

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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FEBRUARY 23, 2020

Sunday of the Last Judgment



St. Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople

February 25

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.

Saint Tarasius, Patriarch of Constantinople was of illustrious lineage. He was born and raised in Constantinople, where he received a fine education. He was rapidly promoted at the court of the emperor Constantine VI Porphyrogenitos (780-797) and Constantine's mother, the holy Empress Irene (August 7), and the saint attained the rank of senator.

During these times the Church was agitated by the turmoil of the Iconoclast disturbances. The holy Patriarch Paul (August 30) although he had formerly supported Iconoclasm, later repented and resigned his office. He withdrew to a monastery, where he took the schema. When the holy Empress Irene and her son the emperor came to him, Saint Paul told them that the most worthy successor to him would be Saint Tarasius (who at this time was still a layman).

Tarasius refused for a long time, not considering himself worthy of such high office, but he then gave in to the common accord on the condition, that an Ecumenical Council be convened to address the Iconoclast heresy.

Proceeding through all the clerical ranks in a short while, Saint Tarasius was elevated to the patriarchal throne in the year 784. In the year 787 the Seventh Ecumenical Council was convened in the city of Nicea, with Patriarch Tarasius presiding, and 367 bishops attending. The veneration of holy icons was confirmed at the council. Those bishops who repented of their

iconoclasm, were again received by the Church.

Saint Tarasius wisely governed the Church for twenty-two years. He led a strict ascetic life. He spent all his money on God-pleasing ends, feeding and giving comfort to the aged, to the impoverished, to widows and orphans, and on Holy Pascha he set out a meal for them, and he served them himself.

The holy Patriarch fearlessly denounced the emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitos when he slandered his spouse, the empress Maria, the granddaughter of Saint Philaretos the Merciful (December 1), so that he could send Maria to a monastery, thus freeing him to marry his own kinswoman. Saint Tarasius resolutely refused to dissolve the marriage of the emperor, for which the saint fell into disgrace. Soon, however, Constantine was deposed by his own mother, the Empress Irene.

Saint Tarasius died in the year 806. Before his death, devils examined his life from the time of his youth, and they tried to get the saint to admit to sins that he had not committed. "I am innocent of that of which you accuse me," replied the saint, "and you falsely slander me. You have no power over me at all."

Mourned by the Church, the saint was buried in a monastery he built on the Bosphorus. Many miracles took place at his tomb.

If anyone has need of a priest for confession, visitation, illness, funeral, panikhida, counseling, or an emergency, please contact either Protodeacon Daniel Boerio at 1(216) 513-5307 or Paul Zawolowycz at 1(440) 941-7099 for scheduling.

Welcome Visitors

Our parish welcomes you and thanks you for joining us at today's Divine Liturgy. While only Orthodox Christians may approach the chalice for Holy Communion, everyone is welcome to partake of the Holy Bread after Liturgy.

Boys' Night Out is Tonight!

Boys' Night is at **Bakersfield Tacos**, 2058 W. 25th St (just a bit South of the West Side Market) **tonight at 5:00 PM**

Contact Dan Morris so he can have them scoot another table over



Merrick House had receive a grant for food, and put our donations on hold.

That grant has been used, and MH is once again asking for grocery bags.

With the parish's current financial position, there isn't room for a monthly allotment for those bags.

So, we will continue to keep envelopes in the foyer, which are specifically earmarked for Merrick House.

\$10 fills one grocery bag, and anything we can offer is appreciated at MH.

Thank you for your help with those in need. See Dan Morris with any questions.



Mar 8, 2020 - Daylight Saving Time Starts

When local standard time is about to reach

Sunday, March 8, 2020, **2:00:00 am** clocks are turned **forward** 1 hour to Sunday, March 8, 2020, **3:00:00 am** local daylight time instead.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour later on Mar 8, 2020 than the day before. There will be **more light in the evening**.

Hat-tip timeanddate.com

We are now serving lunch at St. Herman's on the **SECOND** Saturday of each month. We are then making sandwiches for them the very **NEXT DAY** (Sunday) in the Parish Hall during coffee hour. Everyone is welcome to help, kids included. Thank you to all who have been making these events successful - may God bless each of you.

See Dan Morris with any questions.

SOME WORDS FROM FR. JOHN ADAMCIO...

Lead me on the paths of salvation, O Theotokos, for I have profaned my soul with shameful sins, and have wasted my life in laziness. But by your intercessions, deliver me from impurity.

This is the next verse sung in the Troparia of Repentance and is very important as it sets the tone for the remaining text.

Now our Lord Jesus Christ has opened, and become, the gate leading to the garden of repentance. So long ago, our forefather and foremother, Adam and Eve, were cast out of the Garden of Eden for disobeying the Divine Commandments of God. Now, our Lord, Who has become Incarnate, opens to us the possibility of forgiveness through repentance.

Here, we encounter two very important concepts: intercessory prayer, and the honor and veneration due the Theotokos. We ask the Most Holy Mother of God to lead us on the path of salvation. This implies a very real journey. It is a well marked path which leads to salvation, given to us by the Lord Himself, through the Holy Orthodox Church. Jesus tells us: "I Am the Way..." Now the Theotokos is able to lead us to, and along, the Path. It is by following the Holy Scripture, living a life within the Church that we are able to follow this very narrow path.

We see the honor given to this woman who is "More honorable than the Cherubim, beyond compare, more glorious than the Seraphim." High praise, indeed. We, who by our own disobedience, lack of faith, and ultimately love, have fallen away from God, can be led by the one who was the most obedient, trusting, and loving. It is by her acceptance of God's Will and Plan of salvation that Jesus became incarnate in her, ready to give His life for us

and our salvation. Her example of love and obedience becomes a constant theme in the life of the Church.

We have indeed committed shameful sins, knowingly and sometimes It is unknowingly, thereby profaning our very souls. We have to stop and think how wasteful we have been with our lives, wasting the time given us, our love, forgiveness, friendship, not to mention our wealth and resources. But the good news is there is forgiveness if only we seek and ask for it!

It is all too easy for us to fall into a rut. We often follow the path of least resistance, making our life as easy as possible. However, now is the time for us to turn away from the laziness of our former lives, and tackle head on the challenge of the Great Fast. It takes a determined will and perseverance to not only enter into this "garden" of repentance, but to embrace it changing our way of life, at least for the next forty days.

Within the Church, we practice intercessory prayer as well as private and corporate prayer. Hence, we beg the Theotokos to intercede on our behalf. Not only do we ask her, and the saints to intercede for us, but we also offer this intercessory prayer for others. We uphold one another in prayer. We offer our private prayers, our conversation with God, and ask on behalf of others whom we love.

To be continued.....



PRAYER REQUESTS



Departed:

Rolf Weber (*Cathy Weber's grandfather*)

David Smotzer

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 Kearsey (*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

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

Dominic & Megan Theodore and unborn child

Nicholas & Erin Reidy and unborn child

David & Jessie Jacobson and unborn child

MEATFARE SUNDAY

Thoughts on Meatfare Sunday from Fr. Adamcio

As we continue to prepare for our entrance into the Great Fast, we must come to an understanding of what is fasting.

Just as we have to prepare our bodies for athletic competition: we warm up, stretch our muscles, do some exercises, the same can be said of fasting.

In its most basic understanding, fasting is abstention from food. During the Great Fast, the Holy Orthodox Church encourages us to abstain from meat and dairy (and their corresponding products). However, we begin our abstention from meat and meat products following this Sunday - Meatfare Sunday. We should eliminate these foods, if physically possible, from this Monday until we break the Fast on Pascha. We begin our Fast in earnest following Forgiveness Vespers on Cheesefare Sunday.

There are actually two types of fasting: ascetic and liturgical. The liturgical fast is what we do in order to receive Holy Communion. If physically able, we should have nothing to eat, drink, (or smoke) from at least from the midnight before we

receive Communion. If we are preparing to receive Communion for the evening Pre-sanctified Liturgy, we should begin our fast from at least noon. (Check with your Spiritual Father for more information.)

The ascetic fast is what we do during the four fasting periods of the liturgical year: the Great Fast, Nativity Fast, Dormition Fast, and the Fast before Sts. Peter and Paul. Of course, this includes Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the year (with the exception of the compact weeks - those following the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, the Nativity, Pascha, and Pentecost when meat is allowed).

Yet it must be understood that prayer is always an integral part of fasting. We include a fortified prayer life in our fasting. Fasting without prayer is just a diet!

St. John Chrysostom also encourages us to fast from sin as well as food. This can sometimes be even harder, but still is an important aspect of our fasting.

2020 Tremont History Project Calendar for Sale

- Featuring historic images of Tremont including cover of July photo of the famous painting by [Ora Coleman](#), designer of the Jefferson Library. The painting shows Saint Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral, and is displayed in the library.
- April features a view of the Cathedral from the Valley View Homes (known and the projects) and now home of Tremont Pointe.
- Cost \$10.00
- See [Virginia Medvec](#) or [Dorothy Winovich](#) to make your purchase.
- The Tremont History Project is a non-profit organization

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, "Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in

his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.

Looking ahead...

FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Sunday, March 1st Cheesefare Forgiveness Sunday	8:40 AM 3rd & 6th Hours 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy 6:00 PM Forgiveness Vespers
Monday, March 2nd	6:00 PM Cannon of St. Andrew
Tuesday, March 3rd	6:00 PM Cannon of St. Andrew
Wednesday, March 4th	6:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts Lenten Potluck after Liturgy
Thursday, March 5th	6:00 PM Cannon of St. Andrew
Friday, March 6th	
Saturday, March 7th	6:00 PM Great Vespers

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF February 23

Feb 23

Mark 16:9-20
1 Cor 8:8-9:2
Matt 25:31-46

Feb 24

Composite 8 Isaiah 40, 41, 45, 48, 54
Composite 9 Malachi 3, 4
Composite 3 Wisdom of Solomon 4, 5
Luke 7:17-30
2 Cor 4:6-15
Matt 11:2-15
3 John 1:1-15
Luke 19:29-40, 22:7-39

Feb 25

Jude 1:1-10
Luke 22:39-42, 45-23:1

Feb 26

Joel 2:12-26
Joel 3:12-21

Feb 27

Composite 2 Proverbs 10, 3, 8
Proverbs 10:31-11:2
Wis 4:7-15
John 10:1-9
Heb 13:17-21
John 10:9-16
Jude 1:11-25

Luke 23:2-34, 44-56

Feb 28

Zech 8:7-17
Zech 8:19-23

Feb 29

Gal 5:22-6:2
Matt 11:27-30
Rom 14:19-23, 16:25-27
Matt 6:1-13

Sunday, Feb 23

SUNDAY of MEATFARE
Sunday of the Last Judgment
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, Feb 24

First and Second Finding of the Honorable
Head of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John

Tuesday, Feb 25

St. Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople

Wednesday, Feb 26

St. Porphrius, Bishop of Gaza

Thursday, Feb 27

Rest of St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn
Faith Enrichment 11:00 AM

Friday, Feb 28

Ven. Basil the Confessor, Companion of Ven. Procopius at Decapolis

Saturday, Feb 29

Saturday of Cheesefare
Commemoration of all Departed Righteous Monastics
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, Mar 1

SUNDAY of CHEESEFARE
The Expulsion of Adam and Eve From Paradise
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
6:00 PM Forgiveness Vespers

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2020

