

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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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 31, 2023

30TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY
RIGHTEOUS DAVID THE KING, JOSEPH
THE BETROTHED, AND JAMES THE
BROTHER OF THE LORD



The first day of the Forefeast of **Theophany** falls on January 2. Like the hymns for the Nativity, many of the Church's hymns of this period are slightly modified versions of the hymns of Holy Week.

One of the hymns at Matins today says that the coming Feast of Theophany will be "even more radiant" than the Feast of the Nativity.

The second day of the Forefeast of Theophany falls on January 3. Today's hymns invite us to go in spirit to the Jordan River where the Creator comes to be baptized. He is the Light which shines in the darkness (John 1:5), and today He begins to overcome that darkness.

The third day of the Forefeast of Theophany falls on January 4. The hymns compare the Feast of the Nativity with the coming Feast. "There shepherds saw the Child and were amazed; here the voice of the Father proclaims the only-begotten Son."

The fourth day of the Forefeast of Theophany falls on January 5. If January 5th falls on a weekday, the following order is observed:

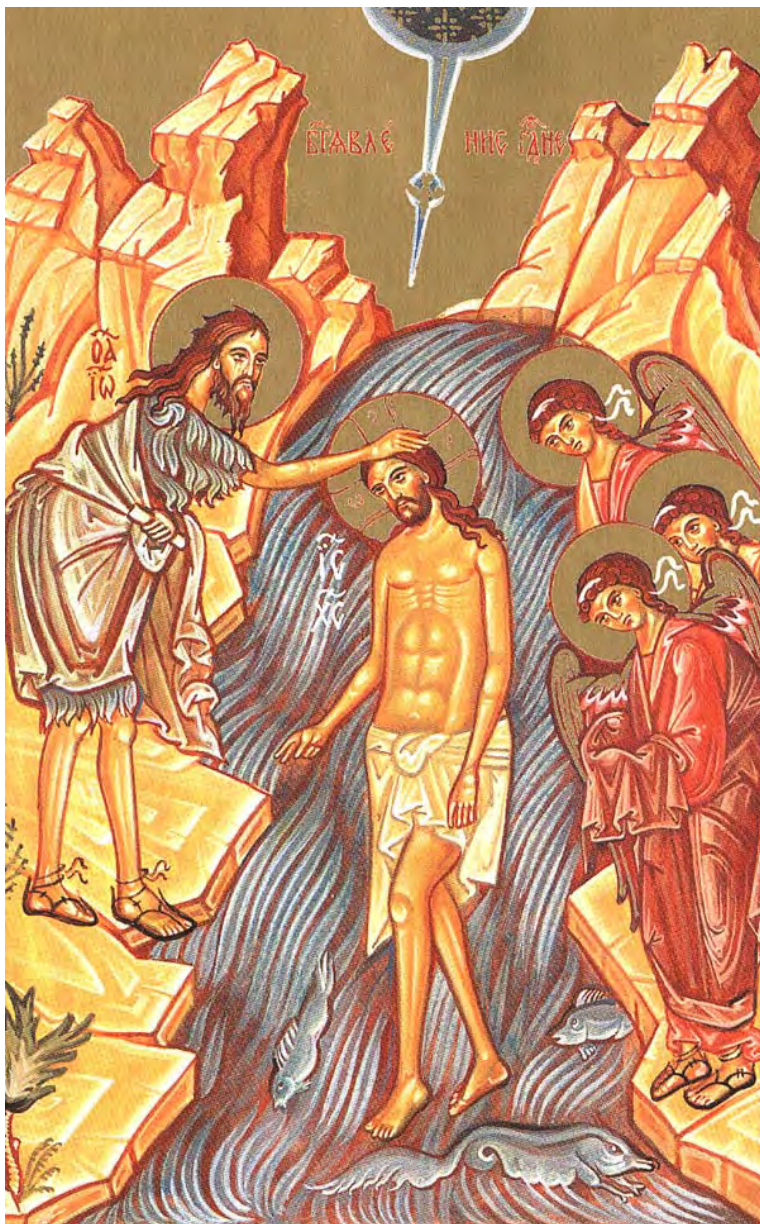
Vespers on the evening of the 4th, then Matins. The First Hour is not read after Matins.

On the 5th we read the Royal Hours, followed by Vespers and the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great.

If the Eve of Theophany falls on Saturday:

The Royal Hours are read on Friday, but there is no Liturgy. Vespers on the evening of the 4th, followed by Matins. The Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is celebrated on Saturday morning.

If the Eve of Theophany falls on a Sunday:



Baptism of Our Lord

The Royal Hours are read on Friday, but there is no Liturgy. Vigil is served on Saturday evening, and the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is celebrated on Sunday.

There are thirteen readings at Vespers on the Eve of Theophany, and the entrance is made with the Gospel. There is fasting today, whatever day of the week it may be.

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine “those who sat in darkness,” and “in the region of the shadow of death” (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind.

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of Saint Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast.

There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and Saint Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany.

The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at Orthodox services even today. Saint John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but “to bury human sin by water,” to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify “the nature of water” and to offer us the form and exam-

ple of Baptism.

On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Undivided. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for “As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ” (Gal 3:27).

On the day of Theophany, all foods are permitted, even if the Feast falls on a Wednesday or Friday.

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

AN UPDATE ON READER PAUL PANGRACE

Paul is now at Vista Springs Greenbriar Village. Consider paying a visit or giving him a call, he'd love to hear from us.

Vista Springs Greenbriar Village
8668 Day Drive Apt 320
Parma, OH 44129

Main Desk: (440) 340-4000
Room Phone: (440) 340-4071

Thank You!!

On behalf of the seminarian families attending our three seminaries (St. Vladimir's, St. Tikhon's, St. Herman's in Alaska), we want to thank all parishioners who donated to the St. Nicholas Wish List Program. Your generosity is heart-warming and greatly appreciated. You will bring joy to many families this holiday season. May God grant you a blessed Nativity season.

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.

2024 Church Calendars Available

The 2024 calendars have arrived. We thank our sponsors Yurch funeral home, Mallchock funeral home, Kotecki Family Memorials and Eternity Monuments. Everyone can pick his calendar from the vestibule with his favorite sponsor.

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.

COOKIE WALK UPDATE

The Altar Society would like to thank everyone who helped make the Cookie Walk a success!
The proceeds from the sale was **\$4000.00**

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!

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

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.

Celebrate

*Join Us for Dinner
To Honor*

Father Andrew Clements'

*40 Years of service in the Priesthood
And
37 Years of Service to St. Nicholas Church*

*Where: Pine Ridge Country Club
30601 Ridge Rd.
Wickliffe, Ohio*

*When: Sunday, January 28th 2024
5:30 – 10:00 PM*

*Cost: \$30/person & Cash Bar
\$15/child (ages 4-10)
Vegan and Gluten-free options available*

*RSVP by January 14th To
Evelyn Wick at bobobskid@yahoo.com (440)-221-8265
9372 Euclid-Chardon Rd.
Kirtland, Ohio 44094*

*All reservations must be paid by January 14th.
Checks payable to St. Nicholas*

PRAYER REQUESTS

as of 12/31/2023

Deceased

Mark Stepanovich

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

Lonnie Ellis (*Husband to Debra Ellis*)

Robert Martin Prock

Valentina Zawolowycz (*mother of Paul Z*)

Mark

Michael Kapeluck (*friend of Cathy*)

Robert McKay (*friend of Andrew Myrtrohovic*)

Gwyneth Seddon (*daughter of Eric and Elisa*)

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

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

Andrea Hochmann (*Clos*)

Andrew Mytrohovich

Yonathan and Melissa King (Wojnicz) & unborn child. (daughter of Alex Wojnicz)

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

Q4 2023 Coffee Hour Sign-Up

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

Dec 31 Special Nativity Coffee Hour Celebration (Sponsored by Una & John, and two anonymous donors)

Sunday, December 31

30th Sunday after Pentecost
Leavetaking of the Nativity
Sunday after Nativity
Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
A Merry Little Coffee Hour
Special Celebration

Monday, January 1

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
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, January 2

Forefeast of the Theophany
Repose of Ven. Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov (1833)

Wednesday, January 3

Forefeast of the Theophany
Holy Prophet Malachi (400 B.C.)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE 2023/2024



The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Thursday, January 4
Forefeast of the Theophany
Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles

Friday, January 5
Eve of Theophany
Hieromartyr Theopemptus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and Martyr Theonas (303)
6:00 PM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great & Blessing of the Water

Saturday, January 6
THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Church School to follow
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, January 7
31st Sunday after Pentecost
Afterfeast of the Theophany
Sunday after Theophany
Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour