

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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Cleveland, Ohio 44113

www.sttheodosius.org

Father Jan Cizmar
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st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com

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9AM-2PM, please call ahead

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Sacristan

Subdeacon Igor Gajewsky
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1(216) 574-4886

StTheodosiusCathedral@protonmail.com

Office Hours MTWTh
10:00AM-2:00PM

Paul Zawolowycz
Ambo Editor

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).

Previous Ambos on website.

Articles for publication
should be submitted to:

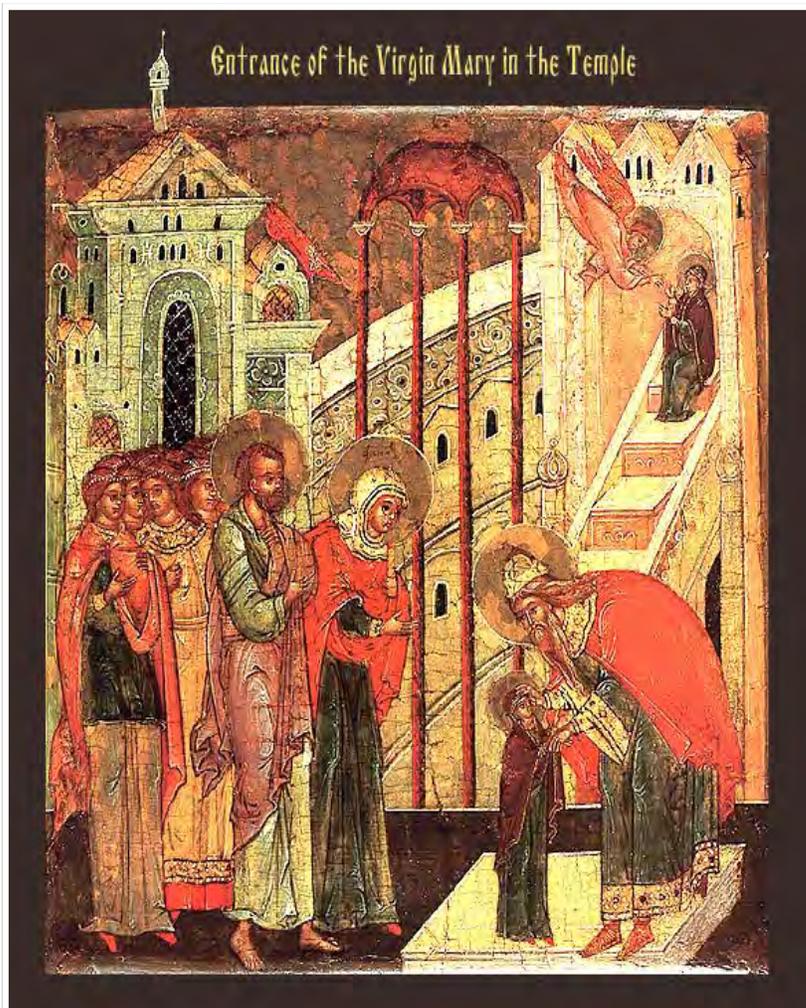
ambo-theodosius

@googlegroups.com

NOVEMBER 20, 2022

23ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FOREFEAST OF THE ENTRY INTO
THE TEMPLE OF
THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS



Today we celebrate the **Forefeast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple**, and tomorrow is the Feast Day itself. A Forefeast is one or more days preceding certain major holidays, in order to prepare the faithful for the celebration of the actual Feast Day. In the Services, hymns describing the festive event are sung.

According to Tradition, the righteous Joachim and Anna, the parents of the Virgin Mary, vowed to dedicate their child to God. When the girl was three years old, her parents brought her to the Temple at Jerusalem holding candles and singing Psalms.

Psalm 44/45: 10-17 foreshadows this event:

"Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear; forget also your people and your father's house. Because the king has desired your beauty; for he is your Lord. And the daughter of Tyre shall adore with gifts; the rich of the people of the land shall supplicate your countenance. All her glory is that of the daughter of the king of Esebon, robed as she is golden fringed garments, in embroidered clothing; virgins shall be brought to the king after her, her fellows shall be brought to you. They shall be brought with gladness and exaltation; they shall be led into the king's temple. Instead of your fathers children are born to you; you shall make them princes over all the earth. They shall make mention of your name from generation to generation; therefore shall the nations shall confess you for ever, even forever and ever

She was met by the priests of the Temple and the High Priest Zachariah himself. With no help from anyone else, the girl walked up fifteen steps. Zachariah, the father of Saint John the Baptist, took the Virgin Mary into the Holy of Holies: the most sacred place in the Temple, where she remained until at the age of twelve, when she was betrothed to Saint Joseph. No one could enter there except the High Priest, who entered alone once a year (on the Day of Atonement) to offer the blood of sacrificial animals "for himself, and for the errors of the people" (Hebrews 9:7). But Zachariah was given an extraordinary inspiration for his action. After all, the Virgin herself was to become the Holy of Holies, a living temple, bearing in her womb the Savior of the world.

Note: We will have *Great Vespers* for **The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple** tonight, the night of Sunday, November 20th, at 6:00 PM.

Starting with the Hours at 8:40 AM we will have *Divine Liturgy* to celebrate this Feast the following Monday the 21st.

VISITATIONS

Fr. Cizmar would like to know who requires visitation. He is eager to visit those who might have gone a long time without visitation for any reason at all. A key duty of a priest's ministry is to visit the sick and confined, those unable to attend the holy services for any reason. His phone number and email address are printed on the front of every Ambo, and are repeated here: **Father Jan Cizmar - 1(440) 732-8182 - st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com**

Church School Calendar

Saturday December 3

Sunday January 8

Saturday February 4

Saturday March 4

Saturday April 8 (Lazarus Saturday)

Saturday May 6

Saturday June 3

The Merrick House Angel Tree is in the foyer. If you'd like to participate, PLEASE sign your name and the child's name on the sheet. Gift amount is set at \$40 per child. ALL gifts need to be at church no later than Sunday Dec. 11. Distribution is planned at Merrick House. All are welcome to attend.

Thank you for your continued generosity to less fortunate children. God bless each of you. Any questions, please see Dan Morris.



WEEKLY AKATHIST AND LECTURE ON THE HOLY THEOTOKOS

The Most Holy Theotokos took the most important place of all of mankind in the incarnation of Christ. In the Nativity hymns we chant:

*The angels offer You a hymn; the heavens, a star;
the Magi, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder;
the earth, its cave; the wilderness, the manger:
and we offer You a Virgin Mother.*

Every week on Wednesday after the Akathists, Fr. Jan will offer a short reflection on the prefigurations of the Mother of God in the Old Testament.

The Holy Right-Believing Prince

Michael of Tver (Nov 22) was born in the year 1272, after the death of his father Great Prince Yaroslav Yaroslavich, the brother of Saint Alexander Nevsky (November 23). On his journey to the Horde, Prince Yaroslav fell ill, and was tonsured as a monk with the name Athanasios, then he reposed. Michael's mother, Xenia, raised her son with fervent love for God. Michael was educated and studied under the guidance of an Archbishop (probably Clement) of Novgorod. He took the place of his older brother Svyatoslav in the principality of Tver.



In 1285 Michael built a stone church in honor of the Savior's Transfiguration to replace of the wooden church of Saints Cosmas and Damian. Upon the death of Great Prince Andrew Alexandrovich (+1305), Michael went to the Horde and was appointed as Great Prince by right of seniority. Prince Yurii of Moscow would not submit to this, however, because he sought the princely title for himself. He was often at the Golden Horde of the new Khan Uzbek, who had converted to Mohammedanism, and was known for his cruelty and fanaticism. Prince Yurii knew how to please the Khan, so he married the Khan's sister Konchaka and was given the title of Great Prince.

Even then he did not calm down, but instead began a

civil war with Tver. In Yurii's army was a detachment of Tatars sent by Uzbek, with Kavgadi at the head. But the men of Tver, led by Prince Michael, defeated Yurii on December 22, 1317. Many captives were taken, including Kavgadi, whom Saint Michael released, and the Moscow Prince Yurii's wife Konchaka, who died unexpectedly at Tver.

Prince Yurii slandered Prince Michael before the Khan, accusing him of poisoning Konchaka. The Khan became enraged, threatening to destroy Saint Michael's princely holding, and demanded that he appear to give an account. Not wishing to spill Russian blood in an unequal struggle with the Khan, Saint Michael went humbly to the Horde, knowing that this meant certain death for him. He bade farewell to his family and the people of Tver, and received a blessing for his exploit of martyrdom from his Spiritual Father Igoumen John.

"Father," said Michael, "I was much concerned for the peace of Christians, but because of my sins, I was not able to stop this civil war. Now give me your blessing, so that if my blood is shed for them, they might have some respite, and so the Lord may forgive my sins."

An unjust trial was held at the Horde, which found the Saint guilty of disobedience to the Khan, and sen-

tenced him to death. They removed him under guard and put him in heavy wooden stocks. As was his habit, Saint Michael constantly read the Psalter in prison and blessed the Lord for allowing him to suffer for Him. He asked not to be abandoned in his present torments. Since the hands of the holy sufferer were secured in the stocks, a boy sat before him and turned the pages of the Psalter. The holy captive languished at the Horde for a long time, enduring beatings and ridicule. They suggested that he flee, but the Saint replied, "Never in my life have I fled from an enemy. If I save myself and my people remain in peril, what glory is that for me? No, let it be as the Lord wills."

By the mercy of God, he was not deprived of Christian solace: Orthodox priests attended to him, the Igoumens Alexander and Mark. Each week he made his Confession and received the Holy Mysteries of Christ, thus receiving a Christian preparation for his death. At the instigation of Prince Yurii and Kavgadi, who wanted revenge on Michael for their defeat, assassins were sent into the encampment where the captive was held. On November 22, 1318, they beat the Martyr severely and kicked him, then one of them stabbed Prince Michael with a knife and cut out his heart.

The royal Martyr's naked body was exposed for abuse, and later they covered him with a cloth and placed him on a large board attached to a cart. Two guards were posted to watch the body that night, but fear overcame them and they fled. In the morning, the body was not on the board.

On the previous night many, not only Orthodox but Tatars as well, had seen two radiant clouds shining over the place where the Martyr's body lay. Although many wild animals roamed the steppes, not one of them touched him. In the morning everyone said, "Prince Michael is a Saint, and was unjustly murdered."

Finally, the body of the martyred Prince was brought to Moscow and buried in the Kremlin's Monastery of

the Savior in the Transfiguration church. Princess Anna was not yet aware of her husband's martyrdom. A year later, Prince Yurii returned from the Khan with Michael's yarlyk (An emblem of Saint Michael's office as Great Prince). He brought with him the Tver boyars and Prince Constantine from the Horde. A year later, in 1319, the people of Tver learned the fate of their Prince, his death, and his burial in Moscow.

Princess Anna and her children asked Prince Yurii of Moscow for permission to carry the holy relics to Tver, and he barely gave his consent. Then boyars from Tver were sent to Moscow to bring Saint Michael's body back to Tver. When they arrived in Moscow they witnessed a remarkable miracle by which the Lord was pleased to glorify His Saint: his body showed no signs of decay. The boyars took the coffin with the Holy Prince's relics and carried them to Tver with much honor. As the procession approached the city, Princess Anna and her sons Dēmétrios, Alexander and Basil went toward the Volga, and Bishop Barsanuphios, with all the priests of the cathedral and countless people, met the holy relics on the shore. There was much sobbing, so loud that the choir could not be heard, and Princess Anna wept bitter tears.

At the request of his wife, Saint Anna of Kashin (October 2), and the people of Tver, the relics of Saint Michael were transferred to his native city, and on September 6, 1320 they were placed in the church he had built in honor of the Lord's Transfiguration. Local veneration of the Holy Prince began soon after the transfer of his relics to Tver, and his Church-wide glorification took place at the Council of 1549.

On November 24, 1632 the incorrupt relics of Saint Michael were uncovered. The martyred Prince has often helped the Russian land. In 1606 the Polish and Lithuanians besieging Tver repeatedly saw an unknown horseman ride out from the city on a white horse, with sword in hand, forcing them to flee. Later, when they saw an icon of Saint Michael, they affirmed with an oath to Archbishop Theoktistos of Tver that the horseman was indeed Saint Michael.

- Presenting The -

ST. THEODOSIUS PARISH HALL ROOF

MATCHING CAMPAIGN!

Our Parish Council President *Nisi Pozderac* has thrown down the gauntlet — She challenges us to a

***\$25,000.00 MATCHING CAMPAIGN ***

to repair the roof of our parish hall!

President Nisi will match every donation totaling up to \$25,000.00 donated for the purpose of fixing the roof.

Campaign ends 12/31/2022

Let us rise to the challenge!

Donations may be made to
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral
733 Starkweather Ave
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

(Please be sure to mark them for Parish Hall Roof)

Christmas Cookie Walk

**Friday, December 9, 2022 –
5 p.m. until 8 p.m.**

and

**Saturday, December 10, 2022 –
11 a.m. until 1 p.m.**

\$15.00 per pound

**St. Theodosius Cathedral –
Parish Hall**

**733 Starkweather Avenue
Cleveland (Tremont), Ohio 44113**

***** Parking and Hall entrance behind Church *****

CASH or CHECK ONLY

PRAYER REQUESTS

as of 11/20/2022

Special Intentions:

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

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Reader Paul Pangrace

Reader Frank Tkacz

Reader Ron Latre (*cousin of Felons*)

Daniel Boerio

Jennifer Boerio

Horia Dascalescu (*Lavinia's brother*)

Diane Kearsey (*Janice Tkacz's Sister*)

Janice Tkacz

Eleanor Wachovec (*friend of Karen Felon*)

Rachel Ohlin (*relative of Tatiana*)

Erin Zawolowycz

Michael O'Brien (*friend of Arlene*)

Joseph Czajkowski (*son of Jerry*)

Carol Nielsen (*Paul Pangrace's sister*)

Matthew Ponomarenko

Virginia Medvec

Stephen Chwalyk

Benjamin Udell (*son of Michael and Lacey*)

Jeffrey Parhamovich (*brother of Karen Felon*)

Margaret Parhamovich (*sister-in-law of Karen Felon*)

Margaret Peyton (*Cathy's aunt*)

Kristin Robinson (*friend of Nicholas Kozak*)

Jean Woycitzky Thompson (*Frank's cousin*)

Anna Marie Luvison (*daughter of Matthew & Katie (Ellis) Luvison*)

Martha Musil (*mother of Linda Kovach*)

Debra Parhamovich (*sister of Karen Felon*)

Grace Mary Parhamovich (*mother of Karen Felon*)

Peter

Gayle Vidovich

Emilia (*child of Jeremy & Yvonne*)

Elizabeth Balasz

Christina Hile (*Nisi & Cindy's sister*)

Lonnie Ellis (*Husband to Debra Ellis*)

Robert Martin Prock

Jennifer Humphrey

Anna-Marie

Andrew (*Nephew of Deborah Finley*)

Constantine

Igor

Please submit names to the Prayer List by emailing them to Fr. Jan

st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com

Or calling at 1(440) 732-8182

Names remain on the list for 30 days unless requested otherwise.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

<p>Sunday, November 20 Matthew 28:16-20 Ephesians 2:4-10 Luke 12:16-21</p>	<p>1 Thessalonians 2:20-3:8 Luke 17:20-25 Hebrews 9:1-7 Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28</p>	<p>Matthew 11:27-30 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 Luke 18:15-17, 26-30</p>	<p>-28 Luke 19:12-28</p>
<p>Monday, November 21 Composite 17 - Exodus 40 Composite 18 - 3 [1] Kings 7, 8 Ezekiel 43:27-44:4 Luke 1:39-49, 56</p>	<p>Tuesday, November 22 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 17:26-37</p>	<p>Thursday, November 24 1 Thessalonians 5:1-8 Luke 18:31-34</p>	<p>Saturday, November 26 2 Corinthians 11:1-6 Luke 10:19-21</p>
	<p>Wednesday, November 23 Galatians 5:22-6:2</p>	<p>Friday, November 25 Hebrews 9:1-7 Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 1 Thessalonians 5:9-13, 24</p>	<p>Sunday, November 27 Mark 16:1-8 Ephesians 2:14-22 Luke 13:10-17</p>

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>



Sunday, November 20

Forefeast of the Entry Into the Temple of the Most-holy Theotokos
 8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read
 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour
 6:00 PM Great Vespers

Monday, November 21

Entry Into the Temple of the Most-holy Theotokos
 8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read
 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

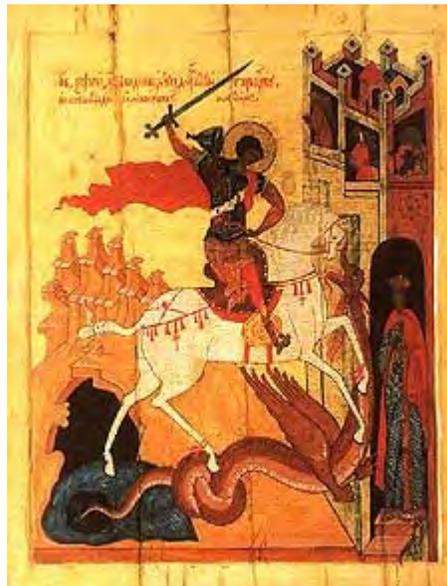
Tuesday, November 22

Afterfeast of the Entry Into the Temple. Apostles of the Seventy Philemon and Archippus, Martyr Apphia, wife of Philemon and Equal-to-the-Apostles, and Onesimus, disciple of St. Paul (1st c.)

Wednesday, November 23

Afterfeast of the Entry Into the Temple. Repose of Rt. Blv. Great Prince Alexander Nevsky, in schema Aleksy (1263)
 6:00 PM Thanksgiving Akathist

WEEKLY SCHEDULE 2022



Thursday, November 24

Afterfeast of the Entry Into the Temple. Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria (305-313)

Friday, November 25

Leavetaking of the Entry Into the Temple. Saint Clement of Ochrid, Equal of the Apostles, Bishop of Greater Macedonia, and his companions Nahum, Savva, Gorazd and Angelar (916)

Saturday, November 26

The Righteous Gideon. Ven. Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis (7th c.)
 6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, November 27

24th Sunday after Pentecost
 Greatmartyr James the Persian (421)
 8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read
 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour