

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



MAY 3, 2009

**3rd Sunday of Pascha
Holy Myrrhbearing
Women**

733 Starkweather Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

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- 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.

Christ is Risen!



ST ALEXIS TOTH

MAY 7

Indeed He is Risen!

Our holy Father Alexis, the defender of the Orthodox Faith and zealous worker in the Lord's vineyard, was born in Austro-Hungary on March 18, 1854 into a poor Carpatho-Russian family. Like many others in the Austro-Hungarian empire, the Toths were Eastern Rite Catholics. Alexis' father and brother were priests and his uncle was a bishop in the Uniate church. He received an excellent education and knew several languages (Carpatho-Russian, Hungarian, Russian, German, Latin, and a reading knowledge of Greek). He married Rosalie Mihalich, a priest's daughter, and was ordained on April 18, 1878 to serve as second priest in a Uniate parish. His wife died soon afterwards, followed by their only child - losses which the saint endured with the patience of Job.

In May, 1879, Fr Alexis was appointed secretary to the Bishop of Presov and also Administrator of the Diocesan Administration. He was also entrusted with the directorship of an orphanage. At Presov Seminary, Father Toth taught Church History and Canon Law, which served him well in his later life in America. St Alexis did not serve long as a professor or an administrator, for the Lord had a different future planned for him. In October, 1889 he was appointed to serve as pastor of a Uniate parish in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Like another Abraham, he left his country and his relatives to fulfill the will of God (Gen 12:1).

Upon his arrival in America, Father Alexis presented himself to the local Roman Catholic diocesan authority, Archbishop John Ireland, since there was no Uniate bishop in America at that time. Archbishop Ireland belonged to the party of American Catholics who favored the "Americanization" of all Roman Catholics. His vision for the future was founded on a common faith, customs, and the use of the English language for everything except liturgical celebrations. Naturally, ethnic parishes and non-Latin rite clergy did not fit into this vision. Thus, when Father Toth came to present his credentials, Archbishop Ireland greeted him with open hostility. He refused to recognize him as a legitimate Catholic priest or to grant permission for him to serve in his diocese.

As a historian and professor of Canon Law, Father Toth knew his rights under the terms of the Unia and would not accept Archbishop Ireland's unjust decisions. In October of 1890, there was a meeting of eight of the ten Uniate priests in America at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania under the chairmanship of Father Toth. By this time the American bishops had written to Rome demanding the recall to Europe of all Uniate priests in America, fearing that Uniate priests and parishes would hinder the assimilation of immigrants into American culture. Uniate bishops in Europe refused to listen to the priests' pleas for help.

Archbishop Ireland sent a letter to his parishes ordering their members not to attend Father Toth's parish nor to accept any priestly ministrations from him. Expecting imminent deportation, Father Toth explained the situation to his parishioners and suggested it might be best for him to leave and return to Europe.

"No," they said. "Let's go to the Russian bishop. Why should we always submit ourselves to foreigners?" It was decided to write to the Russian consul in San Francisco in order to ask for the name and address of the Russian bishop. Ivan Mlinar went to San Francisco to make initial contact with Bishop Vladimir; then in February, 1891 Father Toth and his church warden, Paul Podany, also made the journey. Subsequently, Bishop Vladimir came to Minneapolis and on March 25, 1891 received Father Toth and 361 parishioners into the Orthodox Church of their ancestors. The parishioners regarded this event as a new Triumph of Orthodoxy, crying out with joy: "Glory to God for His great mercy!"

This initiative came from the people themselves, and was not the result of any coercion from outsiders. The Russian Orthodox Church was unaware of the existence of these Slavic Uniate immigrants to America, but responded positively to their petition to be reunited to the Orthodox Church.

The example of St Alexis and his parish in returning to Orthodoxy was an encouragement to hundreds of other Uniates. The ever-memorable one was like a candle upon a candlestick giving light to others (Mt.5:15), and his flock may be likened to the leaven mixed with meal which leavened the whole (Mt.13:33). Through his fearless preaching he uprooted the tares which had sprung up in the wheat of true doctrine, and exposed the false teachings which had led his people astray. Although he did not hesitate to point out errors in the doctrines of other denominations, he was careful to warn his flock against intolerance. His writings and sermons are filled with admonitions to respect other people and to refrain from attacking their faith.

While it is true that he made some strong comments, especially in his private correspondence with the church administration, it must be remembered that this was done while defending the Orthodox Church and the American Mission from unfounded accusations by people who used much harsher language than Father Toth. His opponents may be characterized by intolerance, rude behaviour, unethical methods and threats against him and his parishioners. Yet, when Father Alexis was offended or deceived by other people he forgave them, and he would often ask his bishop to forgive his omissions and mistakes.

In the midst of great hardships, this herald of godly theology and sound doctrine poured forth an inexhaustible stream of Orthodox writings for new converts, and gave practical advice on how to live in an Orthodox manner. For example, his article "How We should Live in America" stresses the importance of education, cleanliness, sobriety, and the presence of children in church on Sundays and Holy Days.

Although the Minneapolis parish was received into the Orthodox Church in March, 1891, it was not until July, 1892 that the Holy Synod of Russia recognized and accepted the parish into the Diocese of Alaska and the Aleutians. This resolution reached America only in October, 1892. During that time there was a climate of religious and ethnic hostility.

ity against the new converts. Father Alexis was accused of selling out his own Carpatho-Russian people and his religion to the "Muscovites" for financial gain.

In reality he did not receive any financial support for a long time, for his parish was very poor. Until his priestly salary began to arrive from Russia, the righteous one was obliged to work in a bakery in order to support himself. Even though his funds were meager, he did not neglect to give alms to the poor and needy. He shared his money with other clergy worse off than himself, and contributed to the building of churches and to the education of seminarians in Minneapolis. He was not anxious about his life (Mt.6:25), what he would eat or drink or wear. Trusting in God to take care of him, St Alexis followed the admonition of Our Savior to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Mt.6:33). So he bore the tribulation, slander, and physical attacks with patience and spiritual joy, reminding us that "godliness is stronger than all" (Wisdom of Solomon 10:12).

Bishops Vladimir, Nicholas, St Tikhon, and Platon recognized the special gifts of Father Toth, so they often sent him forth to preach and teach wherever there were people of Slavic background. Even though he was aware of his shortcomings and inadequacies, yet he was obedient to the instructions of the bishops. He did not hesitate or make excuses, but went immediately to fulfill his mission. St Alexis visited many Uniate parishes, explaining the differences between Orthodoxy, Protestantism, Roman Catholicism and Uniatism, stressing that the true way to salvation is in Orthodoxy.

Like Josiah, "he behaved himself uprightly in the conversion of his people" (Sir 49:2). He was instrumental in the formation or return of seventeen parishes, planting a vineyard of Christ in America, and increasing its fruitful yield many times over. By 1909, the time of his blessed repose, many thousands of Carpatho-Russian and Galician Uniates had returned to Orthodoxy. This was a major event in the history of the North American Mission, which would continue to shape the future of Orthodoxy in this country for many generations to come. Any future growth or success may truly be regarded as the result of Father Toth's apostolic labors.

Who can tell of the saint's spiritual struggles? Who can speak of the prayers which his pious soul poured forth unto God? He did not make a public display of his piety, but prayed to God in secret with all modesty, with contrition and inward tears. God, Who sees everything done in secret, openly rewarded the saint (Mt.6:6). It is inconceivable that St Alexis could have accomplished his apostolic labors unless God had blessed and strengthened him for such work. Today the Church continues to reap the fruits of his teaching and preaching.

Father Toth's efforts did not go unrecognized in his own lifetime. He received a jeweled miter from the Holy Synod, as well as the Order of St Vladimir and the Order of St Anna from Czar Nicholas II for distinguished service and devotion to God and country. In 1907, he was considered as a candidate for the episcopal office. He declined this honor, however, humbly pointing out that this responsibility should be given to a younger, healthier man.

PRAYER REQUESTS

DEPARTED:

John Clements + 4/2/09

Lawrence Kearsey + 4/3/09

(Janice Tkacz's brother-in-law)

Ill Afflicted &

Special Intentions

Fr. Anthony Dimitri

Fr. Jerry Hall

Helen Antonik

Dan Arangelovich

Jerry Arangelovich

Alice Artino

Helen Baldner

Carol Bohurjak

John Conrad

Julia Grabowski

Maria Hanzel

Annaliese Jacak

Donna Jacak

Sarah Kersey

Dorothy Laskovich

Paul Laskovich

Shane, Sierra and Taylor McNeilly

Walter & Grace Parhamovich

(Karen Felon's parents)

David Roman *(Nephew of Margaret Rusyntyk)*

Mary Ann Silberhorn

Elsie Sudnick

Jean Twitchell

Sonia Vorell

Hannah Ward

(God Child of Fr. Andrew Stevens)

Harrison Ward

(God Child of Fr. Andrew Stevens)

Helen Zawisza

(Joseph Rusyntyk's sister)

Julia Zimmerman

Russell Carleton & Tanya Klimova

& Unborn Child

Gianni & Nicole DeAngelis

& Unborn Child

(Friend of Nikol Zdinak)

CATECHUMENS:

Erik & Gwen Hasselquist



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.

For the month of April:

In memory of parents **Priest Jakow and Mat. Nadezda** by Helen Antonik

PASCHAL GREETINGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Language	Greeting	Response
Albanian:	Krishti U Ngjall!	Vertet U Ngjall!
Hungarian:	Krisztus feltamadt!	Valoban feltamadt!
Polish:	Khristus zmartwyckwstal!	Zaprawde zmartwyckwstal!

ANNOUNCEMENT

Contributions for 2009 Campers Scholarship to Camp Vladimir are welcome. Please make check payable to St. Theodosius.



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. You are also invited to join us for fellowship in the Parish Hall following Liturgy.

COFFEE HOUR & GREETERS SCHEDULES

Coffee Hour Hosts:

05/03/09 Albert Casey
05/10/09 Natalia Pricinovskis/Mary Lee Erhardt
05/17/09 Dan & Lavinia Morris
05/24/09 Maca Tyler/Judy Schwind
05/31/09 Karen Felon

Greeters:

Steven & Eileen Bondor
Maca Tyler/Tom Broslawik
Michael Tabeling/Paul Pangrace
Debby Pinta/Sonia Vorell
Linda Smotzer/Phyllis
Gindlesperger

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.

GOD'S GIFTS TO US - OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Weekly expenses: \$ 6,538.00
Last week's collection \$ 2,835.00
Over/Under < \$ 3,703.00 >

ATTENDANCE

Members 111 Visitors 3
Total 114

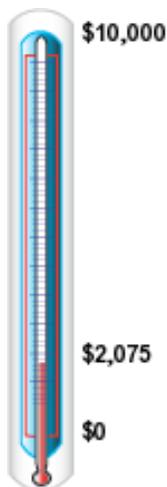
ANNOUNCEMENT

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS for 2009 are due **SUNDAY, MAY 31**. Please return them to the office. For applications and guidelines, please call the office at (216)-741-1310.

Finance Committee Meeting
Monday, May 4
4:30 PM
@Ridge Manor

Parish Council News
Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday,
May 19, at 6:00 PM
@ Ridge Manor

ROSE WINDOW PROJECT



There is a need to repair and repaint the exterior surfaces of the three large rose windows on the church. These windows were last painted during the renovation eight years ago. It is time to do some routine maintenance. You may have noticed water beginning to seep onto the interior walls.

Due to the size and unique nature of these beautiful windows, an outside repair company has been asked to perform these repairs. This repair project is budgeted at \$10,000. To date we have collected \$2075.00. Since we are unable to fund this large expense from our usual collections, you are being asked to consider supplementing your normal contributions with donation earmarked for the Rose Window Repair Project.

The repairs will begin as soon as sufficient funds are received in order to minimize the progress of the water damage.

The AMBO will regularly show the progress of the fund raising.



SATURDAY, MAY 9
CORSAGE MAKING CLASS

CHILDREN OF ALL AGES ARE INVITED
TO THIS FUN FREE WORKSHOP IN WHICH EVERYONE WILL
MAKE A CORSAGE FOR THEIR MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER,
GODMOTHER OR OTHER BELOVED PERSON.

ALL CORSAGE MATERIALS PROVIDED AND
THERE'S A FREE LUNCH, TOO! **11 AM in the Parish Hall**
CALL VIRGINIA MEDVEC TO MAKE RESERVATIONS

440-892-4562



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES
17TH ANNUAL IOCC BANQUET

MONDAY, MAY 11

St. Constantine and Helen Church
3352 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118
216-932-3300

Donation: \$30 Doors Open at 6:00 PM Dinner Begins at 7:00 PM
See Frank Tkacz for tickets in bookstore or call 216-351-1011

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 3

May 4 Acts 6:8-7-7:5
 John 4:46-54



May 8 Acts 8:40-9:19
 John 6:48-54

May 5 Acts 8:5-17
 John 6:27-33

May 9 Acts 9:20-31
 John 15:17-16:2

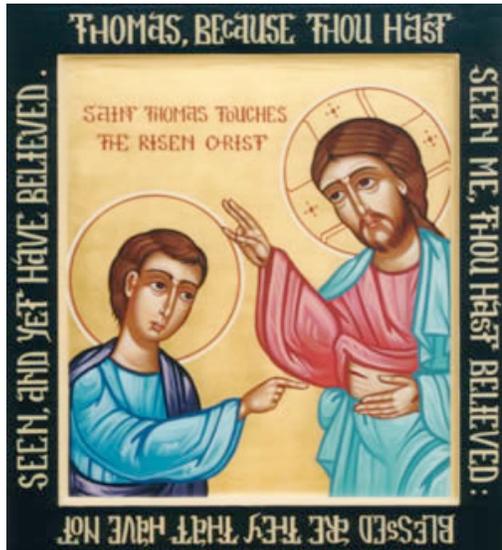
May 6 Acts 8:18-25
 John 6:35-39

May 10 Acts 9:32-42
 John 5:1-15

May 7 Acts 8:26-39
 John 6:40-44

Thomas the Apostle

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.



Thomas will flee in fear when his Master suffers and dies. But like his fellow apostle Peter, he will find that Jesus' love never fails, even when his own courage fails miserably.

We first meet Thomas when Jesus calls the twelve to follow Him, warning them of persecution and tribulation to come, and telling them they must depend on God for their sustenance. Thomas, like the other eleven, accepts this demanding responsibility. That in itself shows their love and loyalty to Christ. So many others abandon Jesus after hearing the "hard sayings" that He asks the twelve, in John 6:67, "Will you also go away?"

Thomas shows his good intentions at another significant moment. When Jesus tells the apostles (John 11: 7) that he plans to return to Judea and Jerusalem, they remind Him that the people there recently wanted to stone Him. They ask incredulously, "Are You going there again?" Only Thomas, out of the whole group, pledges his loyalty and urges the others to be loyal by saying, "Let us go also, that we may die with Him." His impulse is to overcome fear and be true to his Lord.

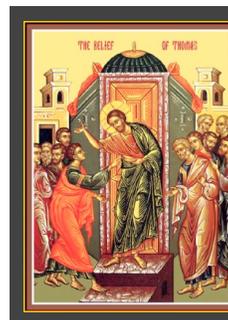
But of course, Thomas will not live up to his well-meaning words any more than Peter will fulfill his promise to accompany Christ to prison and to death.

Thomas is mentioned again in John 20:24-29, eight days after Christ has appeared to the other apostles. We are not told why Thomas wasn't present at Christ's first appearance, just as we don't know who his twin was, though he is called "the Twin." We do know that when the others tell him they have seen Christ he is skeptical, and announces that he requires graphic physical proof if he is to believe.

For eight days Thomas has to wait to see Christ, and during those long days he is not buoyed by the hope and certainty of the others who have already seen Him. Yet Thomas waits. He is rewarded by Christ's act of deep love. The Lord gives him permission to "reach your hand here and put it into My side." By saying this, Christ gives Thomas what he personally needs to confirm his faith. It is this act of loving understanding, rather than any actual touching, that empowers Thomas to proclaim, "My Lord and My God!"

History tells us that Thomas, having been shown such love and understanding of his personal need, grew into a great apostle. He traveled far, probably farther than any other apostle, to preach and teach. He was a great builder of churches and is called the patron saint of architects.

Mary Magdalene needed only to hear the Lord say her name, that morning at the tomb, to know Him (John 20:16). Thomas needed much more. Christ fulfilled each of their needs, and they went on to be His powerful witnesses far beyond Palestine. That's what can happen to needy people when they respond sincerely to the One who, as our prayers tell us, knows what we need even before we ask.



Troparion

From the sealed tomb,
You shone forth, O Life!
Through closed doors
You came to Your disciples,
O Christ God!
Renew in us, through them,
An upright spirit,
By the greatness of Your mercy,
O Resurrection of all!

Weekly Schedule

Sunday, May 3

HOLY MYRRHBEARING WOMEN
Ven. Theodosius Of The Kiev Caves
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, May 4

Virgin Martyr Pelagia of Tarsus
4:30 PM Finance Committee
Meeting @ Ridge Manor

Tuesday, May 5

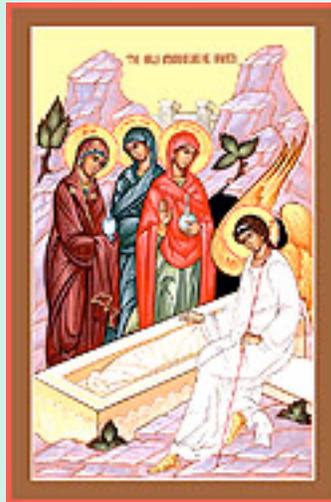
Greatmartyr Irene Of
Thessalonica

Wednesday, May 6

Righteous Job
The Longsuffering

Thursday, May 7

St. Alexis Toth
Confessor & Defender
Of Orthodoxy in North America
11:00 AM Faith Enrichment
@Ridge Manor



HOLY MYRRHBEARING WOMEN

Friday, May 8

Holy Apostle John
The Theologian

Saturday, May 9

11:00 AM Corsage Making Class
6:00 PM Vespers

Sunday, May 10

MOTHERS' DAY
Apostle Simeon The Zealot
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
11:00 AM Mothers' Day Brunch

**SPECIAL MAY
COLLECTION
ST. JOHN
MONASTERY**



St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral
733 Starkweather Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

