

THE “KURSK-ROOT” ICON OF THE SIGN

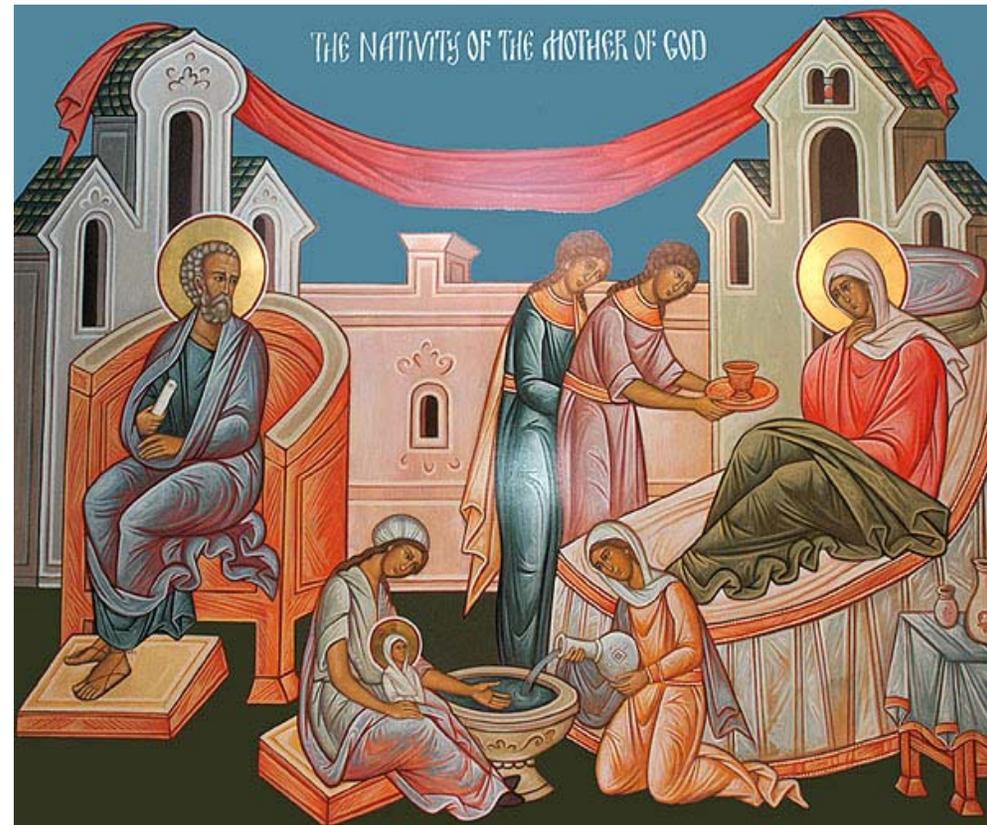
The Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God “Of the Sign” is one of the most ancient icons of the Russian Church. In the 13th century during the Tatar invasion, when all the Russian realm was put to extreme tribulation, the city of Kursk, ravaged by the Horde of Batu, fell into desolation.

One day in the environs of the city, a hunter noticed the ancient icon, lying on a root, face downwards to the ground. The hunter lifted it and saw that the image of the icon was similar to the Novgorod “Znamenie” Icon. With the appearance of this icon, immediately there appeared its first miracle. Just as the hunter lifted up the holy icon from the earth, right then, at that place where the icon lay, gushed up a spring of pure water. This occurred on September 8, 1259. The hunter decided not to leave the icon in the forest and settled on an ancient small chapel as a resting place, in which he put the newly-appeared image of the Theotokos. Soon inhabitants of the nearby city of Ryl’a heard about it and began visiting to venerate the holy image.

They transferred the icon to Ryl’a and put it in a new church in honor of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos. But the icon did not long remain there. It disappeared and returned to its former place of appearance. The inhabitants of Ryl’a repeatedly took it and carried it to the city, but the icon incomprehensibly returned to its former place. They realized that the Theotokos preferred the original place of appearance of Her Icon.

The special help granted by the Mother of God through this icon is tied with important events in Russian history: the war of liberation of the Russian nation during the Polish-Lithuanian incursion in 1612, and the 1812 Fatherland war. From the icon several copies were made, which were also glorified.

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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 45 - VOLUME LVI

TONE 3

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross

*Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos: "KURSK-ROOT Icon of the Sign,
"POCHAEV," "KHOLMSK," and others*

"Your birth, O Theotokos, has filled all the world with joy, for there rose from you the Sun of Justice, Christ, our God. He destroyed the curse and replaced it with a blessing, thus confounding death by giving us eternal life."

Troparion, Tone IV

"On earth, there is no father like you, O inspired Joachim, and never has any mother borne a daughter like yours, O holy Anna. With you, we keep this solemn festival, blessing that purest virgin who released us from the bond of sin, and begging our God for His great mercy."

Jerusalem Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY'S EPISTLE: GALATIANS 6:11-18
I CORINTHIANS 15:1-11
PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

TODAY'S GOSPEL: JOHN 3:13-17
MATTHEW 19:16-26
LUKE 10:38-42;11:27-28

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Friday, September 13 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers - with the Konevets Quartet
Saturday, September 14 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - **Exaltation of the Cross**
5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, September 9	II Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 3:6-12
Tuesday, September 10	II Corinthians 8:16-9:5	Mark 3:13-19
Wednesday, September 11	II Corinthians 9:12-10:7	Mark 3:19-27
Thursday, September 12 (Theotokos)	II Corinthians 10:7-18	Mark 3:28-35
Friday, September 13	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28
	Hebrews 3:1-4	Matthew 16:13-18
	II Corinthians 11:5-21	Mark 4:1-9
Saturday, September 14	I Corinthians 1:18-24	John 19:6-11,13-20,25-28,30-35

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER:

- 8, TODAY Church School classes begin
- 9, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
- 12, Thursday 10:00 a.m. Pan-Orthodox Young Mothers' Group meeting at St. Innocent Church
- 13, Friday 6:00 p.m. Konevets Quartet - at Great Vespers; concert to follow
- 16, Monday 7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting
- 22, Sunday 10:45 a.m. Women's Accessory Boutique
- 26, Thursday 6:30 p.m. Lecture by Fr. Alexander at St. Michael's Woodside

<p><u>CHURCH SCHOOL:</u> Church School classes will be starting today. Registration forms are available in the Fellowship Hall by the classrooms.</p> <p><u>BOUTIQUE:</u> On Sunday Sept. 22, there will be a boutique in our Fellowship Hall of women's gently-used purses and accessories. Please donate your items Sept. 8-15 - purses, totes, cosmetic bags, wallets, belts, gloves, scarves. See Marilyn Cobbs for more information.</p> <p><u>10th ANNUAL FR. PRISLOPSKY LECTURE:</u> Fr. Alexander will be the guest speaker at the annual lecture hosted by Archangel Michael Church. The topic is "Orthodox Worship as Affirmation, Inspiration & Salvation;" and the event is Thursday, Sept. 26. Dinner is at 6:30; the lecture is at 7:00. Cost is \$10, which will be collected at the door. RSVP by Sept. 24 to 440-526-5192 or info@stmichaelscleveland.org</p> <p><u>BOOK CIRCLE:</u> The St. Elizabeth Book Circle will meet on Monday, September 9, at 12:30 p.m. We are reading <u>Wounded By Love</u>, Pages 195-217, on the upbringing of children and on the heart. All are welcome.</p> <p><u>FLOWERS:</u> The flowers today are offered by Claudia Virosteck in memory of Dn. Virosteck and members of the Virosteck and Koscianski Families.</p> <p><u>TRINITARIAN COVERS:</u> The covers today are offered by the Bellack Family.</p> <p><u>FLOWERS:</u> The flowers today are offered by Claudia Virosteck</p>	<p><u>UPCOMING EVENT:</u> On Friday, September 13, which is the Eve of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, the Konevets Quartet will again be making an appearance at our parish. They will join with our choir to sing at the Great Vespers service, which will begin at 6:00 p.m. At 7:30 p.m. they will offer a concert of religious and folk music.</p> <p><u>YOUNG MOTHERS' GROUP:</u> A pan-Orthodox young mothers' group will meet on Sept 12 at 10:00 a.m., at St. Innocent Church, 8526 Usher Rd; Olmsted Falls. Please RSVP to Catherine Fuller Morton cfullermorton@gmail.com</p> <p><u>MEATLOAF LUNCHEON:</u> HTOC will again host a Meatloaf Luncheon to raise funds and awareness of our monthly meal outreach at St. Herman's House of Hospitality. A basket auction is planned; donations are needed. To help, contact Dianna Kall: dkall@ameritech.net or 216-741-2888.</p> <p><u>ORTHODOX LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE:</u> "Thy Will Be Done: Strategic Leadership, Planning and Management for Christians" is the theme of a conference to be held Oct. 10-12 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Independence. Workshops are aimed at clergy and lay leaders within the Church and in secular business roles. See the flier in the Hall.</p> <p><u>COFFEE HOUR:</u> Thank you to Table of Eight for preparing and serving our refreshments today. This month, volunteers are still needed for Sept. 29.</p>
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THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, SEPTEMBER 1	\$ 4281.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	20.00
BUILDING FUND	195.00
MORTGAGE FUND	155.00
CANDLES	115.00
COFFEE HOUR, 8/25/19	82.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 45 – Volume LVI

September 8, 2019

PARISH MEMBERSHIP AND STEWARDSHIP

With the beginning of our parish's Fiscal Year on September 1, we have mailed the Parish Membership Card for this coming 2019-2020 year. As the accompanying letter states, the Membership Card is the method by which people acknowledge their willingness to be members of Holy Trinity Church. This is foremost an affirmation of *spiritual* intent, the voluntary acknowledgement of belief in the faith and conduct that are held as true and sacred by the Holy Orthodox Catholic Church. With this, members receive all of the rewards and privileges that the Orthodox Church can bestow, including the Holy Sacraments, participation in all the liturgical services, reception of blessings, prayers and healings that the Church can offer through worship, counsel and ministry. Membership also affords opportunities to engage in educational, social and healing programs, as well as to obtain the benefit of interaction, support and friendship of like-minded brothers and sisters in Christ. As wonderful as all of this is, there is also a very significant *legal* aspect to being a member of the parish. Holy Trinity Church is a duly incorporated non-profit religious institution that owns property and other assets, over which the parish members exercise oversight by participating in discussions and decisions regarding management and finances. Parish members are the "overseers" or "stewards" of the buildings, properties and bank accounts that constitute the "material" possessions of the Parish. As a parish of the Orthodox Church, we recognize the ultimate canonical authority of the Diocesan Bishop, but that does not change what we've said about parish membership.

After outlining the meaning of being a member of the parish, we may ask, "What is expected of a member?" And the answer is quite simple: "To love God with one's whole heart, mind and strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself!" The answer is indeed simple, but its implementation involves a variety of things. There are the *spiritual* requisites such as prayer, fasting, attendance at liturgical services, participation in sacramental life, as well as doing works of charity. And there are the *material* aspects whereby members are expected to support the life of the Parish with the sharing of talents and time, and offering general good will and financial donations. The spiritual and material are equally important, both necessary for the continued welfare of the parish and both key dimensions of Christian salvation.

Not surprisingly, the issue of financial offerings is sometimes a source of controversy. It should be straightforward, based on relative resources that individuals have and in conscious consideration of love of God and the Holy Church. The traditional Biblical concept of tithing, or giving 10% of one's income, is one way of determining how much to donate. Of course, giving 10% can be spread out between several charities, one of which is the parish. For purposes of donations to the parish, 3% of regular income is a good guide. Everyone will have their own personal factors to consider, such as family size or being on limited or fixed incomes. "First portion" giving rather than of a specific amount is a good way to think about stewardship. Our contributions to the Church should be regarded as primary, before spending money on entertainment and relaxation. "What is the *minimum* amount to be a Church member?" is a difficult question to answer. When we do give some kind of suggested minimum amount, it is for educational purposes, for those who are new and becoming accustomed to being involved and active members of the parish.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus