

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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Father Jan Cizmar
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Parish Council President

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

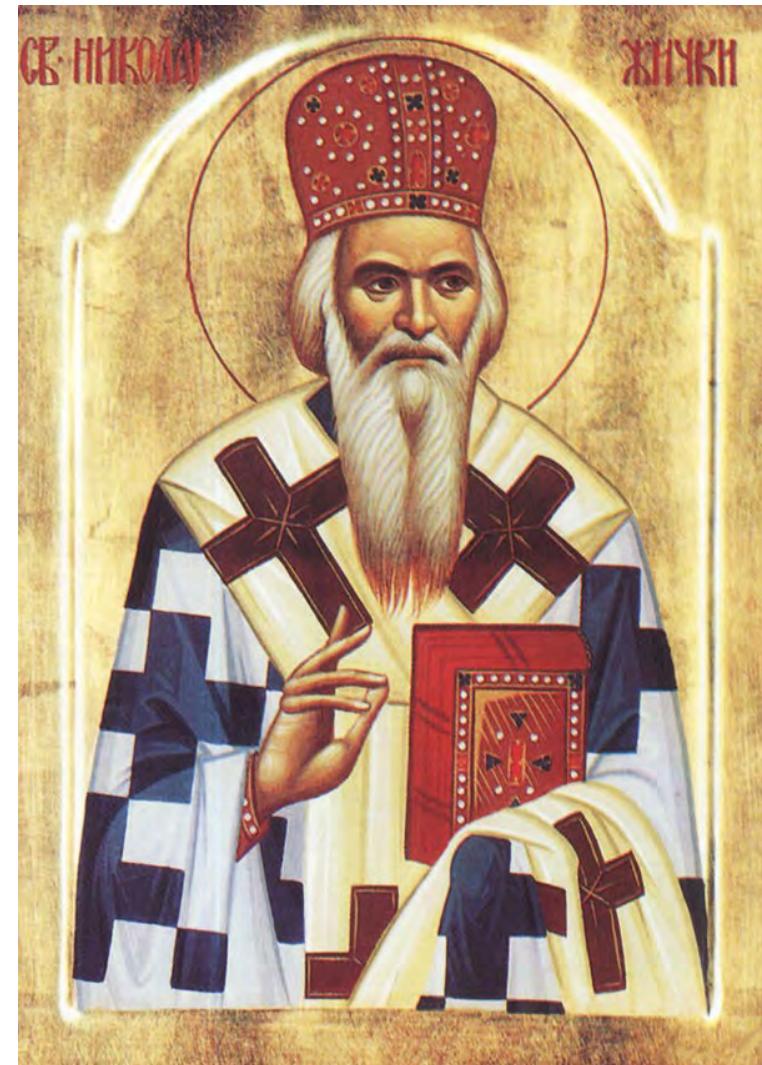
Please check weekly schedule
for specific days (last page).
Previous Ambos archived on
our website.

Articles for publication
should be submitted to:
ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com

MARCH 13, 2022

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY OF
ORTHODOXY



Saint Nikolai of Zhicha, "the Serbian Chrysostom," was born in Lelich in western Serbia on January 4, 1881 (December 23, 1880 O.S.). His parents were Dragomir and Katherine Velimirovich, who lived on a farm where they raised a large family. His pious mother was a major influence on his spiritual development, teaching him by word and especially by example. As a small child, Nikolai often walked three miles to the Chelije Monastery with his mother to attend services there.

Sickly as a child, Nikolai was not physically strong as an adult. He failed his physical requirements when he applied to the military academy, but his excellent academic qualifications allowed him to enter the Saint Savva Seminary in Belgrade, even before he finished prepar-

atory school.

After graduating from the seminary in 1905, he earned doctoral degrees from the University of Berne in 1908, and from King's College, Oxford in 1909. When he returned home, he fell ill with dysentery. Vowing to serve God for the rest of his life if he recovered, he was tonsured at the Rakovica Monastery on December 20, 1909 and was also ordained to the holy priesthood.

In 1910 he went to study in Russia to prepare himself for a teaching position at the seminary in Belgrade. At the Theological Academy in Saint Petersburg, the Provost asked him why he had come. He replied, "I wanted to be a shepherd. As a child, I tended my father's sheep. Now that I am a man, I wish to tend the rational flock of my heavenly Father. I believe that is the way that has been shown to me." The Provost smiled, pleased by this response, then showed the young man to his quarters.

After completing his studies, he returned to Belgrade and taught philosophy, logic, history, and foreign languages at the seminary. He spoke seven languages, and this ability proved very useful to him throughout his life.

Saint Nikolai was renowned for his sermons, which never lasted more than twenty minutes, and focused on just three main points. He taught people the theology of the Church in a language they could understand, and inspired them to repentance.

At the start of World War I, Archimandrite Nikolai was sent to England on a diplomatic mission to seek help in the struggle of the Serbs against Austria. His doctorate from Oxford gained him an invitation to speak at Westminster Abbey. He remained in England for three short months, but Saint Nikolai left a lasting impression on those who heard him. His writings "The Lord's

Commandments," and "Meditations on the Lord's Prayer" impressed many in the Church of England.

Archimandrite Nikolai left England and went to America, where he proved to be a good ambassador for his nation and his Church.

The future saint returned to Serbia in 1919, where he was consecrated as Bishop of Zhicha, and was later transferred to Ochrid. The new hierarch assisted those who were suffering from the ravages of war by establishing orphanages and helping the poor.

Bishop Nikolai took over as leader of Bogomiljčki Pokret, a popular movement for spiritual revival which encouraged people to pray and read the Bible. Under the bishop's direction, it also contributed to a renewal of monasticism. Monasteries were restored and reopened, and this in turn revitalized the spiritual life of the Serbian people.

In 1921, Bishop Nikolai was invited to visit America again and spent two years as a missionary bishop. He gave more than a hundred talks in less than six months, raising funds for his orphanages. Over the next twenty years, he lectured in various churches and universities.

When Germany invaded Yugoslavia on April 6, 1941, Bishop Nikolai, a fearless critic of the Nazis, was arrested and confined in Ljubostir Vojlovici Monastery. In 1944, he and Patriarch Gavriilo were sent to the death camp at Dachau. There he witnessed many atrocities and was tortured himself. When American troops liberated the prisoners in May 1945, the patriarch returned to Yugoslavia, but Bishop Nikolai went to England.

The Communist leader Tito was just coming to power in Yugoslavia, where he persecuted the

Church and crushed those who opposed him. Therefore, Bishop Nikolai believed he could serve the Serbian people more effectively by remaining abroad. He went to America in 1946, following a hectic schedule in spite of his health problems which were exacerbated by his time in Dachau. He taught for three years at Saint Savva's Seminary in Libertyville, IL before he settled at Saint Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA in 1951.

He taught at Saint Tikhon's and also served as the seminary's Dean and Rector. He was also a guest lecturer at Saint Vladimir's Seminary in NY, and at Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, NY.

On Saturday March 17, 1956 Bishop Nikolai served his last Liturgy. After the service he went to the trapeza and gave a short talk. As he was leaving, he bowed low and said, "Forgive me, brothers." This was something unusual which he had not done before.

On March 18, 1956 Saint Nikolai fell asleep in the Lord Whom he had served throughout his life. He was found in his room kneeling in an attitude of prayer. Though he was buried at Saint Savva's Monastery in Libertyville, IL, he had always expressed a desire to be buried in his homeland. In April of 1991 his relics were transferred to the Chetinje Monastery in Lelich. There he was buried next to his friend and disciple Father Justin Popovich (+ 1979).

English readers are familiar with Saint Nikolai's *Prologue from Ochrid*, *The Life of Saint Savva*, *A Treasury of Serbian Spirituality*, and other

writings which are of great benefit for the whole Church. He thought of his writings as silent sermons addressed to people who would never hear him preach. In his life and writings, the grace of the Holy Spirit shone forth for all to see, but in his humility he considered himself the least of men.

Though he was a native of Serbia, Saint Nikolai has a universal significance for Orthodox Christians in all countries. He was like a candle set upon a candlestick giving light to all (MT 5:15). A spiritual guide and teacher with a magnetic personality, he attracted many people to himself. He also loved them, seeing the image of God in each person he met. He had a special love for children, who hastened to receive his blessing whenever they saw him in the street.

He was a man of compunctionate prayer, and possessed the gift of tears which purify the soul (Saint John Climacus, LADDER, Step 7). He was a true pastor to his flock protecting them from spiritual wolves, and guiding them on the path to salvation. He has left behind many soul-profiting writings which proclaim the truth of Christ to modern man. In them he exhorts people to love God, and to live a life of virtue and holiness. May we also be found worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven through the prayers of Saint Nikolai, and by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever. Amen.

CATHEDRAL CLEANING

Saturday, April 9th at 10:00 AM we will be cleaning the cathedral and we are asking people to sign up to help! The sign-up sheet is in the vestibule, please sign up to help clean our beautiful cathedral. Thank you.

New Matching Campaign

The *Matching Campaign* Returns!

Once again, our *Mysterious Benefactor* offers a *most generous*

MATCHING CONTRIBUTION OF

\$15,000.00

for any extra donations during this Lenten Season through Pascha!

This means that any donations to St. Theodosius will be matched up to a total of \$15,000.00! Please consider this while making any such donations during Great Lent.

And to our Anonymous Benefactor:

THANK YOU

AND

GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!

Walking Through Great Lent with the Holy Fathers

Beginning this Great Lent, Fr. Jan will hold a brief (20-30 minute) catechesis every Wednesday after Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts. The classes will focus on our spiritual life and growth. We will discuss the teachings of our church father St. Ignatius (Brianchaninov).

Tentative topics to be covered:

- Preparation for prayer and attention at prayer
- Prayer as the remembrance of God and the Jesus Prayer
- Spiritual sobriety and vigilance
- The Fear of God and the Love of God
- Seeing one's sins, not one's brother's sins

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

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

CHURCH SCHOOL

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

April 2, 2022 * May 7, 2022 * June 4, 2022

Faith Enrichment Resumes

Faith Enrichment is back. We will hold class for seven weeks, starting on Thursday, February 17th and ending on Thursday, March 31st.

We will be studying the Book of Genesis, using the book by Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon, *Creation and the Patriarchal Histories, Orthodox Christian Reflection on the Book of Genesis.*"

Please arrive by 10:45 AM so that we can start at 11:00 AM.

Contact Subdeacon Leon (440 666-7601) or Reader Paul Pangrace (440 884-3115) for additional information.

Virtual Lenten Retreat

How to Pray? "For if our prayer is right, everything is right." (St. Theophan Recluse)

Saturday March 19, 2022

12:00pm (Eastern) via zoom

Please Register at - <https://forms.gle/qjn74M8CQf41uPv17>

Our Retreat Leader



Archpriest Paul Jannakos is the Rector of St. Luke Parish in Palos Hills IL, and is the Chancellor of the Diocese of the Midwest. He was born in E. St. Louis Ill., and grew up in Golden Colorado. In September of 1976 he began his studies as a pre-theological student at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in NY, also taking courses at Concordia College/NY in Bronxville. In 1980 he graduated from Concordia College with a B.A. in Music. He graduated in 1983 with a M. Div. (cum laude) degree from St. Vladimir's and was married to Michelle (Julylia) Jannakos in Cleveland Ohio, the year before, in 1982.

Fr. Paul was ordained to the holy priesthood on March 3rd, 1985 by Bishop Boris in Chicago at Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral. Since his ordination, Fr. Paul has served in parishes in Minnesota (St. Mary's Cathedral), Montana (St. Nicholas), and Michigan (Sts Peter & Paul, St. Nicholas, and St. Mary Magdalene). After his four children graduated from high school, he began studies in professional counseling at the University of Detroit/Mercy and graduated with a Dual Master Degree (MA) in Counseling (2010). Fr. Paul also works part time as a licensed professional counselor (LPC) for Ethos Counseling Group. He loves to compose music, garden, and fly-fish.

Come Join in the conversation where we will seek to help find answers on "How to Pray" in our busy, stressful, and sometimes difficult times



Sponsored by the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America



*Greater Cleveland Council
Of Orthodox Clergy*

Sunday of Orthodoxy Great Vespers

**March 13, 2022
5:00 P.M.**

First Sunday of the Great Fast

All the Orthodox Parishes in our area will worship together celebrating restoration of icons in the 800s after the iconoclast heresy.

**Saint Matthew the Evangelist
Antiochian Orthodox Church**

10383 Albion Road
North Royalton, OH 44133

**Chief Celebrant and Homilist
His Eminence, the Most Reverend
Michael, Archbishop of New York and
the Diocese of New York & New
Jersey (OCA)**



**Children are invited to bring Icons and
participate in the procession**

Fellowship and refreshments in the Church Hall following the service

PRAYER REQUESTS

3/13/2022



Departed:

Protopresbyter George Hnatko
Gregory Galan

Special Intentions:

Deacon Paul Mitchell (*Tom Mitchell's father*)
Subdeacon Theodore Lentz
Reader Paul Pangrace
Reader Frank Tkacz
Reader Ron Latre (*cousin of Felons*)

Dan Boerio
Jennifer Boerio
Horia Dascalescu (*Lavinia's brother*)
Diane Kearsey (*Janice Tkacz's Sister*)
Janice Tkacz
Eleanor Wachovec (*friend of Karen Felon*)
Rachel Ohlin (*relative of Tatiana*)
Erin Zawolowycz
Mickey O'Brien (*friend of Arlene*)
Joe Czajkowski (*son of Jerry*)
Carol Nielsen (*Paul Pangrace's sister*)
Matthew 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*)
Yvonne "Evie" D'Amico (*friend of SBDN Igor*)
Peter
Andrew Mytrohovich
Greg Galan (*cousin of Betty Balasz, friend of Karen & Subdeacon Darrell Felon*)
Robbie Prock
Gayle Vidovich
Phyllis Gindlesperger
David Magistro (*friend of Reader Eric*)
Jeremy & Yvonne & unborn child

Please submit names to the Prayer List by emailing them to
ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com

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



BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 13

Luke 24:12-35

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

John 1:43-51

Wednesday, March 16

Isaiah 5:16-25

Genesis 4:16-26

Proverbs 5:15-6:3

Saturday, March 19

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

John 5:24-30

Hebrews 3:12-16

Mark 1:35-44

Monday, March 14

Isaiah 4:2-5:7

Genesis 3:21-4:7

Proverbs 3:34-4:22

Thursday, March 17

Isaiah 6:1-12

Genesis 5:1-24

Proverbs 6:3-20

Sunday, March 20

Luke 24:36-53

Hebrews 7:26-8:2

John 10:9-16

Hebrews 1:10-2:3

Mark 2:1-12

Tuesday, March 15

Isaiah 5:7-16

Genesis 4:8-15

Proverbs 5:1-15

Friday, March 18

Isaiah 7:1-15

Genesis 5:32-6:8

Proverbs 6:20-7:1

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, March 13

First Sunday of Great Lent

Sunday of Orthodoxy

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour to follow

Monday, March 14

Ven. Benedict of Nursia (543)

Tuesday, March 15

Martyrs Agapius, Publius (Pausis), Timolaus, Romulus, two named Dionysius, and two named Alexander, at Cæsarea in Palestine (303)

Wednesday, March 16

Martyr Sabinas of Egypt (287)

5:30 PM 9th Hour & Typica

6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy

Potluck to follow (help cleaning up appreciated!)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE 2022



Thursday, March 17

Ven. Aleksy (Alexius) the Man of God (411)

Friday, March 18

Repose of St. Nikolai of Zhicha (1956)

5:30 PM 9th Hour & Typica

6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, March 19

Second Saturday of Lent Memorial Saturday

5:15 PM Memorial Service

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, March 20

Second Sunday of Great Lent

St. Gregory Palamas

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour to follow