

# Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



DECEMBER 19, 2021

26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY BEFORE THE  
NATIVITY

733 Starkweather Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

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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 archived on  
our website.

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

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



## The Forefeast of the Nativity of the Lord begins on

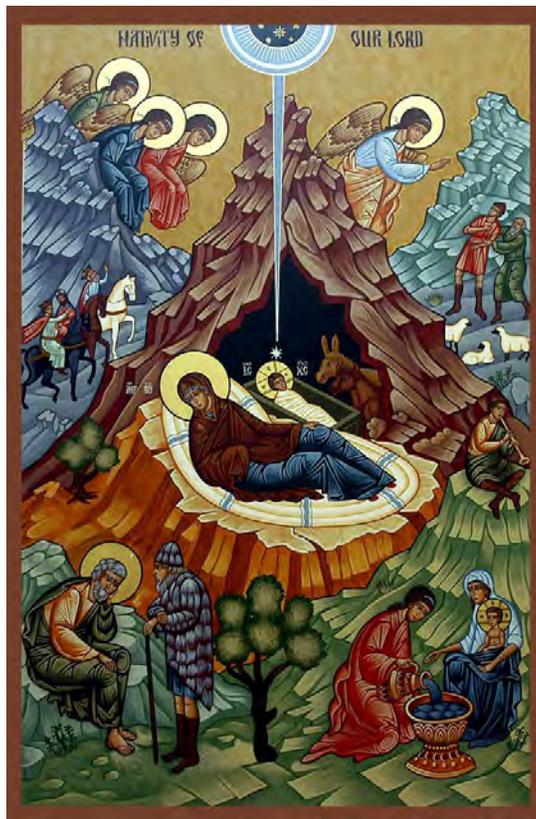
**December 20.** From now on, most of the liturgical hymns will be concerned with the birth of the Savior. Many of the Church's hymns of this period are slightly modified versions of the hymns of Holy Week.

From December 20-23 we sing the Troparion (Tone 4)

"Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all. Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave. Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; if we eat of it we shall live forever

and not die like Adam. Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning."

We also sing the Kontakion (Tone 3) "Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth ineffably to the pre-eternal Word. Hearing this, rejoice, O inhabited earth! With the angels and the shepherds glorify the pre-eternal God, Whose will it was to



appear as a young child! During Matins (after the first Sedalen) on the second day of the prefeast of the Nativity we sing, "The unapproachable God in His tender mercy approaches me; He wills to be born in the flesh in the city of Bethlehem. He receives human nature from a Virgin maiden. Let us eagerly run to greet Him, crying out in fear: O Lord, glory to Thee." At Vespers for the third day of the prefeast of the Nativity we sing, "Christ is born on earth to crush the power of evil, to enlighten those in darkness, and to free the captives. Let us go forth to meet Him."

At Compline on the fourth day of the prefeast of the Nativity we sing, "Let us purify our minds, washing ourselves with the divine Mysteries; let us draw near in soul and body to Bethlehem, that we may behold the fearful dispensation of the birth of the Lord" (Ode Five of the Canon).

## 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 due to COVID, our absence of a rector, or 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. He asks that we use the contact number provided should we need anything from him. 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)

Due to the pandemic, and our financial position last year, we suspended the Food Pantry bags for **Merrick House** (20 bags of groceries for their Moms First program). There are envelopes in the foyer specifically for this, or you can earmark a special offering envelope for the Merrick House Food Pantry. Please consider 'sponsoring a bag' for \$10.

Thank you for your consideration.

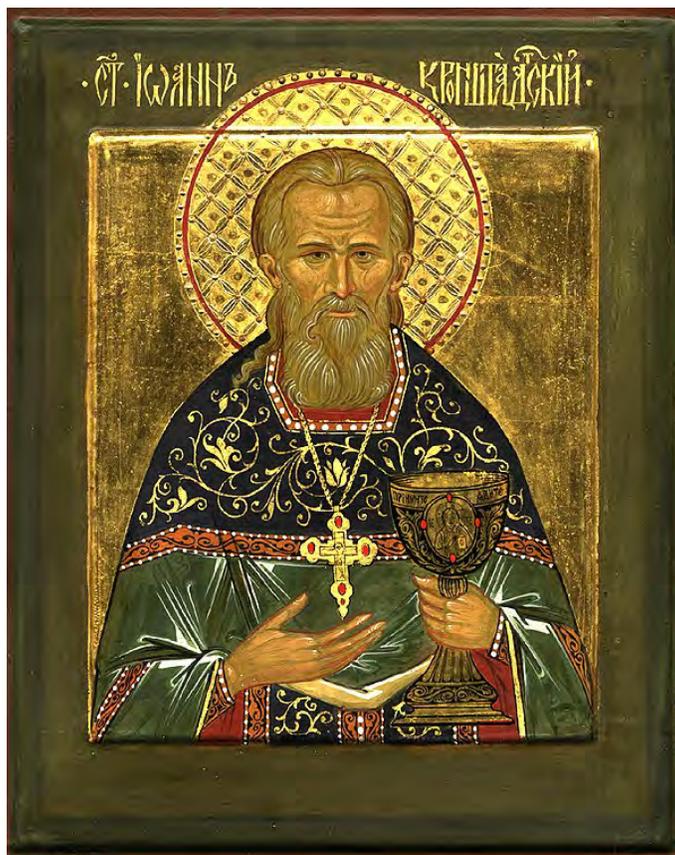
- Dan Morris

**Saint John of Kronstadt** (December 20th) was born in the village of Sura in Archangel province on October 19, 1829, and was called John in honor of Saint John of Rila (August 18). His parents were very poor but were very devoted to the Church. Even though he was poor, as a young boy John learned to feel compassion for others in their misfortune. His neighbors frequently asked him to pray for them, as they noticed this special grace-endowed gift in him. When John was ten, his parents were able to raise some money and send him to the local school which was attached to the church. At first, the boy had an extremely difficult time with his studies. He worked for days on end, but still failed to keep up.

Writing about his life he once recalled an evening when everyone had already gone to bed. "I could not sleep, and I still failed to understand anything I was taught. I still read poorly and could not remember anything I was told. I became so depressed I fell to my knees and began to pray. I don't know whether I had spent a long time in that position or not, but suddenly something shook my whole being. It was as if a veil had fallen from my eyes, and my mind had been opened, and I remembered clearly my teacher of that day and his lesson. I also recalled the topic and the examples he had given. I felt so light and joyous inside." After this experience he did so well he became one of the first in his class to be chosen to go to seminary, and after seminary to the Theological Academy in Saint Petersburg (a great honor at that time).

Throughout his studies, John thought about the

importance of forgiveness, meekness, and love, and came to believe that these were the very center and power of Christianity, and that only one path—the path of humble love—leads to God and the triumph of His righteousness. He also thought a great deal about the Savior's death on the Cross at Golgotha, and pitied those who did not know Jesus Christ. He wished to preach to them about



His death and Resurrection. He dreamed about becoming a missionary to distant China, but saw that there was a great deal of work for a genuine pastor of Christ's flock both in his own city and the surrounding towns.

When John graduated from the Academy he met Elizabeth Nesvitsky who lived in the town of Kronstadt. They dated, he proposed, and they were married. After his studies, John still desired to learn more about his faith and his Church.

It was in this frame of mind that he prepared to be a priest and to enter public ministry. He was ordained a deacon on December 10, 1855, and then priest on December 12. He was assigned to Saint Andrew's Cathedral in the city of Kronstadt. He said, "I made myself a rule to be as sincere as possible in my work, and of strictly watching myself and my inner life." Father John wanted most of all to earn the love of the people in his care, because only a loving attitude could provide the firm support and help he needed as he faced the difficult work of the priesthood. His constant thought was how he would come before the Last Judgment and have to give an account, not only for his own deeds, but also the deeds of his flock, for whose education

and salvation he was responsible. To him no one was a stranger; everyone who came to him for help became a friend and relative. He would tell people "The Church is the best heavenly friend of every sincere Christian." He conducted divine services daily and offered the prayers of the faithful. He called all who rarely receive Holy Communion to prepare themselves and live their lives in a Christian way so that they could receive more often. Listening to Father John, many people changed their lifestyle, repented sincerely, and joyfully received Holy Communion on a regular basis.

At that time the government exiled murderers, thieves and other criminals to Kronstadt. Life was horrible for the exiles. Even children of exiles would become thieves and criminals. He would go to their dugouts, hovels and shacks to visit with them. Not satisfied with staying for five or ten minutes to administer some rite and then leave, Father John believed he was coming to visit a priceless soul, his brothers and sisters. He would stay for hours, talking, encouraging, comforting, crying, and rejoicing together with them.

From the beginning he also concerned himself with the material needs of the poor. He would shop for food, go to the pharmacy for prescriptions, to the doctor for help, many times giving the poor his last few coins. The inhabitants of Kronstadt would see him returning home barefoot and without his cassock. Often parishioners would bring shoes to his wife, saying to her, "Your husband has given away his shoes to someone, and will come home barefoot." He would also write articles for the newspaper exhorting the people of Kronstadt to "support the poor morally and materially." These appeals touched the hearts of many and Father John organized many charitable efforts. Realizing that his individual charity was insufficient for aiding the needy, he founded the Orthodox Christian House Parish Trusteeship of Saint Andrew the First-Called. This brotherhood coordinated many charitable efforts

throughout the city and helped many needy people.

In 1857, he began teaching in the local city schools. He would tell people, "If children cannot listen to the Gospel, it is only because it is taught like any other subject, with boredom and indifference. Such teaching defeats the purpose of the Gospel. It fails because it forces students only to read words and memorize them instead of making them live in their lives." To Father John there were no incapable students. He taught in such a way that poor pupils as well as good ones were able to understand. His attention was aimed not so much at forcing students to memorize as to fill their souls with the joy of living according to Christian values, sharing with them the holy thoughts which filled his soul.

When speaking to other priests about their vocation he would say, "You are a representative of the faith of the Church, O priest; you are a representative of Christ the Lord Himself. You should be a model of meekness, purity, courage, perseverance, patience, and lofty spirit. You are doing the work of God and must not let anything discourage you."

Saint John has performed more miracles than almost any other saint, with the possible exception of Saint Nicholas. Through his prayers he healed the sick, gave hope to the hopeless, and brought sinners to repentance.

Father John labored endlessly in his work for the Lord preaching, teaching, and helping those in need. Having spent his entire life serving God and His people, Father John fell ill and died on December 20, 1908. Almost immediately, people from near and far began to make pilgrimages to the monastery where he was buried. Even today millions of Orthodox Christians in Russia and around the world pray to him to intercede for them as he had always done from his childhood. Saint John was glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church on June 8, 1990.

## Faith Enrichment Concludes

Faith Enrichment has concluded for 2021 and will begin again in 2022. Exact date TBA, contact Subdeacon Leon at 440 666-7601, or Reader Paul Pangrace at 440 884-3115 with any questions. We hope to see you in the new year!

## Cookie Walk Success!

The Cookie Walk brought in over

**\$2400.00 !!!**

**We thank everyone who helped to bake, transport, and sell cookies.**



## A COUPLE MESSAGES FROM FR. JAN

\*There will be an opportunity to prepare for the Nativity of our Lord by prayer and repentance. From Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> until Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup>, a priest will be available for confession starting at 5pm. At 6pm we will pray the 9th Hour and Vespers.

\*During the Christmas time, please remember to contact those who are sick and can't come to church, and those who decided to not come for various reasons. Greet them with the Feast of Nativity and light a candle for them. If you also know about someone who is ill and can't drive to church, if possible help them and offer a ride, or bring them home some blessed bread (antidoron).

\*If you are a home-bound, or know about someone who would like to receive the Sacraments, please call (440) 732-8182.

## READERS & SUBDEACONS PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

*On Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Fr. Jan wants to have a meeting with all actively serving Readers and Subdeacons. The meeting will be right after Divine Liturgy and we will talk about serving at the liturgy and rubrics.*

## Pizza and Movie Night for Kids

While children are enjoying their Christmas Break, they may wish to join us for pizza and a movie at 5:00 PM at the Parish Hall (next to the Cathedral) on Thursday, December 30th.

**NOTICE:** On Monday, December 27th, there will be Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM for Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen following the 3rd and 6th Hours which will be read at 8:40 PM.

## CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Church School meets at 4:45-5:45PM on the following dates:

February 5, 2022

April 2, 2022

June 4, 2022

March 5, 2022

May 7, 2022

## PRAYER REQUESTS

12/19/2021

### **Departed:**

**Margot** Weber (*Cathy's grandmother*)

**Priest John** Loejos

### **Special Intentions:**

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

**Subdeacon Theodore** Lentz

**Subdeacon Igor** Gajewsky

**Reader Paul** Pangrace

**Reader Frank** Tkacz

**Reader Ron** Latre (*cousin of Felons*)

**Dan** Boerio

**Jennifer** Boerio

**Horia** Dascalescu (*Lavinia's brother*)

**Diane** Kearsy (*Janice Tkacz's Sister*)

**Chris** Magee (*Erin Zawolowycz's brother*)

**Janice** Tkacz

**Eleanor** Wachovec (*friend of Karen Felon*)

**Erin** Zawolowycz

**Mary Kay** Weber

**Mickey** O'Brien (*friend of Arlene*)

**Joe** Czajkowski (*son of Jerry*)

**Carol** Nielsen (*Paul Pangrace's sister*)

**Matthew** Ponomarenko

**Alexander** Ponomarenko

**Virginia** Medvec

**Stephen** Chwalyk

**Child Benjamin** Udell (*son of Michael and Lacey*)

**Arlene** Czajkowski

**Jeffrey** Parhamovich (*brother of Karen Felon*)

**Maggie** Parhamovich (*sister-in-law of Karen Felon*)

**Margaret** "Peg" Peyton (*Cathy's aunt*)

**Kristin** Robinson (*friend of Nicholas Kozak*)

**Jean** Woycitzky Thompson (*Frank's cousin*)

**Child Anna Marie** Luvison (*daughter of Matthew & Katie (Ellis) Luvison*)

**Martha** Musil (*mother of Linda Kovach*)

**Michael** Bowman (*Lydia Mytrohovich's neighbor*)

**Debra** Parhamovich (*sister of Karen Felon*)

**Grace Mary** Parhamovich (*mother of Karen Felon*)

**Eleanor** Wachovec (*friend of Karen Felon*)

**Rachel** Ohlin (*relative of Tatiana*)

**Yvonne** "Evie" D'Amico

**Peter**

**Tony** Sykaluk

**John** Ohlin (*relative of Tatiana*)

**Andrew** Mytrohovich

**Daniel** Grier (*neighbor of Paul Z*)

**Greg** Galan (*cousin of Betty Balasz, friend of Karen & Subdeacon Darrell Felon*)

**Janice** Romansky (*friend of Karen & Subdeacon Darrell Felon*)

**Walter** Wojnicz (*brother of Alex Wojnicz*)

**Nathan** (*friend of Fr. Jan*)

**Ale** (*friend of Fr. Jan*)

**Terri** Peek (*friend of Igor*)

**Valentina** Ponomarenko (*aunt of Greg Ponomarenko, Grandmother of Dan Boerio*)

**Robbie** Prock

**Greg and Christina** Martin (*friends of Reader Eric*)

Please submit names to the Prayer List by emailing them to [ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com](mailto:ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com)

Names remain on the list for 30 days unless requested otherwise.

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

<p><b>Sunday, December 19</b> Genesis 14:14-20 Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 Deuteronomy 10:14-21 Luke 24:1-12 Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 Matthew 1:1-25</p>	<p>Mark 10:2-12</p> <p><b>Wednesday, Dec 22</b> 1 Timothy 5:22-6:11 Mark 10:11-16</p> <p><b>Thursday, December 23</b> 1 Timothy 6:17-21 Mark 10:17-27</p>	<p>Luke 2:1-20 Isaiah 7:10-16; 8:1-4, 9-10 Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Matthew 2:1-12 Isaiah 9:6-7 Hebrews 2:11-18 Matthew 2:13-23 Genesis 1:1-13 Numbers 24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18 Micah 4:6-7; 5:2-4 Isaiah 11:1-10 Jeremiah (Baruch 3:35-4:4) Daniel 2:31-36, 44-45 Isaiah 9:6-7 Isaiah 7:10-16; 8:1-4, 9-10</p>	<p>2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18 Mark 10:23-32 Hebrews 1:1-12 Luke 2:1-20</p> <p><b>Saturday, December 25</b> Matthew 1:18-25 Galatians 4:4-7 Matthew 2:1-12</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 26</b> Luke 24:12-35 Galatians 1:11-19 Matthew 2:13-23</p>
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### ST. THEODOSIUS IS NOW 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>



**Sunday, Dec 19**  
26th Sunday After Pentecost  
**Sunday before the Nativity**  
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour to follow

**Monday, Dec 20**  
**Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ**  
Repose of St. John of Kronstadt (1908)  
5:00 PM Confession  
6:00 PM 9th Hour and Daily Vespers

**Tuesday, Dec 21**  
**Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ**  
Virgin Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia, and with her 500 men and 130 women (304)  
5:00 PM Confession  
6:00 PM 9th Hour and Daily Vespers

**Wednesday, Dec 22**  
**Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ**  
Great Martyr Anastasia  
5:00 PM Confession  
6:00 PM 9th Hour and Daily Vespers

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE 2021



Greatmartyr Anastasia the  
"Deliverer from Potions" Dec 22

**Thursday, Dec 23**  
**Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ**  
Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete  
5:00 PM Confession  
6:00 PM 9th Hour and Daily Vespers

**Friday, Dec 24**  
**Eve of the Nativity of Christ**  
10:30 AM 9th Royal Hour  
11:00 AM Vespers Liturgy  
6:00 PM Vigil

**Saturday, Dec 25**  
**The Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ**  
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, Dec 26**  
27th Sunday After Pentecost  
**Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos**  
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour to follow