our Parish Feast Day, we will have a Parish Potluck Coffee Hour after the services. Plan to stay and celebrate with your HTOC family. There is a sign-up sheet in the Hall. Bring a favorite hors d'oeuvre, pastry or other specialty dish!

**SPRING CLEANING:**

The annual Spring Cleaning is Saturday, June 1, starting at 10:00 a.m., to about 3:00 p.m. Volunteer for any time frame. If you are attending, please notify Marilyn Cobbs of your intentions, for planning purposes. 440-237-1280 or marilyncobbs@att.net

**GOLF OUTING:**

St. Herman House—FOCUS Cleveland is having the 6th Annual Golf Classic on June 17 at noon. Many sponsorship opportunities are available if you do not golf. Details are posted in the Fellowship Hall.

**ST. ELIZABETH BOOK CIRCLE:**

The St. Elizabeth Book Circle will meet Monday, June 10, at 12:30 p.m. We will discuss pages 173-189 in Wounded by Love. All are welcome.

**RUMMAGE SALE:**

A special thank you to all those who donated their time, effort, and items to the Rummage and Bake Sale. Everyone worked very hard. A \$1394 profit was made from the Rummage Sale, and a \$327 profit was made from the Bake Sale.

**ZOE ULTRASOUND TRAINING:**

ZOE Women's Center is looking for pregnant "models" to be used training medical professionals in limited obstetrical ultrasound. The scanning is Thursday, May 30, 9:00a.m.-noon. If interested, contact Cindy George (330-309-9491; email cindygeorge127@gmail.com).

**TRINITARIAN COVERS:**

The covers today are offered by Frank, Joanne, and Jessie Stoyka.

**FLOWERS:**

The flowers today are offered by the Bellack Family in memory of Richard Roark.

**COFFEE HOUR:**

There is a great need for Coffee Hour donors during the summer months! The sign-up sheet is in the kitchen. June dates: 6/2, 6/9, 6/23, and 6/30.

Thank you to our Coffee Hours hosts today: The Schwartz and Sherwood Families.

**PARMA CROP WALK:** The Parma Crop Walk is Sunday, June 9, at 1:30 p.m., beginning at the Zielinski Park Splash Pad, 7620 W. Ridgewood Dr., Parma. This Crop Walk is one of many throughout our country, sponsored by the Church World Service, a Christian outreach ministry in which the OCA is a member together with other Christian churches. The Walk, co-sponsored by local churches and Parma Family Collaborative, raises awareness about world hunger but also raises funds to feed the hungry; proceeds go to both local and

international agencies. DONATIONS from our parish are appreciated. You can donate using the "Special Collection" envelope in the basket at the rear of the church. Checks can be made out to Holy Trinity Orthodox

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

REGULAR COLLECTION, MAY 19	\$ 2033.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	22.00
BUILDING FUND	185.00
MORTGAGE FUND	20.00
CANDLES	149.00
IOCC	275.00
SEMINARY	5.00
COFFEE HOUR, 5/5/19	62.00

**MIDFEAST OF PENTECOST -  
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

The Midfeast of Pentecost, sometimes called simply Mid-Pentecost, is the Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Pascha, marking the middle of the fifty days between Pascha and Pentecost. It is often ignored primarily because we feel that after the rather demanding and frequent services during Great Lent, and the long and exhausting Holy Week services, we are overwhelmed with church services. It is also overlooked because it does not commemorate a significant event in the life of Jesus Christ, like Transfiguration or Palm Sunday. This is unfortunate because it is a “gem” of a feast and offers much to reflect on. Although not a Great Feast, it has definite festal qualities with a full complement of hymnography for the day itself and many “after-feast” liturgical hymns for an entire eight-day octave.

One of the hymns sung at the Vespers service summarizes the essence of the Feast: “The middle of the days has come, beginning with the Savior’s Resurrection, and sealed by the holy Pentecost. The first and last glisten with splendor, and we rejoice in the union of both feasts.” The two pivotal, salvific moments that are the core of Christianity, Christ’s Passion-Resurrection and the Descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost are fifty days apart. As those Holy Days are separated by a good deal of time, we may not immediately realize how they are interconnected spiritually and theologically. In fact, Jesus Himself spoke of their connection in His final discourse at the Last Supper. As He told the Apostles, “It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you, but if I go, I will send Him to you” (John 16:7). On Midfeast of Pentecost, the interrelatedness of the two great days is highlighted and celebrated, with reference also to the Ascension of the Lord.

All three “main events” of the Paschal Season (the Resurrection, the Ascension, and the Descent of the Holy Spirit) are facets of the “Paschal Mystery.” This “Mystery” is not something hidden or unknown, but rather the spiritual revelation of God’s incredible love and mercy, made intimately accessible to us through Jesus Christ. What is “mysterious” is only the fact that we human beings are given such blessings even though we are undeserving and ungrateful! Fortunately, the Holy Church reminds us of how much we have received and how much more we can obtain. This is effectively accomplished through the liturgical holy days among which the Midfeast of Pentecost is an outstanding example.

One of my first experiences of the Midfeast service was at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago. That was the first time that I witnessed the “Lesser Blessing of Water,” which is traditionally performed at some of the lesser feasts. On the Midfeast of Pentecost the Lesser Blessing is really appropriate. The theme of “sanctifying waters” is an important element of the Paschal season, as we see in the Gospel of St. John. On both Sundays before and after Mid-Pentecost, water is prominently featured: the Bethzatha pool in the story of the Paralytic and in Jacob’s Well in Christ’s encounter with the Samaritan Woman. In the Gospel of Pentecost day, we hear Jesus proclaim, “If anyone thirsts let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture says, ‘Out of his heart shall flow living waters’” (John 3:7). Blessing Water on Mid-Pentecost is a wonderful acknowledgement and celebration of the “living waters” of peace and joy that are bestowed on us by virtue of Christ’s Resurrection.

*Fr. Alexander Garklaus*

**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY**  
**6822 BROADVIEW ROAD; PARMA, OHIO 44134**  
**VERY REVEREND ALEXANDER GARKLAVS**

# JUNE 2019

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
						1 10:00 a.m. HTOC Spring Cleaning  5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions
<b>2 6th Sunday of Pascha</b> Blind Man	3	4	<b>5</b> Pascha Leave-taking 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	<b>6</b> <b>ASCENSION</b>	7	<b>8</b>  5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
<b>9 7th Sunday of Pascha</b> Holy Fathers of First Ecumeni- cal Council 1:30 Parma Crop Walk	<b>10</b> 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle	11	12	13	14	<b>15</b>  5:00 p.m. Vigil
<b>16 HOLY PENTECOST</b> HTOC Parish Potluck Coffee Hour	<b>17 Holy Spirit Day</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">T H I S</div>	18	19	20	21	<b>22</b> 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions  <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">I S A F A S T - F R E E W E E K .</div>
<b>23 1st Sunday after Pentecost</b> All Saints 11:00 a.m. Parish Council meeting	<b>24 St. John the Baptist</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	25	<b>26 Tikhvin Icon of the Theotokos</b>  6:00 p.m. Akathist	27	28	<b>29 Sts. Peter &amp; Paul</b>  5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
<b>30 2nd Sunday after Pentecost</b> All Saints of America						