

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

733 Starkweather Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

www.sttheodosius.org

Archpriest Jan Cizmar
1(440) 732-8182
st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com

Office Hours TWTh
9AM-2PM, please call ahead

Subdeacon Michael Tabeling
Sacristan

Subdeacon Igor Gajewsky
Sacristan

Reader Julius Kovach
Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

Denise "Nisi" Pozderac
dpozderac.tlc@gmail.com
Parish Council President

Mary Swit
Parish Secretary
1(216) 574-4886
StTheodosiusCathedral@protonmail.com
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](https://www.google.com/groups)

MAY 4, 2025

3RD SUNDAY OF PASCHA

MYRRHBEARING
WOMEN



The holy Great Martyr Irene (may 5) was born in the city of Magedon in Persia during the fourth century. She was the daughter of Licinius, the pagan ruler of a certain small kingdom, and his wife Licinia, and at birth her parents named her Penelope.

Penelope was very beautiful, and her father kept her isolated in a high tower from the time she was six so that she would not be exposed to Christianity. He also placed thirteen young maidens in the tower with her. An old tutor by the name of Apellian was appointed to give her the best possible education. Apellian was a Christian, and during her lessons, he told the girl about Christ the Savior and taught her about the Christian Faith and Christian virtues.

When Penelope reached adolescence, her parents began to think about her marriage. One night Penelope beheld the following vision: a dove entered the tower with an olive branch in its beak, depositing it on the table. An eagle also flew in carrying a wreath of flowers, and left it on the table. Then a raven flew in through another window and dropped a snake on the table. In the morning Penelope woke up and wondered about the meaning of the things she had seen.

She related them to her tutor Apellian and he explained that the dove symbolized her superior education, and that the olive branch represented the grace of God which is received in Baptism. The eagle and the olive branch indicated success in her future life. The snake signified that she would experience suffering and sorrow.

At the end of the conversation Apellian said that the Lord wished to betroth her to Himself and that Penelope would undergo much suffering for her heavenly Bridegroom. After this Penelope refused marriage, was baptized by the priest Timothy, and he named her Irene (peace). She even urged her own parents to become Christians. Shortly after being baptized, she smashed all her father's idols to pieces.

Since Saint Irene had dedicated herself to Christ, she refused to marry any of the suitors her father had chosen for her. When Licinius learned that his daughter refused to worship the pagan gods, he was furious. He attempted to turn her from Christ by having her tortured. She was tied up and thrown beneath the hooves of wild horses so that they might trample her to death, but the horses remained motionless. Instead of harming the saint, one of the horses charged Licinius, seized his right hand and tore it from his arm. Then it knocked Licinius down and began to trample him to death. This caused a great deal of confusion among the people there but Irene consoled them with the words of Christ: "All things are possible to the one who believes" (Mark 9: 23). And indeed, with wondrous faith, she prayed and through her prayers Licinius rose unharmed in the presence of many eyewitnesses with his hand intact. Then, Licinius and his wife were baptized as Christians, along with almost 3000 others who turned away from the worship of inanimate idols. Licinius abandoned his domain and lived in the tower he had built for his daughter. There he spent the rest of his life in repentance.

Saint Irene lived in the house of her teacher Apellian, and she began to preach Christ among the pagans, leading them to the path of salvation.

When Sedekias (Yesdegerd), the new prefect of the city, heard of the miracles performed by the saint, he sum-

moned Apellian and questioned him about Irene's manner of life. Apellian replied that Irene, like other Christians, lived in strict temperance, devoting herself to constant prayer and reading holy books. Sedekias summoned the saint to him and urged her to stop preaching about Christ. He also attempted to force her to sacrifice to the idols. Saint Irene staunchly confessed her faith before the prefect, not fearing his wrath, and prepared to undergo suffering for Christ. By order of Sedekias she was thrown into a pit filled with vipers and serpents. The saint spent ten days in the pit and remained unharmed, for an angel of the Lord protected her and brought her food. Sedekias ascribed this miracle to sorcery, and he subjected Saint Irene to many

other tortures, but she remained unharmed. Under the influence of her preaching and miracles even more people were converted to Christ, and turned away from the worship of inanimate idols.

Sedekias was deposed by his son Sapor, who persecuted Christians with an even greater zeal than his father had done. Saint Irene went to her home town of Magedon in Persia to meet Sapor and his army, and ask him to end the persecution. When he refused, Saint Irene prayed and his entire army was blinded. She prayed again and they received their sight once more. In spite of this, Sapor refused to recognize the power of God. Because of his insolence, he was struck and killed by a bolt of lightning.

After this, Saint Irene walked into the city and

performed many miracles. She returned to the tower built by her father, accompanied by the priest Timothy. Through her teaching, she converted five thousand people to Christ.

Next, the saint went to the city of Callinicus, or Callinicum (possibly on the Euphrates River in Syria). The ruler of that place was King Numerian, the son of Sebastian. When she began to teach about Christ, she was arrested and tortured by the pagan authorities. They enclosed her inside three bronze oxen, one after another, which were heated until they were red-hot. When the Great Martyr was placed within the third ox, it began to walk about, and then it split asunder. Saint Irene emerged from it as if from the fires of hell. This result-



ed in thousands of souls converting to the faith of Christ.

Sensing the approach of death, Numerian instructed his eparch Babdonus to continue torturing the saint in order to force her to sacrifice to idols. Once again, the tortures were ineffective, and many people turned to Christ.

Christ's holy martyr then traveled to the city of Constantinople, forty miles northeast of Edessa. By 330, the Persian king Sapor II (309-379) had heard of Saint Irene's great miracles. To prevent her from winning more people to Christ, she was arrested, beheaded, and then buried. However, God sent an angel to raise her up again, and she went into the city of Mesembria. After seeing her alive and hearing her preach, the local king was baptized with many of his subjects.

Wishing to convert even more pagans to Christianity, Saint Irene went to Ephesus, where she taught the people and performed many miracles. The Lord revealed to her that the end of her life was approaching. Then Saint Irene left the city accompanied by six people, including her former teacher Apellian. On the outskirts of the town, she found a new tomb in which no one had ever been buried. After making the Sign of the Cross, she went inside, directing her companions to seal the entrance to the cave with a large stone, which

they did. She also told them that that no one should move the stone until four days had passed.

Apellian returned after only two days, and found that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. There are conflicting accounts about her holy relics being taken to Constantinople and other places, including Patras, Samos, and Patmos. According to the Western Martyrologies, Saint Irene was martyred in Thessaloniki after being thrown into the fire, while according to the Menologion of Emperor Basil II, Saint Irene completed her martyric contest by being beheaded.

Saint Irene led thousands of people to Christ through her preaching, and by her example. The Church continues to honor her memory and to seek her heavenly intercession. She is invoked by those wishing to effect a swift and happy marriage. In Greece, she is also the patron saint of policemen. Saint Irene is also one of the twelve Virgin Martyrs who appeared to Saint Seraphim of Sarov (January 2) and the Diveyevo nun Eupraxia on the Feast of the Annunciation in 1831. By her holy prayers, may the Lord have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

Fragments of Saint Irene's Holy Relics are located at Kykkos Monastery on Cyprus, and in the Greek church of Saint George in Venice.

Mother's Day Men's Potluck!

Gentlemen, it is time to show appreciation by bringing something to the **Mother's Day Men's Potluck.**

We are asking men to bring a dish for all to enjoy on this year's Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11th, after Divine Liturgy.

If interested please call *Wayne Vidovich* at 440.989.6165 so he can coordinate. Thank you!



Coffee Hour Quarter 2 2025

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

April 6	May 4	Gammalo
Lina	Cathy	June 8
April 13	May 11	PENTECOST
Tammy & Mary (in memory of Pogorily Family by Mat. Lu Timko	Men's Potluck (Mother's Day)	Cathy & Tammy
April 20	May 18	June 15
HOLY PASCHA	Joyce & Judy	Vidovich & Whitlock (Father's Day, anonymous sponsor)
April 27	May 25	June 22
Mat. Zdinak & Nikol Gammalo (sponsored by William Lynk)	Mat. Jana (Sponsored by William Lynk)	Joyce & Judy (Ss. Peter & Paul Fast)
June 1	Mat. Zdinak & Nikol	June 29
		Dan & Lavinia



Serbian Golf Outing

Dinner & Music

Net Proceeds for the *Serbian Cultural Garden*

Saturday, July 12, 2025

Sleepy Hollow Golf Course
9445 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

SHOTGUN START FORMAT
WINNING FOURSOME WINS A CASH PRIZE

9:30 A.M. REGISTRATION (WITH A SHOT OF SLIVO)
11:00 A.M. TEE TIME

\$140 FEE INCLUDES:
18 HOLES * CART * ITALIAN LUNCH
PRIZES * MUSIC * DINNER

5:00 P.M. DINNER
ST. SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (BACK) HALL
2151 WEST WALLINGS ROAD, BROADVIEW HTS., OH 44147

NON-GOLFING SPOUSES, FRIENDS AND GUESTS WELCOME!
\$35.00 INCLUDES DINNER AND MUSIC

CREDIT CARDS & PAYPAL NOW ACCEPTED ON WEBSITE (FEE APPLIES)
OR

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: SERBIAN GOLF OUTING

PAYMENTS DUE NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2025
FOR GOLF, HOLE SPONSORSHIP AND/OR DINNER TO:

Serbian Cultural Garden
P.O. Box 91896
Cleveland, OH 44101

For further information, call: (216) 716-4305
WEBSITE: www.serbianculturalgarden.org



The IOCC Cleveland Metropolitan Committee invites you to the

33RD ANNUAL BANQUET

Monday, May 19, 2025

Doors 6:00 pm | Dinner 7:00 pm

Woodside Event Center at St. Michael's

5025 E. Mill Rd. | Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Learn how your support is helping families in places like
Greece, the Holy Land, Ukraine, and right here in the U.S.

Tickets \$70 | RSVP by Friday, May 5

iocc.org/Cleveland

Or mail checks for IOCC to Julie Hall,
PO Box 560185, Macedonia, OH 44056



PRAYER REQUESTS

as of 5/4/2025

Deceased

Andriy Butriy

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

Herman Leslie Levin

Russell Schafer

Sonia Vorell

Ivan Lavrisiuk

Elisabeth Lavrisiuk

Phyllis Gindlesperger

Lenore Miroewski

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

Michael Weaver

Mary (*friend of Henry*)

Matushka Ludmila Timko

Mitchell "Dale" Peek (*friend of Igor*)

Tammy Ponomarenko

Debra Ellis

Mary Ann Reck

Karen Slowey

Elena Rich

Jerry Czajkowski

**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, 5/11, 6/8

JOIN THE ALTAR SOCIETY! \$10 Membership, see Joyce Tabeling



Sunday, May 4

3rd Sunday of Pascha

Myrrhbearing Women

Virgin Martyr Pelagía of Tarsus in Asia Minor (ca. 290)

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

Monday, May 5

Great Martyr Irene (1st-2nd c.)

Tuesday, May 6

Righteous Job the Long-suffering (ca. 2000-1500 B.C.)

Wednesday, May 7

Repose of St. Alexis Toth, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in America (1909)

6:00 PM Daily Vespers

Thursday, May 8

Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian (98-117)

Friday, May 9

Prophet Isaiah (8th c. B.C.)

Saturday, May 10

Apostle Simeon the Zealot (1st c.)

St. Simon, Bishop of Vladimir and Suzdal' (Kiev Caves-Near Caves—1226)

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, May 11

4th Sunday of Pascha

Sunday of the Paralytic

Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Cyril (869) and Methodius (885),

First Teachers of the Slavs

BIWEEKLY SCHEDULE 2025



According to the iconographic models, the Inexhaustible Chalice Icon of the Mother of God belongs to the Orans type - the Mother of God is depicted with her hands upraised, before her is the Divine Infant standing in the chalice. This is the Communion Chalice - an inexhaustible source of spiritual joy and consolation. The Most Holy Theotokos prays for all sinners, and declares that the Inexhaustible Chalice of heavenly help and mercy is prepared for every sufferer.

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Mother's Day Men's Potluck

Monday, May 12

St. Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus (403)

Tuesday, May 13

Virgin Martyr Glyceria at Heraclea, and with her, Martyr Laodicius, Keeper of the Prison (ca. 177)

6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 14

Midfeast of Pentecost

Martyrs Isidore and Myrope of Chios (251)

6:00 PM Akathist

Thursday, May 15

Ven. Pachomius the Great, Founder of Cœnobitic Monasticism (348 A.D.)

Friday, May 16

Ven. Theodore the Sanctified, disciple of Ven. Pachomius the Great (368)

Saturday, May 17

Apostle Andronicus of the Seventy and his fellow-laborer, Junia (1st c.)

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, May 18

5th Sunday of Pascha

The Samaritan Woman

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

Parish Annual Meeting