

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

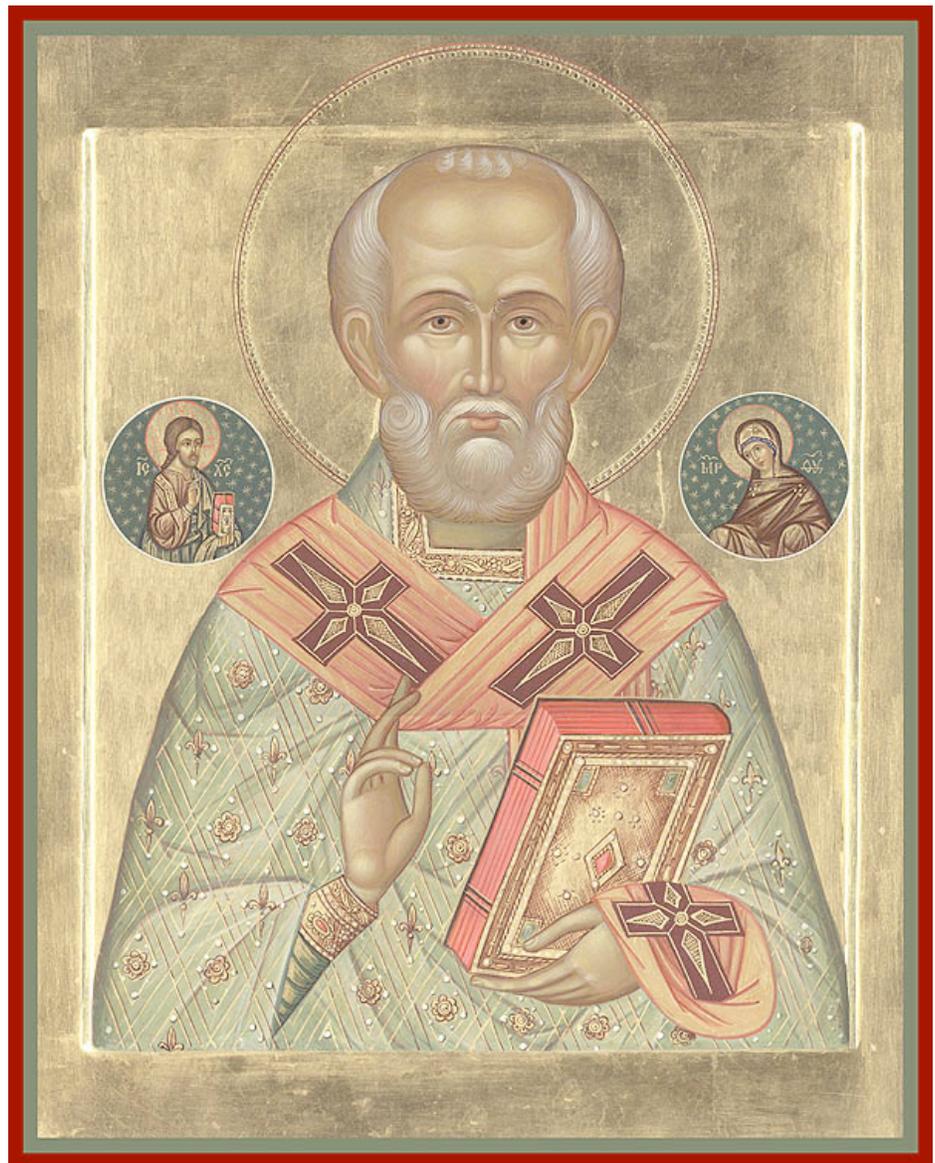
Sundays and Feast Days
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hour
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

December 3, 2006

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Prophet Zephaniah

Glory to God for All Things!



St Nicholas the Wonderworker and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia Commemorated on December 6

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom St Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. St Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. *In bestowing charity, St Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.*

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to St Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, St Nicholas gave thanks to the Savior. Going round the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, St Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia, and yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, "Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world, and glorify My Name there." So he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia.



Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant."

After his consecration as archbishop, St Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of St Constantine (May 21) as emperor, St Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

In the year 325 St Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicene Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of Sts Sylvester the Bishop of Rome (January 2), Alexander of Alexandria (May 29), Spyridon of Trimythontos (December 12) and other Fathers of the Council.

Continued on page 7.

**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

**Parish Teen
Retreat**

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

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

Following Liturgy **TODAY** in the Fellowship Hall



Three different soups will be available this year:

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

**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

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.*

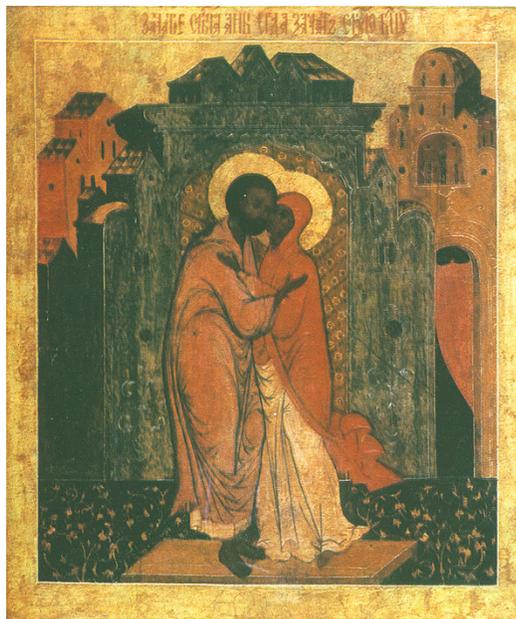
St. Innocent's is taking orders for spanakopita and baklava as well as pierogies & poppyseed rolls. For details call Maria Sarris 440.234.2935 or find order forms at www.saintinnocent.org.

**The Conception by Righteous Anna
of the Most Holy Mother of God**

Commemorated on December 9

St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married St Joachim (September 9), who was a native of Galilee. For a long time St Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, Who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ances-



tral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of Her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as St Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter

Two of his Commentary on Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in Her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although She committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, She would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from Her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

From ancient times this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women in Russia.

St. Herman's Annual Benefit

**St. Nicholas Day
Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday, December 3**

St. Malachi Hall

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

11 AM 'til 5 PM

Admission \$7 at the door
Children \$5 - Seniors \$6

Take-out orders welcome

**Christmas Outreach
"Angel Tree" Project**

The early response to the program has been superb! A few names left! All gifts need to be wrapped and brought to Church no later than Sunday Dec. 17, with the name tag affixed to the wrapping. For those who choose to buy more than one gift on the tag, we are asking that you put everything in a gift bag, tie the top, and put the tag on it. This will help insure proper distribution. If that isn't workable, please label each gift separately. Any questions, see Dan Morris. Thank you all for such a warm response to helping the kids from Merrick House!

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

THE 14TH ANNUAL
**ΝΑΤΙΥΙΤΥ
ΟΡΘΟΔΟΧ ΚΟΝΚΕΡΤ**



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

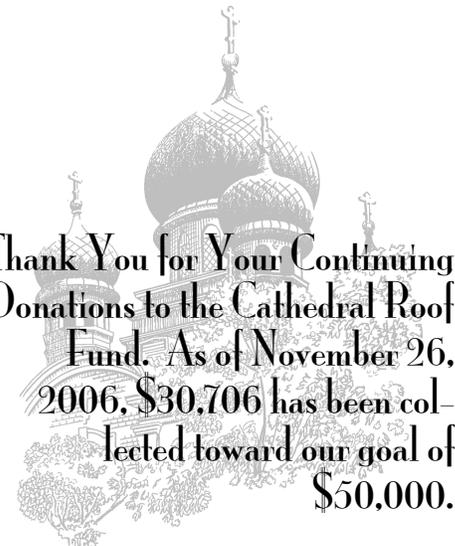
St. Nicholas

Wednesday, December 6
7 PM

St. Innocent Orthodox
Church

8526 Usher Rd., Olmsted Falls

Sponsored by the Greater Cleveland
Council of Orthodox Clergy



Thank You for Your Continuing
Donations to the Cathedral Roof
Fund. As of November 26,
2006, \$30,706 has been col-
lected toward our goal of
\$50,000.

Prayer Requests

Departed:

Michael Kohan +10/30/06
Charlotte Marko + 11/20/06
Herbert Posnik + 11/24/06

Ill-afflicted:

Protodeacon Peter Homik
Helen Balder
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

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

Parish Council News

☛ The next Parish Council Meeting is 6:00 PM, Monday, December 18, 2006 @ Ridge Manor. Any parish member is welcome.

Upcoming Events

- 🕯 December 3 - 70CA 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 - 70CA party @ Mapleside Farms
- 🕯 December 27-29 - Parish Teen Retreat

The Jewelry and Collectible Sale was successful in netting \$3,587.90.

Many thanks to all of our donors for their generosity - without you there would have been no sale event.

We thank Father John and all of our many volunteers who gave so much of themselves and their time during the pre-sale work and during the sale. Special thanks to Sharon and her staff at Ridge Manor.

A special note of thanks goes to an anonymous donor who so generously donated the beautiful curio cabinet to Ridge Manor. And another special thank you to Larry Schreiber of Lawrence Schreiber's Gems in Westlake. Larry gave of his time and expertise every time we brought in pieces for his appraisal at no cost to us.

We have learned many things about having these kinds of sales which we will use in the future.

This sale was successful in more than just raising money. It was also successful in bringing more parishioners together and many of us becoming friends and giving us more of a family feeling in the parish. We had such great teamwork.

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to all of you,

Marie Maty Virginia Medvec Donna Jacak

Coffee Hour & Greeters Schedules

Coffee Hour Hosts:

12/03 Kate Zolikoff
12/10 Mary Swit, Tammy Ponomarenko
12/17 Patti Sankovic & Natalia
Pricinovskis
12/24 Maca Tyler
12/31 Donna Jacak

Greeters:

Deb Pinta & Tom Broslawik
Paul Pangrace & Maca Tyler
Steven & Eileen Bondor
Mike Tabeling & Karen Felon
Linda Smotzer

2006 Dues
\$250.00 per
Adult member
(18 and older)

St Nicholas (continued from page 2)

St Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God, and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Having returned to his own diocese, the saint brought it peace and blessings, sowing the word of Truth, uprooting heresy, nourishing his flock with sound doctrine, and also providing food for their bodies.

Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by St Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness.

Witnessing this remarkable event were three military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by the emperor Constantine to put down a rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they would also be compelled to seek the intercession of St Nicholas. Evil men slandered them before the emperor, and the officers were sentenced to death.

Appearing to St Constantine in a dream, St Nicholas called on him to overturn the unjust sentence of the military officers.

He worked many other miracles, and struggled many long years at his labor. Through the prayers of the saint, the city of Myra was rescued from a terrible famine. He appeared to a certain Italian merchant and left him three gold pieces as a pledge of payment. He requested him to sail to Myra and deliver grain there. More than once, the saint saved those drowning in the sea, and provided release from captivity and imprisonment.

Having reached old age, St Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now (See May 9).

The name of the great saint of God, the hierarch and wonderworker Nicholas, a speedy helper and suppliant for all hastening to him, is famed in every corner of the earth, in many lands and among many peoples. In Russia there are a multitude of cathedrals, monasteries and churches consecrated in his name. There is, perhaps, not a single city without a church dedicated to him.

Famed and venerable churches and monasteries dedicated to St Nicholas are found at Kiev, Smolensk, Pskov, Toropetsa, Galich, Archangelsk, Great Ustiug, Tobolsk. Moscow had dozens of churches named for the saint, and also three monasteries in the Moscow diocese: the Nikolo-Greek (Staryi) in the Chinese-quarter, the Nikolo-Perervinsk and the Nikolo-Ugreshsk. One of the chief towers of the Kremlin was named the Nikolsk.

Many of the churches devoted to the saint were those established at market squares by Russian merchants, sea-farers and those who traveled by land, venerating the wonderworker Nicholas as a protector of all those journeying on dry land and sea. They sometimes received the name among the people of "Nicholas soaked."

Many village churches in Russia were dedicated to the wonderworker Nicholas, venerated by peasants as a merciful intercessor before the Lord for all the people in their work. And in the Russian land St Nicholas did not cease his intercession. Ancient Kiev preserves the memory about the miraculous rescue of a drowning infant by the saint. The great wonderworker, hearing the grief-filled prayers of the parents for the loss of their only child, took the infant from the waters, revived him and placed him in the choir-loft of the church of Holy Wisdom (Hagia Sophia) before his wonderworking icon. In the morning the infant was found safe by his thrilled parents, praising St Nicholas the Wonderworker.

Many wonderworking icons of St Nicholas appeared in Russia and came also from other lands. There is the ancient Byzantine embroidered image of the saint, brought to Moscow from Novgorod, and the large icon painted in the thirteenth century by a Novgorod master.

St Nicholas is the patron of travelers, and we pray to him for deliverance from floods, poverty, or any misfortunes. He has promised to help those who remember his parents, Theophanes and Nonna.

St Nicholas is also commemorated on May 9 (The transfer of his relics) and on July 29 (his nativity). ❧❧❧

The Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias) was a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah and the Prophetess Oldama. He was from the tribe of Simeon, and was the ninth of the Twelve Minor Prophets of the Old Testament. The prophet lived at the royal court, where he preached repentance and helped King Josiah eliminate idol-worship.

He prophesied about the calamities that were to come for the people of Judea and the surrounding regions: Gaza, Ascalon, Crete, and against the Moabites, the Ammonites and the Ninevites.



Weekly Schedule

Sunday December 3

25th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Monday December 4

Tuesday December 5

6:00 PM Vespers

Wednesday December 6

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

*7:00 PM Akathist to St. Nicholas at
St. Innocent in Olmsted Falls*

Thursday December 7

11:00 AM Faith Enrichment at Ridge Manor

Friday December 8

Saturday December 9

**Conception by St. Anna of the
Theotokos**

6:00 PM Vespers

Sunday December 10

26th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

*... whatever you do, do all to
the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31).*



St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

8200 Biddulph Rd

Brooklyn, OH 44144

Addressee