

VENERABLE ATHANASIUS OF MT. ATHOS

St. Athanasius, named Abraham at birth, was orphaned at an early age and raised by a good and pious nun, whom he imitated in the habits of monastic life. At her death, he was taken to Constantinople, to the court of the Byzantine emperor Romanus the Elder, where he learned rhetoric and became an instructor. Reckoning as the true life that of fasting and vigilance, Abraham led a strict and abstinent life; he slept little and then only sitting upon a stool; and barley bread and water were his nourishment. When his teacher became jealous of his student, Abraham gave up his teaching position and went away.

Abraham went to the Kyminas monastery and begged the igumen, St. Michael Maleinos (July 12), to receive him into the monastic life. He was tonsured with the name Athanasius. With long fasts, vigils and works night and day, Athanasius soon attained such perfection that the igumen blessed him for the exploit of silence in a solitary place not far from the monastery. Later, Athanasius lived in many desolate and solitary places, and finally settled in Melanos, at the very extremity of Athos. He made a cell and lived an ascetical life in works and prayer.

A military officer who desired to become a monk wanted St. Athanasius to build a monastery. St. Athanasius was reticent to accept the money, but he discerned the will of God in the request and set about building the monastery and large church in honor of St. John the Baptist, and another church at the foot of the hill in the name of the Theotokos. Around the church were cells, and a monastery arose on the mountain, with a hospice for the sick and wanderers. Brethren flocked to the monastery from all lands, simple people and illustrious dignitaries, desert-dwellers having labored in asceticism for long years, igumens from many monasteries, and hierarchs wanting to become simple monks in the Athos Lavra of St. Athanasius.

The saint established at the monastery a cenobitic monastic Rule on the model of the old Palestinian monasteries. Divine services were served with all strictness, and no one was so bold as to talk during the services, nor to come late or leave the church without necessity.

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VEN. ATHANASIUS OF MOUNT ATHOS

***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 36 - VOLUME LVII

TONE 3

JULY 5, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

***Ven. Athanasius, Founder of the Great Lavra and Cœnobitic Monasticism on Mt. Athos, and his six disciples;
Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Sergius of Rádonezh;
Martyr Anna at Rome and Martyr Cyrilla, of Cyrene in Libya, a widow;
Ven. Lampadus of Hirenopolis;
Hieromartyr Cyprian of Mt. Athos;
The "ECONOMISSA" Icon of the Most-Holy Theotokos***

“The angelic powers marveled at your struggles here on earth, for, while still in the body, you did not hesitate to do battle with the unseen powers of darkness, making demons flee in terror. For this, O holy father Athanasius, the Lord blessed you with many rich gifts, so that we are filled with confidence in begging you to save our souls.”

Troparion, Tone III

“From your youth you received Christ into your soul, O venerable one, and above all desired to leave behind the turmoil of the world. You courageously settled in the wilderness, where you raised children in obedience, the fruits of humility. Thus, as an abode of the Trinity, you enlightened all who approached in faith and granted healing to all. Our Father Sergius, pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved.”

Troparion, Tone VIII

TODAY'S EPISTLE: ROMANS 6:18-23
GALATIANS 5:22-6:2

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 8:5-13
LUKE 6:17-23

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Today, July 5 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Saturday, July 11 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, July 6	Romans 12:4-5,15-21	Matthew 12:9-13
Tuesday, July 7	Romans 14:9-18	Matthew 12:14-16,22-30
Wednesday, July 8	Romans 15:7-16	Matthew 12:38-45
Thursday, July 9	Romans 15:17-29	Matthew 12:46-13:3
Friday, July 10	Romans 16:1-16	Matthew 13:3-9
(St. Anthony)	Galatians 5:22-6:2	Matthew 4:25-5:12
Saturday, July 11	Romans 8:14-21	Matthew 9:9-13

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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KITCHEN UPDATE:

Work has begun on some renovations in the kitchen, which we hope to finish by the end of the summer. Contributions for this work would be appreciated. Please note "kitchen" when designating funds for this purpose in your weekly donation envelope.

WEEKLY DONATIONS:

Thank you for your needed financial support to our parish. We are slowly returning to a more regular parish life and are able to share statements of weekly contributions; your mailed donations are appreciated.

HELP NEEDED:

On Saturday, July 18, Nancy Scardon is seeking a few volunteers to help her spread mulch around some of the spots in front of the church. The work party begins at 10:00 a.m., weather permitting. Bring work gloves, rakes, buckets, and - if you have one, a small wheelbarrow. It's a good opportunity to get some exercise, fresh air and to beautify our lovely parish too!

IOCC CARE CALLS:

The IOCC is now introducing "Care Calls" to alleviate isolation. www.iocc.org/carecall

A PRAYER AT NIGHT

**Lord Jesus, You are light from eternal lights.
You have dissolved all spiritual darkness
And my soul is filled with Your brightness.
Your light makes all things beautiful.**

**You lit the skies with the sun and the moon.
You ordered night and day to follow each other peaceably.
And so You made the sun and the moon friends.
May I be friends with all whom I meet.**

**At night You give rest to our bodies.
By day You spur us on to work.
May I work with diligence and devotion,
That at night my conscience is at peace.**

**As I lay down on my bed at night,
May Your fingers draw down my eyelids.
Lay Your hand of blessing on my head
That righteous sleep may descend upon me.**

St. Gregory of Nazianzus

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, 6/28/20	\$ 3710.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	210.00
BUILDING FUND	25.00
CANDLES	37.00
KITCHEN FUND	50.00
ORTHODOX SEMINARIES	5.00
IN MEMORY OF MATHEW LOBAS	630.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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THE SAINTS AMONG US -
THE FOREMOST APOSTLES, SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

PART II - ST. PAUL

The reason that the Apostles Peter and Paul are both celebrated on the same day, June 29, may be due to the fact that Church tradition holds that they both died in Rome around the same time. The traditional account of St. Peter's death is that he was crucified, but in deference to Jesus Christ's superiority, head down. St. Paul was beheaded. It is certainly possible that their joint commemoration began in Rome, where they ended their apostolic ministries and died as Christian martyrs. Their legacies lived on, and they both have come down through Church History as superlative examples of the Apostolic faith that is the very foundation of Christianity.

In the previous issue we noted that St. Peter distinguished himself as a bold, courageous and outspoken leader. If St. Peter's legacy to the Church is one of exalted leadership, St. Paul is a great example of the inspiring power of Christian *vision!* St. Paul also had leadership qualities, but it was his masterful blend of spiritual insight and evangelical spirit, which he wrote into his many epistles, that had such lasting consequences for Christian theology.

Other than Jesus Christ Himself, St. Paul is the one person about whom the New Testament has much to say. About half of the entire book of the Acts of the Apostles is about him. His epistles, in which he often refers to events in his life, take up almost half of the New Testament. St. Paul's prominence in the New Testament is matched by the lasting impact of his theology. Even the story of St. Paul's conversion itself is surely one of the great accounts of how one can change from being a great sinner to an ardent Christian. The image of him as a missionary, travelling non-stop, enduring hardships and persecutions, never flagging in zeal and energy, is truly heroic. And the man could write too! His epistles are not just profound theology but literary masterpieces. Whether select portions, like the famous 13th Chapter of I Corinthians about love ("Love is patient and kind"), or entire short, brilliant epistles (like "Ephesians" or "Philippians"), St. Paul's writings are some of the best known and most loved parts of the Bible.

As important as both Sts. Peter and Paul are, it is not a wonder that their icons are in every Orthodox Church. In ours, they can be found several times (in at least four places). Most prominently, they are opposite each other in the large depiction of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, which is directly over the Royal Doors of the iconostasis. Of course, St. Paul himself was not present at Pentecost with the other Apostles, but Orthodox tradition places him into the Pentecostal Icon to acknowledge that, while his ministry began somewhat later, he truly became one of the "foremost" of the Apostles, together with St. Peter.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus