

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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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

Please check weekly schedule
for specific days (last page)

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

ambo-theodosius

@googlegroups.com

DECEMBER 27, 2020

HOLY PROTOMARTYR AND
ARCHDEACON STEPHEN



14,000 Infants —The Holy Infants Slain by Herod at Bethlehem

14,000 Holy Infants were killed by King Herod in Bethlehem. When the time came for the Incarnation of the Son of God and His Birth of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, Magi in the East beheld a new star in the heavens, foretelling the Nativity of the King of the Jews. They journeyed immediately to Jerusalem to worship the Child, and the star showed them the way. Having worshipped the divine Infant, they did not return to Jerusalem to Herod, as he had ordered them, but being warned by God in a dream, they went back to their country by another way. Herod finally realized that his scheme to find the Child would not be successful, and he ordered that all the male children two years old and younger at Bethlehem and its surroundings be killed. He thought that the divine Infant, Whom he considered a rival, would be among the dead children.

The murdered infants thus became the first martyrs for Christ. The rage of Herod fell also on Simeon the God-Receiver (February 3), who declared before everyone in the Temple that the Messiah had been born. When the holy Elder died, Herod would not give permission for him to be properly buried. On the orders of King Herod, the holy prophet and priest Zachariah was also killed. He was murdered in Jerusalem between the Temple and the altar (Mt. 23:35) because he would not tell

the whereabouts of his son John, the future Baptist of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The wrath of God soon fell upon Herod himself: a horrid condition struck him down and he died, eaten by worms while still alive. Before his death, the impious king murdered the chief priests and scribes of the Jews, and also his brother, and his sister and her husband, and also his own wife Mariam, and three of his sons, and seventy men of wisdom who were members of the Sanhedrin. He initiated this bloodbath so that the day of his death would not be one of rejoicing, but one of mourning.

The Christian Church very rightly proclaimed these murdered children as Saints, because they died at an innocent age, and were, in some way, the first martyrs of Christianity. They may not have been baptized in water, but they were baptized in the blessed blood of their martyrdom.

Last but not least, the relics (or perhaps some) of the Holy Infants are found in Constantinople, in the Church of Saint James the Brother of the Lord, which was built by Emperor Justin. Most of their Holy Relics are at the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Portions of their Holy Relics are also to be found in the Pantokrator Monastery on Mount Athos.

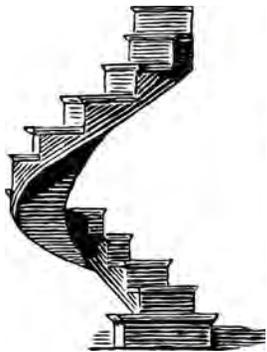
Tree Removal

The trees in need of removal behind the garage have been cleared. The work was done for \$3800, and we are accepting donations to cover this cost. If you wish to donate please mark the donation as **Tree Removal**, and send it to Eric at the church office. Direct any questions to Paul Z or Deacon Daniel. Much of the cost has been covered but we still have a little way left to go!



FAITH ENRICHMENT ON HOLD UNTIL 1/14/2021

Faith Enrichment is on hold until January 14th, 2021. Please contact Subdeacon Leon Felon at (440) 666-7601 if you have any questions.



Cathedral Steps

Donations are also being accepted for the \$3500 repair of all the steps, rails, and ramps surrounding the cathedral. To donate, please mark your donation for **Cathedral steps repair**, or send it to Eric in the office. Any questions can be directed to Subdeacon Michael Tabeling. We are waiting for a window of several dry 40° days so that the compounds used can cure properly.

Please Help us Find any Shut-Ins

We are requesting everyone's assistance in finding any shut-ins that may have slipped past our notice. If you know of someone, please send information to Eric Seddon in the office. 1(216)574-4886, or StTheodosiusCathedral@protonmail.com

From the Desk of Fr. Adamcio...

It's Over...

Well, it's over! Yup! For all the anticipation and preparation, it's over.

I could remember as a kid talking to my father about Christmas, and especially the feelings I had after the holy day. It seemed as though everything about the day came so fast, and was over so quickly, that I was a bit sad to see it go away. He told me that is often what happens when we look forward to something for so long. It wasn't a particularly informative answer, but for a child it worked.

In the secular world, Christmas has passed for another year, and things are getting back to "normal." No longer do we hear Christmas carols on the radio. There are no more commercials on television or the media imploring us to buy that special gift for that special person. The music goes back to what it was before; programming returns to its usual format. There are no more songs, stories, or articles regarding the holiday, until next year.

Now, this is interesting! Around July or August of next year, we will be seeing some early sales of Christmas items. It seems "Christmas in July" is a rather good marketing vehicle. Then right around Halloween, the holiday music will return. It used to be Thanksgiving was the "official" beginning of the Christmas holiday season, but now retailers and media outlets have anointed early November as the de facto start of the holiday rush. The radio, television, and other media will begin again with carols and advertising blitzes up to the day itself. Then.....nothing!

However, this is not the way the Holy Orthodox Church receives the feast. The Feast of the Nativity actually lasts for eight days! During this time, until the leave-taking of the Feast, there will be verses and references to the Nativity of our Lord. There is no fasting (including Wednesdays and Friday) until January 4, continuing the great celebration of the Feast. It is a time of great joy and happiness realizing the great glory and grace given us through the Incarnation of Christ.

The Nativity of Christ is the beginning of our salvation and it echoes throughout the year. At the beginning of every Divine Liturgy, after the Bishop or priest recites "O Heavenly King...", he then intones the angelic proclamation "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will to men!" This element of the Nativity is constantly with us, for unless Jesus had come into the world through the Most Holy Theotokos, it would be impossible for us to find salvation. He accepted the will of His Father to be born in time, in the flesh, through the Virgin Mary with the express purpose of offering Himself on the Cross for our sins, being buried in the tomb in order to resurrect Himself, Ascend to sit at the Right Hand of His Father, then sending the Holy Spirit, the Comforter to guide us into truth and love.

Even though the secular celebration of Christmas is over and done with, not so with us! Let us continue to embrace each other in the joy and light which Jesus Christ brings us throughout the year.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

The Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen was the eldest of the seven deacons, appointed by the Apostles themselves, and therefore he is called “archdeacon.” He was the first Christian martyr, and he suffered for Christ when he was about thirty. In the words of Asterias, he was “the starting point of the martyrs, the instructor of suffering for Christ, the foundation of righteous confession, since Stephen was the first to shed his blood for the Gospel.”

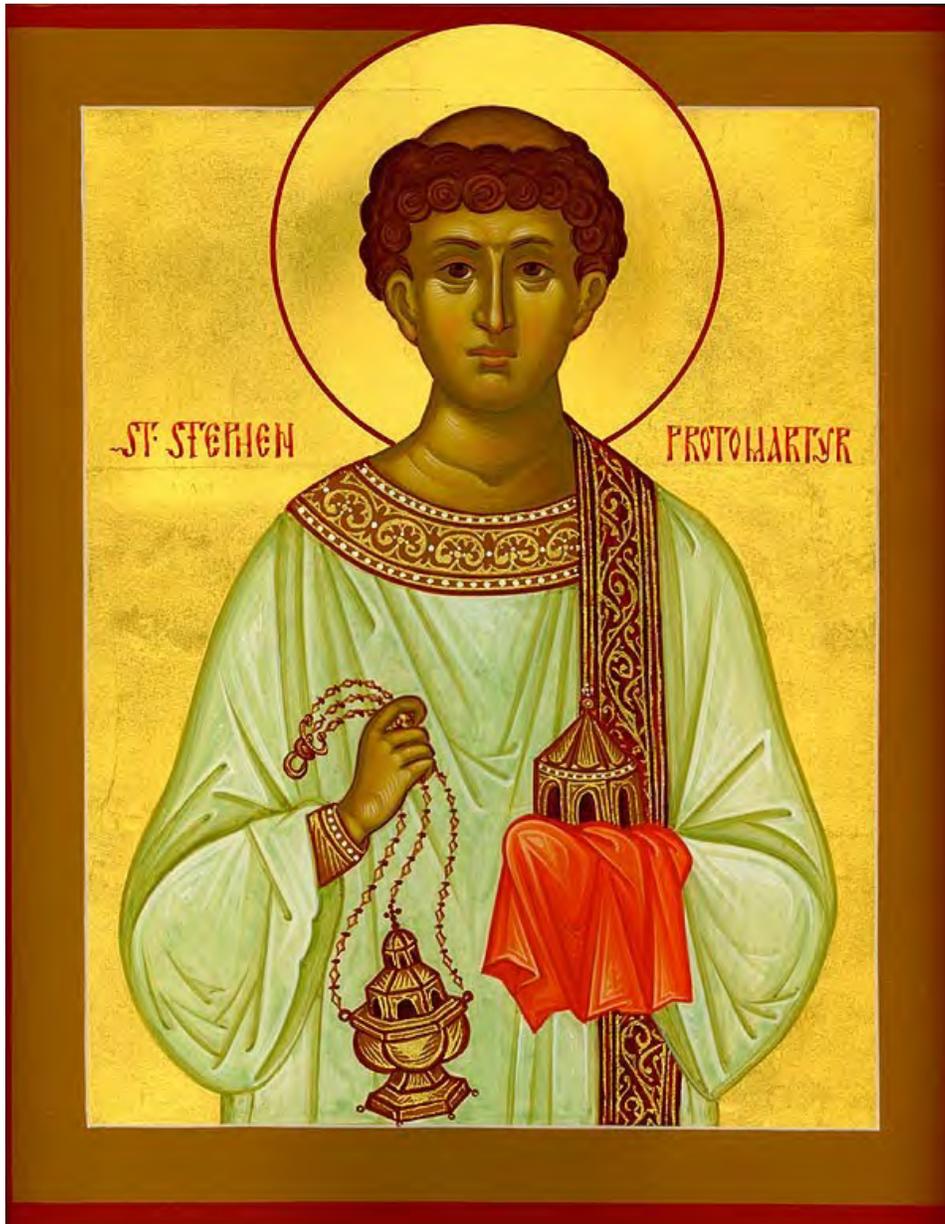
Filled with the Holy Spirit, Saint Stephen preached Christianity and defeated Jewish teachers of the Law in debate. The Jews maligned Saint Stephen, saying that he had uttered blasphemy against God and against Moses. Saint Stephen came before the Sanhedrin and the High Priest to answer these charges. He gave a fiery speech, in which he recounted the history of the Jewish nation, and denounced the Jews for persecuting the prophets, and also for executing the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ (Acts ch. 7).

During his speech, Saint Stephen suddenly

saw the heavens opened and Jesus Christ standing at the right hand of God. The Jews shouted and covered their ears, and rushed at him. They dragged him out of the city and stoned him, but the holy martyr prayed for his murderers. Far off on the heights stood the Mother of God with the holy Apostle John the Theologian, and She prayed fervently for

the martyr. Before his death Saint Stephen said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. O Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.” Then he joyfully gave up his pure soul to Christ.

The body of the holy Protomartyr Stephen, left to be eaten by beasts, was secretly taken up by the Jewish teacher Gamaliel and his son Habib, who buried Stephen on his estate. They both believed in Christ, and later received holy Baptism.



Saint Stephen is also commemorated on August 2 (Translation of his relics) and on September 15 (Uncovering of his relics in the year 415).



