

# Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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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](http://ambo-theodosius)

[@googlegroups.com](mailto:@googlegroups.com)

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY OF THE  
LAST JUDGMENT



Saint Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn  
(+1915)

Proclamation on the Glorification  
of Our Holy Father Bishop  
RAPHAEL (30-Apr-2000)

Our holy Father Raphael was born in Syria in 1860 to pious Orthodox parents, Michael Hawaweeny and his second wife Mariam, the daughter of a priest of Damascus. The exact date of Raphael's birth is not known, but he estimated it to be on or near his Name Day, the Synaxis of the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel and all the Bodiless Powers of Heaven (November 8). Due to the violent persecution of Christians, at which time their parish priest, Saint Joseph of Damascus (July 10) and his companions were martyred, the Hawaweeny family was forced to flee to Beirut for their safety.

On December 8, 1885, he was ordained to the diaconate at the school chapel. In July of 1886, the young deacon received his Certificate of Theology, and returned to his homeland in the hope of serving the Church there. Patriarch Gerasimus of Antioch was impressed with Deacon Raphael, and often took him along on his pastoral visitations of his parishes. When His Beatitude could not be present, Deacon Raphael was asked to preach the Word of God to the people.

In 1889 Patriarch Gerasimus ordered the young deacon to take over as head of the Antiochian representation church in Moscow. He was ordained to the holy priesthood by Bishop SYLVESTER, the rector of the Academy, at the request of Patriarch Gerasimus. A month later, he was raised to the rank of archimandrite by Metropolitan IOANNIKII of Moscow, and was confirmed as head of the Antiochian representation church. After two years, Archimandrite Raphael was able to reduce the representation's 65,000 ruble debt by 15,000 rubles. He also arranged for twenty-four Syrian students to come to Russia to further their education, hoping

that they would return to Syria and teach others.

Saint Raphael was allowed to transfer from the jurisdiction of Antioch to the Church of Russia, and to remain there. He went to Kazan, taking a position as instructor in Arabic studies at the theological academy. He remained there until 1895 when he was invited by the Syrian Orthodox Benevolent Society of New York to come to that city to be the pastor of the Arab Orthodox community.

Archimandrite Raphael arrived in New York on November 2, 1895, and was welcomed by a delegation of Arab Christians who were awaiting their leader from Russia. On November 5, his first Sunday in America, he assisted Bishop NICHOLAS in serving the Divine Liturgy at the Russian church in New York city. Less than two weeks after his arrival, Archimandrite Raphael found a suitable place in lower Manhattan to set up a chapel, and furnished it with ecclesiastical items that he had brought with him from Russia. Bishop NICHOLAS blessed the new chapel, which was dedicated to Saint Nicholas of Myra.

In the summer of 1896, Saint Raphael undertook the first of several pastoral journeys across the continent. He visited thirty cities between New York and San Francisco, seeking out the Master's lost sheep in cities, towns, and on isolated farms. He fed the spiritually hungry people with the Word of God in each place where he stopped. He performed marriages, baptisms, heard confessions, and celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the homes of the faithful where there was no church building. In other words, he zealously fulfilled his ministry as a preacher of the Gospel, enduring many hardships and afflictions, and he was watchful in all things concerning the care of his flock (2 Tim 4:5).

In 1898, with the blessing of Bishop Nicholas, Saint Raphael produced his first book in the New World -- an Arabic language Service Book called The Book of True Consolation in the Divine Prayers. This book of liturgical services and prayers was very useful to priests in celebrating the divine services, and also to the people in their personal prayer life. The English version published by Archimandrite Seraphim Nassar is still being used today.

Between May-November 1898, Saint Raphael set off on his second pastoral tour. During this trip he became convinced of the need for Arabic-speaking priests to serve in the new churches he had established. When he returned to New York, he made a report to Bishop NICHOLAS expressing these concerns. With Bishop NICHOLAS's blessing Saint Raphael was able to bring qualified priests from Syria. He also sought out educated laymen whom he could recommend for ordination. Both as an archimandrite and later as bishop, Saint Raphael would appoint pastors only after obtaining the blessing of the Russian hierarch who headed the Ameri-

can Mission.

This was the normal state of affairs in America at the time. Archimandrite Raphael welcomed Bishop Tikhon when the latter replaced Bishop NICHOLAS as the ruling bishop in America. On December 15, Saint Tikhon came to serve the Liturgy at the Syrian church of Saint Nicholas. Raphael told his people that their new Archpastor was one who "has been sent here to tend the flock of Christ -- Russians, Slavs, Syro-Arabs, and Greeks -- which is scattered across the entire North American continent." At that time, of course, there were no parallel jurisdictions based on nationality. The Church united those of diverse backgrounds under the omophorion of the Russian Archbishop. This was the norm until the Russian Revolution disrupted church life in Russia, and also in America.

In 1903, the Holy Synod of Russia unanimously elected Archimandrite Raphael to be the Bishop of Brooklyn while retaining him as head of the Syro-Arab Orthodox Mission in North America. The Holy Synod announced the election to Patriarch Meletios, who was pleased by their decision. Bishop Tikhon wrote to Saint Raphael to inform him of his election, and Father Raphael sent him a letter of acceptance. Meanwhile, Father Innocent Pustynsky was consecrated as Tikhon's first auxiliary bishop at Saint Petersburg's cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan.

On the third Sunday of Lent in 1904, Saint Raphael became the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated on American soil. Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent performed the service at Saint Nicholas Cathedral in Brooklyn. The new bishop's vestments were a gift from Tsar Nicholas II. Following his consecration, Bishop Raphael continued his pastoral labors, ordaining priests and assigning them to parishes, and helping Bishop Tikhon in the administration of the diocese.

In July of 1905 Bishop Raphael consecrated the grounds for Saint Tikhon's Monastery and blessed the orphanage at South Canaan, PA. Three days later, he presided at a conference of diocesan clergy at Old Forge, PA, because Archbishop Tikhon was in San Francisco. Among the clergy in attendance were three who would also be numbered among the saints: Father ALEXIS Toth, Father Alexander Hotovitzky, and Father John Kochurov (the last two would die as martyrs in Russia).

On the Sunday of Orthodoxy in 1911, Bishop Raphael was honored for his fifteen years of pastoral ministry in America. Archbishop PLATON presented him with a silver-covered icon of Christ and praised him for his work. In his humility, Bishop Raphael could not understand why he should be honored merely for doing his duty (Luke 17:10). He considered himself an "unworthy servant," yet he did perfectly the work that fell to him (Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Ephesians).

Toward the end of 1912, Bishop Raphael became ill while working in his office. Doctors diagnosed him with a heart ailment that eventually caused his death. After two weeks he felt strong enough to celebrate the Liturgy in his cathedral.

In 1913-1914 this missionary bishop continued to make pastoral visitations to various cities. In 1915 he fell ill again and spent two months at home, bearing his illness with patience. At 12:40 AM on February 14/27 he rested from his labors. They called him, but he did not answer. They shook him, but he was gone.

Saint Raphael came into contact with all sorts of peo-

ple, and was a gentle father to them. He gained their love and respect by first loving them, and also through his charming personality and excellent character. He was always kind and merciful to others, but was strict with himself. He accomplished many good things during his earthly life, and now he joins the holy angels in offering ceaseless prayer and praise to God.

Through the prayers of the holy Bishop Raphael, may we also be made worthy of the heavenly Kingdom. Amen.

*(Editor's Note: This article is truncated, for the entire article click [here.](#))*

## Coffee Hour Cheesefare Potluck! (say that ten times fast)

On March 2nd Cheesefare Sunday is upon us, let's have a potluck to make the most of the last coffee hour before the start of Great Lent. If interested, contact Cathy (412-215-1928) to let her know you are making something and what you are planning on making so she can coordinate. Thank you!

Fyi - our treasurer, Nicholas Kozak has prepared the 2024 **contribution letters**, and they are being mailed. You can contact the office if you have not received yours by February 14th or you have any concerns.

## ALTAR SOCIETY

**Next Meeting: 3/9 after Coffee Hour**

*2nd Sunday of each month:*

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

**JOIN THE ALTAR SOCIETY!**

**\$10 Membership**

**See Joyce Tabeling for details**

## 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 Tabeling & 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 Tabeling & Judy Schwind
	March 2 PARISH POTLUCK (details	March 30 Mat. Jana



**EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD  
OF GREATER CLEVELAND  
Unity Through Participation**

**Saturday, March 8, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**Buna Vestire Romanian Orthodox Church**  
7140 Fitch Road  
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138

- **Liturgy @ 10:00 a.m.** – Father Petru Neaga
- **Noon** – Memorial service for departed EOWG members

**Program following Memorial Service**

- Lenten Refreshments / social time

*Come to pray and socialize with our Sisters in Christ!*





# DEANERY MISSION AKATHIST TO THE CROSS

Come join your deanery family in prayer on the Third Sunday of Great Lent  
The Sunday of the Cross

**Sunday March 23, 2025 - 5:00PM**

**St. Nicholas Orthodox Church  
9650 Johnnycake Ridge Road, Mentor, OH**

**A Lenten Meal Will Follow**



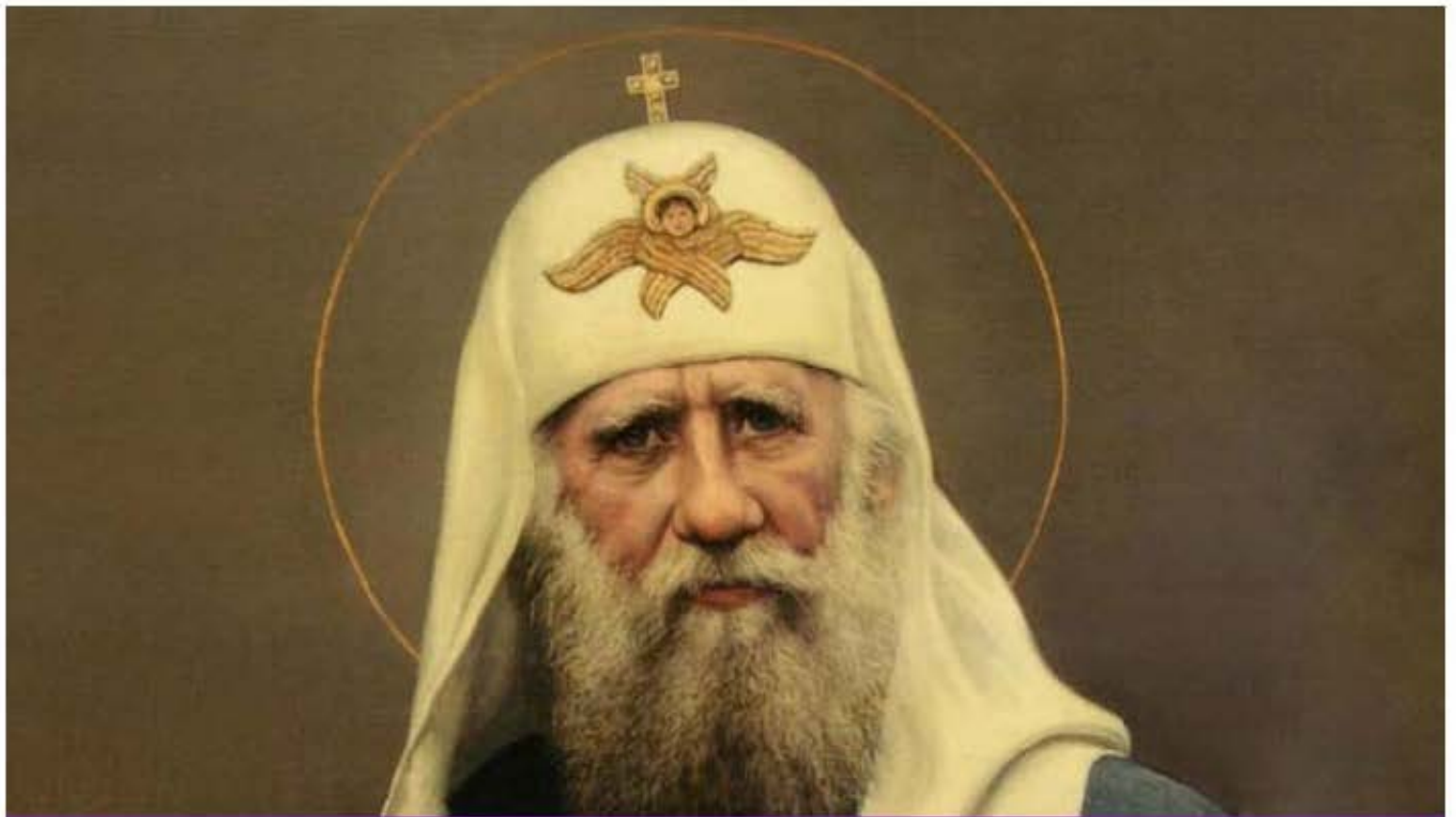
# MISSION SERVICE HOLY UNCTION

Join us for the Sacrament of Holy Unction and experience the healing power of the  
Lord

**Sunday April 6, 2025 - 5:00PM**

**St. Nicholas Orthodox Church  
755 S. Cleveland Avenue, Mogadore OH**

**A Lenten Meal will Follow**



# DEANERY PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

Come join the members of your deanery family in prayerful celebration of the memory of St. Tikhon Patriarch of Moscow Apostle to America

**Monday April 7, 2025 - 6:30pm**

**St. Andrew Orthodox Church**

**16029 Maple Park Dr, Maple Heights, OH**

**A Lenten Meal will follow**

**PLEASE SIGN UP BY SUNDAY MARCH 30th**

Sign up at - <https://forms.gle/CN5AkLaVbEEgXZtr9>

# Adopt a Room

## Become a Parish Partner



St. Herman House – FOCUS Cleveland purchased our transitional house in 2014. At that time many parishes adopted rooms, which enabled us to add fresh paint & inexpensive furniture to each room. While the initial adoption of the rooms was beneficial in their set-up, we are now needing to replace the furniture, bed frames, mattresses, and more. We began the process of renovating rooms in late 2023, and, with your help, we hope to continue this through 2025.

## Your Commitment

When adopting a room, we are asking your parish for a commitment of \$1,500 per year for the next 3 years. This support will provide for the ongoing upkeep of the room, including new flooring, furniture, refrigerators, and more. We will purchase an icon of your parish's patron saint to display in the room that you adopt.



## Why Adopt?

### More than Financial Support

The Adopt-a-Room program is more than just about renovating the room. It is about building a lasting relationship with each resident as they come into the house. Many of them don't have family to support them, so your parish could be that support they need!

### Personal Connection

- Adding the resident to your parish & personal prayers.
- Engaging your youth & older parishioners to send letters of encouragement & support.
- Providing welcome gift baskets, gift cards, birthday cards, snacks or other items.
- Acknowledging success like finding a job or securing housing.
- Supporting them through the move-out process.

Contact Us



(216) 961-3806



sainthermans@focusna.org



# PRAYER REQUESTS

as of 2/23/2025

## *Deceased*

**Stephan** Chwalyk

**Robert** Starr

**Grace Mary** Parhamovich

*(mother of Karen Felon)*

**Daniela** Raisovich

## *Special Intentions:*

**Archpriest Jason** Kappanadze

**Subdeacon Theodore** Lentz

**Subdeacon Roger** Pinta

**Subdeacon Leon** Felon

**Subdeacon Peter** Zolikoff

**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

**Child McKenna** Kranek

**Betty** Balasz

**Jeremy, Yvonne, and Unborn Child**

**Herman** Leslie Levin

**Russell** Schafer

**Sonia** Vorell

**Ivan** Lavrasiuk

**Elisabeth** Lavrasiuk

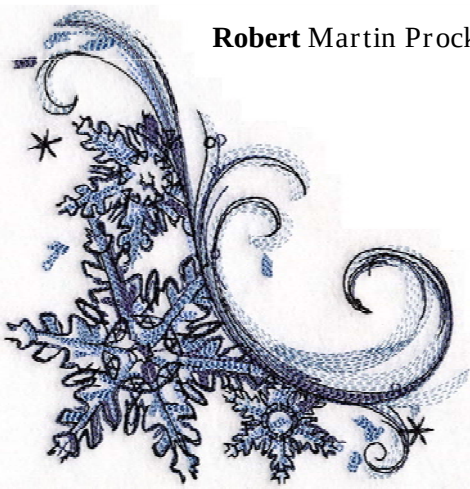
**Phyllis** Gindlesperger

**Alexander** Medvec

**Mary Ann** Reck

**Lenore** Miroewski *(Sister-in-law to Barbara Clos)*

**Michael** Weaver



Please submit names to the Prayer List by  
emailing them to **Fr. Jan Cizmar**  
[st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com](mailto: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!

We're on, gents! Sunday, February 23, 5PM, we will have a

Boy's Night Out at **The Southside**

2211 W. 11 in Tremont

Please let Dan Morris know if you plan to attend. Thank you!



### Sunday, February 23

35th Sunday after Pentecost

#### Meatfare Sunday

*Sunday of the Last Judgment*

Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (167)

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

FOCA meeting to follow

5:00 PM Boys' Night Out

*(The South Side)*

### Monday, February 24

First (4th c.) and Second (452) Finding of the Honorable Head of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John

### Tuesday, February 25

St. Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople (806)

### Wednesday, February 26

"Mezhetsk" Icon of the Mother of God. St. Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza (420)

5:00 PM Confessions

5:30 PM Panichida for Stephan Chwalyk

6:00 PM Akathist to the Holy Theotokos

### Thursday, February 27

Repose of St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn (1915)

### Friday, February 28

Ven. Basil the Confessor, Companion of Ven. Procopius at Decapolis (750)

### Saturday, March 1

Commemoration of All Departed Righteous Monastics

11:00 AM Baptism of Sofia

4:45PM Church School

5:00 PM 40 Day Panichida for

Grace Mary Parhamovich

Confessions

6:00 PM Great Vespers

### Sunday, March 2

36th Sunday after Pentecost

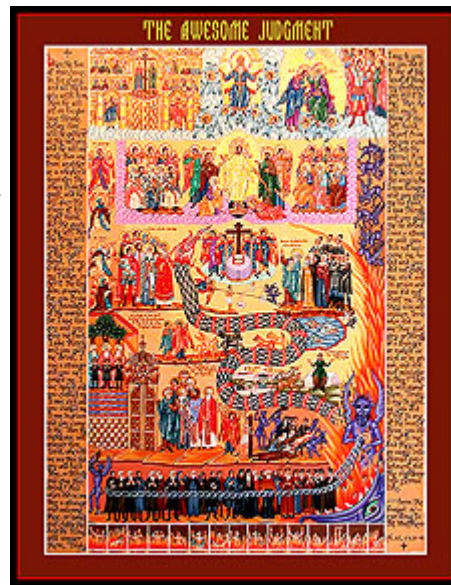
#### Cheesefare Sunday

*Forgiveness Sunday*

**The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise**

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

## BIWEEKLY SCHEDULE 2025



Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11)

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9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Cheesefare Potluck

12:00 PM Forgiveness Sunday Vespers

### Monday, March 3

*Beginning of Great Lent*

Martyr Eutropius of Amasea, and with him  
Martyrs Cleonicus and Basiliscus (ca. 308)

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

### Tuesday, March 4

Ven. Gerasimus of the Jordan (475)

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

### Wednesday, March 5

Martyr Conon of Isauria (1st c.)

5:00 PM Confessions

5:30 PM 9th Hour & Typica

6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy

### Thursday, March 6

The 42 Martyrs of Ammoria in Phrygia, including:  
Constantine, Aetitus, Theophilus, Theodore, Melissenus, Callistus, Basoës and others  
(ca. 845)

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

### Friday, March 7

The Holy Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim,  
Capito, Eugene, Aetherius, Elpidius, and  
Agathodorus (4th c.)

5:00 PM Confessions

5:30 PM 9th Hour & Typica

6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy

### Saturday, March 8

*First Saturday of Great Lent*

Commemoration of St. Theodore the Recruit and the  
Miracle of the Boiled Wheat

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Great Vespers

### Sunday, March 9

*First Sunday of Great Lent*

**Sunday of Orthodoxy**

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour