

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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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

NOVEMBER 17, 2024

21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ST. GREGORY,
WONDERWORKER OF
NEO-CÆSAREA



Entrance of the Virgin Mary in the Temple



According to Holy Tradition, the **Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple** took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin

reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stair-

way. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said Saint Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the

Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian."

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa, in the fourth century, also mentions this Feast. In the eighth century Saints Germanus and Tarasius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, delivered sermons on the Feast of the Entry.

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.

THE 2024 MERRICK HOUSE ANGEL TREE IS UP!

There were concerns it might not happen, but there are 20 names to choose from!

Please - PLEASE - **write your name and the child's name on the sheet.**

Suggested gift amount is ~\$40 (more if you're so inclined).

Wrapped and labeled gifts must be at church no later than Dec. 8!

Distribution will be at Merrick House on Thursday Dec. 12 at 6:30PM.

Please consider making a less-fortunate child happy at Christmas.

See Dan Morris with any questions.

Thank you, and may God bless you!

Thanks, -Dan



CATECHESIS FALL 2024

WEDNESDAYS AFTER THE AKATHIST

11/20	<p>The Sacraments (Mysteries) of the Church (Part 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Mystery of Holy Priesthood• The Mystery of Holy Matrimony• The Mystery of Holy Unction• The Mystery of Death and the Funeral
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Time to Bake for the Annual Christmas Cookie Walk

The Altar Society will sponsor the cookie sale on **Friday, December 13th** and **Saturday, December 14th**. We need your help to bake your favorite Christmas cookie for the sale. The sign-up sheet is posted in the parish hall.

If you have any questions,
call Susan Lentz 216-258-8048,
or Joyce Tabeling 216-408-7187



In Memoriam: Archbishop Peter of Chicago and Mid-America

CHICAGO, IL [DOM] – His Eminence Archbishop Peter of Chicago and Mid-America of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia reposed in the Lord today, November 8, 2024.

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest expresses his condolences to His Eminence Metropolitan Nikolai, First Hierarch of the Church Abroad, Archpriest Gregory Joyce, Secretary of the Mid-American Diocese, and the all of the clergy, monastics, and faithful of Mid-American Diocese.

In a memo to diocesan clergy, the Archbishop reflected on the good relationship that the Diocese of the Midwest shared with the reposed hierarch, “Vladyka Peter has been a constant friend and supporter to me, to my predecessors and to our diocesan clergy. I ask that he be remembered in your prayers, both privately and liturgically.”

A memorial service was held at the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL, shortly after the news was received.

May the Lord grant His servant, the newly-reposed Archbishop Peter, rest with the saints in the Kingdom of Heaven and memory eternal! Funeral services will be announced once they are available.

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest,

The Lord bless you!

After Our Lord's Resurrection, He commanded the Apostles to make disciples of all nations, promising to be with them until the end of the age (*St Matthew 28:18-20*). This Great Commission has been passed down through the ages as generations of Orthodox Christians bore witness to the Gospel message of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Today, it is our common responsibility within the territory of the Diocese of the Midwest to fulfill Our Lord's command. Since becoming your Archbishop, I have listened and observed during parish visits, taking account of what you need to be the Church and make disciples, while seeing many wonderful examples of how the Holy Spirit is at work in our parish communities.

I have met seniors, youth, families, and individuals in parishes small and large, all filled with the desire to grow closer to Our Lord. I have encountered both lifelong and newly-Chrismated Orthodox, all being cared for by our clergy. I am grateful that all of you daily accept the call to take up your Cross and follow Christ, and especially I give thanks to Almighty God for the desire of so many to be faithful Orthodox Christians in today's uncertain world.

For this reason, our Diocese has invested considerable time and resources over the past year to prepare the organizational plan which was adopted during the 63rd Annual Diocesan Assembly this past October. The vision and goal of this plan is to build upon the work of those who have gone before us, while leveraging the talents, skills, knowledge, and experiences of today's diocesan membership to grow the Faith in our vast diocesan territory. We can now leverage technology for new resources and to collaborate virtually, effectively reaching across the breadth of our Diocese to provide the spiritual resources and programs necessary to fulfill the Great Commission in every parish and monastic community.

Our organizational plan is grounded in Scripture and begins with our newly adopted diocesan mission statement:

Uniting the faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest to discover a Christ-centered life, welcoming all to worship and live in the Orthodox Christian Faith.

This mission statement defines the focus of our new diocesan organizational plan, including the establishment of new departments for Evangelization, Christian Education, Christian Service & Humanitarian Aid, Liturgical Practice, Communications, and Clergy & Clergy Family Life.

This mission statement is also a call for each of us to recommit to our role of being bearers of Christ in our daily lives. By living in this way, we all fulfill the Great Commission, showing those around us the joy and radiance of following Jesus Christ in the fullness of the Orthodox Faith.

As you prepare for the beginning of the Nativity Fast, I encourage you to find renewed focus in anticipation of the coming of Our Lord, and to gather in your parish communities for discussion and reflection that will identify:

- how your parish is successful in living out the Great Commission; and

- where there are opportunities to do more, or simply begin anew.

By organizing such informal gatherings during this season, we can turn from the hustle and bustle of our consumer-driven society and focus again on the majesty and innocence of the Incarnation of Our Savior. We can also give serious consideration to how our parishes can be places where members and seekers can encounter the divine.

When you gather to complete this [self-assessment for your parish](#), I encourage you to identify things that are working well, opportunities for improvement, and ideas for growing closer to Jesus Christ. Use the self-assessment to identify what your parish has set forth as goals, projects, activities, and service ministries. **Please complete this form by Monday, Dec. 16, and submit it online.**

Our Diocesan Chancellor, Archpriest Herman Kincaid, will gather your insights and ideas, sharing them with the directors of our new departments. Beginning in January 2025, these departmental directors will commence working with their teams to connect parishes with individuals who are able to develop the resources needed in our communities.

In the coming weeks, our diocesan website will be updated to feature information about each department, the newly appointed directors, and how to contact them. They will rely on the information you share—both the successes and the opportunities—to begin assembling teams drawn from parishes across the Diocese to work collaboratively and wisely to build up the Body of Christ together by the work of ministry (*Ephesians 4:12*).

The clergy in each parish should also ensure that the contact information for your ministry leaders is up to date and on file with the Diocese, so that our departments can effectively communicate with parish leaders responsible for music, church school, mission and outreach, and charitable programs in your parishes. Please update this information [through the reporting website](#), or [forward to the Diocesan Chancery](#).

As Orthodox Christians of the Diocese of the Midwest, we are called to follow the example of the Apostles who gathered in council together (*Acts 15:28-29*), like them identifying the work set before us, and then putting our faith into action by being witnesses in our local communities (*Acts 14:21-22*).

The fields are white for harvest in the Diocese of the Midwest, and I firmly believe that Our Lord is inviting us to accept the call to be His witnesses—from the Dakotas to the Great Lakes, and from the Plains to the Ohio River Valley.

I pray that you will be inspired and motivated by what I have shared here, and that working together to enliven the Orthodox Faith in our parishes and in our local communities, one day we may hear Our Lord say: “Well done, good and faithful servant” (*St Matthew 25:21*).

Invoking God’s blessings upon our efforts, I remain,

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

PRAYER REQUESTS

as of 11/17/2024

Deceased

Donna Fabris (*Jerry Czajkowski's friend*)

Margaret Peyton (*Cathy's aunt*)

Special Intentions:

Archpriest Jason Kappanadze

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Subdeacon Roger Pinta

Subdeacon Leon Felon

Subdeacon Peter Nicholas Zolikoff

Reader Frank Tkacz

Reader Daniel Morris

Stephan Chwalyk

Horia Dascalescu (*Lavinia's brother*)

Janice Tkacz

Eleanor Wachovec (*friend of Karen Felon*)

Rachel Ohlin (*relative of Tatiana*)

Erin Zawolowycz

Jeffrey Parhamovich

(brother of Karen Felon)

Margaret Parhamovich

(sister-in-law of Karen Felon)

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)

Lonnie Ellis (*Husband to Debra Ellis*)

Robert Martin Prock

Valentina Zawolowycz (*mother of Paul Z*)

Child McKenna Kranek

Elizabeth and **Michael** Prendergast and their **unborn child**

Betty Balasz

Jeremy, Yvonne, and Unborn Child

Herman Leslie Levin

Russell Schafer

Sonia Vorell

Ivan Lavrisiuk

Elisabeth Lavrisiuk

Elena Rich

Kevin Hunley

Beth Carson

Gregory Jakubisin

Phyllis Gindlesberger

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>



The holy Prophet Obadiah—November 19th The holy Prophet Obadiah [or Abdia] is the fourth of the Twelve Minor Prophets, and he lived during the ninth century B.C. He was from the village of Betharam, near Sichem, and he served as steward of the impious Israelite King Ahab. In those days the whole of Israel had turned away from the true God and had begun to offer sacrifice to Baal, but Obadiah faithfully served the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in secret.

Sunday, November 17

21st Sunday after Pentecost
St. Gregory, Wonderworker of Neo-Cæsarea (ca. 266-270)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

Monday, November 18

Martyr Plato of Ancyra (ca. 306)

Tuesday, November 19

Prophet Obadiah (Abdia—9th c. B.C.)
6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 20

Forefeast of the Entry Into the Temple of the Most-holy Theotokos
Ven. Gregory the Decapolite (816)
6:00 PM Great Vespers
The Sacraments (Mysteries) of the Church

Thursday, November 21

The Entry of the Most-Holy Theotokos into the Temple

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

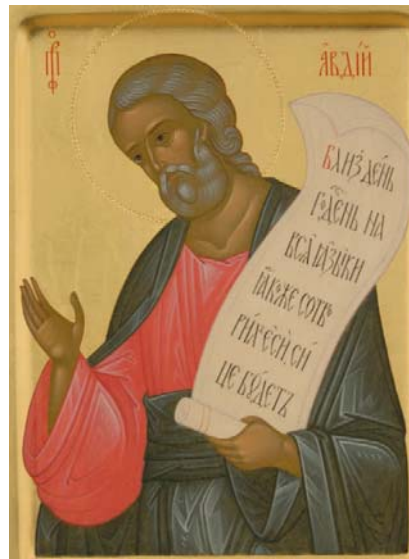
Friday, November 22

Afterfeast of the Entry Into the Temple
Apostles of the Seventy Philemon and Archippus, Martyr Apphia, wife of Philemon and Equal-to-the-Apostles, and Onesimus, disciple of St. Paul (1st c.)

Saturday, November 23

Afterfeast of the Entry Into the Temple
Repose of Rt. Bly. Great Prince Alexander Nevsky, in schema Aleksy (1263)
6:00 PM Great Vespers

BIWEEKLY SCHEDULE 2024



The holy Prophet
Obadiah
(November 19)

Sunday, November 24

Afterfeast of the Entry Into the Temple
Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria (305-313)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
FOCA meeting to follow

Monday, November 25

Leavetaking of the Entry Into the Temple
Saint Clement of Ochrid, Equal of the Apostles, Bishop of Greater Macedonia, and his companions Nahum, Savva, Gorazd and Angelar (916)

Tuesday, November 26

The Righteous Gideon. Ven. Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis (7th c.)

Wednesday, November 27

Greatmartyr James the Persian (421)
6:00 PM Thanksgiving Akathist

Thursday, November 28

Monastic Martyr and Confessor Stephen the New of Mt. St. Auxentius, Martyrs Basil, Stephen, two Gregories, John, Andrew, Peter, Anna, and many others (767)

Friday, November 29

Martyr Paramon and 370 Martyrs in Bithynia (250)

Saturday, November 30

Holy and All-praised Apostle Andrew the First-called (62)

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, December 1

23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Venerable Botolph of Iken (7th c.)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour