

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



JANUARY 7, 2024

31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS
PROPHET, FORERUNNER AND
BAPTIST JOHN

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Cleveland, Ohio 44113

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9AM-2PM, please call ahead

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



In the Orthodox Church it is customary, on the day following the Great Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, to remember those saints who participated directly in the sacred event. So, on the day following the [Theophany of the Lord](#), the Church honors the one who participated directly in the Baptism of Christ, placing his own hand upon the head of the Savior.

Saint John, the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets, concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. The holy Prophet John bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. Saint John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity on the day of the Savior's Baptism.

The holy Prophet John, the son of the [Priest Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth](#), was related to the Lord on His mother's side. The holy Forerunner, John, was born six months before Christ. The [Archangel Gabriel](#) announced his birth in the Temple at Jerusalem, revealing to Zachariah that a son was to be born to him.

Through the prayers offered beforehand, the child was filled with the Holy Spirit. Saint John prepared himself in the wilds of the desert for his

great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people.

At the age of thirty, he came forth preaching repentance. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In church hymnology, Saint John is called a "bright morning star," whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Having baptized the sinless Lamb of God, Saint John soon died a martyr's death, beheaded by the sword on orders of King Herod at the request of his daughter Salome. (On Saint John the Baptist, see Mt.3:1-16, 11:1-19, 14:1-12; Mark 1:2-8, 6:14-29; Luke 1:5-25, 39-80, 3:1-20, 7:18-35, 9:7-9; John 1:19-34, 3:22-26).

The Transfer of the Right Hand of the holy Forerunner from Antioch to Constantinople (956) and the Miracle of Saint John the Forerunner against the Hagarenes (Moslems) at Chios:

The body of Saint John the Baptist was buried in the Samaritan city of Sebaste. The holy [Evangelist Luke](#), who went preaching Christ in various cities and towns, came to Sebaste, where they gave him the right hand of the holy Prophet John, the very hand with which he had baptized the Savior. The Evangelist Luke took it with him to his native city of Antioch.

When the Moslems seized Antioch centuries later, a deacon named Job brought the holy hand of the Forerunner from Antioch to Chalcedon. From there, on the eve of the Theophany of the Lord, it was transferred to Constantinople (956) and kept thereafter.

In the year 1200, the Russian pilgrim Dobrynya, who later became Saint Anthony, Archbishop of Novgorod (February 10), saw the right hand of the

Forerunner in the imperial palace. From the Lives of the Saints we learn that in the year 1263, during the capture of Constantinople by the Crusaders, the emperor Baldwin gave one bone from the wrist of Saint John the Baptist to Ottonus de Cichon, who then gave it to a Cistercian abbey in France.

The right hand continued to be kept in Constantinople. And at the end of the fourteenth to the beginning of the fifteenth centuries, the holy relic was seen at Constantinople in the Peribleptos monastery by the Russian pilgrims Stephen of Novgorod, the deacon Ignatius, the cantor Alexander and the deacon Zosimus. When Constantinople fell to the Turks in 1453, sacred objects were gathered up at the the conqueror's orders and kept under lock in the imperial treasury.

In the Lives of the Saints is clear testimony that in the year 1484 the right hand of the holy Forerunner was given away by the son of the Moslem sultan Bayazet to the knights of Rhodes to gain their good will, since a dangerous rival for Bayazet, his own brother, had allied himself with them. A contemporary participant, the vice-chancellor of Rhodes, Wilhelm Gaorsan Gallo, also speaks of this event. The knights of Rhodes, having established their base on the island of Malta (in the Mediterranean Sea), then transferred the sacred relic they had received to Malta.

When the Russian Tsar Paul I (1796-1801) became Grand Master of the Maltese Order in honor of the holy Prophet John, the right hand of the Baptist, part of the Life-Creating Cross and the Philermos Icon (October 12) of the Mother of God (from Mt Philermos on the island of Rhodes) were transferred in 1799 from the island of Malta to Russia [because of the Napoleonic threat], to the chapel at Gatchina (October 12). In the same year these sacred items were transferred into the church dedicated to the Icon of the Savior Not Made by Hands at the Winter Palace. A special service was composed for this Feast.

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:

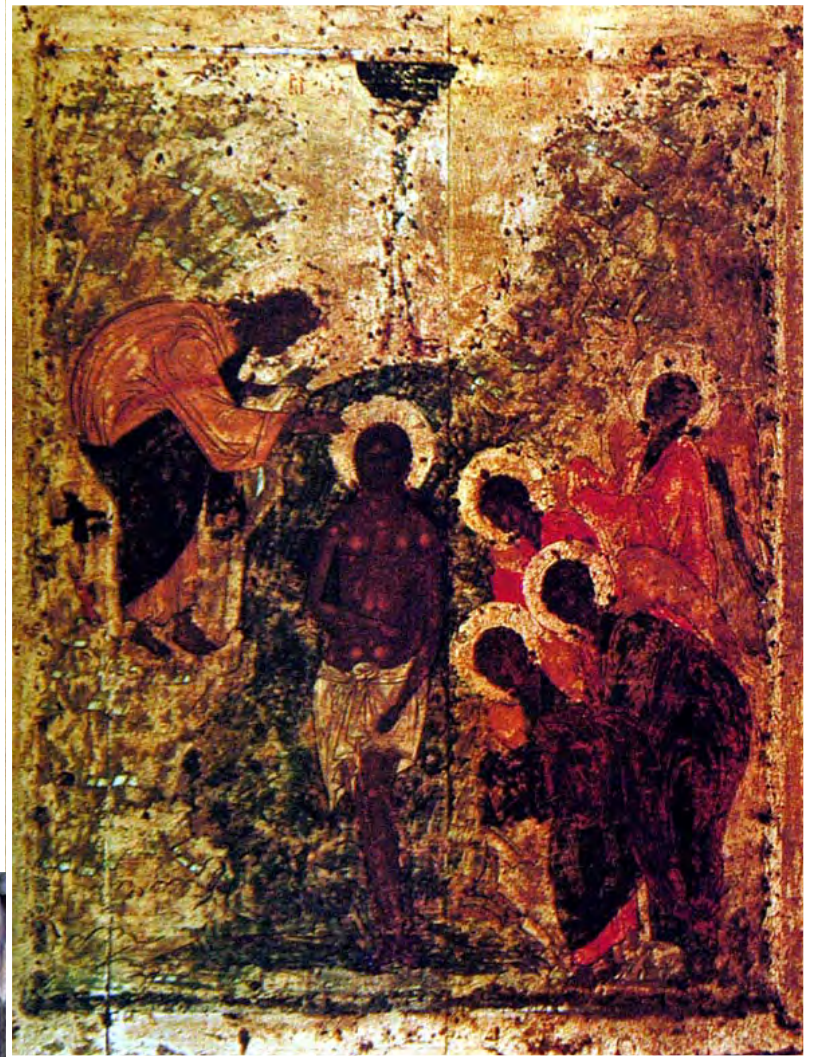
Father Jan Cizmar - 1(440) 732-8182 - st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com

AFTERFEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

On the first day of the Afterfeast of Theophany, the Church extols [Saint John the Baptist](#) as the greatest man born of a woman. He surpasses all the ancient prophets because he baptized the Messiah, Whose coming he foretold.

The second day of the Afterfeast of Theophany falls on January 8. At Vespers we repeat a hymn which has already been sung at Compline for Theophany. In the hymn Saint John wonders in whose name he should baptize Christ. Should he baptize Him in the name of the Father? The Lord Jesus Christ already bears Him in Himself. Of the Son? He Himself is the incarnate Son of God. Of the Holy Spirit? Christ Himself sends the Spirit.

The third day of the Afterfeast of Theophany falls on January 9. The hymns of this period in-



vite us to purify our minds in order to see Christ.

The fourth day of the Afterfeast of Theophany falls on January 10. Some of the hymns of this period compare the streams of the Jordan to the life-giving waters of Baptism.

The fifth day of the Afterfeast of Theophany falls on January 11. Many of the hymns of this period glorify Christ as God Who sanctifies the waters of Jordan by being baptized in them.

The sixth day of the Afterfeast of Theophany falls on January 12. Divine grace shines forth so that we might be freed from the power of the devil, and cleansed of our sins in Baptism.

“He who once assumed the appearance of a malignant serpent and implanted death in the creation,

is now cast into darkness by Christ's coming in the flesh...." (Ode 3, second Canon at Matins).
"Through the Spirit and by the grace that comes through water, He grants a new birth to all who acknowledge His divinity, delivering them from their faults" (Ode 6, first Canon at Matins).

The seventh day of the Afterfeast of Theophany falls on January 13. Many of the Church's hymns during this period rejoice in the manifestation of God (Theophany) at Christ's baptism in the Jor-

dan. The voice of the Father is heard, the Son enters the water, and the Holy Spirit appears in the form of a dove.

The Leavetaking of the Feast of Theophany takes place on January 14. The entire office of the Feast is repeated except for the Entrance, festal readings, Litya, Blessing of Loaves at Vespers, and the Polyeleos and festal Gospel at Matins. The festal Antiphons are not sung at Liturgy, and the Epistle and Gospel of the day are read.

Fr. Jan is now 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.

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!

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

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.

*Please join ZOE for Life!®
and
St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church
for a Prayer Service as we*

Pray for the Unborn Children



***Sunday, January 21, 2024
6:00 pm
4548 Wallings Road
North Royalton 44133***

***Prayer Service & Presentation will also be Live
Streamed***

Guest Speaker Presentation Follows – 6:45 pm

***Father Costas Keares
St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church***

***Registration is Free, but required in order to receive a
Zoom link. If attending via zoom, please register using
the link or QR code below before January 14***



[ZOE for Life!® 2024 Google Form](#)

PRAYER REQUESTS

as of 1/7/2024

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*)

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

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 Myrtrohovich

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

Coffee Hour Sign-Up

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

Jan 7 Gayle & Wayne (Sponsored by anonymous donors – Thank you whoever you are!)

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

Monday, January 8

Afterfeast of the Theophany
Ven. George the Chozebite, Abbot
(6th c.)

Tuesday, January 9

Afterfeast of the Theophany
Martyr Polyeyktos of Melitene in
Armenia (259)

Wednesday, January 10

Afterfeast of the Theophany
St. Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa
(4th c.)
6:00 PM Akathist to the Holy
Theotokos

WEEKLY SCHEDULE 2024



Thursday, January 11

Afterfeast of the Theophany
Ven. Theodosius the Great,
the Cenobiarch (529)

Friday, January 12

Afterfeast of the Theophany
Martyr Tatiana of Rome and those
who suffered with her (226-235)

Saturday, January 13

Afterfeast of the Theophany
Saturday after Theophany
Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus of
Belgrade (ca. 315)
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, January 14

32nd Sunday after Pentecost
Leavetaking of the Theophany
St. Savva I, first Archbishop of
Serbia (1237)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour