

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



MARCH 29, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mailing:

733 Starkweather Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

www.sttheodosius.org

Parish Office

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Protodeacon Daniel Boerio

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Subdeacon Michael Tabeling,
Sacristan

Reader Julius Kovach,
Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

Erin 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

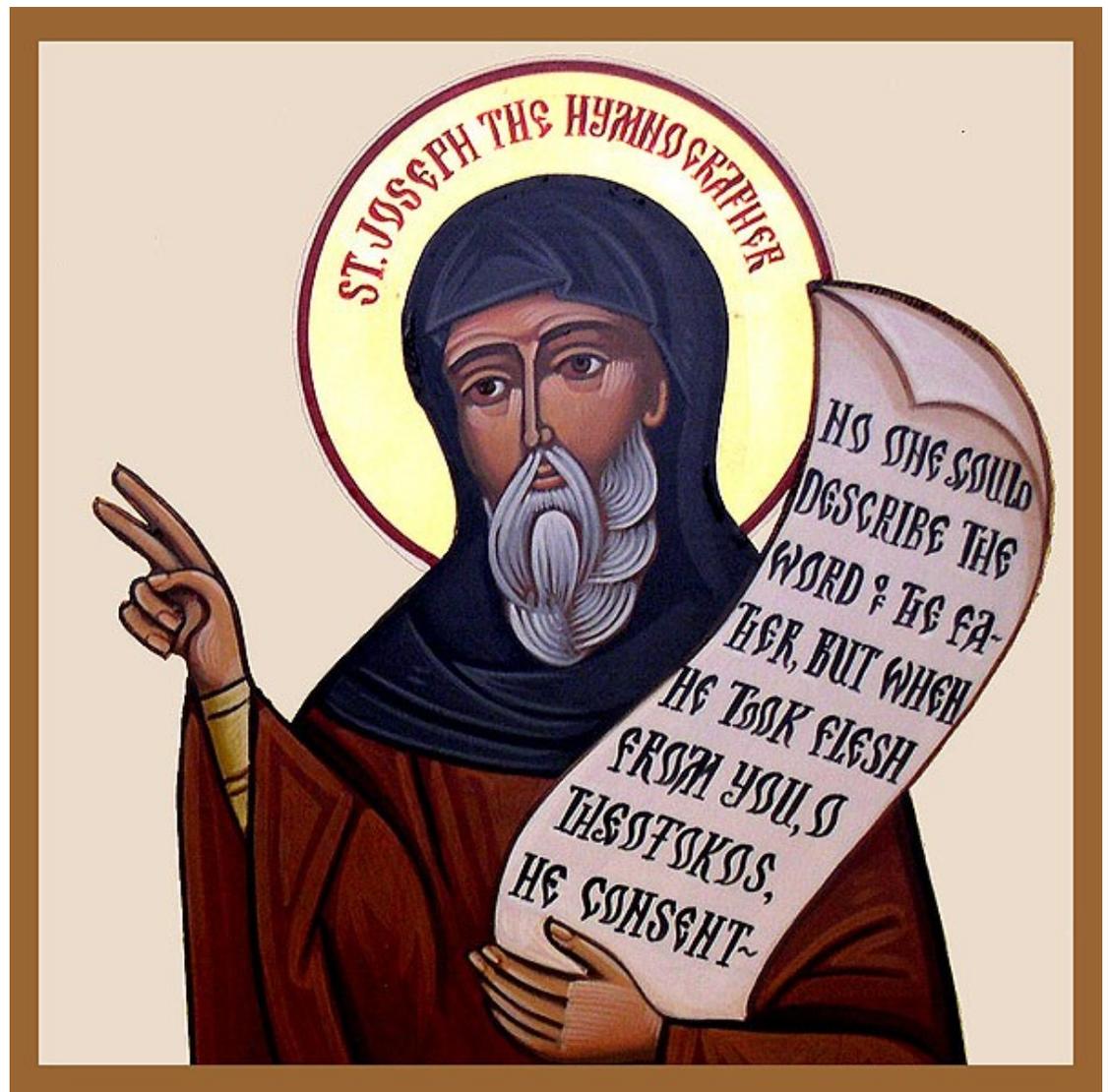
AMBO: Articles for publica-
tion should be submitted to:

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

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

by Wednesday of each week
before noon.

* CALENDAR: Event dates
must be submitted by the
15th of each month.



Venerable Joseph the Hymnographer

(April 4)

Saint Joseph the Hymnographer, “the sweet-voiced nightingale of the Church,” was born in Sicily in 816 into a pious Christian family. His parents, Plotinos and Agatha, moved to the Peloponnesos to save themselves from barbarian invasions. When he was fifteen, Saint Joseph went to Thessalonica and entered the monastery of Latomos. He was distinguished by his piety, his love for work, and his meekness; and he gained the good will of all the brethren of the monastery. He was later ordained as a priest.

Saint Gregory the Dekapolite (November 20) visited the monastery and took notice of the young monk, taking him along to Constantinople, where they settled together near the church of the holy Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus. This was during the reign of the emperor Leo the Armenian (813-820), a time of fierce iconoclast persecution.

Saints Gregory and Joseph fearlessly defended the veneration of holy icons. They preached in the city squares and visited in the homes of the Orthodox, encouraging them against the heretics. The Church of Constantinople was in a most grievous position. Not only the emperor, but also the patriarch were iconoclast heretics.

At that time the Roman bishops were in communion with the Eastern Church, and Pope Leo III, who was not under the dominion of the Byzantine Emperor, was able to render great help to the Orthodox. The Orthodox monks chose Saint Joseph as a steadfast and eloquent messenger to the Pope. Saint Gregory blessed him to journey to Rome and to report on the plight of the Church of Constantinople, the atrocities of the iconoclasts, and the dangers threatening Orthodoxy.

During the journey, Saint Joseph was captured by Arab brigands who had been bribed by the iconoclasts. They took him to the island of Crete, where they handed him over to the iconoclasts, who locked him up in prison. Bravely enduring all the deprivations, he encouraged the other prisoners. By his prayers, a certain Orthodox bishop who had begun to waver was strengthened in

spirit and courageously accepted martyrdom.

Saint Joseph spent six years in prison. On the night of the Nativity of Christ in 820 he was granted a vision of Saint Nicholas of Myra, who told him about the death of the iconoclast Leo the Armenian, and the end of the persecution.

Saint Nicholas gave him a paper scroll and said, “Take this scroll and eat it.” On the scroll was written: “Hasten, O Gracious One, and come to our aid if possible and as You will, for You are the Merciful One.” The monk read the scroll, ate it and said, “How sweet are Thine oracles to my throat” (Ps 118/119:103). Saint Nicholas bade him to sing these words. After this the fetters fell off the saint, the doors of the prison opened, and he emerged from it. He was transported through the air and set down on a large road near Constantinople, leading into the city.

When he reached Constantinople, Saint Joseph found that Saint Gregory the Dekapolite was no longer among the living, leaving behind his disciple John (April 18), who soon died. Saint Joseph built a church dedicated to Saint Nicholas and transferred the relics of Saints Gregory and John there. A monastery was founded near the church.

Saint Joseph received a portion of the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew from a certain virtuous man. He built a church in memory of the holy apostle. He loved and honored Saint Bartholomew, and he was distressed that there was no Canon glorifying the holy Apostle. He desired to adorn the Feast of Saint Bartholomew with hymns, but he did not dare to compose them himself.

For forty days Saint Joseph prayed with tears, preparing for the Feast of the holy apostle. On the eve of the Feast the Apostle Bartholomew appeared to him in the altar. He pressed the holy Gospel to Joseph’s bosom, and blessed him to write church hymns with the words, “May the right hand of the Almighty God bless you, may your tongue pour forth waters of heavenly wisdom, may your heart be a temple of the Holy Spirit,

and may your hymnody delight the entire world.” After this miraculous appearance, Saint Joseph composed a Canon to the Apostle Bartholomew, and from that time he began to compose hymns and Canons in honor of the Mother of God, of the saints, and in honor of Saint Nicholas, who liberated him from prison.

During the revival of the iconoclast heresy under the emperor Theophilus (829-842), Saint Joseph suffered a second time from the heretics. He was exiled to Cherson [Chersonesus] for eleven years. The Orthodox veneration of holy icons was restored under the holy empress Theodora (February 11) in 842, and Saint Joseph was made keeper of sacred vessels at Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. Because of his bold denunciation of the brother of the empress, Bardas, for unlawful cohabitation, the saint was again sent into exile and returned only after Bardas died in 867.

Patriarch Photius (February 6) restored him to his former position and appointed him Father-confessor for all the clergy of Constantinople.

Having reached old age, Saint Joseph fell ill. On Great and Holy Friday, the Lord informed him of his approaching demise in a dream. The saint made an inventory of the church articles in Hagia Sophia, which were under his official care, and he sent it to Patriarch Photius.

For several days he prayed intensely, preparing for death. He prayed for peace for the Church, and the mercy of God for his soul. Having received the Holy Mysteries of Christ, Saint Joseph blessed all who came to him, and with joy he fell asleep in the Lord in 886

(some sources say in 883). The choirs of the angels and the saints, whom Saint Joseph had glorified in his hymnology, carried his soul to Heaven in triumph.

In 890, his biographer John the deacon of the Great Church wrote about the spirit and power of Saint Joseph’s Canons: “When he began to write verses, then the hearing was taken with a wondrous pleasantness of sound, and the heart was struck by the power of the thought. Those who strive for a life of perfection find a respite here. Writers, having left off with their other versification, from this one treasure-trove, from the writings of Saint Joseph, began to scoop out his treasure for their own songs, or better to say, daily they scoop them out.

“And finally, all the people carry it over into their own language, so as to enlighten with song the darkness of night, or staving off sleep, to continue with the vigil until sunrise. If anyone were to peruse the life of a saint of the Church on any given day, they would see the worthiness of Saint Joseph’s hymns and acknowledge his glorious life. Actually, since the lives and deeds of almost every saint are adorned with praises, is not he worthy of immortal glory, who has worthily and exquisitely known how to glorify them?

“Now let some saints glorify his meekness, and others his wisdom, and others his works, and all together glorify the grace of the Holy Spirit, Who so abundantly and immeasurably has bestowed his gifts on him.”

Most of the Canons in the MENAION are Saint Joseph’s work. His name may be found in the Ninth Ode as an acrostic. He also composed many of the hymns in the PARAKLETIKE.

A MESSAGE FROM FR. JOHN ADAMCIO,

Fr. John Adamcio has asked us to share his personal number in case anyone wishes to speak with him. He kindly offers his ear to anyone who wishes to talk, vent, share their worries, or just needs someone to talk to.

We thank him for his kindness and thoughtfulness and look forward to his future messages.

Fr. John Adamcio cell: 1(773) 939-0549

Fellow Parishioners,

We are asking if anyone knows of someone who needs assistance at this most unusual time. Sometimes people are too reluctant to ask for aid, we ask that if anyone needs aid that they speak up and ask for it at this time so that we may help one another.

Also if anyone knows of someone who perhaps needs help acquiring groceries, taking care of something in their home that is usually done by someone else, etc, let us know so that we can look after each other.

We also ask that lines of communication remain open between us. Reach out and call someone to speak with them for a bit, even if you know their physical needs are being met perhaps they are lonely in this time of isolation. Should scarcity become an issue, we might manage to exchange items amongst ourselves to alleviate any needs that may crop up. We are after all directed to love one another.

If for some reason you know of someone who needs something but you'd rather not let on that you know, you can email the Ambo article submission address at ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com and we will look into it.

Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Parish Council

NEW PHONE NUMBER

The Parish Office has a new phone number. It is:

1(216) 574-4886

Our office is not regularly manned at this time but messages will be checked regularly. This is not suitable for emergencies. If you have an emergency, please call Protodeacon Daniel Boerio at (216) 513-5307 or Paul Zawolowycz at (440) 941-7099



Three exciting opportunities to work with us! ZOE Women's Center is looking for a part-time Executive Director, and a radiologist to read scans. We are also seeking someone to help with grant writing. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Cindy George



ZOE
Women's Center™

PLEASE SUPPORT

Chris Weber

and

TEAM IOCC

*at the Pittsburgh
Marathon Weekend*

May 2, 2020



PRAYER REQUESTS



Departed:

Gwen Hasselquist

Special Intentions:

Deacon Paul Mitchell (*Tom Mitchell's father*)

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Reader Paul Pangrace

Child Mary Kate Zweidunger

Child Vivian Sherer

Melissa (*cousin of Mary Ann Kovach*)

Lyndsey (*friend of Melissa McCutcheon*)

Elizabeth (Betty) Balasz

Marie Borland

Sandra Brello

Elsie Conrad

Horia Dascalescu

Debra Ellis

Gregory Galan

Aleksei Green

Virginia Haupt (*Lisa Theodore's mother*)

Don Hinkl

Matthew Hunly (*Phyllis Gindlesperger's brother-in-law*)

Diane Kearsy (*Janice Tkacz's sister*)

Lacey Udell (*wife of Michael Udell*)

Mara Kilbane (*Melissa McCutcheon's granddaughter*)

Annamarie Luvison (*Daughter of Kaite Ellis-Luvison*)

Chris Magee (*Erin Zawolowycz's brother*)

Melissa McCutcheon

Michael McCutcheon

Marguerite Mihal (*Paul Mihal's mother*)

Paul Mihal

Natalya Miller (*Arlene Neale's great-niece*)

Andrew Mytrohovich

Annie Mytrohovich

Debra Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's sister*)

Grace Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's mother*)

Jim Paulitzky (*Jerry Czajkowski's son-in-law*)

James Peter Petkac

Anastasia Pogorily

Susan Reese (*friend of Jerry & Arlene Czajkowski and Betty Balasz*)

Elena Rich (*Jerry Czajkowski's daughter*)

Joseph Rusynyk

Andrew Sykaluk

Elaine Sudnick (*Joy Pfeiffer's mother*)

Tony Sykaluk (*friend of Lydia Mytrohovich*)

Janice Tkacz

Joanne Theodore (*Lisa Theodore's mother-in law*)

Gayle Vidovitch

Eleanor Wachovec (*friend of Karen Felon*)

Robert Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

Colleen Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

Erin Zawolowycz

Susan Yurik

Kristin Robinson

Janet Budko (*sister-in-law of Arlene Neale*)

Laurie Budko (*niece of Arlene Neale*)

Alex Ponomarenko

Mary Kay Weber

Mirta Szewczyk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Mickey O'Brien (*friend of Arlene*)

Elisa Seddon (*wife of Eric*)

Dominic & Megan Theodore and unborn child

Nicholas & Erin Reidy and unborn child

David & Jessie Jacobson and unborn child

Jeremy & Yvonne Pozderac and unborn child.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 29

Mar 29

John 20:11-18
Eph 5:9-19
Matt 4:25-5:12
Heb 6:13-20
Mark 9:17-31

Mar 30

Isa 37:33-38:6
Gen 13:12-18
Prov 14:27-15:4

Mar 31

Isa 40:18-31
Gen 15:1-15
Prov 15:7-19
Composite 2
Composite 3

Composite 4

John 10:1-9
Heb 7:26-8:2
John 10:9-16

Apr 1

Isa 41:4-14
Gen 17:1-9
Prov 15:20-16:9

Apr 2

Isa 42:5-16
Gen 18:20-33
Prov 16:17-17:17

Apr 3

Isa 45:11-17
Gen 22:1-18
Prov 17:17-18:5

Apr 4

Heb 9:1-7
Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28
Heb 9:24-28
Mark 8:27-31

Apr 5

John 20:19-31
Gal 3:23-29
Luke 7:36-50
Heb 9:11-14
Mark 10:32-45

Sunday, Mar 29

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)

Monday, Mar 30

Ven John Climacus of Sinai, author
Of The Ladder

Tuesday, Mar 31

Repose of St. Innocent, Metropolitan
Of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts
and Apostle to the Americas

Wednesday, Apr 1

Ven. Mary of Egypt

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2020

Thursday, Apr 2

Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
Ven. Titus the Wonderworker

Friday, Apr 3

Ven. Nicetas the Confessor

Saturday, Apr 4

Fifth Saturday in Great Lent
Ven. Joseph the Hymnographer

Sunday, Apr 5

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

St. Mary of Egypt