PRAYER REQUESTS



Departed:

Archbishop David

Patriarch Irinej

Marguerite Mihal (*Paul Mihal's mother*)

Joseph Rusynyk

Elsie Conrad

Sandra Brillo

Special Intentions:

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

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Reader Paul Pangrace

Arlene Czajkowski

Child Mary Kate Zweidunger

Child Vivian Sherer

Melissa (*cousin of Mary Ann Kovach*)

Elizabeth (Betty) Balasz

Marie Borland

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*)

Annamarie Luvison (*Daughter of*

Kaite Ellis-Luvison)

Chris Magee (*Erin Zawolowycz's brother*)

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

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

Elena Rich (*Jerry Czajkowski's daughter*)

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

Kristin Robinson

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

Laurie Budko (*niece of Arlene Neale*)

Mary Kay Weber

Mirta Szewczyk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Mickey O'Brien (*friend of Arlene*)

Kelly Buehner

Anna Sykaluk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Edward Zewczyk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Joe Czajkowski (*son of Jerry*)

Patrick Gallagher

Elliott Udell (*grandson of Michael Udell*)

Constance Zimmerman (*Cindy's cousin*)

William Nasi (*brother-in-law of Kenneth Kovach*)

Jonathan Maas (*friend of Eric Seddon*)

Michelle Frampton (*cousin of Fr. Zdinak*)

Steve Bondor

Louis Klinar (*father of Bob Klinar*)

Jeanne Charles (*friend of Arlene Neal/Czajkowski*)

Carol & Bert Nielsen (*Paul Pangrace's sister & brother-in-law*)

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 27

Dec 27

John 20:1-10
Acts 6:8-15, 7:1-5, 47-60
Matt 21:33-42
Gal 1:11-19
Matt 2:13-23

Dec 28

Heb 8:7-13
Mark 10:46-52

Dec 29

Heb 9:8-10, 15-23
Mark 11:11-23

Dec 30

Heb 10:1-18
Mark 11:22-26

Dec 31

Heb 10:35-11:7
Mark 11:27-33

Jan 1

Composite 1—Gen 17:1-2, 4, 5-7,
8-12, 14
Prov 8:22-30
Prov 10:31-11:12
John 10:9-16
Col 2:8-12
Luke 2:20-21, 40-52
Heb 7:26-8:2

Luke 6:17-23

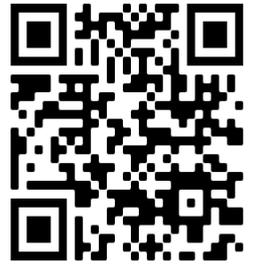
Heb 11:8, 11-16
Mark 12:1-12

Jan 2

Wis 3:1-9
Wis 5:15-6:3
Wis 4:7-15
Matt 11:27-30
Gal 5:22-6:2
Luke 6:17-23
1 Tim 3:14-4:5
Matt 3:1-11

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>
Special thanks to Council Vice President Cathy Weber and our Webmaster Kate Zolikoff for making this happen.



Sunday, Dec 27

Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen
Holy Righteous Ones Joseph the Betrothed,
David the King and James the Brother of
the Lord
3rd and 6th Hours read at 8:40 AM
Liturgy Begins 9:00 AM

Monday, Dec 28

The 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia

Tuesday, Dec 29

The 14,000 Infants (Holy Innocents) slain
by Herod at Bethlehem

Wednesday, Dec 30

Virgin Martyr Anysia at Thessalonica

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2020-2021



Thursday, Dec 31

“Unfading Flower”
Icon of the Mother of God at Ardatov
Vespers Divine Liturgy 3:00 PM

Friday, Jan 1

The Circumcision of our Lord God and Savior,
Jesus Christ

Saturday, Jan 2

Forefeast of the Theophany
Repose of Ven. Seraphim, Wonderworker of
Sarov
Great Vespers 6:00 PM

Sunday, Jan 3

Forefeast of the Theophany
Holy Prophet Malachi
3rd and 6th Hours read at 8:40 AM
Liturgy Begins 9:00 AM