

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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Dean

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- Dn. Daniel Boerio

- Subdeacon Theodore
Lentz, Sacristan

- Reader Julius Kovach,
Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

- Casandra Vasu,
Office Administrator
Office Hours, M-F
9:00 AM-3:00 PM

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

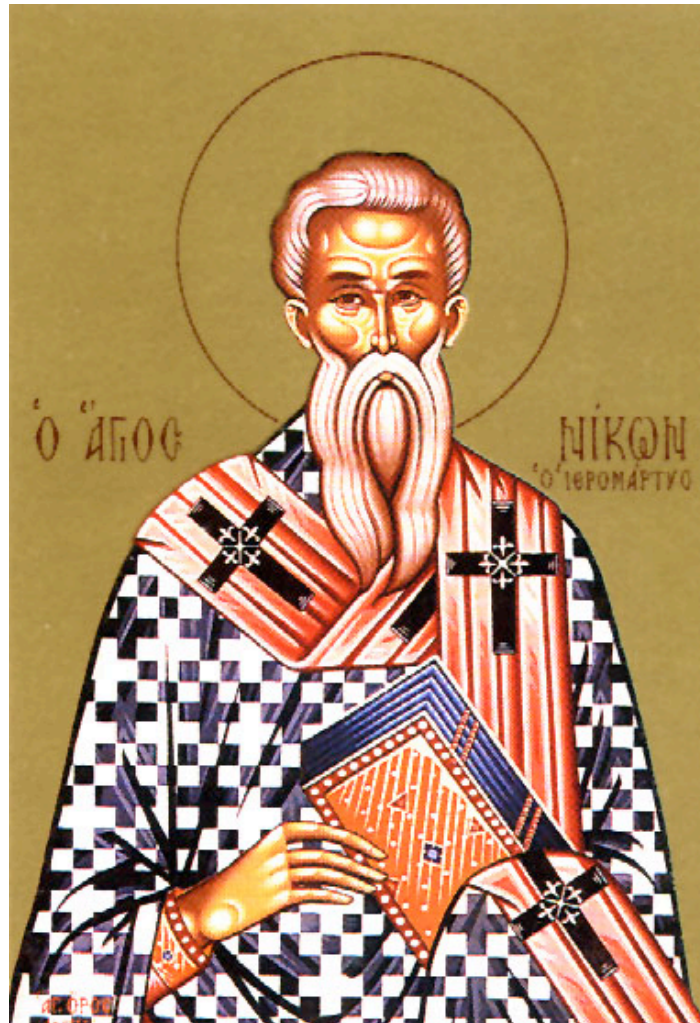
* AMBO: Articles for publication should be submitted to: sttheocemetery@yahoo.com by Wednesday of each week before noon.

* CALENDAR: Event dates must be submitted by the 15th of each month.

MARCH 22, 2015

**ST. JOHN
CLIMACUS**

MARTYR NIKON AND 199 DISCIPLES



MARCH 23

The Monk Martyr Nikon was born at Neapolis (Naples). His father was a pagan, and his mother a Christian. He was not baptized, but his mother secretly instructed him in the tenets of Christianity. Nikon was still a pagan when he reached adulthood. He served as a soldier, and showed unusual courage and strength.

Once, Nikon and his military company were surrounded by enemies. In deadly peril, he remembered the Christian precepts of his mother and, signing himself with the Sign of the Cross, he prayed to God, vowing to be baptized if he were saved. Filled with unusual strength, he killed many of the enemy, and put the rest to flight.

He managed to return home, giving thanks to God for preserving his life. With the blessing of his mother, he set off in search of a priest. This was no easy thing to do in a time of persecution. St Nikon took a ship to the island of Chios. He went up on a high mountain and spent eight days in fasting and prayer, entreating the Lord to help him.

An angel of God appeared to St Nikon in a dream, showing him the way. St Nikon went to Mount Ganos, where many monks were hidden, headed by Theodosius the Bishop of Cyzicus. St Nikon received from the bishop both the mystery of Baptism and the angelic schema (i.e., monastic tonsure). Living in the cave church, St Nikon became an example for all the brethren.

When St Nikon had lived on the mountain for three years, an angel revealed to the bishop that St Nikon should be consecrated bishop, and should move to the province of Sicily with all the monks. Bishop Theodosius obeyed the angel, and then died after he had entrusted the 190 monks to St Nikon. After he buried Bishop Theodosius, St Nikon sailed to Sicily with the brethren, and so was saved from approaching barbarians.

By God's grace, St Nikon came to his native city Neapolis. He found his mother still alive, and he remained with her for the final day of her life. His mother collapsed on his chest with tears of joy and kissed him. Making a prostration to the ground, she said, "I give thanks to You, O Lord, for You have permitted me to see my son as a monk, and as a bishop. Now, my Lord, hear Your servant, and receive my soul." When she had finished this prayer, the righteous woman died. Those present glorified God and buried her with psalmody.

Rumors of St Nikon's arrival spread through the city, and ten soldiers, his former companions, came to see him. After conversing with the saint they believed and were baptized, and went with him to Sicily. Having arrived on the island, St Nikon settled with the monks in a desolate area, called Gigia, near the river Asinum.

Many years passed, and there was another persecution against Christians. Quintilian, the governor of Sicily, was informed that Bishop Nikon was living nearby with many monks. All 199 monks were seized and beheaded, but they left St Nikon alive in order to torture him.

They burned him with fire, yet he remained unharmed. They tied him to the tails of wild horses to be dragged over the ground, but the horses would not budge from the spot. They cut out the saint's tongue, threw him off a high cliff, and finally beheaded him. The body of the hieromartyr Nikon was left in a field to be eaten by wild beasts and birds.

A certain shepherd, possessed by an evil spirit, went to that place, and finding the body of the saint, he immediately fell to the ground on his face. The unclean spirit, vanquished by the power of the saint, had thrown him to the ground and gone out from him with a loud shriek: "Woe is me, woe is me, where can I flee from Nikon?"

The healed shepherd related this to the people. The bishop of the city of Messina also learned of this, then he and his clergy buried the bodies of St Nikon and his disciples.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 22

Mar. 22 Heb. 6:13-20
Mark 9:17-31

Mar. 24 Genesis 15:1-15
Proverbs 15:7-19

Mar. 27 Genesis 22:1-18
Proverbs 17:17-18:5

Mar. 23 Genesis 13:12-18
Proverbs 14:27-15:4

Mar. 25 Heb. 2:11-18
Luke 1:24-38

Mar. 28 Heb. 9:24-28
Mark 8:27-31

Mar. 26 Genesis 18:20-33
Proverbs 16:17-17:17

Ridge Manor Fish Fry Fridays

**Every Friday night
4:00 PM- 9:00 PM**

February 20th - April 3rd, 2015



**The Altar Society invites
everyone to join them in the
Parish Hall for a Fish Dinner
following Vesperal Liturgy on
Wednesday, March 25th.**

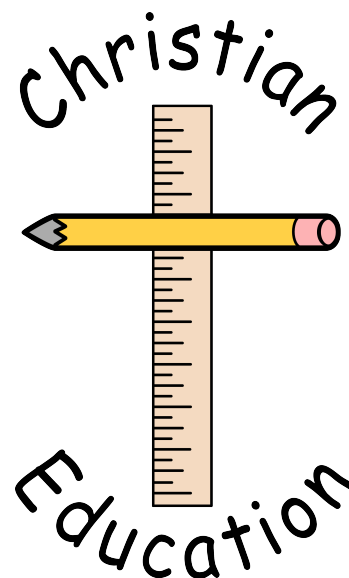
Upcoming Church School Dates

Morning of Saturday, April 4th after Divine
Liturgy of Lazarus Saturday (which begins at
9:00 AM)

Saturday, May 2nd at 4:45 PM

Evening of Wednesday May 20th
after Vespers of Ascension
(which begins at 6:00 PM)

Fr. John will teach on the Feasts of
Ascension & Pentecost - This will be the LAST
session of this Church School year.



Lenten Checkup

Now that we have reached mid-Lent, it's a good time
to reflect on how our Lenten discipline is working.

To do this, ask yourself the following questions:

- How well am I fasting?
- Have I given alms to a charity or
program that assists people in need?
- Have I gone to Confession?
- How is my daily prayer life going?
- How is my spiritual reading progressing?
(Remember to use the book given
to each of us by the Cleveland Deanery).
- Have I been able to attend some
weekday Lenten services?
- What do I need to do to
improve my Lenten discipline?



PRAYER REQUESTS

Departed:

Fr. Matthew Baker
03-01-15

Karen Ohlin (*Tatiana Boyczewski's daughter-in-law's mother*)
03-04-15

Ill Afflicted & Special Intentions:

Hieromonk Joseph
Mat. Vera Proctor
Mat. May Ozone
Mat. Catherine Julia
Mother Anna
Sr. Anastasia
Michael
Betty Balasz
Judy Baughman
Carol Bohurjak
Thomas Bohurjak, Jr.
Marie Borland
Frank Byndas
Navada Coneley
Elsie Conrad
John Conrad
Anne Crichton (*Joseph Crichton's sister-in-law*)
Christine Crichton
Thomas Crichton (*Joseph Crichton's brother*)
Arlene Czajkowski (Neale)
Laina Dachtyl
Metodije Damljanovic (Child)

Horia Dascalescu (*Lavinia Morris's brother*)
Cindy Durkalski
Debra Ellis (*Katie & Nadine Ellis's mother*)
Peter Fickinger (*friend of Joseph Crichton*)
Vladimir Fowler
Frank Fox (*Carol Machaskee's son*)
Julia Grabowski
Roger Haupt (*Lisa Theodore's cousin*)
Sandee Holod
Matthew Hungley (*Phyllis Gindlesperger's brother-in-law*)
Donna Jacak
Victor Jacak
Joy Jahans (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Stephen Jahans (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Diane Kearsey (*Janice Tkacz's sister*)
John Kovalski (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Dorothy Laskovich
Paul Laskovich
Elise Manella
Anna Mysiw (*friend and neighbor of Helen Antonik*)
Maude Palumbo (*Michelle Rajisch's mother*)
Debra Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's sister*)

Grace Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's mother*)
Donna Pelton
Liz Peterson (*Joseph Crichton's friend*)
John A. Petkac (Gartman)
Peter and Gina Petkac (*Judy Gartman's brother & sister-in-law*)
Anastasia Pogorily
Cindy Powkowski
Marshall Prock
Joseph Rusnyk
Julia Sankovic (Child)
Steven Soeder
Elaine Sudnick (*Joy Pfeiffer's mother*)
Katrina Toone
Frank Tkacz
Janice Tkacz
Donald Tipka
Elisabeth Wright (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
John Yavornitzki
Erin Zawolowycz
Elaine Zdinak
Elizabeth Zdinak

Fr. Andrew & Presbytera Lori Lentz & Unborn Child

Alex & Jerilyn Oppenheim & Unborn Child

The Boyczewski and Ohlin families thank you all for your prayers for Karen Ohlin. She is now with the Lord.



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:

3/22/15	Mary Swit & Tammy Ponomarenko
3/29/15	Joyce Tabeling & Judy Schwind
4/5/15	Joseph Crichton & Steve Rusnak
4/12/15	No Coffee Hour
4/19/15	Joy & David Pfeiffer
4/26/15	Mat. Cindy Zdinak & Mat. Jenn Boerio
5/3/15	Dan & Lavinia Morris

Greeters:

Linda Smotzer & Michael Tabeling
Karen Felon & Tammy Ponomarenko
Linda Smotzer & Sonia Vorell
Debby Pinta & Michael Tabeling (Midnight)
Tammy Ponomarenko & Michael Tabeling
Nina & Elizabeth Antonik
Linda Smotzer & Sonia Vorell

GOD'S GIFTS TO US - OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Weekly expenses:	\$ 6,538.00
Last week's collection	<u>\$ 5,707.50</u>
Over/Under	< \$ 830.50 >

FOOD PANTRY

Our Food Pantry ministry continues through Merrick House. They currently use the bags in their Moms First program. We can always use your help by "sponsoring a bag". Envelopes are in the foyer, \$10 fills a bag. Thank you and God bless you for helping those in need. - Dan Morris



Dome Lighters

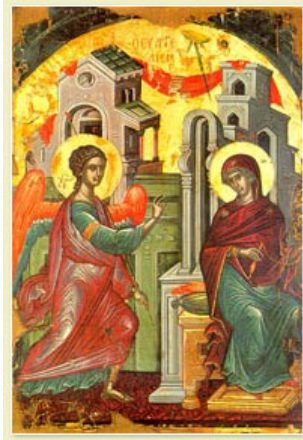
Donations to offset the cost of lighting the domes can be made for *The Health Of* or *In Memory Of* your loved ones. Contact the Parish Office if you are interested.

For the entire 2015 year:

In loving memory of Olga Fritskey
from John & Ruth Fritskey

The Annunciation

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>.



March 25 is the Feast of the Annunciation, the visit of the archangel Gabriel to Mary, proclaiming God's plan that she would give birth to His Son.

We read the story of the Annunciation on this day, in Luke 1: 24-38. It begins with Gabriel saluting Mary with "Hail," which can be translated as "rejoice." One of the recurring phrases with which Mary is addressed in Orthodox worship is, "Rejoice, O unwedded bride." Origen wrote that a salutation like this is never "addressed to a man; such a special greeting was reserved only for Mary."

Gabriel tells Mary, "The Lord is with you." These words alert us that God is going to do something extraordinary with the person to whom they are addressed. In the Old Testament, Nathan says the words to King David when David plans to build a temple for the Lord (2 Samuel 7:3). In Judges 6: 12 the angel of the Lord comes to encourage Gideon to fight the Midianites, and says, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor" (Judges 6: 12).

Mary is understandably troubled by Gabriel's words, and by his formal greeting. She is, after all, just a young girl. In answer to her question of how the birth will take place, Gabriel says, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you." His words tell us that this is a uniquely miraculous birth, far beyond any other, including the birth of John the Baptizer which Gabriel also has foretold.

Once again, similar words occur in the Old Testament, describing something important. In Isaiah 32: 15-20 we read about the future transformation of everything in creation, when "the Spirit is [will be] poured upon us from on high."

Luke uses words that tie Christ's birth to the Old Testament, the preparation for His coming, to remind us that God always prepares us for things. But then he makes it clear that this birth, the coming of Christ, is the end and fulfillment of all that preparation. Gabriel says: "...and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Young Mary stands in the presence of this imposing celestial being. She hears these life-changing words. She knows that Gabriel is waiting for her response. Without equivocation, without any more questions, she calmly says, "Let it be to me according to your word."

Her decision will be costly—Simeon will soon tell her of the sword that is to pierce her soul. But she trusts that agreeing to be "the handmaid of the Lord" is the right thing. A reading for this day, Hebrews 2: 14, tells us that it is indeed the right thing for our salvation: "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he [Christ] himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage." Mary is the one through whom this deliverance took place.

Troparion - Tone 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation,
The revelation of the eternal mystery!
The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin
As Gabriel announces the coming of Grace.
Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos:
Rejoice, O Full of Grace,
The Lord is with You!

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2015

Sunday, Mar. 22
ST. JOHN CLIMACUS
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, Mar. 23
MARTYR NIKON
AND 199 DISCIPLES

Tuesday, Mar. 24
VEN. ZACHARIAH
THE RECLUSE

Wednesday, Mar. 25
ANNUNCIATION
MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS
6:00 PM Vespers Liturgy
for Annunciation
(Fish Dinner to follow in
Parish Hall)

REMINDER:



Please be sure
that cell phones
are turned off
before entering
the temple.

MARCH Special Collection Orthodox Christian Fellowship



Thursday, Mar. 26
SYNAXIS OF THE
ARCHANGEL GABRIEL
11:00 AM Faith Enrichment @
Ridge Manor

Friday, Mar. 27
MARTYR MATRONA
OF THESSALONICA
9:00 AM Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, Mar. 28
VEN. HILARION THE NEW
VEN. STEPHEN
THE WONDERWORKER
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, Mar. 29
ST. MARY OF EGYPT
MUROM ICON
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy



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MARCH