

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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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

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

32ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND
SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
IN THE TEMPLE



The Meeting of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is described in the third Gospel (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the Divine Child was brought to the Temple at Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple for forty days. At the end of the time of her purification, the mother went to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb, two turtledoves, or pigeons to the Lord as a sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity. Out of humility, however, she fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he beheld the promised Messiah. By divine inspiration, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Child Jesus to fulfill the Law.



Saint Simeon received the divine Child in his arms,¹ and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was an 84-year-old widow, Saint Anna the Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel (February 3), "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day." She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the Divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

Before Christ was born, the righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous persons of the Old Testament,

were deemed worthy to meet Him in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons by the holy bishops Methodios of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilokhios of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the VI century.

In 528, during the reign of Justinian, an earthquake killed many people in Antioch. Other misfortunes followed this one. In 541 a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople, carrying off several thousand people each day. During this time of widespread suffering, a solemn prayer service (Litia) for deliverance from evils was celebrated on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and the plague ceased. Giving thanks to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast.

Church hymnographers have adorned this Feast with their hymns: Saint Andrew of Crete in the VII century; Saint Cosmas Bishop of Maium, Saint John of Damascus, and Saint Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople in the VIII century; and Saint Joseph, Archbishop of Thes-

saloniki in the IX century.

Today we also commemorate the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as “the Softening of Evil Hearts” or “Simeon’s Prophecy.” The Mother of God is depicted without her Child, and seven swords piercing her breast: three from the left side, three from the right, and one from below.

A similar Icon, “Of the Seven Swords” (August 13) shows three swords on the left side and four from the right. The “Softening of Evil Hearts” Is also commemorated on August 13.

The Icon “Simeon’s Prophecy” symbolizes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the righteous Elder Simeon: “a sword shall pierce through your own soul” (Luke 2:35).

In Constantinople, the Emperors would celebrate the Feast Day at the Blakhernae church during the All-Night Vigil. This custom continued until the Fall of the Byzantine Empire.

¹ For this reason, he is known as the God-Receiver (Θεοδόχος).

ALTAR SOCIETY

Next Meeting: 2/9 after Coffee Hour

2nd Sunday of each month:

3/9, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8

JOIN THE ALTAR SOCIETY!

\$10 Membership

See Joyce Labeling for details



Women's Social Night

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Michelangelo's Winery

5515 Broadview Road, Richfield

6:30pm

Please contact Sarah Brennan to let her know you'll be joining!

Txt 330-620-0365 or sarah.e.brennan.1@gmail.com

Coffee Hour Quarter 1 2025

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

January 5 Tammy & Mary	February 2 Mat. Jana, (sponsored by	TBA)
January 12 Wayne Vidovich & Shawna Whitlock	February 9 Sarah & Mike Brennan	March 9 Sarah & Mike Brennan
January 19 Joyce Labeling & Judy Schwind	February 16 Cathy & Tammy	March 16 Georgi & Tsvetelina Galevi (Sponsored by William Lynk)
January 26 Mat. Zdinak & Nikol Gammalo	February 23 (Meatfare) Shawna Whitlock (Sponsored by William Lynk)	March 23 Joyce Labeling & Judy Schwind
	March 2 PARISH POTLUCK (details	March 30 Mat. Jana

Tremont
FILM

Screening of:



THE DEER HUNTER

The 1978 Oscar-winning classic filmed right here in our neighborhood.

Presented By:
The Tremont History Project

-  **SATURDAY, FEB. 15TH 2025**
-  **DOORS OPEN @ 4:30 PM**
FILM STARTS @ 5:00 PM
-  **Pilgrim Church - 2592 W 14th Street**

Tickets are available now and seating is limited, so be sure to register early!

Scan the QR Code or visit:
bit.ly/Deer_Hunter



Experience Tremont
HISTORY

PRAYER REQUESTS

as of 2/2/2025



Deceased

Jose Cortes

Eugene

Valentine Winnyk

Donna Jacak

Stephan Chwalyk

Robert Starr

Grace Mary Parhamovich

(mother of Karen Felon)

Special Intentions:

Archpriest Jason Kappanadze

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Subdeacon Roger Pinta

Subdeacon Leon Felon

Reader Frank Tkacz

Reader Daniel Morris

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)

Debra Parhamovich *(sister of Karen Felon)*

Robert Martin Prock

Valentina Zawolowycz *(mother of Paul Z)*

Child McKenna Kranek

Betty Balasz

Jeremy, Yvonne, and Unborn Child

Herman Leslie Levin

Russell Schafer

Sonia Vorell

Ivan Lavrisiuk

Elisabeth Lavrisiuk

Phyllis Gindlesperger

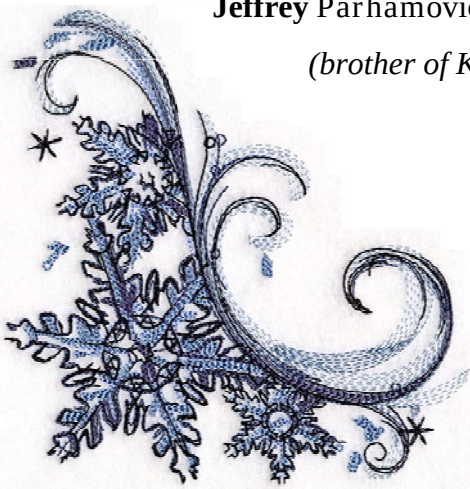
Daniela Raisovich

Alexander Medvec

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>



Boys' Night Out!

Gents, save the date! **Meatfare Sunday, Feb. 23, 5PM**, we will have another Boy's Night Out.

Location TBD

See Dan Morris if you're interested!



Sunday, February 2

32nd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday of Zacchaeus

The Meeting of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Temple

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

Informational Meeting to Follow

Monday, February 3

Afterfeast of the Meeting

Holy and Righteous Simeon the God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess

Tuesday, February 4

Afterfeast of the Meeting

Ven. Isidore of Pelusium (ca. 436-440)

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Wednesday, February 5

Afterfeast of the Meeting

Rest of St. Theodosius of Chernigov (1696)

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Thursday, February 6

Afterfeast of the Meeting

St. Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna (ca. 100)

Friday, February 7

Afterfeast of the Meeting

St. Parthenios, Bishop of Lampsakos (4th c.)

Saturday, February 8

Afterfeast of the Meeting

Greatmartyr Theodore Stratelates

("the General" 319)

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, February 9

33rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Beginning of the Lenten Triodion

BIWEEKLY SCHEDULE 2025



The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he "sought to see who Jesus was" (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Leavetaking of the Meeting
Martyr Nikephoros of Antioch in Syria
(ca. 257)

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

Monday, February 10

St. Ioannikios, Father Confessor of the Dormition Holy Mountain Hermitage. Hieromartyr Haralambos, Bishop of Magnesia in Thessaly, and Martyrs Porphyrius, Baptus and three women Martyrs (202)

Tuesday, February 11

Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste
(ca. 316)

Wednesday, February 12

St. Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch (381)

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Akathist to the Holy Theotokos

Thursday, February 13

St. Seraphima (Sezhenovo, Russia—1877)

Friday, February 14

Ven. Auxentius of Bithynia (ca. 470)

Saturday, February 15

Apostle of the Seventy Onesimus (ca. 109)

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, February 16

34th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

St. Nicholas, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Archbishop of Japan (1912)

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour