

ORTHODOX, from Greek orthodoxos "having the right opinion", from *orthos* ("right", "true", + *doxa* ("opinion" or "praise", related to *dokein*, "to think")



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September 5, 2010

15th Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth

Tone 6

TROPARIA:

OF THE TONE

The angelic powers were at Your tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure Body. You captured hell, not being tempted by it. You came to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who rose from the dead: Glory to You!

Of the Saint in the Fourth Tone

Robed in the vestments of the priesthood, according to the Law of God you offered whole-burnt offerings in a sacred manner, wise Zachariah. You became a luminary and a seer of the mysteries, bearing within yourself the signs of grace, all wise one. Slain by the sword in the temple of God, O prophet of Christ, intercede together with the Forerunner, that our souls may be saved.

Kontakia

Of the Tone

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

✠ *The Glory.* .

Of the Saint in the Third Tone:

Today the prophet Zachariah, priest of the Most High and parent of the Forerunner, has prepared a banquet to his memory to nourish the faithful, mixing the drink of righteousness. Therefore we praise him as a divine initiate of the grace of God.

Now and ever... Amen.

O Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator: Do not despise the prayers of sinners, but in your mercy help those who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petitions and intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you!

The Prokeimenon In the 6th Tone:

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance.

Verses: **To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me**

The Epistle: **from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (2 Cor.4:6-15)**

Brethren: For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in

our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

The Alleluia Verses

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

He will say to the Lord: My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in whom I trust.

The Gospel: The Lesson is from the Gospel of St. Matthew

At that time a certain lawyer, asked him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand, till I put thy enemies under thy feet'? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did any one dare to ask him any more questions.

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia!

COMMEMORATIONS

The Holy Prophet Zachariah and the Righteous Elizabeth, Parents of the Baptist.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

* Tuesday evening, Sept. 7, 6:30 PM. A Vespers Liturgy will be served to celebrate the major feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos.

Patrons for the Feast, Kathy Johnson and Betty Vincent, are hosting the dinner and would ask only that members of the parish family who can provide a side dish.

* Saturday Sept. 11, Vespers 6PM followed by General Confession

* Sunday, Sept. 12 Divine Liturgy 9:30

* Monday, Sept. 13 Vespers 6:30pm Feast of the Elevation of the Cross

* Tuesday, Sept. 14 Divine Liturgy 9:00am Feast of the Elevation of the Cross

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

(The Gogots family have provided a birthday cake for Mary Gogots today. Please have a piece in her honor and wish her well!)

September 12: Rentel V, Czaruk, Pawlack

September 19: Shiptenko, Shiptenko, Hendrix

September 26: Troianov, Core, Klipfel

MANY YEARS!

To **Mary Gogots** on the occasion of her remarkably young 75 years.

To **Sarah Kochan and Cole Schlafer** on the occasion of their wedding!

To **Tim Henkel, Anthony Core, Rosemary Matich and Joy Distlehorst**: a birthday week.

To **Bill & Karen Brown** on the occasion of their anniversary.

FOR HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Of the Archpriest Peter, the Priests Michael, Paul, Matthias, & David, Larry, Marie, Ellen, Vanya, Philip, Ron, Anna, the child Michael

MEMORY ETERNAL

For the newly departed servant of God **Sergius** (Szuhaj) a long time friend of the Rentel family.

SAINTS, FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES

The Holy Prophet Zachariah and the Righteous Elizabeth were the parents of the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John. They were descended from the lineage of Aaron: St Zachariah, son of Barach, was a priest in the Jerusalem Temple, and St Elizabeth was the sister of St Anna, the mother of the Most Holy Theotokos. The righteous spouses, "walking in all the commandments of the Lord" (Luke 1:6), suffered barrenness, which in those times was considered a punishment from God.

Once, during his turn of priestly service in the Temple, Zachariah was told by an angel that his aged wife would bear him a son, who "will be great in the sight of the Lord" (Luke 1:15) and "will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias" (Luke 1:17).

Zachariah doubted that this prediction would come true, and for his weakness of faith he was punished by becoming mute. When Elizabeth gave birth to a son, she announced that his name was John, although no one in their family had this name. They asked Zachariah and he also wrote the name *John* down on a tablet. Immediately the gift of speech returned, and he began to prophesy about his son as the Forerunner of the Lord.

When King Herod heard from the Magi about the birth of the Messiah, he decided to kill all the infants up to two years old, hoping that the new-born Messiah would be among them. Herod knew about John's unusual birth and he wanted to kill him, fearing that he was the foretold King of the Jews. But Elizabeth hid herself and the infant in the hills. Elizabeth, when she saw her pursuers come near, began to implore God for their safety, and immediately the hill opened up and concealed her and the infant from their pursuers. In these tragic days Zachariah was taking his turn at the services in the Temple. Soldiers sent by Herod tried in vain to learn from him the whereabouts of his son. Then, by command of Herod, they murdered this holy prophet, having stabbed him between the temple and the altar (MT 23: 35). Elizabeth died forty days after her husband, and St John, preserved by the Lord, dwelt in the wilderness until the day of his appearance to the nation of Israel.



NEWS, NOTES, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

THE 2011 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ARE HERE!

The books offer coupons providing significant discounts to restaurants, museums, sports activities, cultural activities, and retail stores in the Columbus area. The books are an excellent value at \$25 and pay for themselves quickly. Every dollar raised is used for grants for St. Gregory's college students. So, please be generous and keep the books in mind! They are for a good cause. If you wish to purchase an Entertainment Book, please see Donna Robbins or Lesley Mann.

The Entertainment Books are part of the annual fundraising drive to raise money for grants for St. Gregory's college students. If you wish to donate money for these grants, please see Fr. Dan or Lesley Mann. Any donations made would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you for your generosity *St. Gregory's Scholarship Committee*

AND SPEAKING OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING . . .

The following notice was received this week. The Scholarship Committee is delighted with the results parishioners bring to the Scholarship Fund and thanks participants warmly. And if you shop Krogers and have not signed on, now is the time to do so.

DEAR ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA,

Thank you for participating in the **Kroger** Community Rewards program. Below is your list of supporters who shopped at **Kroger** between **05/01/2010** and **07/31/2010** (Cycle 10, Qtr 1) and helped contribute to your **\$516.66** total donation. Your organization will be receiving a Kroger check in this amount within 30 days from 07/31/2010. If you have any questions, please email KCR16@kroger.com or visit our website at <http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com>. Thank you, *Community Rewards Staff*

RECRUITER NEEDED!

Parish Council is looking for someone who can help inform the parish of upcoming events and encourage parishioners to volunteer their time for these events. Many people have recently become a part of our community and are not familiar with some of our events. The Recruiter would prepare short blurbs in the bulletins helping to inform the parish of an upcoming event that needs volunteers. The Recruiter may also prepare sign-up sheets and send out occasional emails. The number of hours will vary month to month, but will average 1-2 hours per month.

If this is something you could help with, please contact Lay Vice Chair Ann Marie Mecera at amecera@columbus.rr.com or 614-553-8736. Thank you!

ON THE PARISH PICNIC

On Saturday, September 25th, from noon to 5 p.m., St. Gregory's is hosting a picnic at St. Stevan of Dechani Serbian Orthodox Church, located at 1840 N. Cassady Avenue. Food will be served shortly after noon. Master griller, Joe Shaluha, will be manning the barbeque and will not disappoint!

From 1 to 3 p.m., there will be special games and prizes for the children and young adults. During this time, there will also be bracelet-making and face-painting. Beginning at 3:30 p.m. there will be a variety of races and events, including a potato sack race, egg and spoon race, three-legged race, hopper race, water balloon toss, and a team tug-of-war event. Everyone is invited to participate in these events.

There will also be lawn games available throughout the picnic for those who wish to play.

For anyone who would like to stay, we will be having vespers at St. Stevan's after the picnic.

For those that plan to come, it would be very helpful if you were able to sign up for a particular dish for the picnic. We are also in need of volunteers to help set up and clean up for the picnic, as well as to help run the games and events. For those who are able to help, their assistance would be greatly appreciated!!! Sign-up sheets for dishes as well as for the activities will be available upstairs during coffee hour.

We hope to see you all at the picnic! *The Picnic Crew*

FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Church school classes will begin soon! **September 12, 2010 will be student registration** both for new and current students. There will be a luncheon for parents, students and teachers on this day. Following Liturgy, please come over to the religious education building to update or verify your students' medical and personal information, meet the teacher and enjoy lunch with the class. If your student is new to the religious education program, parents will need to complete several forms that are kept confidential on your student.

September 19, 2010 will be the first day of classes. We look forward to the start of a new school year!

Sincerely, *Karen Brown*, Rel Ed Coord

FROM THE O CLUB

All are invited to **Cap City "O"** club September cookout and meeting. Please join us on **September 11 at 1 pm** at the Shaluha's to celebrate an eventful Second year and start planning for our Third year. Contact Kyra to let her know you will be coming so we can plan for enough people.

FROM THE LIBRARY

✧CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS ✧

St. Gregory's Library is in need of volunteers to assist members and others in checking materials in and out, along with helping to guide the library to be more effective in serving the needs of members and students. Please see either **Charles De Grove** or any other member of the **Library Committee** to discuss whether this would be a good fit for you. Thank you.

WE CAN HELP

Jessica Prokup, one of our faithful OSU students, has written a letter that will be posted in the *upper room*. She reports that the **Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio** has announced that a team in honor of her brother, John, (called *Buckeyes for John*) will be involved in this year's Annual Buddy Walk on Sunday, Oct. 3 at the Columbus Crew stadium. Jessica and other students from OSU will be doing the walk to "to promote awareness and to raise money" for the Downs Syndrome Association. Should you wish to donate,

the easiest way is by visiting: <http://www.columbusbuddywalk.org/web/guest/donate-now>. Read her letter and see the picture she sent upstairs for complete information.

GIVE HIM TIME, PLEASE

The senior priest spent most of the past week fighting a nasty cold. The coughing actually aggravated his back – not good. In so many words, he met with no success until he went to his doctor, got medicine, and is by now feeling a bit better. This is mentioned to let you know that he is behind in his office work. So, if you’ve not heard from him, he asks your patience. He believes the coming week will bring some energy to combat the logjam.

THE CENTER OF PLANNING

(Bill Brown, a Council member committed to working on strategic planning has been and will continue to share thoughts with the parish. Planning for the future here at St. Gregory’s requires planning that must begin now as we move into a transition period.)

We all know we plan for the future. Planning at the organizational level involves two fundamentals that must be balanced against one another. The first fundamental is people. Regardless of how anyone plans for the future, it cannot be accomplished without people. Questions regarding people may be: do we have enough people to accomplish the goal? Are the people committed to the plan or future? What is the level of the commitment? How big is the plan and is it achievable? What are the talents of the people? Can outside talent be purchased when the talent level surpasses the people available? Are the people paid full-time professionals who do the work of the church or those who offer a ministry? These and many other questions must be answered about the people who are to accomplish the plan or lead an organization into the future. Without the right committed people any plan for the future will fail. At St. Gregory’s we have dedicated, Christian people who want to maintain their spirituality. We have the right people to carry us into the future.

COOPERATING WITH OTHER OCF CHAPTERS.

We have received a request from the Spiritual Advisor of the University of Akron and Kent State University requesting names of Orthodox students from our parish who are attending either of those universities. If you are a parent and would like to provide names, emails and possibly telephone numbers to Fr. Dan, he will turn the information over to Fr. George Callos, who is the spiritual advisor as well as assistant priest at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Akron.

Students planning to attend colleges and universities throughout the country, may check with Fr. Stephen or Fr. Dan, in order to find OCF chapters or churches welcoming Orthodox Students and share the information with you.

REFLECTION

Call me the happy nagger. I’ve no difficulty urging Orthodox believers to live their faith.

Worship is central to Orthodoxy – our very name drives home the point the word means ‘right worshipping/glorifying.’

Here’s an example. Ten years ago I can safely recall 40-50 people in attendance for Vespers. We’re larger now and attendance is down. That is not a good sign.

For years I’ve reminded, sometimes with a little sharpness, the need for believers to receive Holy Communion on a continuing basis – we became part of a Eucharistic Revival urged on us by theologians such as Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, the Holy Synod, and from celebrating Liturgy in a language we understand. Reception requires require preparation. So, we set Saturday night aside as a time of worship, prayer and reflection – it is the beginning of the Lord’s Day. We cannot receive the Lord’s Body and Blood without attempting to discern the awesome Mystery that comes to us. To hold back and not participate in the Eucharist is not what the Lord wants of us. The call is definite: “In faith and love, draw near!” There has always been a close tie between Communion, preceded by an examination of conscience and confession of sin. The Church so urges believers and has for several decades encouraged General Confession practiced in a parish on a regular basis. There comes from in absolution and forgiveness from God, just as surely as it comes when we confess privately, which is also required of us to retain membership in the Church. We gather for General Confessions this coming Saturday evening. Be a believer.

