

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 1, 2026

34TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE PUBLICAN AND
THE PHARISEE



The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the Triodion (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances.

The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

Two weeks before the beginning of the Fast, as part of our preparation for Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha, the Church prescribes the reading of Saint Mark's Gospel. From Monday to Friday the focus is on the end times, and the Savior's death and burial.

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 Thessaloniki 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.



ADMIT ONE
SPAGHETTI DINNER
FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 6
6:30-8:00 PM
IN THE CHURCH GYM
\$1 ONLY!

The **halos**
ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

Love, Laughter & Spaghetti

An evening of food, fellowship, and family fun!



Friday, February 6 | 6:30–8:00 PM
Church Gym

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 Maria Lovejoy
(216) 904-8537 (330) 212-6604

Coffee Hour Quarter 1 2026

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

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| January 4 Mary (anonymous sponsor) | February 8 Cathy & Tammy | March 8 (Great Lent) Heather Openshaw |
| January 11 Sarah & Mike Brennan | February 15 (Meatfare) Wayne, Gayle, & Shawna (anonymous sponsor) | March 15 (Great Lent) Cathy & Tammy |
| January 18 Joyce & Judy | February 22 (Cheesefare) Parish Potluck | March 22 (Great Lent) Wayne, Gayle, & Shawna |
| January 25 Nikol | March 1 (Great Lent) Joyce & Judy | March 29 (Great Lent) Chris & Emiko Strah |
| February 1 Mary | | |

*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
2/1/2026

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.

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>



Special Restoration Informational Meeting on February 20:

After Divine Liturgy on February 22nd we will have a more in-depth informational meeting regarding the restoration of the cathedral. We will discuss the restoration and go over the budget, and walk through the overall process.

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)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
5:00 PM Vigil at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
6822 Broadview Rd, Parma Ohio 44134

Monday, February 2

The Meeting of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Temple
Service held at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
6822 Broadview Rd, Parma Ohio 44134
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)
6:00 PM Great Vespers

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

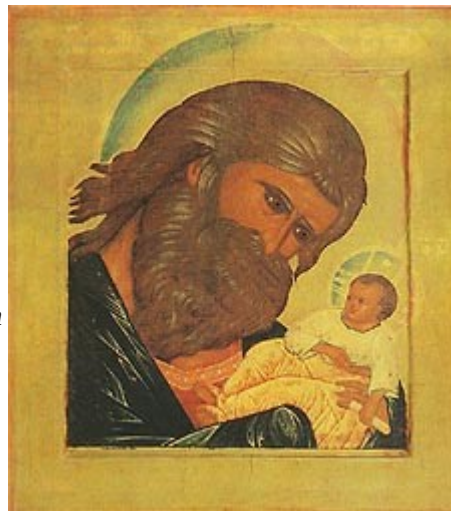
Friday, February 6

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

BIWEEKLY SCHEDULE 2026



Righteous Simeon the God-Receiver (Feb 3) was, according to the testimony of the holy Evangelist Luke, a just and devout man waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him (Luke 2:25). God promised him that he would not die until the promised Messiah, Christ the Lord, came into the world.

Ancient historians tell us that the Egyptian pharaoh Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-247 B.C.) wished to include texts of Holy Scripture in the famous Library at Alexandria. He invited scholars from Jerusalem, and the Sanhedrin sent their wise men. The Righteous Simeon was one of the seventy scholars who came to Alexandria to translate the Holy Scriptures into Greek. The completed work was called "The Septuagint," and is the version of the Old Testament used by the Orthodox Church.

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

Monday, February 9

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

Tuesday, February 10

St. Ioannikios, Father Confessor of the Dormition Holy Mountain Hermitage

Wednesday, February 11

Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste (ca. 316)
6:00 PM Daily Vespers

Thursday, February 12

St. Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch (381)

Friday, February 13

St. Seraphima (Sezhenovo, Russia—1877)

Saturday, February 14

Saturday of Meatfare Week
Memorial Saturday
Ven. Auxentius of Bithynia (ca. 470)
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, February 15

Sunday of Meatfare
Sunday of the Last Judgment
Apostle of the Seventy Onesimus (ca. 109)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour