

# Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

733 Starkweather Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

[www.sttheodosius.org](http://www.sttheodosius.org)

Father Jan Cizmar  
1(440) 732-8182  
[st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com](mailto:st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com)

Office Hours TWTh  
9AM-2PM, please call ahead

Subdeacon Michael Tabeling,  
Sacristan

Subdeacon Igor Gajewsky  
Sacristan

Reader Julius Kovach,  
Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

Denise "Nisi" Pozderac  
[dpozderac.tlc@gmail.com](mailto:dpozderac.tlc@gmail.com)  
Parish Council President

Mary Swit, Parish Secretary  
1(216) 574-4886

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

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

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

24TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

THE PROPHET OBADIAH

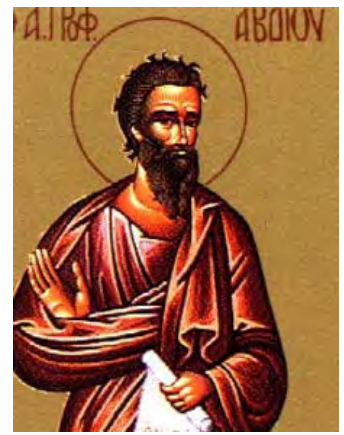


**The Holy Prophet Obadiah** [or Abdia] is the fourth of the Twelve Minor Prophets, and he lived during the ninth century B.C. He was from the village of Betharam, near Sichem, and he served as steward of the impious Israelite King Ahab. In those days the whole of Israel had turned away from the true God and had begun to offer sacrifice to Baal, but Obadiah faithfully served the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in secret.

When Ahab's wife, the impious and dissolute Jezebel, hunted down all the prophets of the Lord (because of her quarrel with the Prophet Elias), Obadiah gave them shelter and food (3/1 Kgs 18:3 ff). Ahab's successor King Okhoziah [Ahaziah] sent three detachments of soldiers to arrest the holy Prophet Elias (July 20). One of these detachments was headed by the holy Prophet Obadiah. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elias, two of the detachments were consumed by heavenly fire, but Obadiah and his detachment were spared by the Lord (4/2 Kgs 1).

From that moment Obadiah resigned from military service and became a follower of the Prophet Elias. Afterward, he himself received the gift of prophecy. The God-

inspired work of the Prophet Obadiah is the fourth of the Books of the Twelve Minor Prophets in the Bible, and contains predictions about the future salvation of the Gentiles (Vs. 15) and that the Savior would come forth from Sion (Vs. 17). The holy Prophet Obadiah, whose name means servant (or worshipper) of the Lord, was buried in Samaria.



In iconography, the Prophet Obadiah is depicted as a grey-haired old man with a rounded beard. His scroll reads: "In that day, saith the Lord, I shall destroy the wise men out of Idumea." (Obadiah 8).

**The Holy Great Martyr Mercurius** (Nov 24), a Scythian by descent, served as a soldier in the Roman army. The impious emperors Decius (249-251) and Valerian (253-259) issued a decree ordering all Roman citizens to worship the pagan gods, and condemning Christians to torture and death unless they obeyed the decree.

At that time barbarians attacked the Roman empire, and the emperor Decius went on campaign with a large army. In one of the battles an angel of the Lord appeared to Mercurius in the guise of a nobleman and presented him a sword saying, "Fear not, Mercurius. Go forth bravely against the enemy, and when you are victorious, do not forget the Lord your God." With this sword the holy warrior cut through the ranks of the barbarians. He also killed their king, winning victory for the Romans. The grateful Emperor Decius reward-



ed Saint Mercurius for his bravery, and made him commander of the entire army.

The angel of the Lord appeared again to the holy warrior, who had received great honors and riches, and reminded him by Whom the victory had been given. He also told General Mercurius that he would suffer for Christ, and would receive a crown of victory in His Kingdom. Mercurius recalled that his father Gordian had also confessed the Christian Faith. Although the saint had been baptized, he felt he had not devoted his life to God as his father and grandfather had done. Thus, he was weeping and lamenting when he was summoned before the emperor.

Decius consulted Mercurius on matters of state, then suggested that they offer sacrifice in the temple of Artemis. Not wishing to do this, the saint re-

turned to his home. He was denounced as a Christian by a nobleman, whose name was Catullus. The emperor would not believe this, however, until he himself had questioned the saint. Openly declaring himself a Christian, Mercurius threw down his military belt and cloak at the emperor's feet, and he repudiated all the honors he had received. The angel of the Lord again appeared to Saint Mercurius in the prison, encouraging him to endure every suffering for Christ.

They stretched the holy martyr between four pillars and lit a fire beneath him. They cut his body with knives, and so much blood flowed from his wounds that it extinguished the fire. When they threw him back into the prison nearly dead from his wounds, Saint Mercurius was healed by the Lord, demonstrating the great power of Christ to the impious pagans. Condemned to death, the saint was deemed worthy of a vision of the Lord, Who promised him a quick release from his sufferings. The Great Martyr Mercurius was beheaded at Caesarea in Cappadocia. His holy body emitted a fragrance like myrrh and incense. Many of the sick were healed at his tomb.



Even after his death the warrior of Christ performed a soldier's service for the good of the earthly Church. Saint Basil the Great (January 1) once prayed before an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos, upon which Saint Mercurius was depicted as a soldier holding a spear. He asked God not to permit the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363) to return from his war against the Persians and resume his oppression of Christians. The image of the holy Great Martyr Mercurius, depicted on the icon beside the image of the Most Holy Theotokos, became invisible. It reappeared later with a bloodied spear.

At this very moment Julian the Apostate, on his Persian campaign, was wounded by the spear of an unknown soldier, who immediately disappeared. The mortally wounded Julian, as he lay dying, cried out, "Thou hast conquered, O Galilean!"

The Most Holy Theotokos, through the prayers of Saint Basil, had sent Saint Mercurius to defend the Christians from the apostate Julian. May we also be preserved from God's foes, overcoming them through the prayers and assistance of Saint Mercurius.

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## 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](mailto:st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com)

## 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!*<sup>®</sup>

## 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 26<sup>th</sup>.**

Contact Judi Byndas ([cencirc@aol.com](mailto:cencirc@aol.com)) or Gayle Vidovich

([gayleVidovich@icloud.com](mailto:gayleVidovich@icloud.com)) for more information.

Also, visit [www.zoeforlifeonline.org](http://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

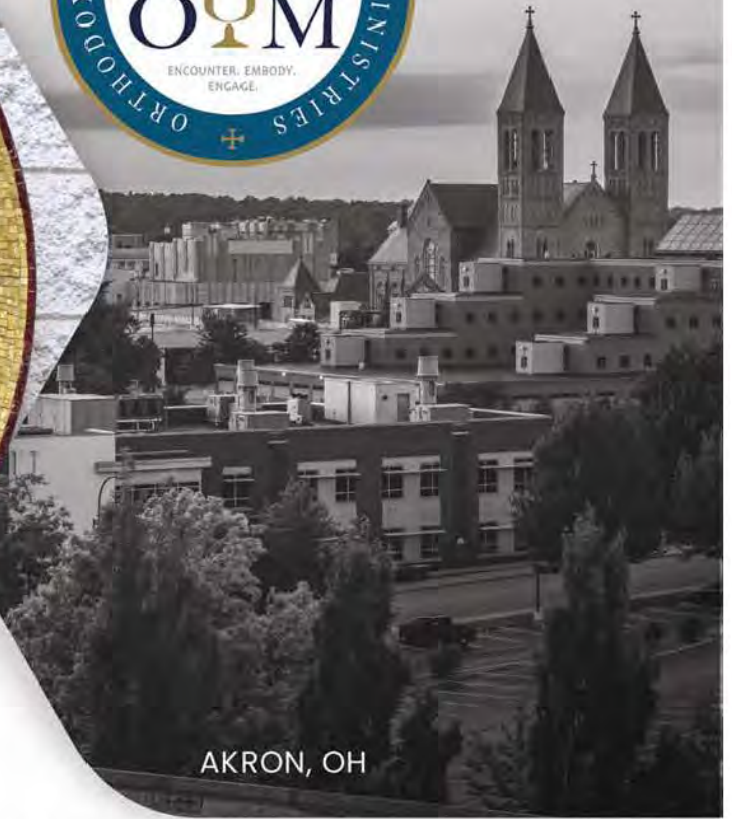
November 15 Obedience

November 20 Despondency

November 29 Struggle

December 12 Stillness

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



AKRON, OH

# 3ETREAT

A Pan-Orthodox Retreat **ENCOUNTER. EMBODY. ENGAGE.**

## JOIN US FOR OUR AKRON, OH 3ETREAT!

Join us for a Pan-Orthodox retreat and learn what it means to come home to the self, come home to the household of God and be ambassadors of Christ's love in the world.



### LOCATION

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church  
755 S. Cleveland Ave.  
Mogadore, OH 44260



### DATES

Dec. 9, 2023



### WHO'S INVITED

**Adults:** Parents, youth workers, clergy, young adults  
**Youth:** Grades 6-12

REGISTRATION CLOSING DEC. 4. REGISTER TODAY!

TO REGISTER VISIT [WWW.THEOYM.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.THEOYM.ORG/EVENTS) OR SCAN HERE



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

1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:Jenlewis82@hotmail.com)

765 480 8801

## Upcoming Opportunities for Orthodox fellowship!

\*Saturday, December 2nd (North) - Taverna Night at Sts. Constantine & Helen, Cleveland Heights. Visit

<https://>

[form.jotform.com/232823569991167](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

### THE MERRICK HOUSE ANGEL TREE IS UP!

Once again, we will be giving to children who are not as well off as many others. We ask that you take a tag, sign the sheet, purchase a gift (\$40 or more), and **bring them all to church NO later than Sunday 12/10.**

Gift distribution will be the week of 12/11, and the date and time will be posted before that. All are welcome to attend the distribution. Any questions, please see Dan Morris.

Thank you, and may God bless you for your love!



## 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 19 M.Jana

Nov 26 Dan & Lavinia

Dec 3 Joyce and Judy

Dec 10 Nikol and M.Cindy

Dec 17 Gayle/Shawna

Dec 24 M. Jana

Dec 31 Gayle (Sponsored by Una & John)

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](mailto: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

# PRAYER REQUESTS

as of 11/19/2023

## **Deceased**

**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 Kearsy** (*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 Epple** (*father-in-law of Lauren Epple*)

**Elena Rich** (*Jerry Czajkowski's daughter*)

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

**Wasył Miroewski** (*Uncle of Tim Clos*)

**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** (*Clos*)

**Please submit names to the Prayer List by emailing them to Fr. Jan Cizmar**  
[st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com](mailto: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 70<sup>th</sup> 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 19**

24nd Sunday after Pentecost  
Prophet Obadiah (Abdia 9th c. B.C.)  
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour  
Budget Meeting to follow

**Monday, November 20**

Forefeast of the Entry Into the Temple of the Most-holy Theotokos.  
Ven. Gregory the Decapolite (816)  
6:00 PM Great Vespers

**Tuesday, November 21**

**The Entry of the Most-Holy Theotokos into the Temple**

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

**Wednesday, November 22**

Afterfeast of the Entry Into the Temple  
Apostles of the Seventy

WEEKLY  
SCHEDULE  
2023



**Thursday, November 23**

Afterfeast of the Entry Into the Temple  
Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew  
(60 A.D.)  
Thanksgiving Day

**Friday, November 24**

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

**Saturday, November 25**

Leavetaking of the Entry Into the Temple  
Saint Clement of Ochrid, Equal of the  
Apostles, Bishop of Greater Macedonia,  
and his companions  
6:00 PM Great Vespers

**Sunday, November 26**

25nd Sunday after Pentecost  
The Righteous Gideon. Ven. Alypius  
the Stylite of Adrianopolis (7th c.)  
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour