

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

JANUARY 25, 2026

33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY OF
ZACCHAEUS



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.

Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his

wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God's mercy and compassion by Christ's words to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology and Trisagion at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of

the week is in Tone 1, 3, 5, or 7) we sing the Troparion of the Resurrection: "Today salvation is come to the world, let us sing praises to Him Who arose from the tomb, and is the Author of our life. For having destroyed death by death, He has given us the victory and great mercy."

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

Saint Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.

Synaxis of the Ecumenical Teachers and Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom

Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom: During the eleventh century, disputes raged in Constantinople about which of the three hierarchs was the greatest. Some preferred Saint Basil (January 1), others honored Saint Gregory the Theologian (January 25), while a third group exalted Saint John Chrys-



ostom (November 13). Dissension among Christians increased. Some called themselves Basilians, others referred to themselves as Gregorians, and others as Johnites. By the will of God, the three hierarchs appeared to Saint John the Bishop of Euchaita (June 14) in the year 1084, and said that they were equal before God. "There are no divisions among us, and no opposition to one another." They ordered that the disputes should stop, and that their common commemoration should be celebrated on a single day. Bishop John chose January 30 for their joint Feast, thus ending the controversy and restoring peace.

Coffee Hour Quarter 1 2026

Questions/Concerns/volunteer? call Cathy Weber (412-215-1928)

January 4
Mary (anonymous sponsor)
January 11
Sarah & Mike Brennan
January 18
Joyce & Judy
January 25
Nikol
February 1
Mary

February 8
Cathy & Tammy
February 15 (Meatfare)
Wayne, Gayle, & Shawna
(anonymous sponsor)
February 22 (Cheesefare)
Parish Potluck
March 1 (Great Lent)
Joyce & Judy

March 8 (Great Lent)
Heather Openshaw
March 15 (Great Lent)
Cathy & Tammy
March 22 (Great Lent)
Wayne, Gayle, & Shawna
March 29 (Great Lent)
Chris & Emiko Strah



January 25, 2026

01/006

To the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, beloved children in the Lord:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

During these winter months, the Church celebrates a number of feasts dedicated to the appearing of the Lord in the flesh.

At his Nativity, he is born an infant, with all the needs of an infant; he requires his Mother's nourishment, warmth, and care, and also his foster-father's protection.

At his Baptism, he enters into the rushing waters of this world, into the cascading elements of creation, into the onrushing flow of life, into the change and flux of the present age.

At his Meeting in the temple, he enters into the religious and cultural life of his people while also already showing himself to be the Fulfillment of their deepest religious yearnings, the Salvation for whom they have longed.

Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, becoming incarnate and appearing in the world, did so in order to fill every aspect of our life with himself. He has willed to be present in our basic weakness and our everyday needs; to be present among all the changes and cycles of nature and history that swirl around us; to be present in the highest aspirations of human culture, which reach beyond this life and grasp at the undying life of the age to come.

In the midst of this luminous season of feasts, we also mark our annual Sanctity of Life Sunday. Reflecting on the meaning of the sanctity of life in light of the great feasts that we have celebrated and will soon celebrate, we realize that the Lord has come so that we might have life and have it more abundantly, not just in the age to come, but in this present age as well.

Therefore, every moment of human life, from conception to natural death, is infinitely precious, because every moment of human life, every facet of human existence—except for sin—has been hallowed by the presence of the Lord. Every phase of life, every circumstance, is an opportunity to encounter the Lord.

Our Orthodox Christian understanding of the sanctity of all human life is not, therefore, a cold and abstract principle, but an affirmation of the love of the living God revealed in Jesus Christ. This is a love that opens up the fullness of life's possibilities at every moment, fills the world with meaning, and offers the promise of renewal for individuals, communities, and entire cultures.

Therefore, as we mark this Sanctity of Life Sunday, we pray not just for legal protections for all human beings, from conception to natural death. We also pray that our entire culture would be oriented toward the physical and spiritual well-being of all people in all phases of life so that, without undue fear or trouble, in peace and health, all of us may experience this life as a place of encounter with the radiant and life-giving Love of God, Jesus Christ incarnate in human flesh.

To him who gave us life in the beginning, who sustains our life in this world and desires to fill it with himself, and who willed to save us and lead us to everlasting life in the age to come, our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, be all thanks and adoration, together with his Father and his All-holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada



EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD OF GREATER CLEVELAND

Unity Through Participation

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE
GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT
WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT
PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

~JOHN 3:16

Theotokos of Vladimir

Saturday, February 14, 2026

NOON – 3:00PM

St. Matthew the Evangelist Antiochian Orthodox Church

10383 Albion Road
North Royalton, Ohio 44133

JOIN US FOR A VALENTINE'S DAY TEA PARTY!

**RSVP IS NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT BY;
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6**



- ❖ Bring a Friend and Receive a “Valentine” Treat
- ❖ Wear Something RED or PINK
- ❖ Games and Prizes
- ❖ FREE WILL Donations will go to “St. Mary of Egypt Mission & Chapel”

BLANKET DRIVE

NEW or GENTLY USED THROW BLANKETS
FOR
ST. MARY OF EGYPT



Our goal is to give **EACH** client a blanket to keep warm for the winter (adults, children and infants), so we need to collect

LOTS OF BLANKETS!
NO COMFORTERS PLEASE!

Please drop-off blanket(s) in the following ways:

- St. Mary of Egypt Warehouse on Monday, February 9 (6:30pm-7:30pm)
- St. Mary of Egypt Warehouse on Saturday, February 21 (NOON)
- Designated Areas in Your Church (Contacts listed below to arrange pickup)

4345 State Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44019

THANK YOU
& MAY GOD BLESS YOUR EFFORTS!

Please contact the following people for pickup or if you have any questions:

Nicholas Bodle
(216) 904-8537

Maria Lovejoy
(330) 212-6604

*Please join ZOE for Life!®
and
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
for a Prayer Service as we
**Pray for the Unborn
Children***



***Sunday, February 8, 2026
6:00 pm
6822 Broadview Road
Parma 44134
Prayer Service & Presentation
Guest Speaker Presentation Follows – 6:45 pm
Father Alexander Garklavs, Retired***



PRAYER REQUESTS
1/25/2026

Deceased:

Kyra Kopestonsky

Donna Spencer

Special Intentions:

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

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*)

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

Ivan Lavrisiuk

Elisabeth Lavrisiuk

Phyllis Gindlesperger

Jerry Czajkowski

Christopher Magee (*Brother of Erin Z*)

Barbara Sheean

Tamara Ponomarenko

Paige Benjamin (*Niece of Una Alexandrovic*)

Sara Wilmot (*friend of Tim Clos*)

Catherine (*niece of Judy Schwind*)

**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.

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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>



One Dollar Spaghetti Dinner

- at -

St. Michael Orthodox
Church

5025 E. Mill Road
Broadview Heights, OH 44147
Friday
February 6
6:30 – 8:00 PM



Sunday, January 25

33rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of Zacchaeus
New Martyrs and Confessors of
Russia. St. Gregory the Theologian,
Archbishop of
Constantinople (389)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

Monday, January 26

Ven. Xenophon, his wife, Mary, and their two
sons, Arcadius and John, of Constantinople
(5th-6th c.)

Tuesday, January 27

Translation of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom,
Archbishop of Constantinople (438)

Wednesday, January 28

Ven. Ephraim the Syrian (373-379)

Thursday, January 29

Translation of the Relics of Hieromartyr
Ignatius the Godbearer, Bishop of Antioch (107)
6:00 PM Great Vespers for the Three
Holy Hierarchs

Friday, January 30

Synaxis of the Ecumenical Teachers and
Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the
Theologian, and John Chrysostom

Saturday, January 31

Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cyrus
and John, and with them Martyrs Athanasia and
her daughters: Theoctiste, Theodotia, and
Eudoxia, at Canopus in Egypt (311)
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, February 1

34th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Forefeast of the Meeting
Martyr Tryphon of Lampsacus near Apamea in
Syria (250)

BIWEEKLY SCHEDULE 2026



Saint Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople, a great Father and teacher of the Church, was born into a Christian family of eminent lineage in the year 329, at Arianzos (not far from the city of Cappadocian Nazianzos). His father, also named Gregory (January 1), was Bishop of Nazianzus. The son is the Saint Gregory Nazianzus encountered in Patristic theology. His pious mother, Saint Nonna (August 5), prayed to God for a son, vowing to dedicate him to the Lord. Her prayer was answered, and she named her child Gregory.

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

Informational meeting to follow
6:00 Great Vespers

Monday, February 2

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

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

Tuesday, February 3

Afterfeast of the Meeting
Holy and Righteous Simeon the
God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess

Wednesday, February 4

Afterfeast of the Meeting
Ven. Isidore of Pelusium (ca. 436-440)

Thursday, 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

Friday, February 6

Afterfeast of the Meeting
St. Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna (ca. 100)

Saturday, February 7

Afterfeast of the Meeting
St. Parthenios, Bishop of Lampsakos (4th c.)
4:45 PM Church School
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, February 8

35th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Afterfeast of the Meeting
Greatmartyr Theodore Stratelates
("the General"—319)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour