

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

733 Starkweather Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

www.sttheodosius.org

Father Jan Cizmar
1(440) 732-8182
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
Parish Council President

Mary Swit, Parish Secretary
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:

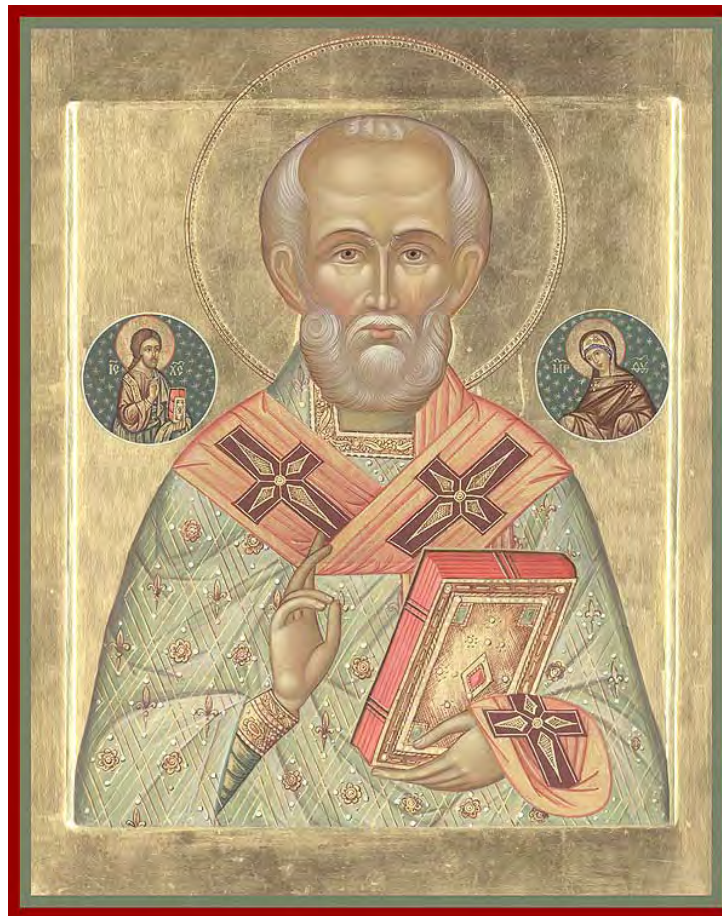
ambo-theodosius

@googlegroups.com

DECEMBER 3, 2023

26TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

PROPHET ZEPHANIAH



Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

As the fruit of the prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonderworker. His mother, Nonna, after giving birth was immediately healed

from illness. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font, stood on his feet three hours, without support from anyone, thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. Saint Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at

the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kindness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom Saint Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. Saint Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, Saint Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to Saint Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. Saint Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured, was also restored to health.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, Saint Nicholas gave thanks to the

Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshipping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Going round the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, Saint Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia, and yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, "Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world, and glorify My Name there." So he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia.

Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant."

After his consecration as archbishop, Saint Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of Saint Constantine (May 21) as emperor, Saint Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant in the

First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicean Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of Saints Sylvester the Bishop of Rome (January 2), Alexander of Alexandria (May 29), Spyridon of Trimythontos (December 12) and other Fathers of the Council.

Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God, and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Having returned to his own diocese, the saint brought it peace and blessings, sowing the word of Truth, uprooting heresy, nourishing his flock with sound doctrine, and also providing food for their bodies. The face of Saint Nicholas resembled that of an Angel, resplendent with divine grace. A brilliant ray shone from his face, like that which shone from the face of Moses (Exodus 34:29), so that those who looked at him were astonished. Whoever was oppressed by some affliction or passion of the soul had only to behold the Saint, and his sorrow was eased at once. As for those who conversed with him, they soon found themselves advancing on the path of virtue. Not only were the faithful moved to compassion, but unbelievers as well, and they directed their steps on the path of salvation when they heard him speak. The evil of unbelief which had been implanted in their hearts since childhood was uprooted, and in its place, the word of truth was sown.

Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by Saint Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness.

Witnessing this remarkable event were three military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by the emperor Constantine to put down a rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they would also be compelled to seek the intercession of Saint Nicholas. Evil men slandered them before the emperor, and the officers were sentenced to death. Appearing to Saint Constantine in a dream, Saint Nicholas called on him to overturn the unjust sentence of the military officers.

Having reached old age, Saint Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now (See May 9).

The first Russian Christian prince Askold (+ 882) was baptized in 866 by Patriarch Photius (February 6) with the name Nicholas. Over the grave of Askold, Saint Olga (July 11) built the first temple of Saint Nicholas in the Russian Church at Kiev. Primary cathedrals were dedicated to Saint Nicholas at Izborsk, Ostrov, Mozhaisk, and Zaraisk. At Novgorod the Great, one of the main churches of the city, the Nikolo-Dvorischensk church, later became a cathedral.

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

The St. Theodosius Events Committee Requests Your Ideas!

Please share any ideas for events you might have with either Wayne Vidovich or Nicholas Zolikoff. We need your ideas!

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.



The Events Committee
invites all to
A MERRY LITTLE
Coffee Hour
to celebrate the Joy of the Nativity together!
Sunday, December 31st after Liturgy

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**. More tags have been added.

Gift distribution will be Wednesday, 12/13 at 6:00 PM at 1050 Starkweather Ave. All are welcome to attend the distribution. Any questions, please see Dan Morris. Thank you, and may God bless you for your love!



Q4 2023 Coffee Hour Sign-Up

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

Dec 3 Joyce and Judy

Dec 24 M. Jana

Dec 10 Nikol and M.Cindy

Dec 31 Gayle (Sponsored by Una & John)

Dec 17 Gayle/Shawna



Theotokos of Vladimir

EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD
OF GREATER CLEVELAND

UNITY THROUGH PARTICIPATION

Make ready, O Bethlehem, for Eden hath been opened.

Saturday, December 9, 2023

@ 10:00 A.M.

St. Innocent Church
8526 Usher Road
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138



- Fellowship and refreshments
- **Presentation by Father Peter Simko**
- **Understanding the roles of Deacons, Subdeacons, and Readers**

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CATHEDRAL

THE CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE

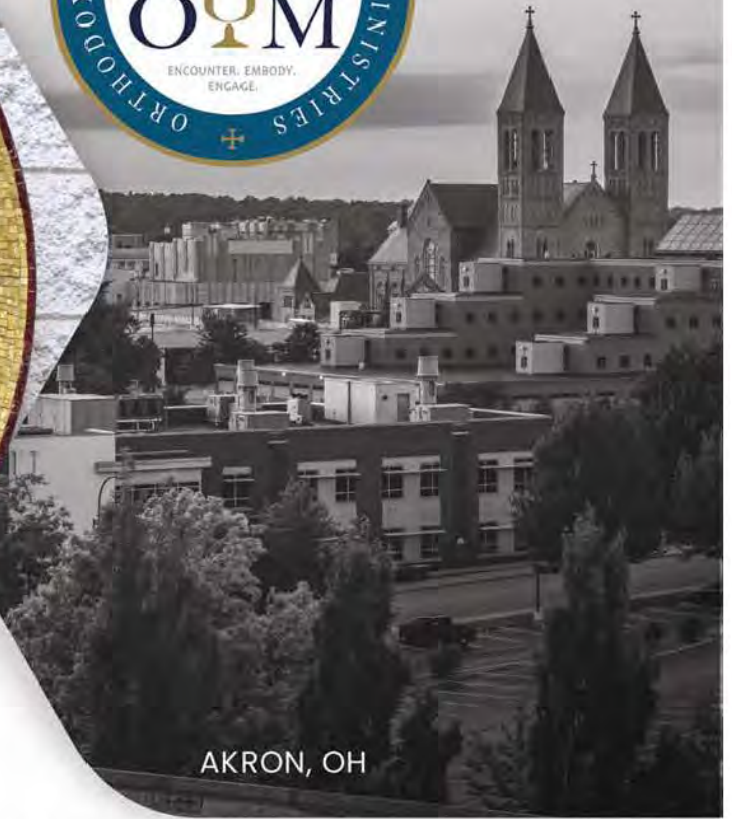
ACCORDING TO OUR CHURCH FATHERS

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

Church Kiosk

We have a little Church kiosk (shop) with some basic items for daily Orthodox life like prayer books, an Orthodox study bible, baptismal crosses, wedding/baptismal candles, icons, prayer rope, Nativity cards, thank you cards, etc. If you need anything from the kiosk, it will be available for 10min after the Sunday liturgy, or by request; see McKenna Athineo for more details.



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 OR SCAN HERE



The Great Reindeer Hoax

Presented by: Get Away with Murder Inc.

Friday December 29, 2023

5:30 PM

St. Nicholas Banquet Center
755 S. Cleveland Ave.
Mogadore, OH 44260

Tickets: \$100 each



Sponsored by St. Nicholas RBO

Tickets on Sale: Friday Sept. 1st



PRAYER REQUESTS

as of 12/3/2023

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 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*)

Andrew Mytrohovich

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>



St. Theodosius Orthodox Christian Cemetery

8200 Biddulph Rd., Brooklyn OH 44144 • Paul Webb, Cemetery Manager 216-296-9739

Grave Prices

Effective January 2024

All graves \$2,100.00 + \$400.00 perpetual care fee = \$2,500.00 total

All infant graves \$ 1000.00

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.

Sunday, December 3

26th Sunday after Pentecost
Prophet Zephaniah
(Sophonias—635-605 B.C.)
Ven. Savva, Abbot of Zvenigorod (1406)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

Monday, December 4

Glorification of Hieromartyr Protopresbyter Alexander (Hotovitzky) (1994)

Tuesday, December 5

Ven. Savva the Sanctified (532)
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Wednesday, December 6

**St. Nicholas the Wonderworker,
Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (ca. 345)**
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

WEEKLY SCHEDULE 2023

Venerable Alexei (Dec 2)

Thursday, December 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (397)

Friday, December 8

362 Martyrs of Africa (62 Clergy and
300 Laypeople) (475)
5:00 PM—8:00 PM Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 9

The Conception by Righteous Anna of
the Most-holy Theotokos
11:00 AM—1:00 PM Cookie Walk
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, December 10

27th Sunday after Pentecost
Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and
Eugraphus, of Alexandria (ca. 313)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
11:00 AM Panychida for Gregory
Ponomarenko
Coffee Hour