Ambo

St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

733 Starkweather Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio

Mailing:
8200 Biddulph Rd
Brooklyn, OH 44144
T 216.741.1310
F 216.741.7275
www.sttheodosius.org

- Archpriest John Zdinak
  Dean
- Archpriest Pavel Soucek
  Retired/Attached
- Protodeacon Peter Homik
- 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

November 26, 2006
24th Sunday after Pentecost
St. Innocent of Irkutsk

Glory to God for All Things!

Commemoration of the Weeping Icon of the Mother of God "of the sign" at Novgorod

Commemorated on November 27

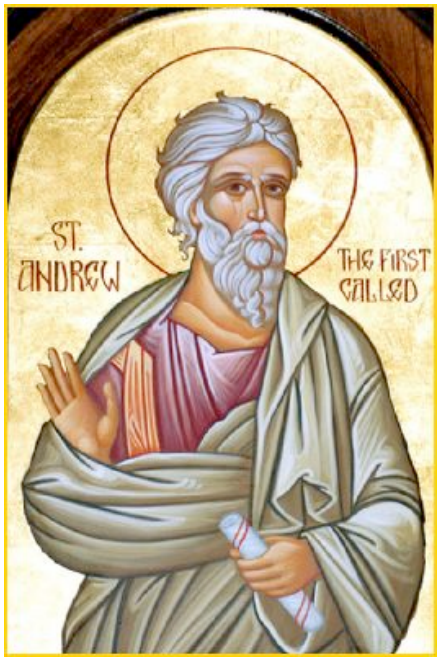
The Icon of the Mother of God "Of the Sign", depicts the Most Holy Theotokos with prayerfully uplifted hands, and the Divine Infant is at Her bosom in a mandorla (or sphere). This depiction of the Mother of God is regarded as one of the very first of Her iconographic images. In the mausoleum of St Agnes at Rome is a depiction of the Mother of God with hands raised in prayer with the Infant Christ sitting upon Her knees. This [cover] depiction is ascribed to the fourth century. There is also an ancient Byzantine icon of the Mother of God "Nikopea" from the sixth century, where the Most Holy Theotokos is depicted seated upon a throne and holding in Her hands an oval shield with the image of the Savior Emmanuel.

Icons of the Mother of God, known as "The Sign", appeared in Russia during the eleventh-twelfth centuries, and were so called because of a miraculous sign from the Novgorod Icon in the year 1170. Numerous copies of the Sign Icon are known throughout Russia. Many of them were also glorified by miracles in their local churches, and were then named for the place of the appearance of the miracle.

Apostle Andrew, the Holy and All-Praised First-Called

Commemorated on November 30

The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called was the first of the Apostles to follow Christ, and he later brought his own brother, the holy Apostle Peter, to Christ (John 1:35-42). The future apostle was from Bethsaida, and from his youth he turned with all his soul to God. He did not enter into marriage, and he worked with his brother as a fisherman. When the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John began to preach, St Andrew became his closest disciple. St John the Baptist himself sent to Christ his own two disciples, the future Apostles Andrew and John the Theologian, declaring Christ to be the Lamb of God.



After the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, St Andrew went to the Eastern lands preaching the Word of God. He went through Asia Minor, Thrace, Macedonia, he reached the River Danube, went along the coast of the Black Sea, through Crimea, the Black Sea region and along the River Dniepr he climbed to the place where the city of Kiev now stands. He stopped overnight on the hills of Kiev. Rising in the morning, he said to those disciples that were with him: "See these hills? Upon these hills shall shine forth the beneficence of God, and there will be a great city here, and God shall raise up many churches." The apostle went up around the hills, blessed them and set up a cross. Having prayed, he went up even further along the Dniepr and reached a settlement of the Slavs, where Novgorod was built. From here the apostle went through the land of the Varangians towards Rome for preaching, and again he returned to Thrace, where in the small village of Byzantium, the future Constantinople, he founded the Church of Christ. The name of the holy Apostle Andrew links the mother, the Church of Constantinople, with her daughter, the Russian Church.

We Need Volunteers: Bakers and Hostesses

Please consider donating baked goods. And we would like to have young ladies from the Parish serve as hostesses. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall.

Parish Teen Retreat

Please let Fr. John know if you are able to help subsidize the expenses of the December 27-29th Teen Retreat.

dean@sttheodosius.org

Write ambo@sttheodosius.org with announcements or to get on the weekly [e-] mailing list.

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 17, 2006

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 30th ANNUAL CONCERT!

The Cathedral Chapter of the FOCA will hold its Second Annual

Soup Sale

Sunday, December 3, 2006

Quarts - $4

Pints $2

Contact Darrel Felon @ 440.238.3837 for more info

Three different soups will be available this year:

- ☑ **Potato-green bean**
- ☑ **Vegetable**
- ☑ **Mushroom barley**

FOCA Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 26, 2006 @ Mapleside Farms in Brunswick.

A $1 gift exchange will also happen.
Call Darrell Felon for reservations & more info. 440.238.3837.

- *St. Andrew's is serving fish fry from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on* ***December 1 & 15.*** *Maple Park Drive in Maple Hts. 216.475.9365.*
- *St. Innocent's is taking orders for spanakopita and baklava as well as perogies & poppyseed rolls. For details call Maria Sarris 440.234.2935 or find order forms at www.saintinnocent.org.*

St. Mary's Altar Society Annual COOKIE SALE

Saturday, December 16, 2006

Ridge Manor Party Center
9 AM until 12 Noon

Please use the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall to let us know what you will be baking. Or call Virginia Medvec 440.892.4562 or Susan Lentz 216.621.2282.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CATHEDRAL ROOF FUND

St. Herman's Annual Benefit

St. Nicholas Day Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, December 3, 2006

St. Malachi Hall

2459 Washingtom Ave. at W. 25th (north of Detroit)

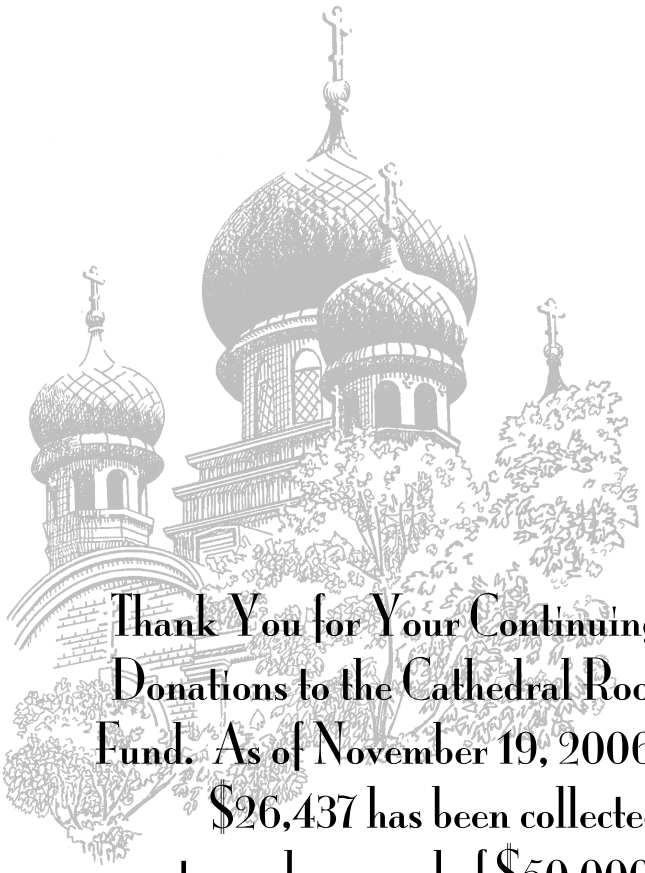
11 AM 'til 5 PM
Bake Sale open at 10 AM

entertainment includes the St. Ignatius Circus Performers and the McConnell Irish Singers

Admission $7 at the door
Children 10 & under $5 -
Seniors 60 & over $6

Take-out orders welcome

Call Don or Debbie Jenks for more information, to volunteer or to make a donation 440.526.8465



Thank You for Your Continuing Donations to the Cathedral Roof Fund. As of November 19, 2006, $26,437 has been collected toward our goal of $50,000.

"I shall speak first about control of the stomach, the opposite to gluttony, and about how to fast and what and how much to eat. I shall say nothing on my own account, but only what I have received from the Holy Fathers. They have not given us only a single rule for fasting or a single standard and measure for eating, because not everyone has the same strength; age, illness or delicacy of body create differences. But they have given us all a single goal: to avoid over-eating and the filling of our bellies... A clear rule for self-control handed down by the Fathers is this: stop eating while still hungry and do not continue until you are satisfied."

+ + + *St. John Cassian* www.balamandmonastery.org.lb

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The Greater Cleveland Council of Orthodox Clergy
The Inter-Orthodox Committee
The Eastern Orthodox Women's Guild
invite you to

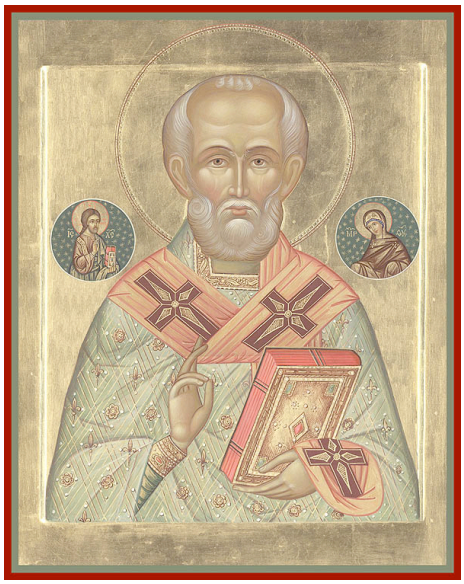
THE 14TH ANNUAL

NATIVITY ORTHODOX CONCERT

Sunday, December 10th 5:00 PM

ST. MARY ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

3256 Warren Rd., Cleveland
(three blocks south of I-90)
216.941.5500



Akathist to St. Nicholas

with anointing with myrrh from the relics of
St. Nicholas
Wednesday, December 6
7 PM
St. Innocent Orthodox Church
8526 Usher Rd., Olmsted Falls
Sponsored by the Greater Cleveland Council of Orthodox Clergy

At some thoughts a man stands perplexed, above all at the sight of human sin, and he wonders whether to combat it by force or by humble love. Always decide: 'I will combat it by humble love.' If you resolve on that once for all, you can conquer the whole world.

Loving humility is a terrible force: it is the strongest of all things, and there is nothing else like it.

— F. Dostoyevsky. The Brothers Karamazov.

Prayer Requests

Departed:
Michael Kohan +10/30/06
Charlotte Marko + 11/20/06

Ill-afflicted:
Protodeacon Peter Homik
Elsie Sudnick
Helen Baldner
Mary Marhefka
Eva Dudich
John Clements
Eileen Eschuk
Henry & Julia Grabowski
Mary Ann Mishko
John & Ann Shuleva
Jan Tkacz
Jeanne Twitchell
Alexander Kuzminec
Billy J Spurlock
James Sheehan
Julia Zimmerman
Debra Ellis
Mary Wazevich
Valentina Ponomarenko
Christine Helle
Kluchnik Family
Tamara Halm *(sister of Victor & George Ponomarenko)*
Roy A. Baldner
Jennie Curran
Michael & Jennifer Turczyk
Jasmine Ross *(daughter of Jose Cortes)*

Maura & Will Oprisko **& Unborn Child**
Emily & Jason Grimes **& Unborn Child**

Parish Council News

☛The next Parish Council Meeting is 6:00 PM, Thursday, November 30, 2006 @ Ridge Manor. Any parish member is welcome.

Upcoming Events

- December 3 - FOCA Soup Sale
- December 3 - St. Herman's Spaghetti Dinner
- December 6 - St. Nicholas Akathist @ St. Innocent
- December 10 - Nativity Concert @ St. Mary Romanian
- December 16 - Cookie Sale @ Ridge Manor
- December 17 - Bring in all "Angel Tree" Gifts
- December 17 - Cathedral Open House & Christmas Concert
- December 26 - FOCA party @ Mapleside Farms
- December 27-29 - Parish Teen Retreat

Christmas Outreach
"Angel Tree" Project

Thank you for your initial enthusiastic response to the Angel Tree! A few "wish lists" remain on the tree and we are sure that their angels will soon be found. Here again is how the program works. Each name comes with 2 tags, white and green. The green one should be turned in to Dan Morris or Paul Pangrace when you choose someone. The maximum per child was set at $30, and there are several options listed on the tag. All gifts need to be wrapped and brought to Church no later than Sunday Dec. 17, with the name tag affixed to the wrapping. Please help us make this a successful charity effort. Encourage our children to help purchase and wrap the gifts. Any questions, see Dan Morris. ***God bless you for helping to make a needy child's Christmas brighter.***

Coffee Hour & Greeters Schedules

	Coffee Hour Hosts:	Greeters:
11/26	Maca Tyler & Judy Schwind	Linda Smotzer & Virginia Medvec
12/03	Kate Zolikoff	Deb Pinta &Tom Broslawik
12/10	Mary Swit, Tammy Ponomarenko	Paul Pangrace & Maca Tyler
12/17	Patti Sankovic & Natalia Pricinovskis	Steven & Eileen Bondor
12/24	Maca Tyler	Mike Tabeling & Karen Felon
12/31	Donna Jacak	Liinda Smotzer

2006 Dues

$250.00 per Adult member (18 and older)

Repose of St Innocent the first Bishop of Irkutsk

Commemorated on November 26

Saint Innocent, Bishop of Irkutsk, (in the world John) was descended from the noble Kulchitsky family. His parents moved from Volhynia to the Chernigov region in the mid-seventeenth century. The saint was born in about the year 1680, and educated at the Kiev Spiritual Academy. He accepted monastic tonsure in 1710 and was appointed an instructor at the Moscow Slavonic-Greek-Latin Academy as prefect and professor of theology.

In 1719 St Innocent transferred to the St Peterburg Alexander Nevsky Lavra, and was appointed chief naval chaplain. In 1720 he served as vice-regent of the Alexander Nevsky Lavra.

On February 14, 1721, hieromonk Innocent was consecrated as Bishop of Pereyaslavl and appointed to the Peking Spiritual Mission in China. But the Chinese government refused to allow him to enter the country, because the Senate Commission on External Affairs had indiscretely characterized him as "a spiritual personage, a great lord." The saint was compelled to spend three years at Selingin on the Chinese border, suffering much deprivation because of the uncertainty of his position, and grief from the disarray of the civil government in Siberia. Diplomatic blunders of the Russian Mission in China by Graf Raguzinsky, and intrigues by the Irkutsk archimandrite Anthony Platkovsky led to the appointment of Archimandrite Anthony in China. By decree of the Most Holy Synod St Innocent was named in 1727 to be Bishop of Irkutsk and Nerchinsk. And so he entered into the governance of the newly-formed dioceses.

The proximity of the Chinese border, the expanse and sparsely-settled dioceses, the great number of diverse nationalities (Buryat, Mongol, and others), mostly unenlightened by the Christian Faith, the lack of roads and the poverty - all this made St Innocent's pastoral work burdensome and his life full of deprivations. Through a strange oversight of the Senate, he did not receive any money until the time of his death, and he endured extreme want. In these difficult condition of scant funds the Irkutsk Ascension

monastery still maintained two schools opened under him, one Mongol and the other Russian. The constant concern of the saint was directed towards the schools: the selection of worthy teachers, and providing the necessary books, clothing and other provisions for students.

The saint toiled tirelessly at organizing the diocese, and strengthening its spiritual life. His many sermons, pastoral letters and directives bear witness to this. In his work and deprivations St Innocent found spiritual strength, humility, and insight.

In the spring of 1728, the Baikal region began to suffer a drought. Famine from a poor grain harvest had threatened the diocese already back in 1727. With the blessing of the holy hierarch, in May within the churches of Irkutsk and the Irkutsk region they began to include a Molieben for an end to the drought at each Liturgy. On Saturdays they sang an Akathist to the Mother of God, and on Sundays they served a Molieben. "The supplications," said the saint, "should end on the Feast of St Elias" (July 20). Indeed, on that very day a storm raged at Irkutsk with such strong rains, that in the streets of the city water stood up to people's knees, and thus the drought ended.

Through the efforts of St Innocent, construction was started on a stone church to replace the wooden one at the Ascension monastery, and the boundaries of the diocese were expanded to include not only Selingin, but also the Yakutsk and Ilimsk surroundings.

The saint, not noted for robust health, and under the influence of the severe climate and his afflictions, departed to the Lord at a rather young age (51). He reposed on the morning of November 27, 1731.

In the year 1764, the body of the saint was discovered incorrupt during restoration work on the monastery's Tikhvin church. Many miracles occurred not only at Irkutsk, but also in remote places of Siberia, for those who flocked to the saint with prayer. This moved the Most Holy Synod to uncover the relics and to glorify the saint in the year 1800.

In the year 1804, a feastday was established to celebrate his memory throughout all Russia on November 26, since the Sign Icon of the Mother of God is commemorated on the actual day of his repose (November 27). St Innocent is also remembered on February 9.

In 1921, the relics of St Innocent were taken from their shrine and placed in a Soviet anti-religious museum. They were moved to another museum in Yaroslav in 1939, and were exhibited as "mummified remains of an unknown man." In 1990, they were brought to the newly-reopened Tolga Monastery in the Yaroslav diocese. In September of 1990, the holy relics arrived in Irkutsk and were placed in the cathedral, to the joy of all the faithful.

Weekly Schedule

Sunday November 26
24th Sunday After Pentecost
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Monday November 27

Tuesday November 28

Wednesday November 29

Thursday November 30
St. Andrew the Apostle
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy at St. Andrew's Maple Heights
6:00 PM Parish Council Meeting at Ridge Manor

Friday December 1

Saturday December 2
Leavetaking of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple
6:00 PM Vespers

Sunday December 3
25th Sunday After Pentecost
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

"Blessed is the man who knows his weakness. This knowledge becomes for him the foundation and the beginning [of his coming] unto all good and beautiful things." *Isaac the Syrian - Homily 8 (as translated by A.J. Wensinck)*

www.isaacthesyrian.com

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Addressee