

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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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

Please check weekly schedule
for specific days (last page)

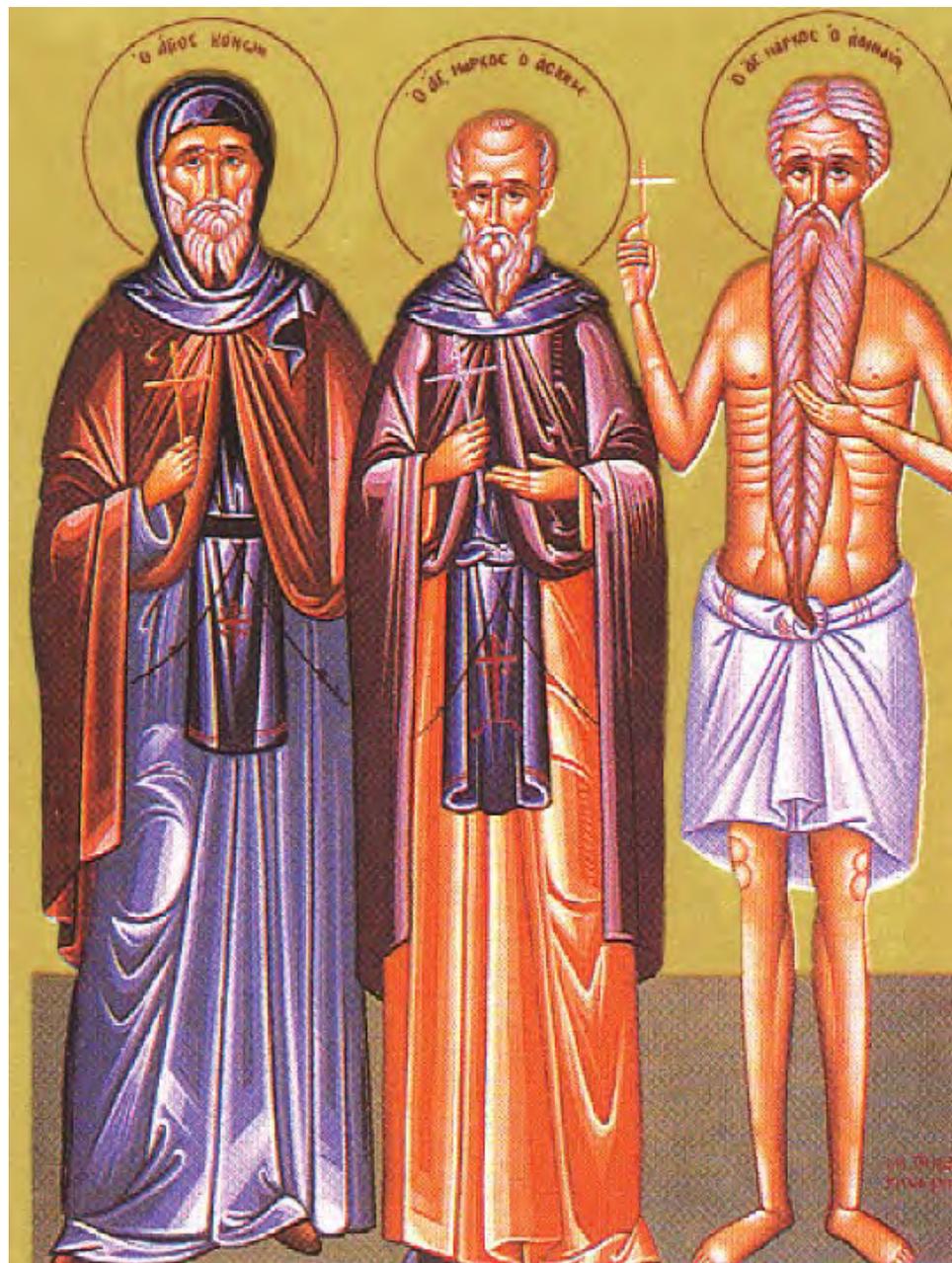
AMBO: Articles for publica-
tion should be submitted to:

ambo-theodosius

[@googlegroups.com](mailto:ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com)

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

SUNDAY OF THE
PRODIGAL SON



Martyr Conon of Isauria (March 5)

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The Holy Martyr Conon of Isauria (March 5) was born in Bethany, a village near the Asia Minor city of Isauria, whose inhabitants had accepted Christianity from the Apostle Paul. From his youth, Saint Conon was accorded the special protection of the “Archistrategos” (“Leader of the Heavenly Hosts”) Michael, who appeared to him and assisted him in many difficult circumstances in life.

At the insistence of his parents, Conon was betrothed to a maiden named Anna. He persuaded her to live with him in virginity after the wedding. The young couple lived as brother and sister, devoting themselves entirely to God. Saint Conon brought also his parents to the Christian Faith. His father, Saint Nestor, received a martyr’s death for denouncing idol-worshippers.

After burying both his mother and wife, Saint Conon continued his service to God, devoting himself entirely to monastic works, fasting and prayer. In his declining years the holy ascetic was glorified with

the gift of wonderworking. By virtue of his preaching and miracles many pagans were converted to Christ. It is said that even the evil spirits were forced to serve him.

When a persecution against Christians broke out in Isauria, one of the first to suffer was Saint Conon. He was subjected to fierce torments for his refusal to offer sacrifice to idols. When the people of Isauria learned of the tortures to which the saint was being subjected, they came forth bearing arms to defend the martyr. Frightened by the people’s wrath, the torturers fled, and the Isaurians found the martyr wounded and bloodied at the place of torture.

Saint Conon wished to endure martyrdom for the Lord, but he lived two more years. Saint Conon died in the second century and was buried beside his parents and wife.

The **Hieromartyr Theodotus**, (commemorated March 2,) a native of Galatia in Asia Minor, was Bishop of Cyrenia in Cyprus. During a time of persecution against Christians under the impious emperor Licinius (311-324), Saint Theodotus openly preached Christ, calling on the pagans to abandon idolatry and turn to the true God. Sabinus, the governor of Cyprus, ordered that Bishop Theodotus be arrested and brought to trial.

When he heard about this order, the saint did not wait for the soldiers to be sent after him, but immediately went to the governor saying, “I, whom you seek, am here. I have shown myself in order to preach Christ my God.”

The governor ordered that the saint be beaten without mercy, suspended from a tree, raked with sharp implements, and then be taken to prison. Five days later Saint Theodotus was brought to the governor,

who presumed that after his tortures the bishop would prefer to renounce Christ, rather than endure new sufferings.

However, Saint Theodotus did not cease to preach about Christ. At first they put the saint on an iron grate, under which they lit a fire, and then hammered nails into his feet and let him go. Many witnessed the sufferings of the martyr. Astonished at the saint’s endurance and his divinely-inspired speech, they came to believe in Christ. Learning of this, Sabinus gave orders to stop the torture and throw the saint into prison.

During the reign of Saint Constantine the Great (May 21), the freedom to confess their faith was given to all Christians, and among those set free from prison was Saint Theodotus. The saint returned to Cyrenia and after two years serving as bishop he peacefully fell asleep in the Lord in about the year 326.

Changing Course?

Today, the Gospel reading retells the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32).

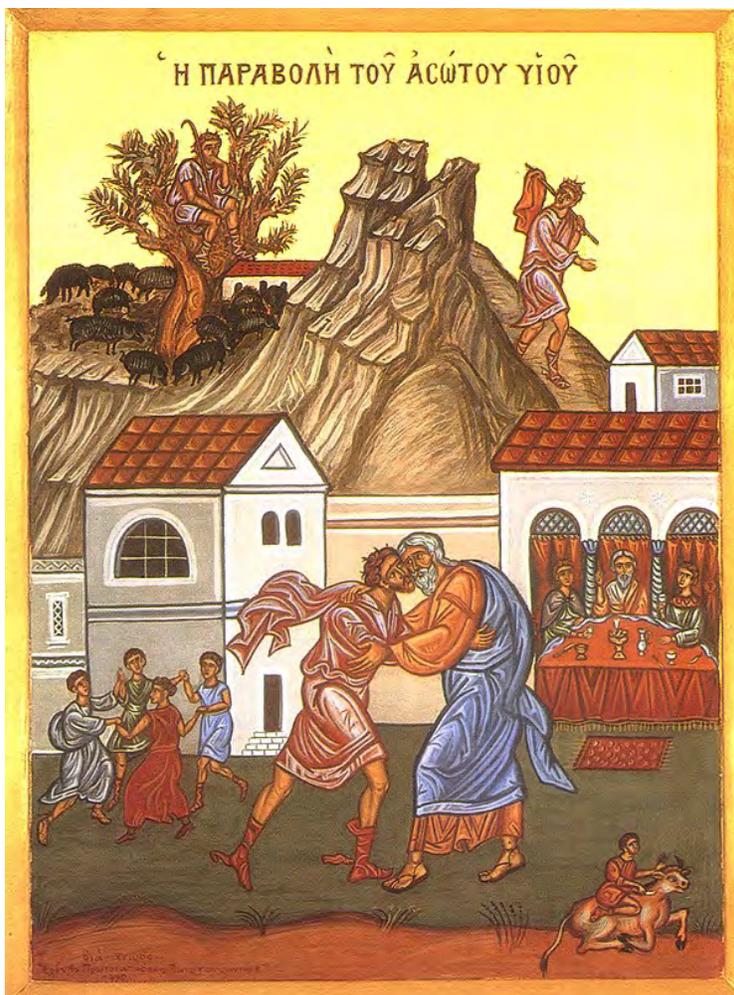
We addressed our journey through the Great Fast to Pascha as an opportunity to “change course,” moving from our own sinful way of life, to a new life in Christ Jesus, our Lord. This course correction begins with our prayer life as was the theme of last week’s Gospel reading of the Publican and Pharisee.

These two very different men went to the Temple to pray. The rest of the parable reveals the nature of prayer to us, and where our hearts really are. Our Lord knows us intimately: He knows our deepest heart. The Publican’s prayer was humble and sincere, acknowledging his sinfulness before God beseeching mercy. The Pharisee’s prayer was vain and insincere. We know how God judged these two men.

We begin our preparation for the Great Fast, as well as Pascha, with a special emphasis on our prayer life. To be sure, we use every resource available to us. We pray at the Divine Liturgy; we use prayer books; we attend Vespers and the Presanctified Liturgy.

But we are also able to use the shining diamond of Orthodox prayer: the Jesus Prayer. *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner!* The most basic, yet beautiful prayer is one we can say over and over again whether we are in church, driving our cars, during our waking hours. Pretty

much, wherever we are and whatever we are doing, as St. Paul tells the Christians living in Thessalonica: *Pray without ceasing* (1Thess: 5:17). This can now be the beginning of a new life in Christ!



Once we begin to see how “off course” we can sometimes be, we can make the necessary adjustments in our life. Sometimes, this can be a complete change of course.

The theme of today’s Gospel is *repentance*. Repentance itself implies not just a change of course, but a complete reversal in our direction of travel. The Prodigal Son “repented,” and came back 180 degrees to his father. Today, it is up to us to completely change our course, and come back to Jesus Christ and His Holy Church. This is not an easy task, but the Church is able to guide us through this narrow and difficult path.

One of the most important tools we have in our course corrections is that of Holy Confession. We will address this more completely in future articles, but we must come to the realization that Holy Confession is an integral part of our spiritual journey.

Let us take this opportunity of not only these preparatory weeks, but also the Great Fast to reassess our lives in a prayerful manner. May we enter this time of spiritual work with joy in the expectation of the great and saving day of Holy Pascha!

Student Outreach

St. Theodosius is looking to reach out to young adults in high school and in college to send Pascha greetings. Please email the office at StTheodosiusCathedral@protonmail.com with students’ name and address.



PRAYER REQUESTS



Departed:

Archimandrite Alexander

Louis Klinar (*father of Bob Klinar*)

Bert Nielsen (*Paul Pangrace's brother-in-law*)

Edward Zelavko (*former Parish Council President*)

Special Intentions:

Deacon Paul Mitchell (*Tom Mitchell's father*)

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Reader Paul Pangrace

Reader Haralambos Steingass

Arlene Czajkowski

Child Mary Kate Zweidunger

Child Vivian Sherer

Melissa (*cousin of Mary Ann Kovach*)

Elizabeth (Betty) Balasz

Marie Borland

Horia Dascalescu

Debra Ellis

Gregory Galan

Aleksei Green

Virginia Haupt (*Lisa Theodore's mother*)

Don Hinkl

Matthew Hunly (*Phyllis Gindlesperger's brother-in-law*)

Diane Kearsy (*Janice Tkacz's sister*)

Annamarie Luvison (*Daughter of Kaite Ellis-Luvison*)

Chris Magee (*Erin Zawolowycz's brother*)

Paul Mihal

Natalya Miller (*Arlene Neale's great-niece*)

Andrew Mytrohovich

Debra Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's sister*)

Grace Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's mother*)

Jim Paulitzky (*Jerry Czajkowski's son-in-law*)

James Peter Petkac

Susan Reese (*friend of Jerry & Arlene Czajkowski and Betty Balasz*)

Elena Rich (*Jerry Czajkowski's daughter*)

Andrew Sykaluk

Elaine Sudnick (*Joy Pfeiffer's mother*)

Tony Sykaluk (*friend of Lydia Mytrohovich*)

Janice Tkacz

Gayle Vidovitch

Eleanor Wachovec (*friend of Karen Felon*)

Robert Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

Colleen Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

Erin Zawolowycz

Kristin Robinson

Janet Budko (*sister-in-law of Arlene Neale*)

Laurie Budko (*niece of Arlene Neale*)

Mary Kay Weber

Mirta Szewczyk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Mickey O'Brien (*friend of Arlene*)

Kelly Buehner

Anna Sykaluk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Edward Zewczyk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Joe Czajkowski (*son of Jerry*)

Patrick Gallagher

Elliott Udell (*grandson of Michael Udell*)

Constance Zimmerman (*Cindy's cousin*)

William Nasi (*brother-in-law of Kenneth Kovach*)

Jonathan Maas (*friend of Eric Seddon*)

Michelle Frampton (*cousin of Fr. Zdinak*)

Jeanne Charles (*friend of Arlene Neal/Czajkowski*)

Carol Nielsen (*Paul Pangrace's sister*)

Dennis Kovach (*Kenneth Kovach's brother*)

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF February 28

Feb 28
Luke 24:12-35
1 Cor 6:12-20
Luke 15:11-32

Mar 1
1 John 2:18-3:10
Mark 11:1-11

Mar 2
1 John 3:11-20
Mark 14:10-42

Mar 3
1 John 3:21-4:6
Mark 14:43-15:1

Mar 4
1 John 4:20-5:21
Mark 15:1-15

Mar 5
2 John 1:1-13
Mark 15:22-25, 33-41

Mar 6
1 Thess 4:13-17
John 5:24-30
1 Cor 10:23-28
Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36

Mar 7
Luke 24:36-53
1 Cor 8:8-9:2
Matt 25:31-46

ST. THEodosius IS NOW A SUBSCRIBER TO TITHE.LY

In response to requests to be able to donate electronically, we have set up a Tithe.ly account so people can donate either regularly or for special occasions online. Click here to see: <https://www.sttheodosius.org/donate>
Special thanks to Council Vice President Cathy Weber and our Webmaster Kate Zolikoff for making this happen.



FAITH ENRICHMENT HAS CONCLUDED

Stay tuned for more information & future announcements!

Please contact Subdeacon Leon Felon at (440) 666-7601 if you have any questions.

Sunday, Feb 28

Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Ven. Basil the Confessor, Companion of
Ven. Procopius at Decapolis
3rd and 6th Hours read at 8:40 AM
Liturgy Begins 9:00 AM

Monday, Mar 1

Martyr Eudoxia of Heliopolis

Tuesday, Mar 2

Hieromartyr Theodotus, Bishop of
Cyrenia

Wednesday, Mar 3

Martyr Eutropius of Amasea, and with
him Martyrs Cleonicus and Bsiliscus

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2021

*Regular fast-
ing resumes
this week
(Wed + Fri
only)*

Thursday, Mar 4

Ven. Gerasimus of the Jordan

Friday, Mar 5

Martyr Conon of Isauria

Saturday, Mar 6

Memorial Saturday
The 42 Martyrs of Ammoria in Phrygia
Jarachovic Panikhida 5:15 PM
Great Vespers 6:00 PM

Sunday, Mar 7

Sunday of the Last Judgment
The Holy Hieromartyrs of Cherson
3rd and 6th Hours read at 8:40 AM
Liturgy Begins 9:00 AM