

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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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:

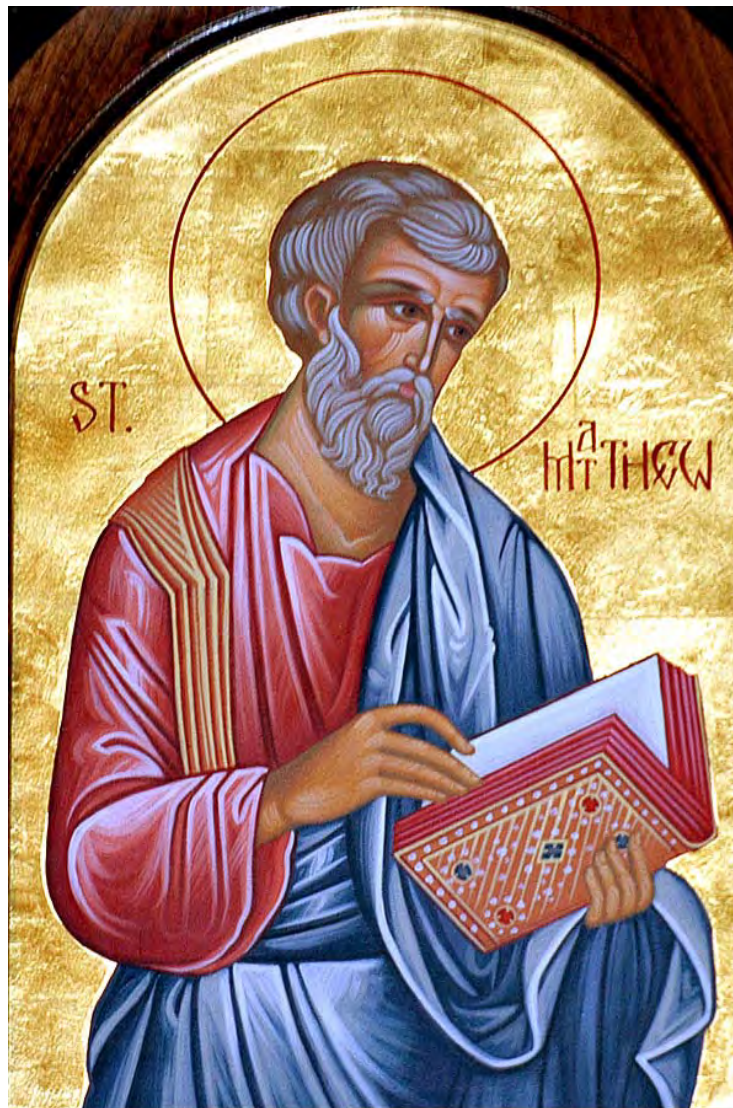
ambo-theodosius

@googlegroups.com

NOVEMBER 12, 2023

23RD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

SAINT VARNAVA (NASTIC)



The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew (November 16), was also named Levi (Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27); he was one of the Twelve Apostles (Mark 3:18; Luke 6:45; Acts 1:13), and was brother of the Apostle James Alphaeus (Mark 2:14). He was a publican, or tax-collector for Rome, in a time when the Jews were under the rule of the Roman Empire. He lived in the Galilean city of Capernaum. When Matthew heard the voice of Jesus Christ: "Come, follow Me" (Mt. 9:9), he left everything and followed the Savior. Christ and His disciples did not refuse Matthew's invitation and they visited his

house, where they shared table with the publican's friends and acquaintances. Like the host, they were also publicans and known sinners. This event disturbed the pharisees and scribes a great deal.

Publicans who collected taxes from their countrymen did this with great profit for themselves. Usually greedy and cruel people, the Jews consid-

ered them pernicious betrayers of their country and religion. The word “publican” for the Jews had the connotation of “public sinner” and “idol-worshipper.” To even speak with a tax-collector was considered a sin, and to associate with one was defilement. But the Jewish teachers were not able to comprehend that the Lord had “come to call not the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Mt. 9:13).

Matthew, acknowledging his sinfulness, repaid fourfold anyone he had cheated, and he distributed his remaining possessions to the poor, and he followed after Christ with the other apostles.

Saint Matthew was attentive to the instructions of the Divine Teacher, he beheld His innumerable miracles, he went together with the Twelve Apostles preaching to “the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Mt. 10:6). He was a witness to the suffering, death, and Resurrection of the Savior, and of His glorious Ascension into Heaven.

Having received the grace of the Holy Spirit, which descended upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, Saint Matthew preached in Palestine for several years. At the request of the Jewish converts at Jerusalem, the holy Apostle Matthew wrote his Gospel describing the earthly life of the Savior, before leaving to preach the Gospel in far-away lands.

In the order of the books of the New Testament, the Gospel of Matthew comes first. Palestine is said to be the place where the Gospel was written. Saint Matthew wrote in Aramaic, and then it was translated into Greek. The Aramaic text has not survived, but many of the linguistic and cultural-historical peculiarities of the Greek translation give indications of it.

The Apostle Matthew preached among people who were awaiting the Messiah. His Gospel manifests itself as a vivid proof that Jesus Christ is the Messiah foretold by the prophets, and that there would not be another (Mt. 11:3).

The preaching and deeds of the Savior are presented by the evangelist in three divisions, constituting three aspects of the service of the Messiah: as Prophet and Law-Giver (Ch. 5-7), Lord over

the world both visible and invisible (Ch. 8-25), and finally as High Priest offered as Sacrifice for the sins of all mankind (Ch. 26-27).

The theological content of the Gospel, besides the Christological themes, includes also the teaching about the Kingdom of God and about the Church, which the Lord sets forth in parables about the inner preparation for entering into the Kingdom (Ch. 5-7), about the worthiness of servers of the Church in the world (Ch. 10-11), about the signs of the Kingdom and its growth in the souls of mankind (Ch. 13), about the humility and simplicity of the inheritors of the Kingdom (Mt. 18:1-35; 19:13-30; 20:1-16; 25-27; 23:1-28), and about the eschatological revelations of the Kingdom in the Second Coming of Christ within the daily spiritual life of the Church (Ch. 24-25).

The Kingdom of Heaven and the Church are closely interconnected in the spiritual experience of Christianity: the Church is the historical embodiment of the Kingdom of Heaven in the world, and the Kingdom of Heaven is the Church of Christ in its eschatological perfection (Mt. 16:18-19; 28:18-20).

The holy Apostle brought the Gospel of Christ to Syria, Media, Persia, Parthia, and finishing his preaching in Ethiopia with a martyr’s death. This land was inhabited by tribes of cannibals with primitive customs and beliefs. The holy Apostle Matthew converted some of the idol-worshippers to faith in Christ. He founded the Church and built a temple in the city of Mirmena, establishing there his companion Platon as bishop.

When the holy apostle was fervently entreating God for the conversion of the Ethiopians the Lord Himself appeared to him in the form of a youth.

He gave him a staff, and commanded him to plant it at the doors of the church. The Lord said that a tree would grow from this staff and it would bear fruit, and from its roots would flow a stream of water. When the Ethiopians washed themselves in the water and ate the fruit, they lost their wild ways and became gentle and good.

When the holy apostle carried the staff towards the church, he was met by the wife and son of the

ruler of the land, Fulvian, who were afflicted by unclean spirits. In the Name of Christ the holy apostle healed them. This miracle converted a number of the pagans to the Lord. But the ruler did not want his subjects to become Christians and cease worshipping the pagan gods. He accused the apostle of sorcery and gave orders to execute him.

They put Saint Matthew head downwards, piled up brushwood and ignited it. When the fire flared up, everyone then saw that the fire did not harm Saint Matthew. Then Fulvian gave orders to add more wood to the fire, and frenzied with boldness, he commanded to set up twelve idols around the fire. But the flames melted the idols and flared up toward Fulvian. The frightened Ethiopian turned to the saint with an entreaty for mercy, and by the prayer of the martyr the flame went out. The body of the holy apostle remained unharmed, and he departed to the Lord.

The ruler Fulvian deeply repented of his deed, but still he had doubts. By his command, they put the body of Saint Matthew into an iron coffin and

threw it into the sea. In doing this Fulvian said that if the God of Matthew would preserve the body of the apostle in the water as He preserved him in the fire, then this would be proper reason to worship this One True God.

That night the Apostle Matthew appeared to Bishop Platon in a dream, and commanded him to go with clergy to the shore of the sea and to find his body there. The righteous Fulvian and his retinue went with the bishop to the shore of the sea. The coffin carried by the waves was taken to the church built by the apostle. Then Fulvian begged forgiveness of the holy Apostle Matthew, after which Bishop Platon baptized him, giving him the name Matthew in obedience to a command of God.

Soon Saint Fulvian-Matthew abdicated his rule and became a presbyter. Upon the death of Bishop Platon, the Apostle Matthew appeared to him and exhorted him to head the Ethiopian Church. Having become a bishop, Saint Fulvian-Matthew toiled at preaching the Word of God, continuing the work of his heavenly patron.

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

Boys' Night Out Tonight!

Gents, it's once again time for the pre-Nativity fast Boys' Night Out!

Boys' Night is tonight, **Sunday November 12, 5PM, at**

The Treehouse in Tremont

820 College Ave., at the corner of College and Professor, just a short walk from the Cathedral.

See you there!



Notice: The St. Theodosius Parish Budget Meeting will be on November 19th after Divine Liturgy

Time to Bake for the Annual Christmas Cookie Walk

The sign-up sheet for all bakers is posted in the Parish Hall.

Add your name and the cookies you will make to the list.

Bake early and put your cookies in the freezer, OR bring them before **noon on December 8th.**

If you have any questions, call Susan Lentz 216-258-8048,

Joyce Tabeling 216-408-7187,

or LaVerne Jacobson 440-845-5115.



ZOE for Life![®]

Please help fill our Donation Jars for ZOE House!

We are asking for donations for ZOE House to help purchase new **infant car seats!** Please return your donation jars by **Sunday, November 26th.**

Contact Judi Byndas (cencirc@aol.com) or Gayle Vidovich

(gayleVidovich@icloud.com) for more information.

Also, visit www.zoeforlifeonline.org for more information about this important Pan-Orthodox community outreach program and how you can help!

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CATHEDRAL

THE CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE ACCORDING TO OUR CHURCH FATHERS

November 1 Fear of God

November 15 Obedience

November 20 Despondency

November 29 Struggle

December 12 Stillness

Each class will follow a worship service beginning
at 6:00 PM

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO THE
NEW MARCHA
HOLY ARCHANGEL GABRIEL MONASTERY
FUNDRAISER

Saturday, November 18, 2023
 Cocktails at 6:00 PM – Dinner at 7:00 PM
 Dinner Music by “Dijamanti”
 Entertainment by “Tradicija” Folklore Group and Kosic Sisters



St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
 6306 Broadview Road, Parma, OH 44134

RSVP: Dn. Mihajlo Pancoe - 330-701-4988
 \$40 per person, \$320/table of 8

Consider Sponsoring Coffee Hour!

For those who would like to HELP with Coffee Hour but don't cook, you can now sponsor a Coffee Hour! By donating \$65 you can sponsor a Coffee Hour, just put it in a white envelope marked “coffee hour” and place it in the collection basket or coffee hour basket in the Hall.

Q4 2023 Coffee Hour Sign-Up

Questions/Concerns: Cathy Weber (412-215-1928)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Nov 12 Sarah and Mike Brennan | Dec 10 (Fast Week) Nikol and M.Cindy |
| Nov 19 (Fast Week) M.Jana | Dec 17 (Fast Week) Gayle/Wayne/Shawna |
| Nov 26 (Fast Week) Dan & Lavinia | Dec 24 (Fast Week) Sponsored by: Una Alexandrovic |
| Dec 3 (Fast Week) Joyce and Judy | Dec 31 M.Jana |

Sponsored by the
Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America



ST. NICHOLAS WISH LIST PROGRAM

For over 24 years the FOCA has gathered wish lists from married students at St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's Seminaries (gift card donations are sent to St. Herman's of Alaska). These lists are filled by parishes, chapters, or individuals from around the country. In those 24 years, we have fulfilled the wishes of over 1,000 seminarian families and have donated over \$120,000 to the married seminarians families at St. Herman's seminary.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Parish/Chapter

- Hold a fundraiser to purchase items on the list
- Make a paper tree and place ornaments of the wanted items for parishioners to take, they purchase and return items by a given date
- Hold a gift card collection - ask for donations from the list below

OBTAIN A LIST by emailing michaelsteffaro@comcast.net

Monetary donations should be made payable to the FOCA
Gift card donations should be sent to Barb and Leon Sheean

733 Starkweather Ave. Cleveland, OH
sheean@att.net 216 371 1173

All wish list items **MUST BE
DELIVERED TO THE SEMINARY BY
DECEMBER 3rd**

***If you live in the New Jersey area you
can drop them off at the Steffaro home
by December 4th***

Gift Cards Needed:

- Amazon
- Target
- Walmart
- Khols
- Barnes and Noble

Middle / Senior HS girls
fellowship and devotional group

Material: *Woven: An Interactive Book for the Modern Teenage Girl on Orthodox Christianity*

By the Metropolis of Atlanta's Family Life Ministry,
available through Ancient Faith

Starting November, 2023

1st sessions Nov 13 and Nov 27, 6:30-7:30pm

Remaining dates TBD

Location: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
6822 Broadview Rd, Parma, OH

Contact: Mat Jen Moore

Jenlewis82@hotmail.com

765 480 8801

SAINT THEODORA THE EMPRESS

Saint Theodora was the wife of Saint Justinian the emperor, and lived during the sixth century.

The Empress Theodora was at first a notorious harlot and actress, and an adherent of the Monophysite heresy, but then she repented. After becoming empress, she led a virtuous life, maintaining purity of both soul and body. She provided wise counsel for her husband during his reign, and she also saved his throne during the Nika riots of 532 through her political intelligence and expertise.

Saint Theodora died in 548.



Upcoming Opportunities for Orthodox fellowship!

*Saturday, December 2nd (North) - Taverna Night at Sts. Constantine & Helen, Cleveland Heights. Visit <https://form.jotform.com/232823569991167>

for details.

*Saturday, December 2nd (South) - St. Kyranna Cooking Class at Annunciation, Akron. Vespers @ 4pm; class @ 5pm.

Cheers,

REAL Cleveland

PRAYER REQUESTS

as of 11/12/2023

Deceased

George (*cousin of N. Cambouris*)

Irene Hrywko

Special Intentions:

Fr. Micah Chisholm

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Subdeacon Roger Pinta

Subdeacon Leon Felon

Reader Paul Pangrace

Reader Frank Tkacz

Stephan Chwalyk

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

Carol Nielsen (*Paul Pangrace's sister*)

Virginia Medvec

Jeffrey Parhamovich (*brother of Karen Felon*)

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

Margaret Peyton (*Cathy's aunt*)

Jean Woycitzky Thompson (*Frank's cousin*)

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

Debra Parhamovich (*sister of Karen Felon*)

Grace Mary Parhamovich (*mother of Karen Felon*)

Gayle Vidovich

Elizabeth Balasz

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

Lonnie Ellis (*Husband to Debra Ellis*)

Robert Martin Prock

Valentina Zawolowycz (*mother of Paul Z*)

Mark

Michael Kapeluck (*friend of Cathy*)

Jack Zimmerman (*Uncle to Cindy Zdinak, Nisi Pozdarec and Father John Zdinak*)

Robert McKay (*friend of Andrew Myrtrohovic*)

Gwyneth Seddon (*daughter of Eric and Elisa*)

Paul Eppelle (*father-in-law of Lauren Eppelle*)

Elena Rich (*Jerry Czajkowski's daughter*)

Aaron and Nadine Drummond (*Ellis*) & unborn child

Wasyl Miroewski (*Uncle of Tim Closs*)

Amelia Thombs (*Sister of Ethan*)

Milan Shumkaroff (*friend of Cindy Zdinak*)

Jeanine

Martha (*friend of Linda Kovach*)

Elizabeth Ballasz

Teodor Stroie (*father-in-law of Fr. Petru*)

Andrea Hochmann (*Closs*)

**Please submit names to the Prayer List by
emailing them to Fr. Jan Cizmar
st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com**

Or calling at 1(440) 732-8182

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

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>



A message from Fr. Zdinak...

Dear Fr. Jan and Parish Family of St. Theodosius,

Many heartfelt thanks for the remembrance of my 70th Birthday this past Sunday. I will always treasure your gift of the beautiful Palitsa (*Diamond Priest's Vestment worn on the knee*).

My joy has been to witness the blessing of our parish's God-given growth in these recent years of our lives. May God continue to bless us all as we, all together, continue to labor together and worship Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; always now and ever unto ages of ages. Amen

Fr. Emilian Hutnyan from St. Andrew Orthodox Church invites all to join them in celebrating the Patronal Feast Day of the **Holy Apostle Andrew, the First-Called** on November 30 at 10am. Fasting meal will be provided in the parish hall. If you plan to attend please sign up in the parish hall, or notify Fr. Jan.

Sunday, November 12

Saint Varnava (Nastic) (1964)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
5:00 PM Boys' Night Out

Monday, November 13

St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (407)

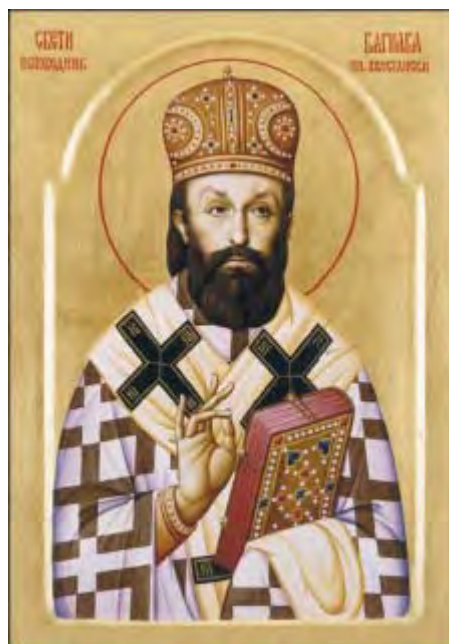
Tuesday, November 14

Holy and All-praised Apostle Philip (1st c.)

Wednesday, November 15

Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Habibus, of Edessa (299-306)
6:00 PM Akathist, followed by a talk on *Obedience*

WEEKLY
SCHEDULE
2023



Thursday, November 16

Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew (60 A.D.)

Friday, November 17

St. Gregory, Wonderworker of Neo-Cæsarea (ca. 266-270)

Saturday, November 18

Martyr Plato of Ancyra (ca. 306)
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, November 19

Saint Varnava (Nastic) (1964)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour