

***GREATMARTYR CATHERINE
AND THOSE MARTYRED WITH HER***

As we read in the life of Saint Catherine, the Emperor Maximian ordered 50 of the Empire's most learned philosophers and rhetoricians to dispute with the Great Martyr. As a result of her eloquent testimony, however, they embraced the Christian faith and were summarily burned alive by Maximian's order, after Saint Catherine made the Sign of the Cross over them.

Thereafter, the Empress Augusta, who had heard much about Catherine, wanted to see her. She prevailed upon the military commander Porphyrius to accompany her to the prison with a detachment of soldiers. The Empress was deeply impressed by the tenacious faith displayed by Saint Catherine, whose face was radiant with divine grace. After she had explained the Christian teaching to them, they too embraced the Christian faith.

The next day, Catherine was again brought to the judgement court where, under the threat of being broken on the wheel, she was urged to renounce the Christian Faith and offer sacrifice to the gods. She steadfastly confessed Christ and she herself approached the wheels, but an angel smashed the instruments of execution, which shattered into pieces. Having beheld this wonder, the Empress Augusta, Porphyrius and the detachment of 200 soldiers publicly confessed their faith in Christ. Enraged, Maximian again tried to entice Catherine to renounce her faith, proposing marriage to her, but again she refused his offer and firmly confessed her fidelity to the heavenly Bridegroom Christ. After offering a prayer to Him, she herself laid her head on the block beneath the executioner's sword and was beheaded, as was the Empress Augusta, Porphyrius and the 200 soldiers.



GREATMARTYR CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

***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

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

BULLETIN 4 - VOLUME LVII

TONE 6

NOVEMBER 24, 2019

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Afterfeast of the Entrance into the Temple

Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria

Greatmartyr Mercurius of Cæsarea in Cappadocia;

Martyrs Augusta the Empress, Porphyrius the General, and 200 soldiers,

martyred at Alexandria with Greatmartyr Catherine;

Virgin Mastridia of Alexandria; Martyr Philotheus; Martyr Merkúry of Smolensk;

Ven. Merkúry, Fester, of the Kiev Caves; Ven. Simon, Abbot of Soiga Monastery.

“By your virtues as by rays of the sun, you enlightened the unbelieving philosophers, and like the most bright moon you drove away the darkness of disbelief from those walking in the night. You convinced the queen and also chastised the tyrant, God-summoned bride, blessed Catherine. You hastened with desire to the heavenly bridal chamber of the fairest Bride-groom Christ, and you were crowned by Him with a royal crown. Standing before Him with the angels, pray for us who keep your most sacred memory.”

Troparion, Tone IV

“In battle an invincible warrior and in calamity a bold protector, we bless Mercurius and we praise him with songs: for he saves from calamities and sorrows, those who joyously celebrate his memory.”

Kondakion, Tone IV

TODAY'S EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 2:4-10

TODAY'S GOSPEL: LUKE 13:10-17

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, November 30 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, November 25 (Theotokos)	I Thessalonians 2:20-3:8 Hebrews 9:1-7	Luke 19:37-44 Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28
Tuesday, November 26	I Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 19:45-48
Wednesday, November 27	I Thessalonians 4:1-12	Luke 20:1-8
Thursday, November 28	I Thessalonians 5:1-8	Luke 20:9-18
Friday, November 29	I Thessalonians 5:9-13,24-28	Luke 20:19-26
Saturday, November 30 (Apostle Andrew)	II Corinthians 11:1-6 I Corinthians 4:9-16	Luke 12:32-40 John 1:35-51

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER:

- 8, Sunday 11:00-5:00 Annual St. Nicholas Spaghetti Dinner to benefit St. Herman’s House
- 9, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
- 7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting
- 22, Sunday Church School Christmas program

SPECIAL COLLECTION:

Today we are happy to have a guest with us, Fr. Juvenaly RePass, a missionary priest who is working in Guatemala. Fr. Juvenaly is not a stranger to us and is now visiting U.S. parishes to share with us about his exciting missionary work and also to obtain support. We are conducting a Special Collection for him; please use the “Special Collection” envelopes in the basket at the back of the church. If writing a check, make it out to “Holy Trinity Orthodox Church.”

LA COUPOLE CHRISTMAS SHOP:

There is something for everyone on your gift list! New arrivals include matryoshka dolls, Christmas ornaments, Orthodox Christmas cards and hand-painted plates, boxes and ladies pins imported from Russia. See the beautiful selection of Baltic amber jewelry. Complimentary gift wrapping is available! La Coupole is open every Sunday during Coffee Hour.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Woodside Event Center at Archangel Michael Church is seeking event workers. The positions are part-time and require the flexibility to work around the booked events; hours vary by week, and weekends may require late hours.

ST. ELIZABETH BOOK CIRCLE:

The Book Circle will meet Monday, Dec. 9, at 12:30 p.m. We are reading through page 43 in On the Holy Spirit, by Father Cyril Argenti.

SPAGHETTI DINNER:

The annual FOCUS Spaghetti Dinner to benefit St. Herman’s House is Sunday December 8, 11:00-5:00. It will be held at St. Malachi’s Parish Hall, 2459 Washington Ave. Take-out orders are also welcome, and a meatless option is available. Adults, \$8; Kids 6-12, \$5. Dinner sponsors and additional donations are welcome. See details in the Fellowship Hall.

COFFEE HOUR:

Thank you to our Coffee Hour volunteers today, the Stoyka Family. We have volunteers for the rest of this year! Thank you! The sign-up sheet for 2020 is in the kitchen.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Sandie Adamczek.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Mary Ann Moga in memory of her dear husband.

*Grant unto me, Most Holy Virgin, purity of heart,
simple son-like trust, devotion and love for Thee,
both now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

St. John of Kronstadt

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, NOVEMBER 17	\$ 2184.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	455.00
BUILDING FUND	508.00
MORTGAGE FUND	55.00
CANDLES	103.00
SEMINARIAN	943.00
11/10 COFFEE HOUR	50.00
DONATION FOR COFFEE HOURS	100.00

THE SAINTS AMONG US -
ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

Among several saints named Catherine, St. Catherine of Alexandria stands out. Commemorated this Sunday, November 24, she is known as St. Catherine the Great Martyr and also St. Catherine of the Wheel, the last referring to the implement of torture to which she was subjected. Actual facts about her are scant. She lived in the city of Alexandria in the 4th century AD. At the estuary of the Nile River, Alexandria is ancient, a great and rich city bustling with trade and commerce. It was also a center of academic and intellectual activity, with one of the most famous ancient libraries, which was already several hundred years old at Christ's time. Because of its reputation as an important urban location, it was natural that Christianity would become established there, as it did in cities such as Rome and Antioch. All those cities became ecclesiastical centers around which regional dioceses and parishes were organized. Alexandria proved to be an extremely fertile ground for theological thought for many Church Fathers who established a great theological tradition that had a lasting impact on Orthodox Christianity. St. Catherine came out of and is part of that tradition.

According to preserved legends, St. Catherine was the daughter of a governor of Alexandria. She was well educated and became an articulate scholar and philosopher. A vision of the Blessed Mother with the Child Jesus inspired her to become Christian. When the pagan Emperor Maximian began to persecute Christians, St. Catherine confronted and rebuked him. The Emperor summoned 50 pagan philosophers to refute Catherine's arguments, but they were taken with her persuasive proclamations and became Christians themselves. Maximian also sought to entice her by proposing to marry her and making her his queen. St. Catherine replied that her only spouse would be Christ. In anger, Maximian condemned her to death by being placed on the spiked breaking wheel. But when she was placed on the wheel, it broke in pieces; furiously the Emperor condemned her to be beheaded.

Several hundred years after her death, her remains found their way to the monastery which had been established at the foot of Mount Sinai. This was the traditional site of where Moses had the vision of the Burning Bush, which compelled him to go before the Pharaoh in Egypt in order to obtain release of the enslaved Hebrews. Later during the Exodus, the departing company encamped around Mt. Sinai, which Moses ascended in order to obtain the Ten Commandments. The monastery was established in the 6th century and has been functioning ever since then. As it was the location of her relics, the monastery became known as St. Catherine's Monastery at Mt. Sinai. Today it is considered one of the world's premier Orthodox pilgrimage sites, to which countless people come every year. It is also one of Christianity's treasure houses of ancient manuscripts and icons. Of course, the monastery is also the place where relics of St. Catherine can be venerated, a saint who is beloved by Christians East and West, as well as by many with no religious affiliation.

St. Catherine of Alexandria's commemoration today gives us a chance to hear some of the liturgical hymns composed in her honor. In our church you can easily find her on the large south wall, on the lower level, the second one from the left side.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus

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

DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 24th Sunday after Pentecost Prophet Nahum	2	3	4	5 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers	6 St. Nicholas the Wonder-worker 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	7 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions
8 25th Sunday after Pentecost Food Sale	9 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle 7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting	10	11	12 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers	13 St. Herman of Alaska 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	14 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
15 26th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday of the Forefathers	16	17	18	19	20	21 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions
22 27th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday before the Nativity Church School Christmas Program	23	24 Eve of the Nativity of Christ 9:00 a.m. Royal Hours 6:30 p.m. Vigil	25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	26 Second Day of the Feast of the Nativity 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy	27 (Fast-free)	28 Great Vespers
29 28th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph, David, and James	30	31				