Ambo

St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

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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 submitted to: AMBO@sttheodosius.org by Wednesday of each week before noon.

August 23, 2009
11th Sunday After Pentecost

VENERABLE PIMEN THE GREAT (Aug 27)

Saint Pimen the Great was born about the year 340 in Egypt. He went to one of the Egyptian monasteries with his two brothers, Anoub and Paisius, and all three received monastic tonsure. The brothers were such strict ascetics that when their mother came to the monastery to see her children, they did not come out to her from their cells. The mother stood there for a long time and wept. Then St Pimen said to her through the closed door of the cell, "Do you wish to see us now, or in the future life?" St Pimen promised that if she would endure the sorrow of not seeing her children in this life, then surely she would see them in the next. The mother was humbled and returned home.

Fame of St Pimen's deeds and virtues spread throughout the land. Once, the governor of the district wanted to see him. St Pimen, shunning fame, thought to himself, "If dignitaries start coming to me and show me respect, then many other people will also start coming to me and disturb my quiet, and I shall be deprived of the grace of humility, which I have acquired only with the help of God." So he refused to see the governor, asking him not to come.

For many of the monks, St Pimen was a spiritual guide and instructor. They wrote down his answers to serve for the edification of others besides themselves. A certain monk asked, "If I see my brother sinning, should I conceal his fault?" The Elder answered, "If we reproach the sins of brothers, then God will reproach our sins. If you see a brother sinning, do not believe your eyes. Know that your own sin is like a beam of wood, but the sin of your brother is like a splinter (Mt. 7:3-5), and then you will not enter into distress or temptation."

Another monk said to the saint, "I have sinned grievously and I want to spend three years at repentance. Is that enough time?" The Elder replied, "That is a long time." The monk continued to ask how long the saint wished him to repent. Perhaps only a year? St Pimen said, "That is a long time." The other brethren asked, "Should he repent for forty days?" The Elder answered, "I think that if a man repents from the depths of his heart and has a firm intention not to return to the sin, then God will accept three days of repentance."

When asked how to get rid of persistent evil thoughts, the saint replied, "This is like a man who has fire on his left side, and a vessel full of water on his right side. If he starts burning from the fire, he takes water from the vessel and extinguishes the fire. The fire represents the evil thoughts placed in the heart of man by the Enemy of our salvation, which can enkindle sinful desires within man like a spark in a hut. The water is the force of prayer which impels a man toward God."

St Pimen was strict in his fasting and sometimes would not partake of food for a week or more. He advised others to eat every day, but without eating their fill. Abba Pimen heard of a certain monk who went for a week without eating, but had lost his temper. The saint lamented that the monk was able to fast for an entire week, but was unable to abstain from anger for even a single day.

To the question of whether it is better to speak or be silent, the Elder said,"Whoever speaks on account of God, does well, and whoever is silent on account of God, that one also does well."

He also said, "If man seems to be silent, but his heart condemns others, then he is always speaking. There may be a man who talks all day long, but he is actually silent, because he says nothing unprofitable."

The saint said, "It is useful to observe three things: to fear God, to pray often, and to do good for one's neighbor."

"Wickedness never eradicates wickedness. If someone does evil to you, do good to them, and your goodness will conquer their wickedness."

Once, after St Pimen and his disciples arrived at the monastery of Scetis, he learned that the Elder living there was annoyed at his arrival and was also jealous of him, because monks were leaving the Elder to see Abba Pimen.

In order to console the hermit, the saint went to him with his brethren, taking food with them as a present. The Elder refused to receive them, however. Then St Pimen said, "We shall not depart from here until we are permitted to see the holy Elder." He remained standing at the door of the cell in the heat. Seeing St Pimen's humility and patience, the Elder received him graciously and said, "Not only is what I have heard about you true, but I see that your works are a hundred times greater."

He possessed such great humility that he often sighed and said, "I shall be cast down to that place where Satan was cast down!"

Once, a monk from another country came to the saint to receive his guidance. He began to speak about sublime matters difficult to grasp. The saint turned away from him and was silent. They explained to the bewildered monk that the saint did not like to speak of lofty matters. Then the monk began to ask him about the struggle with passions of soul. The saint turned to him with a joyful face, "Now you have spoken well, and I will answer." For a long while he provided instruction on how one ought to struggle with the passions and conquer them.

St Pimen died at age 110, about the year 450. Soon after his death, he was acknowledged as a saint pleasing to God. He was called "the Great" as a sign of his great humility, uprightness, ascetic struggles, and self-denying service to God.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF August 23

August 23	1 Cor. 9:2-12 Matt: 18:23-35	August 25	2 Cor. 5:15-21 Mark 1:16-22	August 28	2 Cor. 7:10-16 Mark 2:18-22
August 24	2 Cor. 5:10-15 Mark 1:9-15	August 26	2 Cor. 6:11-16 Mark 1:23-28	August 29	1 Cor. 1:26-29 Matt. 20:29-34
		August 27	2 Cor. 7:1-10 Mark 1:29-35		

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

DEPARTED:

Army Sergeant First Class
Jason Fabrizi + 7/13/09
(Nephew of Albert Jacob Casey)
Jean Twitchell + 7/15/09

Ill Afflicted & Special Intentions

Fr. Michael Conrad
Fr. Anthony Dimitri
Fr. Stephen Jula
Helen Antonik
Dan Arangelovich
Jerry Arangelovich
Alice Artino
Helen Baldner
John Baranich
Carol Bohurjak
John Conrad
Elena Dascalescu *(Lavinia's mother)*
Eugene Erhardt
Tony Eschuk
Anthony & Nikol Gammalo
Larry Gindlesperger
Julia Grabowski
Maria Hanzel
Donna Jacak
Paul Kappanadze *(son of Fr. Jason Kappanadze)*
Sarah Kersey
Dorothy Laskovich
Paul Laskovich
Shane, Sierra and Taylor McNeilly
Brian Nemec *(Frank Tkacz's Godson)*
Natalie Ponomarenko
Walter & Grace Parhamovich *(Karen Felon's parents)*
David Roman *(Nephew of Margaret Rusynyk)*
Mary Ann Silberhorn
Elsie Sudnick
Damian Tyler
Donald Tipka
Hannah Ward *(God Child of Fr. Andrew Stevens)*
Harrison Ward *(God Child of Fr. Andrew Stevens)*
Deborah Wojnicz
Wayne Yurik
Helen Zawisza *(Joseph Rusynyk's sister)*
Julia Zimmerman
Denise Zweifel *(Sister of Marshall Prock)*
Erik & Gwen Hasselquist & Unborn Child

CONGRATULATIONS TO:
Russell Carleton & Tanya Klimova & Newborn Natalia
Born on June 11, 2009

CATECHUMENS:
Erik & Gwen Hasselquist

FOCA THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to everyone who attended our PARISH PICNIC! The food was excellent and we had some great entertainment. (Pictures to follow!)
Thank you to everyone who helped make this day special.
Darrell Felon, Cathedral Chapter of the FOCA

MERRICK HOUSE

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the school supply drive for Merrick House!

May God bless each of you.

Dan Morris, Charities Committee

ANNOUNCEMENT

Fr. John will be away from the office beginning Monday, August 24 and will return Monday, August 31.

In case of any immediate emergency, please contact the Parish office at 216-741-1310 or contact: Fr. Michael Butler, St. Innocent Orthodox Church, 26736 Skyline Drive, Olmsted Falls. Phone: Cell) 440-463-0992 or Office) 440-235-4558.

Or contact: Fr. John Memorich, St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 5025 East Mill Road, Broadview Hts. Office) 440-526-5192 or Home) 216-524-9795.

Fr. Svetisiav Mirolovich will be also be available.

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.

COFEE HOUR & GREETERS SCHEDULES

	Coffee Hour Hosts:	Greeters:
08/23/09	Mat. Jeanne Homik, Mat. Cindy Zdinak Mat. Jennifer Boerio	Debby Pinta/Paul Pangrace
08/30/09	Joyce Tabeling	Phyllis Gindlesperger/Virginia Medvec
09/06/09	Nick & Kate Zoikoff	Debby Pinta/Maria Broslawik
09/13/09	Alex & Deborah Wojnicz	Eileen Bondor
09/20/09	Maca Tyler/Judy Schwind	Paul Pangrace/Karen Felon

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.

☛ Parish Council News

Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 22 at **6:00 PM**
@ Ridge Manor

GOD'S GIFTS TO US - OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Weekly expenses:	$ 6,538.00
Last week's collection	$ 3,179.00
Over/Under	< $ 3,359.00 >

ATTENDANCE

Members 119 Visitors 8
Total 127

FOCA

St. Vladimir Camp & Retreat Center Fundraiser

Are you looking for spring bulbs to plant this fall? The Ohio District FOCA has an assortment of twelve different types of bulbs to plant - available $10.00 per set. It is a 50/50 split for the camp.

Fundraiser Deadline is TODAY!!

See Darrell L. Felon to place your order.

Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 26
4:30 PM
@Ridge Manor

FOCA ANNUAL

MEMBERSHIP PICNIC

MEETING/DRIVE

Thursday, August 27, 6:00 PM

MEMPHIS METRO PARK PAVILION
(Memphis & Tiedeman Roads)
Present and new members

– ALL ARE WELCOME –

Contact Darrell Felon at 440-238-3837.
FOCA provides burgers and hot dogs. Please bring a covered dish.
We look forward to seeing you!

