



# Weekly Bulletin

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Community of the Orthodox Church in America

Witnessing to the Ancient Faith in Trumbull County for over 80 Years

**Father Brian Crivella**, Pastor

2021

Number 30

**The Friend of the Bridegroom: "He Must Increase and I Must Decrease."**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Aug 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>7<sup>th</sup> Sun after Pntcst / Tone 6 / Afterfeast of Transfiguration</i>
		Readings: Romans 15:1-7      Matthew 9:27-35
		9:30 am      Divine Liturgy
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Aug 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Euplius of Catania</i>
		Readings: 1 Corinthians 10:12-22    Matthew 16:20-24
		9:30 am      Divine Liturgy
		7:00 pm      Molieben followed by Anointing
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Aug 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Prophet Micah</i>
		5:00 pm      Great Vespers followed by Confessions
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Aug 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>8<sup>th</sup> Sun after Pntcst / Tone 7 / Dormition of The Theotokos.</i>
		Readings: Philippians 2:5-11    Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28
		9:30 am      Divine Liturgy

**ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / August 1<sup>st</sup>**

Attendance: (Adults: 68, Children 13)	81
Weekly Offering	\$5252.00
Candle Offerings	\$135.00
Project Mexico	\$25.00
Coffee Hour	\$73.00

**PROJECT MEXICO**

Our charity for the month of August is Project Mexico. Project Mexico is an Orthodox charity that builds homes for the most impoverished families in northern Mexico and also operates St. Innocent Orphanage which provides boys a safe home, spiritual direction, education, athletics, and tremendous love.

**BOOKS FROM THE DEANERY**

A book on the lives of North American Saints is being provided to each family in the parish from the Cleveland Deanery and is located on the candle stand.

**PRAYER CORNER + + + + +**

Fr. Mark Leasure / Fr. Dcn. John Tutoki / Brother Andrew / Victor Chuka / Jeremiah Roscoe / Dana Ronyak/ Donnie & Cherie Davidson / Jennifer Brainard / Michael, Catherine, & Zoe Stan / Dana Lutz / Ellen Marie / Leslie / Joanne Kaschak / Lilian / Alice & Matthew / Magie & Kenny Sanders / Bill Paluch / Nina Lowry / Alyssa Angle / Josephine Grabko / James Livermore / Helen Skovan / Sarah Crivella / Juliana and her unborn child (Fr. Andrew's Daughter) / Our Catechumen Christopher / The Faculty, Teachers, and Students of Holy Trinity Orthodox Academy

**Expecting:** Juliana, Lauren Mihalyo, Matushka Carly Koranda & Their unborn Children

**Memory Eternal:** Joseph Laychak (7/24) Helen Skovran (8/2)

**Birthdays:** Mary Ann Zylka (Sun), John Sliwa (Wed), Zenta Biery & Jennifer Brainard (Fri), William McVeigh, Trista & Brandon Tutoki (Sat)

**Anniversaries:** xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

**Candle Commemorations**

<b>Theotokos</b>	In Memory of Darla Fousek
<b>Altar</b>	In Memory of Darla Fousek
<b>Christ</b>	In Memory of Darla Fousek

# Crucified to Self & Humbling Ourselves in Confession

*By Abbot Tryphon*

In our life, every undertaking, every action, every thought, must be a reflection of Christ in our life. The Lord will grant us the strength and ability to accomplish good works and attain holiness, if we cooperate with His grace. Prayer alone is not enough if we do not reflect moral improvement. Change must take place in our heart if we are to win the battle against the ego, and this requires much work on our part.

Central to living in all holiness of life is the acquisition of a humble and contrite heart, but humility does not come without contrition, and both are obtained with much suffering and trial. Spiritual reading, together with prayer, are necessary components of this journey to God, but must be accompanied by spiritual direction, confession, and the acceptance of correction.

If we are so proud that we take on the role of defense attorney when confronted with the correction of another, we will simply fall further under the control of the ego, and humility will remain alien to our makeup. Often the critical observations of others, which we'd like to fend off, can become a tool for regeneration, for such corrections, even if offered by someone with ill intent, can be occasions for tremendous spiritual progress.

I am reminded of my late spiritual father, Archimandrite Dimitry of Santa Rosa. Blessed Dimitry was slandered by a local priest in a very public setting. When informed, the Elder Dimitry stood up from his desk, walked across the room, and began winding a wall clock. Asked why he seemingly cared little that he'd been so falsely and viciously slandered, his only response was to say, "Many sins have been forgiven because of this."

Making spiritual progress is never easy and must be accompanied by much effort on our part. It can come only through humility, which means that we can expect to be humiliated. If we do not flee from suffering and humiliation, but learn to accept it for our salvation, holiness can be ours, and our life will

truly reflect the words of St. Paul, who said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20)."

It is only out of delusion we believe we do not need others to see, understand, and treat our spiritual sickness. Anyone who believes that he alone can cure his spiritual diseases has isolated himself from a Mystery of the Church and will come to ruin. Only with the help of others are we saved, for within the Christian faith, salvation comes not in a self-focused void, but in the collective nature that is the Church. The Mystery of Confession, established by Our Lord, is a clear sign of the biblical truth that we need the Church, and we need the Mystery of Confession.

In confession we do not simply regret past evil but recognize the darkened vision of our own condition, in which sin, by separating us from God, has reduced us to a divided, autonomous existence, depriving us of both our natural glory and our true freedom. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

The Sacrament of Confession is important because it constitutes the cure of spiritual illness. Since the goal of the Christian life is transformation in Christ, ridding ourselves of the corrupt and diseased fallen self, it must begin with the death of the ego. We humble ourselves before the priest, when we confess our sins, for it is not just that Christ hears us. Christ hears us because of our act of humility in baring our souls in front of another person. Thus, Scripture establishes confession, recounts Christ's gift of authority to the Apostles and their successors to bestow forgiveness to penitents, and exhorts us to confess even to one another (James 5:16), since through one another we achieve humility and, mystically, this joins us to Christ.

With love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon