

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



733 Starkweather Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

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www.sttheodosius.org

- Archpriest John Zdinak
Dean
- Dn. Daniel Boerio
- Subdeacon Theodore Lentz
Sacristan
- Reader Julius Kovach
Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

Divine Services

Eve Sundays & Feast Days

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sundays and Feast Days

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hour

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Fr. John Office Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

*Articles for publication in
the AMBO should be sub-
mitted to:

AMBO@sttheodosius.org

by Wednesday of each week
before noon.

November 23, 2008

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

**RT. BLV. GREAT PRINCE
ALEXANDER NEVSKY**



The Holy Prince Alexander Nevsky

(1219-1263)

November 23 and August 30

St. Alexander Nevsky was Russia's "knight in shining armor." His reputation as a man of exceptional valor and surpassing virtue inspired a visit by a German commander who told his people when he returned: "I went through many countries and saw many people, but I have never met such a king among kings, nor such a prince among princes." The Russians called him their "prince without sin."

He was born just four years before the fierce Tatars, under the leadership of Ghen-gis Khan, came galloping across the steppes of Kievan Rus'. The once flourishing city state—whose social, cultural and spiritual achievements boasted few rivals in Western Europe—had been weakened by quarrelling princes and attacks of warring tribes, and it was an easy prey for the massacring and pillaging Asiatic aggressors. Fortunately, the Mongol Horde's primary interest in conquest was financial gain, and although it imposed a heavy tax on its subjects, they were left to govern themselves and retained their traditions and religion intact. Nevertheless, the yoke of foreign sovereignty was burdensome; individual princes were reduced to acting as feudal landlords for their Mongol lords, and inclinations toward s national unity—the dream of Grand Prince Vladimir—were stifled. A strong leader was needed if the land of Rus' was to have any hope of healing internal strife, of throwing off the Tatar yoke, and establishing its identity as a nation state.

The baneful effect of internal dissension was a lesson which came early to Prince Alexander, as he witnessed his father, Prince Yaroslav Vsevolodovich, struggle with the proudly independent spirited boyars of Novgorod. It was there that the boy grew up. Like most noble youths of his time, he had barely learned to walk before he was lifted into the saddle. Training in the martial arts was combined with an education based upon the Scriptures. Under the influence of his mother, who was popularly called "the holy queen" on account of her piety and charitable deeds, the young prince developed a profound spiritual life. He engrossed himself for hours in reading the Old and New Testaments.

He was still an adolescent when in 1236 his father became Grand Prince of Kiev (a position of primacy among the princes), leaving Alexander in charge of Novgorod. Its characteristically unruly citizenry was gradually won over by the uncommon wisdom and youthful charm of its new ruler. Meanwhile, the Tatars were moving north; they overran Ryazan, Moscow and the Russian capital of that time, Vladimir. They were prevented from reaching Novgorod only by the surrounding marshes. But the city was spared this disaster only to face a greater threat, this time from the west.

Encouraged by the Roman Pope who desired the conversion of Russia to Catholicism, the Swedes and Germans took advantage of Russia's weakened state and prepared to attack. As a staunch Orthodox Christian, Alexander recognized that conquest from the west would deal a mortal blow at the very heart of Russia—the Orthodox Church, a fate incomparably worse than political subjugation by the Tatars. In 1210, well armed Swedish troops moved onto Novgorod territory. Preparing his men to repel the invaders, St. Alexander encouraged them with his now famous affirmation: "God is not in might but in Truth. 'Some trust in princes and some in horses, but we will call upon the Lord our God.'" The Russian forces, their Prince in the lead, were crowned with success after a fierce battle on the shores of the Neva.

Victories followed against the Livonian Germans and the Lithuanians. The Russian north-east, devastated by the Tatars, looked with hope upon the young warrior prince. His fame reached the ears of the Mongol lord, Khan Batu, who desired to see this Russian hero. It was a perilous honor. Before being presented to the Khan, the Russian princes—whose authority depended on his approval—were required to fulfill certain pagan traditions: walk through fire, bow down to a bush and to the shadows of deceased khans, etc. Alexander would in nowise consent to such idolatry and, strengthened by Holy Unction, prepared himself to accept the death penalty which Prince Michael of Chernigov had paid under similar circumstances.

Arriving in the Golden Horde's capital at the mouth of the Volga, Alexander at once confessed his Christian convictions: "O King," he said, bowing before the Khan, "I bow before you because God has favored you with authority, but I shall not bow before any created thing. I serve the One God. Him alone do I honor and Him alone do I worship." Khan Batu was so impressed by the courage and handsome demeanor of the young prince that to everyone's amazement he accepted his refusal and received him with due honor.

Gaining the respect of the Khan was a triumph for Alexander, but it did not insure peace. The remaining course of his life as Grand Prince of Russia was spent in securing its western borders against persistent German campaigns, in subduing the Novgorodians' defiant opposition to the Khan's poll tax, and in diplomatically placating the Khan's anger which flared intermittently in response to indiscretions committed by the lesser princes. Although it was 200 years before Russia was free of Tatar control, St. Alexander's skill and self-sacrificing devotion which he brought to the Herculean task set before him as ruler, and his commitment to the preservation of Orthodoxy at the core of a growing national consciousness, made him a hero of both historic and spiritual dimensions. He died as he was returning from one of his exhausting journeys to the Khan, having taken the Great Schema

on his death bed. His respected spiritual advisor, Metropolitan Cyril, was serving the Divine Liturgy in Vladimir when he saw the Prince's soul being carried aloft by angels and announced to those present: "Brethren, know that the sun of the Russian Land has now set." In 1547 St. Alexander was glorified by the Church which celebrates his memory on the day of his repose, November 23, and the day of the translation of his incorrupt relics, August 30, 1724, to the St. Alexander Nevsky Lavra in St. Petersburg, where they rest to this day.

PRAYER REQUESTS

DEPARTED:

Christina Helle + 10/17/08
Henry Grabowski + 11/06/08

ILL-AFFLICTED:

Archpriest Pavel Soucek and Mat. Paula
Subdeacon Theodore Lentz
Helen Antonik
Jerry Arangelovich
Alice Artino
Helen Baldner
Carol Bohurjak
Martha Bondor
Mary Chrewan
John Clements
John Conrad
Joseph Gammalo
Julia Grabowski
Robert Guido

Maria Hanzel
Annaliese Jacak
Donna Jacak
Tom Jacobson
Sarah Kersey
Jason Kleps (cousin of Maca Tyler.
 Jason is in Kirkuk, Iraq)
Marian Kluchnik
Mary Ann Kovach
Dorothy Laskovich
John Matson
Alan Meyer
Olga Michailuk
Dan O'Donnell
Walter & Grace Parhamovich
 (Karen Felon's parents)
David Roman (nephew of
 Margaret Rusynyk)
Julia Sankovic (Child)

Mary Ann Silberhorn
Elsie Sudnick
Nina Sudnick
Larry Walter
Harrison Ward (Child)
Helen Zawisza (Joe Rusynyk's sister)
Nicholas Zolikoff

Russell Carleton & Tanya Klimova & Unborn Child

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Cara Ann Gartman & Newborn Elijah James, born on September 12.
William & Suzanne Frazier & Newborn Olivia Pearl Frazier, born on October 14.
Catecumins: Michael & Michelle Scott, Leonora Felon's co-worker.



Dome Lighters

Donations to offset the cost of lighting the domes can be made for the health of or in memory of your loved ones. Contact the Parish Office if you are interested.

ANNOUNCEMENT

VESPERAL LITURGIES
 WILL BE ON
 WEDNESDAYS
 NOVEMBER 26 - 6:00PM
 AND
 DECEMBER 31 - 5:00 PM

Fr. John's Regular Office Hours

Though Fr. John is in the office many hours a week, He is setting regular office hours. His regular office hours will be Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM unless their is a funeral or emergency on those days.

GOD'S GIFTS TO US - OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Weekly expenses: \$6,538.00
 Last week's collection: \$3,330.00
Over/Under < \$3,208.00>

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday,
December 1, 2008
5:30 PM@Ridge Manor

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
 The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday,
December 2, at 6:00 PM
@ Ridge Manor

Welcome Visitors

Our parish welcomes you and thanks you for joining us at today's Divine Liturgy. While only Orthodox Christians may approach the chalice for Holy Communion, everyone is welcome to partake of the Holy Bread after Liturgy.

COFFEE HOUR & GREETERS SCHEDULES

Coffee Hour Hosts:

11/23/08 Natalia Pricinovskis
11/30/08 Mat. Cindy Zdinak
12/07/08 Albert Casey
12/14/08 Mat. Jeanne Homik
12/21/08 Maca Tyler/Judy Schwind

Greeters:

Paul Pangrace/Karen Felon
Steve & Eileen Bondor
Debbi Pinta/Linda Smotzer
Linda Smotzer/Virginia Medvec
Debbi Pinta/Maria Broslawik



For your convenience, we will have **HOMEMADE APRICOT, NUT and POPPYSEED ROLLS** for sale at every **Sunday's Coffee Hour**. The price is **\$8.00**.

Homemade rolls are also available at the **Ridge Manor Party Center**. Please call Sharon Glagola at 216-749-5509.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

It's that time once again to provide gifts to needy children at Merrick House. Gift tags will be placed on the Angel Tree with each child's name and a gift list. We are asking \$30.00 per child.

Please give the name tags to Dan Morris or to Paul Pangrace.

This year we have the opportunity to distribute gifts at the Merrick House on **Thursday, December 11, from 6:00PM to 8:00PM.**

If you are interested in meeting some of the children and distributing gifts, please give Dan Morris a call at 440-871-8537.

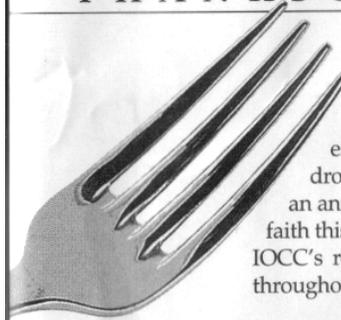
*Please help us make this 100% successful by taking a name!
Deadline for bringing gifts*



A Most Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving

Sharing the Harvest. Showing you Care.

THANKSGIVING 2008



As Orthodox Christians, we pray "for favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and temperate seasons." But for many people around the world — especially those affected by natural disasters, drought and famine — a simple meal is an answer to their prayers. Live your faith this Thanksgiving by supporting IOCC's relief and self-help programs throughout the world.



IOCC • P.O. Box 630225 • Baltimore, MD 21263-0225
Toll-Free: (877) 803-4622 • Fax: (410) 243-9824 • Internet: www.iocc.org

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20
9:00AM - 1:00PM
RIDGE MANOR
BANQUET CENTER

Our Parish Bakers made over **20** varieties of **HOMEMADE COOKIES, NUT, POPPYSEED AND APRICOT ROLLS.**
KOLACHE - OUR SPECIALTY!!
(PET TREATS!)



**St. Theodosius Cathedral
733 Starkweather Avenue**

In September 2001, the Cathedral was re-consecrated with the placement in its altar of Holy Relics from Saints of America. Almost \$750,000 in restoration work was completed and you are cordially invited to participate in our annual holiday event to experience the beauty of this national landmark and an example of Orthodox Christianity in practice.

The Cathedral Choir presents a program of a cappella liturgical music of The Orthodox Church followed by sing-a-long caroling for all!

FREE TOURS of the Cathedral begin at 1:00 P.M. and continue until 2:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2008

**3:00 P.M.
FREE ADMISSION**

**Cleveland
Landmark
Concert**

For additional information, please call
the Cathedral Office at 216-741-1310

You are welcome to attend our
regular liturgical services:
Saturday evening VESPERS at 6:00 pm
Sunday morning LITURGY at 9:00 am
Visit our website:
www.sttheodosius.org

**This year we present our
32nd ANNUAL CONCERT!**





NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER AND DANCE

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

**ST. THEODOSIUS RIDGE MANOR
4630 RIDGE ROAD (AT BIDDULPH)
BROOKLYN, OHIO**

Music for Dancing and Entertainment by:
Fred Ziwich and his "International Sound Machine"

Music starting at 8:00PM

Featuring the widest variety of music to please everyone.
Polka, Waltz, Ballad, Latin, Country, Twist, Electric Slide,
Ballroom, Swing, Czardas, Fox Trot, Rock n Roll, Festive
Vocals, Solid Instruments.

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM

DINNER SERVED AT 6:30PM

Appetizers ongoing throughout the evening.

**A SIT DOWN Dinner of Prime Rib, Nested Potato,
Salad, Vegetable, Rolls, Dessert Table, Coffee and Tea.
OPEN BAR, BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE, PARTY
FAVORS, DOOR PRIZES.**

Breakfast after Midnight includes:

Scrambled Eggs, Sausages, Potatoes, Danish and Coffee.

PRICE: \$65.00 PER PERSON

RESERVATIONS AND TICKETS CAN BE

OBTAINED BY CALLING:

MARY LEE ERHARDT 440-554-6213

SHARON GLAGOLA 216-749-5509



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, November 23

St. Amphilochius, BP. Of Iconium
Rt. Blv. Great Prince
Alexander Nevsky
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, November 24

Greatmartyr Catherine
Greatmartyr Mercurius
Martyr Merkury

Tuesday, November 25

Leavetaking of the Entry
Hieromartyr Clement,
Pope of Rome
St. Clement of Orchrid,
Equal-to-the-Apostles

Wednesday, November 26

Ven. Alypius the Stylite
St. Innocent of Irkutsk
6:00 PM Vespereal Liturgy
for Thanksgiving Day



Thursday, November 27

Blessed Thanksgiving Day
Greatmartyr Jacob
(James) of Persia

Friday, November 28

Monk Martyr Stephen
Martyr Irenarchus and
Seven Women Martyrs

Saturday, November 29

Martry Paramon and
His Companions
Ven. Acacius of Sinai
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, November 30

Holy Apostle Andrew
The First-Called
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

**SPECIAL COLLECTION
NOVEMBER 2008
STEPS**

St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

733 Starkweather Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