END - OF - SUMMER

BOYS' NIGHT OUT

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30
5:00 PM
FATHEADS BREWERY & SALOON
24581 Lorain Avenue
North Olmsted
(formerly Danny Boy's Market)

See Dan Morris to sign up!

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

REGISTRATION FOR 2009 - 2010 YEAR

SEPTEMBER 6 & 13

$5.00 for 1 student
$10 for 2+ students in a family.
Also, sign-up for dinner preparation.

FIRST SESSION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT 4:30 PM

FALL SESSION,

SEPTEMBER 19 - NOVEMBER 2
(10 WEEKS)

IOCC BASEBALL NIGHT

Progressive Field

Friday, September 4, 4:05 PM

Cleveland Indians vs. Minnesota Twins
Mezzanine Seats
$22.00

Great **FIREWORKS** after the game...
...see Frank Tkacz in the Bookstore
or call 216-351-1011

DONATIONS ACCEPTED IF UNABLE TO ATTEND.

ANNOUNCEMENT

FAITH ENRICHMENT CLASSES BEGIN

Thursday
September 10
11:00 AM

Contact Paul Pangrace or Subdeacon Darrell Felon for additional information.

STEWARDSHIP - ENVELOPES

Please use your assigned church envelopes to ensure that each parishioner receives their proper credit for all donations. If you do not have an assigned envelope number, please see the Treasurer, Mary Lee Erhardt. Thank You.

Choosing Martyrdom

Department of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

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.

On Wednesday of this week we remember Saints Adrian and Natalia, a young married couple living in Nicomedia, part of the Roman Empire, in the early fourth century. Natalia was a Christian; her husband was not.

Visiting Nicomedia, the fiercely anti-Christian Emperor Maximian promised a reward to anyone willing to inform on Christians. Many people were willing to denounce their neighbors, and twenty-three believers hiding in a cave were informed on, captured, and tortured. Then they were brought before the Praetor or magistrate so that a scribe could record their names and statements.

Natalia and Adrian had been married for only a little over a year. But Adrian, at the age of 28, already had an important position as governor of the Praetorium. So the tortured Christians were assembled before him, and he watched in astonishment as they not only kept their composure under questioning and threat, but refused to deny their faith.

Finally Adrian felt compelled to challenge the Christians directly. He asked, "What do you hope for from this God of yours; what makes such suffering worthwhile?" The calm, sure answer came at once. The Christians declared that the rewards God is eager to bestow can hardly be imagined, let alone described.

Adrian's response reflects the day's Epistle reading: "Do not unite yourself with unbelievers; they are not fit mates for you. What has righteousness to do with wickedness? Can light consort with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6: 14). He turned to the scribe and said, "Record my name with the rest. I too am a Christian."

No doubt Natalia had hoped that her husband would embrace the faith, but she would not have chosen these circumstances. Both of them were young, they had just begun a life together, and they were in love. What she did next would surprise many people, because she did not try to preserve her husband's life. Instead she urged him to martyrdom.

The Emperor, hearing of Adrian's action, said the young aristocrat must have lost his mind. But Natalia visited the prison and encouraged her husband, by now beaten and injured, to persevere to the end without losing heart, and never to doubt that the faith he had found was worth the price. Knowing that his determination might weaken if he saw others suffer, she even asked that her husband be first to be tortured to death.

How many of us believe that there is nothing more important than preserving life, especially the life of young, healthy people with bright futures? Would we give our lives for the faith? Would we urge our spouses, or perhaps our children, to do so? Could we explain to someone why some saints chose martyrdom?

We may never be called to do any of those things. But it's worth considering the next words from 2 Corinthians 6: "Can there be a compact between the temple of God and the idols of the heathen? And the temple of the living God is what we are."

Weekly Schedule

SPECIAL AUGUST COLLECTION

ST. JOHN MONASTERY

Sunday, August 23
Leavetaking Dormition
Martyr Lupus
Hieromartyr Irenaeus
Bishop Of Lyons
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
St Vladimir Camp & Retreat Center
Fundraiser Deadline today.
St. Mary Romanian Festival

Monday, August 24
Hieromartyr Eutychius
St. Kozma Of Berat
St. Cosmas Of Aetolia

Tuesday, August 25
Relics Of The Apostle
Bartholomew
Apostle Titus Of The 70

Wednesday, August 26
Martyrs Adrian
And Natalia
4:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting
@RIdge Manor

Thursday, August 27
Ven. Poemen The Great
Hieromartyr Kuksha
6:00 PM FOCA Picnic

Friday, August 28
VEN. JOB OF POCHAEV

Saturday, August 29
STRICT FAST
BEHEADING OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, August 30
SS. Alexander, John, And
Paul, Patrs. Of Constantinople
St. Alexander Nevsky
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
5:00 PM Boys' Night Out
(see notice for additional
information)

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