

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:

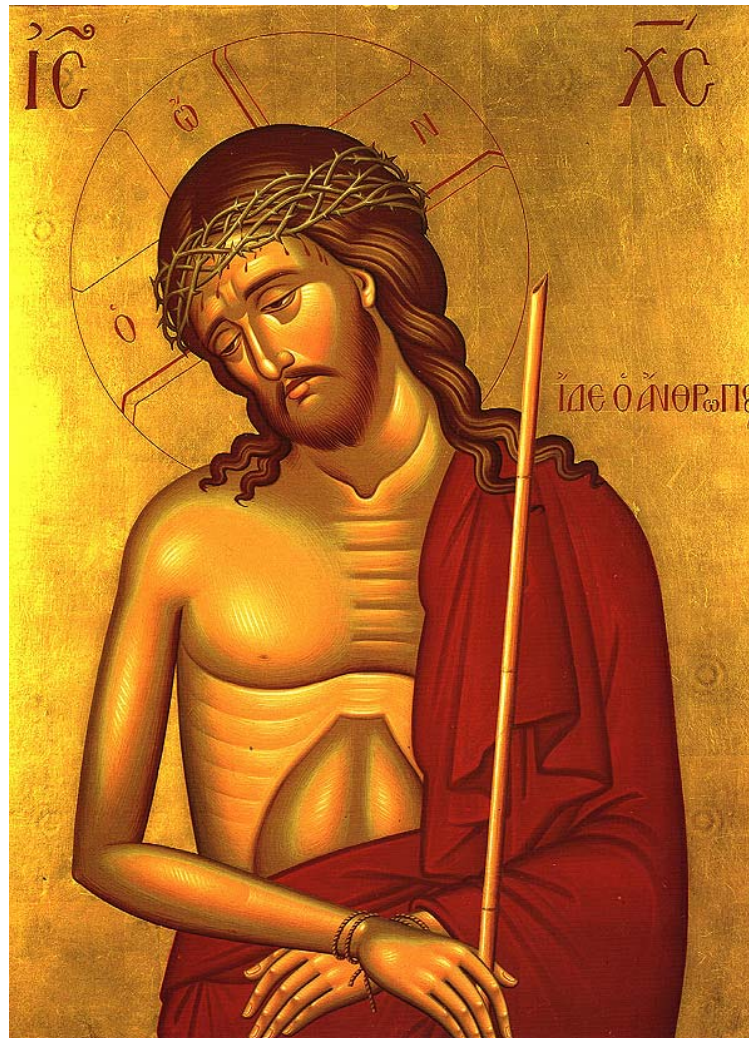
ambo-theodosius

@googlegroups.com

MARCH 2, 2025

36TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE EXPULSION OF ADAM
AND EVE FROM PARADISE



In the Orthodox Church, the **Last Sunday before Great Lent**—the day on which, at Vespers, Lent is liturgically announced and inaugurated—is called Forgiveness Sunday. On the morning of that Sunday, at the Divine Liturgy, we hear the words of Christ:

“If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses...” (Mark 6:14-15).

Then after Vespers—after hearing the announcement of Lent in the Great Prokeimenon: “Turn not away Thy face from Thy child, for I am afflicted! Hear me speedily! Draw near unto my soul and deliver it!”, after making our entrance into Lenten worship, with its special melodies, with the prayer

of Saint Ephraim the Syrian, with its prostrations—we ask forgiveness from each other, we perform the rite of forgiveness and reconciliation. And as we approach each other with words of reconciliation, the choir intones the Paschal hymns, filling the church with the anticipation of Paschal joy.

What is the meaning of this rite? Why is it that the Church wants us to begin the Lenten season with forgiveness and reconciliation? These questions are in order because for too many people Lent means primarily, and almost exclusively, a

change of diet, the compliance with ecclesiastical regulations concerning fasting. They understand fasting as an end in itself, as a “good deed” required by God and carrying in itself its merit and its reward. But the Church spares no effort in revealing to us that fasting is but a means, one among many, towards a higher goal: the spiritual renewal of man, his return to God, true repentance and, therefore, true reconciliation. The Church spares no effort in warning us against a hypocritical and pharisaic fasting, against the reduction of religion to mere external obligations. As a Lenten hymn says:

“In vain do you rejoice in not eating, O soul!
For you abstain from food,
But from passions you are not purified.
If you persevere in sin, you will perform a useless fast!”

Now, forgiveness stands at the very center of Christian faith and of Christian life because Christianity itself is, above all, the religion of forgiveness. God forgives us, and His forgiveness is in Christ, His Son, whom He sends to us so that by sharing in His humanity we may share in His love and be truly reconciled with God. Indeed, Christianity has no other content but love. And it is primarily the renewal of that love, a growth in it, that we seek in Great Lent, in fasting and prayer, in the entire spirit and the entire effort of that season. Thus, truly forgiveness is both the beginning of, and the proper condition for, the Lenten season.

One may ask, however: Why should I perform this rite when I have no “enemies?” Why should I ask forgiveness from people who have done nothing to me, and whom I hardly know? To ask these questions is to misunderstand the Orthodox teaching concerning forgiveness. It is true that open enmity, personal hatred, real animosity may be absent from our life, though if we experience them, it may be easier for us to repent, for these feelings openly contradict Divine commandments. But the Church reveals to us that there are

much subtler ways of offending Divine Love. These are indifference, selfishness, lack of interest in other people, of any real concern for them—in short, that wall which we usually erect around ourselves, thinking that by being “polite” and “friendly” we fulfill God’s commandments. The rite of forgiveness is so important precisely because it makes us realize—be it only for one minute—that our entire relationship to other men is wrong, makes us experience that encounter of one child of God with another, of one person created by God with another, makes us feel that mutual “recognition” which is so terribly lacking in our cold and dehumanized world.

On that unique evening, listening to the joyful Paschal hymns we are called to make a spiritual discovery: to taste of another mode of life and relationship with people, of life whose essence is love. We can discover that always and everywhere Christ, the Divine Love Himself, stands in the midst of us, transforming our mutual alienation into brotherhood. As I advance towards the other, as the other comes to me—we begin to realize that it is Christ who brings us together by His love for both of us.

And because we make this discovery—and because this discovery is that of the Kingdom of God itself: the Kingdom of Peace and Love, of reconciliation with God and, in Him, with all that exists—we hear the hymns of that Feast, which once a year “opens to us the doors of Paradise.” We know why we shall fast and pray, what we shall seek during the long Lenten pilgrimage.

Forgiveness Sunday: the day on which we acquire the power to make our fasting—true fasting; our effort—true effort; our reconciliation with God—true reconciliation.

—Father Alexander Schmemmann

Coffee Hour Quarter 1 2025

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

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



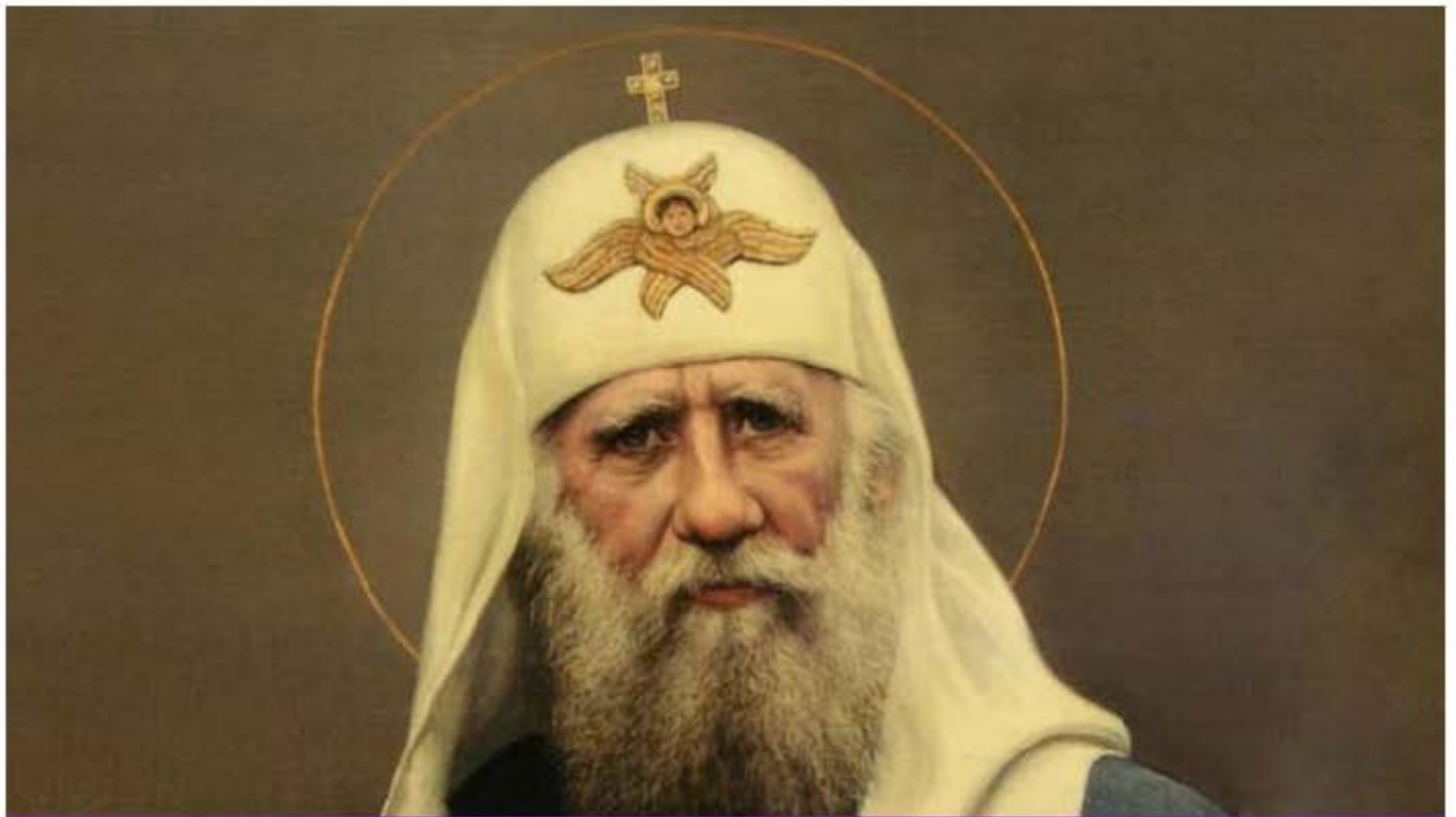
MISSION SERVICE HOLY UNCTION

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>

SPRING YOUNG ADULT RETREAT



THIS RETREAT IS PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN
CARPATHO-RUSSIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE, THE
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF
PITTSBURGH Y2AM, THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN
AMERICA, AND THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH OF THE USA.

SPEAKER: FR. TIMOTHY PAPROSKI

AT CAMP NAZARETH

“LIVING THE LITURGY”

JOIN FR. TIMOTHY AND OTHER YOUNG ADULTS
(AGES 18-35) AS WE DISCUSS: WHY IS THE DIVINE
LITURGY SO IMPORTANT IN THE ORTHODOX
SPIRITUAL LIFE? HOW CAN WE “LIVE THE LITURGY”
OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF OUR CHURCHES AND
SHARE THE KINGDOM WITH OTHERS?



RETREAT DETAILS

MARCH 14TH – 16TH, 2025

CAMP NAZARETH, 339 PEW ROAD, MERCER, PA 16137

REGISTER NOW!

<https://tinyurl.com/2z7kjpyh>

PRAYER REQUESTS

as of 3/2/2025

Deceased

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 Lavrisiuk

Elisabeth Lavrisiuk

Phyllis Gindlesperger

Alexander Medvec

Mary Ann Reck

Lenore Miroewski

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

Michael Weaver

Mary (*friend of Henry*)

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>



ALTAR SOCIETY

2nd Sunday of each month:

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

JOIN THE ALTAR SOCIETY!

\$10 Membership

See Joyce Tabeing for details



BIWEEKLY SCHEDULE 2025



As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption.

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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
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Cheesefare Potluck
12:00 PM Forgiveness Sunday Vespers

Monday, March 3
Great Lent Begins
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 Panichida for Mikolay, Sofia Roslan
5:20 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

Monday, March 10
Martyr Quadratus and those with him

Tuesday, March 11
St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem (638-644)

Wednesday, March 12
Ven. Theophanes the Confessor, of Sigriane (818)
5:30 PM 9th Hour & Typica
6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, March 13
Translation of the relics of St. Nikephoros, Patriarch of Constantinople (846)

Friday, March 14
Ven. Benedict of Nursia (543)
5:30 PM 9th Hour & Typica
6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, March 15
Memorial Saturday
Martyrs Agapius, Publius (Pausis), Timolaus, Romulus, two named Dionysius, and two named Alexander, at Cæsarea in Palestine (303)
5:00 PM Memorial Saturday Panichida
5:20 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, March 16
Second Sunday of Great Lent
St. Gregory Palamas
Synaxis of the Venerable Fathers of the Kiev Caves Lavra.
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour