

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.

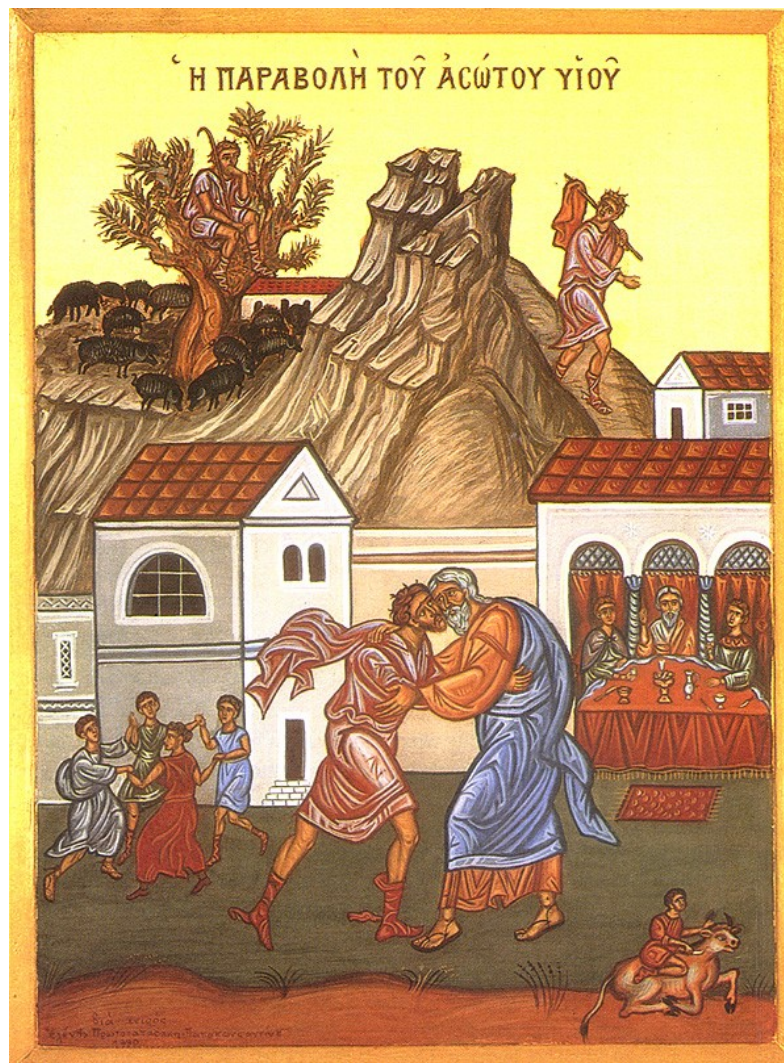
Articles for publication
should be submitted to:

ambo-theodosius

[@googlegroups.com](http://googlegroups.com)

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

SUNDAY OF THE
PRODIGAL SON



The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn "By the Waters of Babylon." It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent be-

gins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel.

Starting tomorrow, the weekday readings summarize the events of Holy Week. On Monday we read Saint Mark's account of the Entry into Jerusalem. On Tuesday we read how Judas went to the chief priests and offered to betray the Lord. On the night before His death Christ tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. He also predicts that they will desert Him, and that Peter will deny Him three times. On Wednesday the Gospel describes how Judas betrayed the Savior with a kiss. Thursday's Gospel tells how Jesus was questioned by Pilate. On Friday we read the narrative of Christ's crucifixion and death.

The Prophet Zachariah

The Prophet Zachariah the Sickle-Seer the eleventh of the twelve Minor Prophets. He was descended from the tribe of Levi, and seems to have been a priest (Nehemiah 12:4,16). He was called to prophetic service at a young age and became, in the wondrous expression of church hymnology, "a spectator of supra-worldly visions."

The Book of the Prophet Zachariah contains inspired details about the coming of the Messiah (Zach 6:12); about the last days of the Savior's earthly life, about the Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem on a young donkey (Zach 9:9); about the betrayal of the Lord for thirty pieces of silver and the purchase of the potter's field with them (Zach 11:12-13); about the piercing of the Savior's side (Zach 12:10); about the scattering of the apostles from the Garden of Gethsemane (Zach 13:7); about the eclipse of the sun at the time of the Crucifixion (Zach 14:6-7).

"Enlightened by dawns all above," the Prophet Zachariah, "saw the future as it were the present." According to Tradition, this "most true God-proclaimer" lived to old age and was buried near Jerusalem, beside his illustrious contemporary and companion, the Prophet Haggai (December 16). The title "Sickle-Seer" given Zachariah comes from a vision in which he saw a sickle flying in the



air, destroying thieves and perjurers (Zach 5:1-3). The holy Prophet Zachariah died around 520 B.C. His tomb was discovered in 415 in a village near Eleutheropolis (Sozomen, Hist. Eccles. VI:32, IX:17). At the prophet's feet was the body of a child dressed in royal accoutrements. His holy relics were transferred to the church of Saint James the Brother of the Lord (October 23) in Constantinople.

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Memorial Saturday of Meatfare

Commemorated on February 14

On the day before Meatfare Sunday, on which we remember the Last Judgment, the Orthodox Church prays for those of its members who may have died unexpectedly because of wars, plagues, starvation, or any other sort of death while they were in a foreign country, or while they were traveling by sea, by land, or by air. The Church also prays for the poor, or for those who may not have received a proper burial, or who had no one to request Memorial Services to be offered for them. We pray for the departed on this Saturday because the Orthodox Church has established Saturday as the proper day of the week for remembering the dead. On this day before we hear the Gospel about the Last Judgment, we should pause to recall our own inescapable death when we shall appear before Christ to give an account of our lives. May we have "an acceptable defense before His dread Judgment Seat."

As we prepare for the spiritual struggles of the Great Fast, we should remember that we have been given this present life for repentance and for entreating God's mercy. When Christ comes in glory to judge the world, it will be too late then to say that we repent, or to ask for mercy. Therefore, we should make the most of the time that has been given us in order to struggle against every sinful impulse which separates us from God, to confess our sins, to correct ourselves, and to pursue a life of virtue and holiness.

During the week leading up to Meatfare Sunday, we do not sing "Alleluia" in place of "God is the Lord," at Matins. "Alleluia" is appointed to be sung on the Wednesday and Friday of Cheesefare Week, and also during Great Lent. See the TYPICON or the OCA rubrics book for information about the structure of the pre-Lenten and Lenten services.

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	March 15 (Great Lent) Cathy & Tammy
January 18 Joyce & Judy	(anonymous sponsor)	March 22 (Great Lent) Wayne, Gayle, & Shawna
January 25 Nikol	February 22 (Cheesefare) Parish Potluck	March 29 (Great Lent) Chris & Emiko Strah
February 1 Mary	March 1 (Great Lent) Joyce & Judy	



The Greater Cleveland Slavonic Chorus

will present a Concert of Sacred Music
of Lenten and Paschal Hymns
Sunday, March 22, 2026
3:00 pm.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
6822 Broadview Road, Parma
A free-will offering will be taken
towards the continued restoration of
St. Theodosius Cathedral

Musical Director: Michael Pilat
milo4451@gmail.com

Business Manager: Kenneth Kovach
coachicbc@gmail.com

Bringing America Back to Life *Convention*



Scott Klusendorf
Friday, March 13th



Lara Logan
Saturday, March 14th

Registration is Now Open!
bringingamericabacktolife.org



ST. GREGORY CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Gifts That Shape Souls

HELP US BUILD A SCHOOL THAT SINGS, MOVES, AND READS

At St. Gregory Classical Academy, we believe beauty, discipline, and joy are essential to a child's education. Through music, physical education, and great books, we are forming students in mind, body, and soul. We invite you to partner with us in this joyful work.

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Music is central to a classical education. It trains the ear, forms the soul, and cultivates harmony, memory, and reverence.

Our current music needs include:

- Classroom xylophones
- Hand chimes



Estimated total cost: \$10,000

GYM EQUIPMENT

Training the Body with Purpose and Discipline. Physical education is an essential part of classical formation—supporting health, teamwork, and perseverance.

Our immediate gym needs include:

- Basic physical education equipment
- Supplies to support structured movement and play



Estimated cost: \$1,500

LIBRARY BOOKS:

A strong library is the heart of a classical school. Our carefully curated reading list introduces students to timeless stories, virtuous heroes, and beautiful language.

How you can help:



- Purchase books directly from our Amazon Library Wish List
- Scan the QR code on this flyer to view and select books
- Every donated book becomes part of our permanent school library

➔ *Simply scan the QR code to give the gift of great books.*



To support this initiative, donate through our [website](#) and designate your gift for the Music & Gym Enrichment Campaign. Or call the school at 330-333-6680

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MISSION OF ST. GREGORY CLASSICAL ACADEMY. PLEASE KEEP OUR STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND FOUNDING FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS.

GriefShare®



Grief Support Group

*Help and encouragement
after the death of a loved one*

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 12-week group, you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.

**All Orthodox Christians
are invited to participate**

Register Today

<http://tinyurl.com/GriefShareSTP>

or call 440.237.8998

**Tuesdays 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM
February 17 - May 12, 2025***

**sessions will not be held March 3 or April 7*

St Paul Greek Orthodox Church
4548 Wallings Road
North Royalton OH 44133

St Paul Greek Orthodox Church | North Royalton OH

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

*The Missing Piece: Reclaiming
the Importance of Service*

March 7, 2026
10:00 AM

Steven Christoforou

Executive Director - Focus North America
(creator of "Be the Bee" video series)

\$10.00 - Refreshments & Lunch Included

RSVP Required at

<https://tinyurl.com/ParishRetreatSTP>

GUEST SPEAKER

St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church
4548 Wallings Road
North Royalton OH 44133



*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

2/8/2026

Deceased:

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*)

Kathleen Spickler

**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 22:

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 8

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 Memorial Saturday Panihida
5:30 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

BIWEEKLY SCHEDULE 2026



The sixth day of the Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord falls on February 8. The hymns of the day speak of Christ fulfilling the Law by being brought to the Temple, and of how the Theotokos "reveals to the world its Creator, and the Giver of the Law."

Monday, February 16

Martyrs Pamphilius—Presbyter, Valens—
Deacon, Paul, Seleucus, Porphyrius,
Julian, Theodulus, Elias, Jeremiah, Isaiah,
Samuel, and Daniel, at Cæsarea in
Palestine (307-309)

Tuesday, February 17

Great Martyr Theodore the Tyro (Recruit)
("the Recruit"—ca. 306)
6:30 Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 18

St. Leo the Great, Pope of Rome (461).
Ven Cosmas of Yakhromsk (1492)
6:00 PM Daily Vespers

Thursday, February 19

Apostles of the Seventy Archippus
(Arkhipp) and Philemon, and
Martyr Apphia (1st c.)

Friday, February 20

St. Leo, Bishop of Catania in Sicily
(ca. 780)

Saturday, February 21

Saturday of Cheesefare
Commemoration of All Departed Righteous Monastics
Saint Makarios of Glinsk Hermitage
(19th c.)
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, February 22

Sunday of Cheesefare
The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise
Uncovering of the Relics of the Holy
Martyrs at the Gate of Eugenius at Con-
stantinople (395-423)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
Restoration Meeting to follow