

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



DECEMBER 25, 2022

28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
GOD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST

733 Starkweather Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

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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



The Nativity of Christ was revealed to the Magi by a wondrous star. Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Theophylactus, commenting on Saint Matthew's Gospel, say that this was no ordinary star. Rather, it was "a divine and angelic power that appeared in the form of a star." Saint Demetrius of Rostov says it was a "manifestation of divine energy" (Narrative of the Adoration of the Magi). Entering the house where the Infant lay, the Magi "fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented Him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh" (Mt. 2:11). The names of the three Wise Men (Magi) do not appear in the Gospels. The tradition that there were three visitors from the east is very ancient, but their names are only mentioned in the Middle Ages.

ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE OF THE MOST REVEREND

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest
on the Feast of the Nativity of Christ

DECEMBER 25, 2022

Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Venerable Monastics, and Beloved Faithful,
Christ is born! Glorify Him!



In the second chapter of the Gospel of Saint Matthew, we read the account of the Wisemen who came from the east, "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him'" (Matthew 2:1-2). These wise men had left the comfort and routine of their daily lives to follow a star that would take them on what might have seemed to be an impulsive adventure, but which would lead them to the newborn King of the Jews and Savior of the World.

The star of Bethlehem was a sign sent from heaven, a part of God's creation which played its unique role in the story of our salvation. This is even acknowledged in our liturgical hymns. As we sing in the Troparion of the Nativity: "Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, Has shone to the world the Light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a Star to adore Thee, The Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to Thee!"

Throughout the centuries, men and women have studied the stars, their placement in the skies and their movement, seeking in them something greater, something different, looking, at times, for some source of life's meaning. Even today, scientists look to the skies seeking answers to scientific questions and theories and hobbyists and amateur "star gazers" embrace astronomy as a valued pastime and relaxing diversion. If you have ever tried to use a telescope in a large metropolitan area, you are well aware of what is known as "light pollution," i.e. artificial light that is produced by streetlights, buildings, cars, etc. Light pollution brightens the sky so much that it also dims the brilliance of the stars and makes it more difficult to see and appreciate their intensity, sometimes even to locate them. It is only with a high-powered telescope or by traveling out into the desert or to a high mountain or some remote, unpopulated area that the stars can be clearly seen.

And so it is in our spiritual lives. We look beyond ourselves seeking the Light of Christ that "illuminates all." However, even in our seeking, we permit our spiritual vision to be dimmed by our own egos, self-will, lusts and passions, pettiness, and any number of "things" that are not beneficial or helpful to us. Only by going "into the desert" or "to the mountaintop" where such tendencies and things can be left behind that we can see the Light that will never dim. Only by ridding our lives of the false and artificial lights that distract us can our vision be clearer and more focused. As we celebrate Christ's birth, it is my prayer that all of us can leave behind the "artificial light" that distracts us from the true Light of Christ.

In these difficult and seemingly dark days, of wars and rumors of war, as we strive to live lives of peace and harmony with all our brothers and sisters, and as we seek meaning in our daily lives and experiences, let us all keep our sights on the heavens, looking to Christ, whose Light illuminates all. As we recall the Star that led the Wise Men to the Newborn King, let us acknowledge that our only true goal is life lived in the Light of Christ--in this world and in the life of the world to come. As we celebrate the birth in the flesh of the Son of God, be assured of my prayerful best wishes for you, your families and friends, and all your dear ones. Let us pray for one another, for our God-protected Diocese, for our parishes, for this nation, and for all who seek peace on earth.

With love in Christ our Savior,

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

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**

Thank you to all the those who helped make the Cookie Walk a great success!

With many generous donations and the sale of all the cookies we made **OVER \$4,000.00**. Again thank you to all the people that made donations, baked and helped with the sale.



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

During the Nativity time, please remember to contact those who are sick and can't come to church, and those who decided to not come for various reasons. Greet them with the feast of the Nativity and light a candle for them. We have some fallen-away brothers and sisters in Christ and they need God and the Church, and our prayers. You might also know about someone who is ill, or can't drive to church. If possible help him and offer a ride, or bring him home a blessed bread (antidoron). **After January 6th, Fr. Jan will be blessing homes.** He asks that anyone wishing to have their home blessed call him at (440) 732-8182 or email him at st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com to make the arrangement.

Sun December 25 NATIVITY OF CHRIST 8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great	Mon December 26 SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS 8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy	Tue December 27 PROTODEACON STEPHEN 8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy	Wed December 28 NO FAST	Thu December 29	Fri December 30 NO FAST	Sat December 31 6:00 PM Great Vespers
Sun January 1 CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD 8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great	Mon January 2	Tue January 3	Wed January 4 NO FAST	Thu January 5 EVE OF THE THEOPHANY (STRICT FAST) 6:00 PM Vigil and Blessing of Water	Fri January 6 THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF THE LORD 8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (NO FAST)	Sat January 7 6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday January 8
 Saturday February 4
 Saturday March 4

Church School Calendar

Saturday April 8 (Lazarus Saturday)
 Saturday May 6
 Saturday June 3

EVENT COMMITTEE NEEDED

The *Parish Council* is asking for parishioners to form an **Event Committee**. This committee would be in charge picnics, potlucks, and any kind of other events associated with the church hall and the kitchen. They would plan, organize, and approach other parishioners for help as needed (this committee would be in charge of the *planning*, not all the *doing!*). Anyone interested should contact *Wayne Vidovich* at 440 989 6165 *St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral Ambo - Page 3*



- 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)

PRAYER REQUESTS

as of 12/25/2022

Deceased

Priest John Sykaluk

Gregory Ponomarenko

Martha

Special Intentions:

Priest Andrew

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

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Reader Paul Pangrace

Reader Frank Tkacz

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*)

Irene Alisauskas

Andrew Mytrohovich

Alexandra (*sister of Nicholas K.*)

Nicholas (*cousin of Fr. John Zdinak*)

John and Family

Frances

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

Sunday, December 25

Matthew 1:18-25
Galatians 4:4-7
Matthew 2:1-12

Hebrews 4:1-13

Mark 11:11-23

Friday, December 30

Hebrews 7:18-25
Mark 12:1-12

Sunday, January 1

Composite 1 - Genesis
17:1-2, 4, 5-7, 8, 9-10, 11-12, 14

Wednesday, December 28

Hebrews 5:11-6:8
Mark 11:22-26

Saturday, December 31

1 Timothy 6:11-16
1 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Matthew 12:15-21

Proverbs 8:22-30

Proverbs 10:31-11:12
John 20:1-10

Monday, December 26

Galatians 1:11-19
Hebrews 2:11-18
Matthew 2:13-23

Thursday, December 29

Hebrews 7:1-6
Mark 11:27-33

Matthew 3:1-11
Ephesians 2:11-13
Luke 17:3-10

Colossians 2:8-12
Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

Tuesday, December 27

Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60
Matthew 21:33-42

Hebrews 7:26-8:2
Luke 6:17-23
2 Timothy 4:5-8
Mark 1:1-8

ST. THEODOSIUS IS 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, December 25

28th Sunday after Pentecost

The Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

WEEKLY SCHEDULE 2022

Thursday, December 29

Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ
The 14,000 Infants

Friday, December 30

Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ
Virgin Martyr Anysia at Thessalonica (285-305)
NO FAST

Monday, December 26

Feast of the Nativity of Christ

Synaxis of the Theotokos

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 31

Leavetaking of the Nativity
Saturday after the Nativity
Saturday before Theophany
“Unfading Flower” Icon of the Mother of God at Ardatov
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Tuesday, December 27

Feast of the Nativity of Christ

Protodeacon Stephen

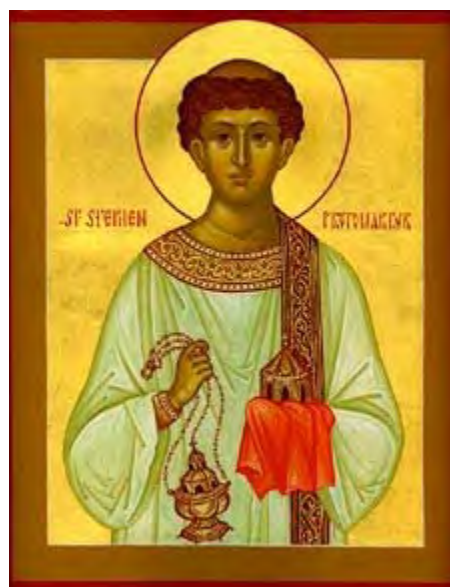
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, December 28

Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ

NO FAST

The 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia



Sunday, January 1

29th Sunday after Pentecost
The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia (379)
Sunday before Theophany
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour