

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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Sacristan

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Sacristan

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Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

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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

DECEMBER 8, 2024

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

362 MARTYRS
OF AFRICA



The Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos by Saint Anna (Dec 9)

The Gospels and other books of the New Testament do not mention anything about Saint Anna, the mother of the Theotokos. According to Tradition, the priest Matthan (Matthew 1:15), a resident of Bethlehem, had three daughters: Mary,¹ Sobe (Sobé), and Anna. Mary was married in Bethlehem, where she gave birth to Elizabeth, the mother of Saint John the Baptist.

The Holy Righteous Anna was the

youngest daughter of the priest Matthan, who was from the tribe of Levi, of the family of Aaron. Her husband, the Holy Righteous Joachim was from the tribe of Judah, from the house and family of King David. According to the ancient promise, the Messiah was to come from the lineage of King David (Luke 2:4).

The couple lived in Nazareth of Galilee. Every year, they gave two-thirds of their income to the Temple in Jerusalem, and to the poor. By God's Providence, the holy couple had no children until their old age. They were greatly saddened by this, since the Jews considered childlessness a

great misfortune and a punishment from God. They prayed fervently for the Lord to give them children.

On a certain feast, when the Israelites were bringing gifts to God in the Temple at Jerusalem, the High Priest, believing that the childless Joachim did not have God's blessing, refused to accept gifts from him. Saint Joachim was grief stricken. He consulted the genealogy of the twelve tribes of Israel and ascertained that all righteous men had offspring, including Abraham, when he was a hundred years old. Without returning home, Saint Joachim went into the wilderness and spent forty days there in strict fasting and prayer, entreating God's mercy for himself, and washing away his disgrace with bitter tears.

Saint Anna thought that she was to blame for their sorrow. One day saw a nest with barely fledged chicks in the branches of a laurel tree, she wept and prayed for the gift of a child, promising to bring the infant to God as an offering. As soon as Saint Anna spoke these words, an Angel of the Lord told her that her prayer had been answered, and revealed that she would have a daughter named Mary, through whom all the peoples of the world would be blessed. Rejoicing, Saint Anna hastened to the Temple in Jerusalem, in order to give thanks to God. She repeated her vow to dedicate the child to Him. An Angel came to Saint Joachim in the wilderness with the same news and commanded him to go to Jerusalem. There, the Righteous Anna conceived and gave birth to the Most Holy Theotokos.

The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as Saint Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter Two of his Commentary on the Gospel of Saint Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although she committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, She would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

Saint Anna has been honored since ancient times. We infer this from various Fathers of the Church, and also from ancient hymns in honor of the mother of the Theotokos. In the year 550, Emperor Justinian dedicated a temple in Constantinople to Saint Anna.

Part of the Saint's left hand is located in Stavronikita Monastery on Mount Athos. Part of the Saint's incorrupt left foot is located in Saint Anna's Skete on Mount Athos. Part of the Saint's incorrupt right foot is located in the Monastery of Koutloumousiou on Mount Athos.

Fragments of the Saint's Holy Relics are to be found in Saint Anna's Monastery at Lygaria in Lammia, and also in the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian at Sourotis.

Some of the Saint's incorrupt flesh is in the Roman Catholic International Crusaders Collection of Holy Relics. The Saint's wrist is to be found in the Roman Catholic church of Saint Paul "Outside the Walls" in Rome.

Many icons of the Conception by Saint Anna show the Most Holy Theotokos trampling the serpent underfoot. Saints Joachim and Anna are usually depicted with hands folded in prayer; their eyes are also directed upward and they contemplate the Mother of God, who stands in the air with outstretched hands; under her feet is an orb encircled by a serpent (symbolizing the devil), which strives to conquer the universe by its power."

There are also icons in which Saint Anna holds the Most Holy Virgin on her left arm as an infant. On Saint Anna's face is a look of reverence. A large ancient icon, painted on canvas, is located in the village of Minkovetsa in the Dubensk district of Volhynia Diocese. From ancient times this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women in Russia.

¹ This Mary is the mother of Saint Anna, and the grandmother of the Theotokos. She is commemorated on the Sunday of the Forefathers.

Coffee Hour Sign-Up

Questions/Concerns: Cathy Weber (412-215-1928)

October 6

Cathy and Tammy

October 13

Sarah and Mike Brennan

October 20

Gayle and Wayne

October 27

Joyce Tabeling and Judy Schwind

November 3

Mat. Jana

November 10

Mat. Cindy and Nikol

November 17

Georgi and Lina

November 24

Joyce Tabeling and Judy Schwind

December 1

Dan and Lavinia

December 8

Mat. Jana

December 15

Mary Swit

December 22

Shawna Whitlock and Cathy

December 29

Shawna Whitlock

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



THE 2024 MERRICK HOUSE ANGEL TREE IS A SUCCESS!

Thank you so very much to all who made the Merrick House Angel Tree project successful!

All the tags were taken *in under 24 hours*.

All wrapped and labeled gifts are **due at church** no later than **Sunday Dec. 8**.

Distribution will be at **Merrick House (1050 Starkweather) on Thursday Dec. 12 at 6:30PM.**

All are invited!

Thank you again, and may God richly bless you.

If you took the tag for Rafadija Limani, please contact Dan Morris ASAP

(if you already have, thank you)

(440 409-6556)

Thanks, -Dan





Theotokos of Vladimir

**EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD
OF GREATER CLEVELAND**

UNITY THROUGH PARTICIPATION

**Saturday, December 14, 2024
@ 10:00 A.M.**

**Archangel Michael Russian Orthodox Church
5025 Mill Road
Broadview Hts., OH 44147**

Matthew 25:35-36, 40

For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me... as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.



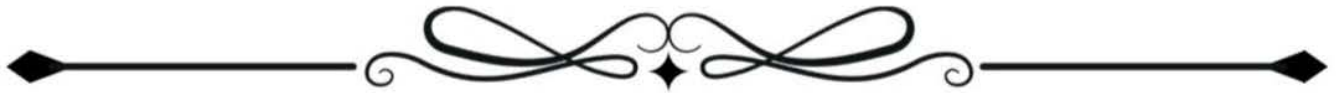
**INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHARITIES**

Helping others help themselves

- Fellowship and Advent Brunch
- **Presentation by Diane Hastings**
- **IOCC – Cleveland Chapter and domestic missions**

Enjoy time with other EOWG members as Diane presents a power point showing the missions that the IOCC is providing here in the States.

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE RUSSIAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND



Friday, January 24, 2025

St. Michael's Woodside Party Center
5025 E. Mill Rd, Broadview Heights, Ohio



Scan the QR code
to order tickets online!

- COCKTAILS FROM 7:30-8:00 PM
- DINNER FROM 8:00-9:00 PM
- DANCING FROM 9:00-12:30 AM

OPEN BAR

Formal Attire Requested

**MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT BY
MOSCOW NIGHTS
WITH DJ AFTER DINNER**



Adult: \$100
(\$120 after January 10th)

Student: \$70
(\$90 after January 10th)

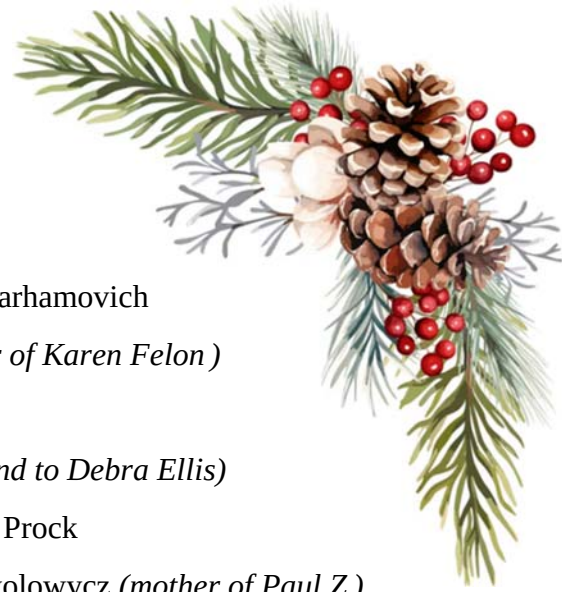
Tickets will not be sold at the door

Raffle lottery to benefit the
St. Theodosius Restoration Fund

For questions and to pay by check/cash
contact Nick Rodzianko
nrodzianko@gmail.com
216-509-1897

PRAYER REQUESTS

as of 12/8/2024



Deceased

Margaret Peyton (Cathy's aunt)

James Timko (*Lauren Eppel's uncle*)

Special Intentions:

Archpriest Jason Kappanadze

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Subdeacon Roger Pinta

Subdeacon Leon Felon

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 Lavrasiuk

Elisabeth Lavrasiuk

Elena Rich

Beth Carson

Gregory Jakubisin

Phyllis Gindlesperger

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 Prophetess Hannah dwelt in marriage with Elkanah, but she was childless. Elkanah took to himself another wife, Phennena, who bore him children. Hannah grieved strongly over her misfortune, and every day she prayed for an end to her barrenness, and vowed to dedicate her child to God. Once, as she prayed fervently in the Temple, the priest Heli thought that she was drunk, and he began to reproach her. But the saint poured out her grief, and after she received a blessing, she returned home. After this Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, whom she named Samuel (which means "Asked from God"). When the child reached the age of boyhood, the mother herself presented him to the priest Heli, and Samuel remained with him to serve before the Tabernacle (1 Kings/1 Samuel 2: 1-21).

Sunday, December 8

24th Sunday after Pentecost
362 Martyrs of Africa
(62 Clergy and 300 Laypeople) (475)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
Informational Meeting and Diocesan Ministry Meeting to follow

Monday, December 9

Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos by Saint Anna

Tuesday, December 10

Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugegraphus, of Alexandria (ca. 313)
6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 11

Ven. Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople (489-490)
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Akathist to St. Herman

Thursday, December 12

Saint Mardarije (Uskokovic) of Libertyville (1935)

Friday, December 13

Repose of Ven. Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America (1837)
Divine Liturgy at St. Herman House
5:00 PM—8:00 PM Christmas Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 14

Martyrs Thyrsos, Leukios, and Kallinikos (249-51)
11:00 AM—1:00 PM Christmas Cookie Walk
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, December 15

25th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Forefathers

BIWEEKLY SCHEDULE 2024



Prophetess Hannah
the mother of the
Prophet Samuel
(December 9)

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

Monday, December 16

Prophet Haggai (Aggæus—50 B.C.)

Tuesday, December 17

Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misael (600 B.C.)

Wednesday, December 18

Martyr Sebastian at Rome and his companions (ca. 287)

Thursday, December 19

Martyr Boniface at Tarsus in Cilicia, and Righteous Aglaïa of Rome (290)
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Daily Vespers

Friday, December 20

Forefast of the Nativity of Christ
Repose of St. John of Kronstadt (1908)
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Daily Vespers & 1st Royal Hour

Saturday, December 21

Forefast of the Nativity of Christ
Saturday before the Nativity
Virgin Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia, and with her 500 men and 130 women (304)
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, December 22

26th Sunday after Pentecost
Forefast of the Nativity of Christ
Sunday before the Nativity
Great Martyr Anastasia
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour