

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

733 Starkweather Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

www.sttheodosius.org

Father Jan Cizmar
1(440) 732-8182
st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com

Office Hours TWTh
9AM-2PM, please call ahead

Subdeacon Michael Tabeling,
Sacristan

Subdeacon Igor Gajewsky
Sacristan

Reader Julius Kovach,
Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

Denise "Nisi" Pozderac
dpozderac.tlc@gmail.com
Parish Council President

Mary Swit, Parish Secretary
1(216) 574-4886
StTheodosiusCathedral@protonmail.com
Office Hours MTWTh
10:00AM-2:00PM

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 on website.

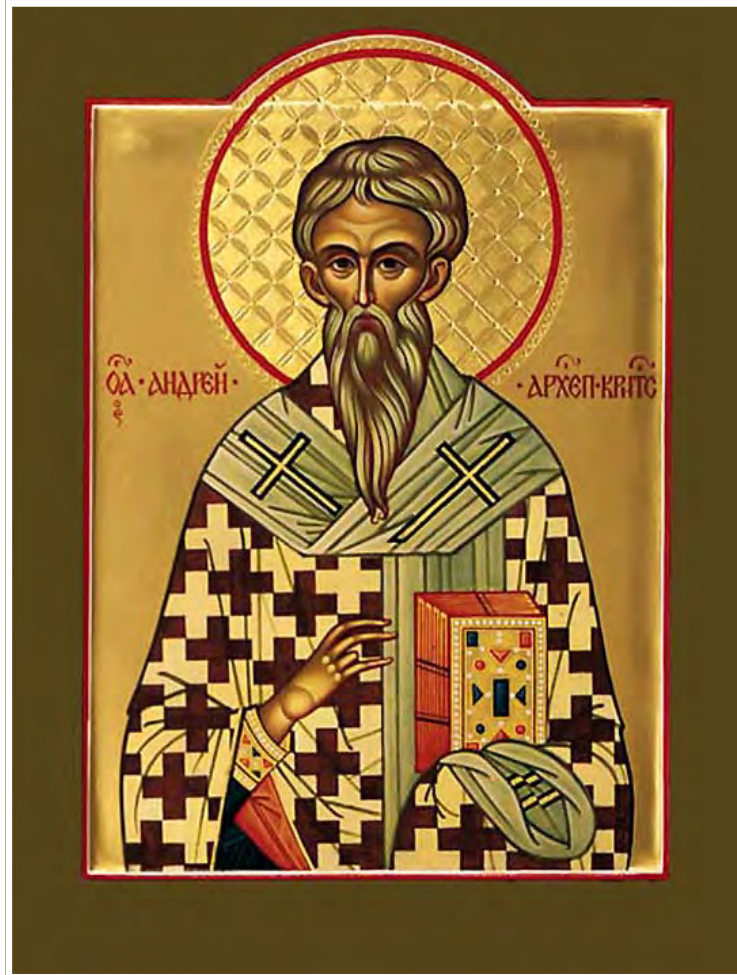
Articles for publication
should be submitted to:

ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com

JULY 2, 2023

4TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

THE PLACING OF THE HONORABLE
ROBE OF THE MOST-HOLY
MOTHER OF GOD AT BLACHERNÆ



Saint Andrew, Archbishop of Crete (July 4), was born in the city of Damascus into a pious Christian family. Up until seven years of age the boy was mute and did not talk. However, after communing the Holy Mysteries of Christ he found the gift of speech and began to speak. And from that time the lad began earnestly to study Holy Scripture and the discipline of theology.

At fourteen years of age he went off to Jerusalem and there he accepted monastic

tonsure at the monastery of Saint Savva the Sanctified. Saint Andrew led a strict and chaste life, he was meek and abstinent, such that all were amazed at his virtue and reasoning of mind. As a man of talent and known for his virtuous life, over the passage of time he came to be numbered among the Jerusalem clergy and was appointed a secretary for the Patriarchate -- a writing clerk. In the year 680 the locum tenens of the Jerusalem Patriarchate, Theodore, included archdeacon Andrew among the representatives of the Holy City sent to the Sixth Ecumenical

Council, and here the saint contended against heretical teachings, relying upon his profound knowledge of Orthodox doctrine. Shortly after the Council he was summoned back to Constantinople from Jerusalem and he was appointed archdeacon at the church of Hagia Sophia, the Wisdom of God. During the reign of the emperor Justinian II (685-695) Saint Andrew was ordained bishop of the city of Gortineia on the island of Crete. In his new position he shone forth as a true luminary of the Church, a great hierarch -- a theologian, teacher and hymnographer.

Saint Andrew composed many inspired writings, including the Great Canon of Repentance which is sung on Monday through Thursday of the first week of Lent, after the usual beginning of Compline, and following Psalm 69/70. In current Greek practice the Great Canon begins after the Doxology. The Great Canon of Repentance includes 250 troparia within its 9 Odes. Before each Troparion of the Canon, we make the Sign of the Cross and bow and sing "Have mercy upon me, O God, have mercy upon me." On Thursday of the fifth week, the Great Canon is sung continuously in its entirety. After Psalm 90/91 "God is with us," is read plain-



ly and without a melody (outside of Great Lent). During Lent, however, the verses are sung slowly by the choir with the refrain "For God is with us" after each verse.¹

Saint Andrew has also composed the Canon for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, three Odes for Compline of Palm Sunday, and also in the first four days of Passion Week, as well as verses for

the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and many other Church hymns. His hymnographic legacy was continued by other great composers of following ages: Saints John of Damascus (December 4), Cosmas of Maiuma (October 12), Joseph the Hymnographer (April 4), Theophánēs the Branded (October 11), etc.

Church historians are not of the same opinion as to the date of death of the saint. One suggests the year 712, while others -- the year

726. He died on the island of Mytilene, while returning to Crete from Constantinople, where he had been on churchly business. His relics were transferred to Constantinople. In the year 1350 the pious Russian pilgrim Stephen Novgorodets saw the relics at the Constantinople monastery named for Saint Andrew of Crete.



Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

26 June 2023

Appearance of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God

№. 82

**ARCHPASTORAL CATECHESIS ON THE OCCASION OF
THE COMMEMORATION OF THE APPEARANCE OF
THE ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD OF TIKHVIN**

Today thy most precious Icon appears in the sky like the ever-radiant sun, O Sovereign Lady, enlightening the world with rays of mercy; and this land, devoutly receiving the divine gift from above, honors thee as the Mistress of all, O Mother of God, magnifying Christ our God, Who was born of thee. Entreat Him, O Sovereign Lady, Queen and Mother of God, to guard all Christian cities and lands unharmed by the assaults of the enemy, and to save those who kneel in faith before His divine, and thy holy image, O unwedded Virgin!

(Troparion, Tone 4)

Beloved in the Lord,

On June 26, the Church commemorates the finding of the Icon of the Mother of God of *Tikhvin*. For the clergy and faithful of the God-protected Diocese of the Midwest, this is a particularly significant commemoration. As most are aware, the Tikhvin Icon sojourned within this Diocese for almost fifty years, finding its temporary home in Chicago before being returned to the Holy Dormition Monastery in Tikhvin in 2004.

The origins of the icon are not recorded in history, although it is traditionally ascribed to the hand of Saint Luke the Apostle and Evangelist, like several other ancient icons of the *Hodigitria* type. It is believed that the icon was brought from Jerusalem to Constantinople in the fifth century. During the period of the iconoclastic controversy, it was taken to the Monastery of the *Pantocrator* for safekeeping, and afterwards it became one of the most widely venerated icons in the Imperial City. Eventually it disappeared from the church where it had been kept, reappearing over the lands of Rus' in 1383. Fishermen at work near Lake Ladoga saw how the icon appeared to traverse the skies; it was seen in over seven different locations in all until it finally settled by the banks of the Tikhvinka river, near the small village of Tikhvin in the region of Great Novgorod. Soon a wooden church dedicated to the Dormition of the Mother of God was built in that

place. In just over a century, this church burned to the ground three separate times, with the icon surviving unharmed each time. A stone church was finally built in 1507, around which grew the monastery and city walls that stand to this day. The holy and wonderworking Icon of the Mother of God of *Tikhvin* was placed on the right pillar of the beautiful and impressive church, where it remained for over four hundred years, becoming as widely venerated in the lands of Rus' as it had once been in the great City of Constantine.

Though the monastery was occasionally occupied by foreign powers over the centuries and was ultimately closed by the Soviets in the mid 1920s, the icon itself was not disturbed, and its presence remained a source of consolation for the Christian faithful in times of need and distress. During the Second World War, however, the city of Tikhvin was briefly seized by the Nazis, and with their departure the miraculous icon seemingly went lost. Some say the icon was then seen in 1944 in one of the antiques shops occupied by the Germans in Riga, Latvia. The icon eventually came into the possession of Bishop John (Garklavs) of Riga. Forced to leave Latvia that same year by way of the former Czechoslovakia and West Germany, Bishop John frequently brought the holy icon to displaced persons camps as a blessing and sign of hope for those whose lives had been upended by the war. When Bishop John made his way to the United States in 1949, he again brought the icon with him, ultimately making the Chicagoland its home in the New World. For over half a century thereafter, the icon traveled throughout the Midwest and elsewhere in the United States.

By God's will, with the restoration of Church life in the former Soviet Union, the original wonderworking icon was returned to its historic place in Tikhvin's newly reopened Holy Dormition Monastery in July 2004. Archbishop Paul, of blessed memory, went on pilgrimage to Tikhvin in 2016. Later, during a return visit to Chicago from Bishop Mstislav of Tikhvin, our Diocese was presented with an exact replica of the original icon. The replica, including its masterfully crafted metal cover, had been touched to and blessed upon the original icon before it was brought to Chicago, where it is enshrined at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Mother Church of our Diocese.

As we reflect upon the amazing history of the icon and of its miraculous preservation throughout the centuries, we cannot help but acknowledge that, even from the time of its origins, the Tikhvin Icon has been on pilgrimage, traveling to where the intercession and prayers and comfort of the Holy *Theotokos* were most needed. Latvia, Central and Western Europe, North America: all of these are now included among the traditional places visited by this highly revered image of the Mother of God.

The traveling nature of the icon should be of no surprise to us. Indeed, the Most Holy *Theotokos* is revealed as a traveler and sojourner, even in the Gospels. We recall Saint Luke's account of the Annunciation. As soon as the angel brought the glad tidings that

she was chosen to be the mother of the Son of God and that her kinswoman Elizabeth was expecting a child in her old age, “...Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth” (*St Luke 1:39-40*). She went where she was needed.

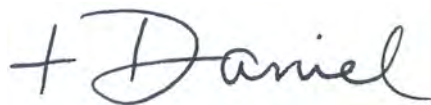
Jerusalem, Constantinople, Tikhvin, Riga, New York, Chicago, Summit Argo, and many other places known and unknown are included among the many locations graced by the visitation of this wonderworking icon of the Mother of God. It has resided in monasteries, churches, and family homes. It has called upon displaced persons in deportation camps, youth gatherings, and church gatherings of all types. In this we see the Mother of God traveling to places where her presence and intercession is most needed, just as she did when she visited her cousin Elizabeth.

As we commemorate the appearance of this wonderworking icon, let us, each and all, invite Mary of Nazareth, our Sovereign Lady who is also our Mother, into our homes and families, into our parish communities, and into our hearts. It is my prayer that the Most Pure *Theotokos* and Ever-Virgin Mary, venerated in all her holy icons and invoked in all her titles, will bless and protect our Diocese, its clergy and faithful, and all your families and loved ones.

*O people, let us hasten to the Virgin Theotokos and Queen,
giving thanks to Christ our God,
And looking upon her miraculous image with contrition,
let us fall down and cry out to her:
O Mary, our Sovereign Lady, who visit this land
in the miraculous appearance of thy precious image,
save all the Christians in peace and prosperity,
showing us as heirs of the heavenly life.
For to thee do we cry out with faith:
Rejoice, O Virgin, the salvation of the world!
(Kontakion, Tone 8).*

Invoking God’s blessing upon you all, I remain,

Your servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned centrally below the printed name.

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest



Upcoming Social Events



July 23rd- Church Picnic

August 15th- Altar Society Dinner

September 10th- Patron Saints Day Banquet

October 5th- Wine Tasting Event



November 5th- Chili Cook Off



December 17th- Christmas Choir
Concert

Don't forget to mark your calendars! More specific details for all events will be shared when they become available.

ST. MATTHEW'S

HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT

PANORTHODOX HOMESCHOOL GROUP

FRIDAYS 9:30-1:30

Classes run August-April

Ages 0-13

Mommy and Me

Preschool

Primary School

Catechism

Science

Language

Arts and more

St. Matthew's Orthodox Church - North Royalton
Contact Olivia Harmon @ oharmon15@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

as of 7/2/2023

Deceased

Stephan

John

Tibor

Special Intentions:

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Subdeacon Roger Pinta

Reader Paul Pangrace

Reader Frank Tkacz

Stephan Chwalyk

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

Carol Nielsen (*Paul Pangrace's sister*)

Virginia Medvec

Jeffrey Parhamovich (*brother of Karen Felon*)

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

Margaret Peyton (*Cathy's aunt*)

Jean Woycitzky Thompson (*Frank's cousin*)

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

Debra Parhamovich (*sister of Karen Felon*)

Grace Mary Parhamovich (*mother of Karen Felon*)

Gayle Vidovich

Elizabeth Balasz

Christina Hile (*Nisi & Cindy's sister*)

Lonnie Ellis (*Husband to Debra Ellis*)

Robert Martin Prock

Valentina Zawolowycz (*mother of Paul Z*)

Michael and Nichole Zolikoff and unborn child

Mark

Michael Kapeluck (*friend of Cathy*)

Elena Rich (*Daughter of Jerry*)

Edward Aleerty

Jack Zimmerman – (*Uncle to Cindy Zdinak, Nisi Pozdarec and Father John Zdinak*)

Robert McKay (*friend of Andrew Myrtrohovic*)

Matej, Anrea, Julia, Jana and family

Please submit names to the Prayer List by emailing them to Fr. Jan Cizmar
st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com

Or calling at 1(440) 732-8182

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

ST. THEODOSIUS IS 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>



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 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. 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

Return of the **Parish Picnic!** (Note: Date Correction)

July 23rd, 2023 following Divine Liturgy at St. Theodosius Parish Hall in Tremont. Meat and Beverages provided, Bring sides and deserts (and a change of clothes). Sing up sheet is in the Vestibule and Parish Hall.



Sunday, July 2

4th Sunday of Pentecost
The Placing of the Honorable Robe of
the Most-holy Mother of God
at Blachernæ (5th c.)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

Monday, July 3

Martyr Hyacinth of Cæsarea in Capadocia (108)

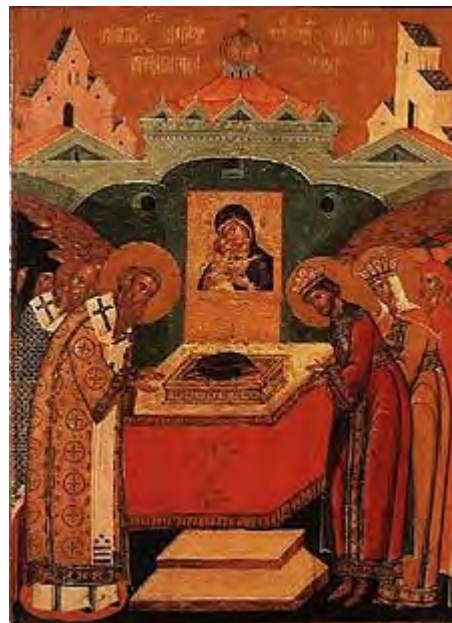
Tuesday, July 4

St. Andrew, Archbishop of Crete (712)

Wednesday, July 5

Ven. Athanasius, Founder of the Great Lavra and Cœnobitic Monasticism on Mt. Athos, and his six disciples (1000)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE 2023



Thursday, July 6

Ven. Sisoës the Great (429)

Friday, July 7

Ven. Thomas of Mount Maleós (10th c.)

Saturday, July 8

The SITKA Icon of the Mother of God
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, July 9

5th Sunday of Pentecost
Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily (1st c.)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour