

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](https://www.google.com/groups)

MAY 17, 2026
6TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA
SUNDAY OF THE
BLIND MAN



At the end of Chapter 8 in Gospel of Saint John, the Savior was disputing with the Pharisees in the Temple during the Feast of Tabernacles. He told them, "Your father Abraham was glad that he should see my day; and he saw it and rejoiced" (John 8:56). The Jews said that Jesus was not even fifty years old, so how could He claim to have seen Abraham? The Lord replied, "Before Abraham was, I am." I am, of course, is the name that God revealed to Moses in the Burning Bush. When the Jews picked up stones to throw at Him, He hid Himself and went out of the Temple.

We read in Saint John's Gospel (9:1-38): "As He passed by, he saw a man who was blind from birth." It might appear that Jesus was on His way to something or someone else, but in his Commentary on the Gospel of Saint John, the ever-memorable Archbishop Dmitri of Dallas, quotes from Homily LVI of Saint John Chrysostom: "that on going out of the Temple, He proceeded intentionally to the work, is clear from this: it was He who saw the blind man, and not the blind man who came to Him...."

Christ's disciples asked Him who had sinned, the blind man or his parents that he had been born blind. Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God might be manifested in him" (John 9:3). It was thought that a person who had some affliction must have sinned (or his parents did) to deserve such punishment. In the Book of Exodus (20:5), God said that he would visit "the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation." This, however, applied to the sin of idolatry, if the children emulated their parents' behavior.

The blind man was not born blind just so the miracle could be performed, but seeing the man in such a condition, the Lord decided to use him in a way that would manifest God's glory. He Who is the Light of the world healed the blind man and enlightened him. Giving sight to the blind was one of the signs which would identify the Messiah (Matthew 11:4-6).

The Lord made clay when He spat on the ground, and placed it in the man's empty eye sockets and sent him to the pool of Siloam to wash. Most versions of the Gospels translate the word *επεθηκεν* as "anointed," but it can also mean "to spread on," or "to smear." Siloam means "sent," and in Saint John's Gospel Christ says about forty times that He Himself had been sent by the Father."

This manner of healing reminds us of the way God created man by fashioning him from the dust of the earth. In the Old Testament God created man from the dust of the earth, now Christ, the same God, fashions eyes from the clay and places them in the blind man's empty sockets. Here are some quotes from the Pentecostarion:

At the Oikos of Matins: "He receives physical eyes as well as those of the soul."

In the Verses of the Synaxarion: "O Bestower of light. Who are Light coming forth from Light; You gave eyes to the man who was blind from birth, O Word."

In the second exapostilarion: "Along the way, the Savior found a man who lacked both sight and eyes."

At Monday Vespers (stikheron of the Feast) we sing, "With his whole soul, and mind, and his

tongue, the man who in times not long passed had been blind, confessed Him Who had fashioned eyes for him out of spittle and clay..."

Saint Theophylaktos says in his Commentary that "Jesus our Lord fashioned all the members of the blind man's body except for the eyes, which He omitted. By healing them now, he completes the divine act of creating and demonstrates that He is the Creator."

Jesus tests the faith of the blind man by sending him to the Pool of Siloam (which means "sent"). He respects the man's freedom, but asks for his voluntary and free participation in the miracle. The blind man, with faith, obeys God's command. He goes and washes in the pool, and he returns seeing.

The former blind man's life was not made easier, however. He becomes the object of the Scribes' and Pharisees' evil and hatred, those who believed in God and in the observance of His Law. They themselves were blind, yet they were suspicious of the formerly blind man, imagining that he only pretended to be blind and now was able to see. "They willingly were made blind by the dark letter of the Law, in which Christ, the resplendent Sun shines."¹

They questioned the man who was blind, but when they see the miracle before their eyes, instead of believing, they shut the eyes of their souls. Then the man's parents were questioned. They were afraid to confirm the miracle that happened to their son who was born blind, because they did not want to be expelled from the synagogue. They tried to avoid trouble by concealing the truth. Therefore, they said, "He is of age, ask him!"

We who receive benefits from God every day are ashamed or afraid to confess God because of our lack of trust. We put our own interests above God, knowing that He will understand us! He will understand us, but He will also see our faith and what priorities we have in our lives. Christ will see what "gods" we have put in His place, but He will not cease to remind us that He is the light of the world.

The blind man was healed, not only in the eyes of his body but eventually in his soul as well. He recognizes Jesus as God, and does not hesitate to

confess it before the religious rulers with courage that many of us would envy. Faith alone is not enough, we also need to confess our faith in order to become genuine children of God. When we confess Christ before men, He will confess us before His Father, as the Lord has promised us:

"Everyone who shall confess me before men, I also shall confess him before my Father who is in Heaven; and whoever denies me before men I also will deny him before my Father who is in Heaven" (Matthew 10:32).

In addition to the Sunday of the Blind Man, today the Church also commemorates the Icon of the Mother of God "Of the Passion" ([see August 13](#)) in remembrance of the miracles which occurred on this day.

In the Moscow church of the Unburnt Bush in the Khamovniki district, there is an Icon which was once in the Palace. The ancient writing is beautiful. The size of the Icon measures 1 arshin 12 vershkov long, and 1 arshin 7 vershkov wide. This Icon is commemorated twice: on September 4, the

Feast Day of the Prophet Moses, and also on the Sixth Sunday After Pascha (the Sunday of the Blind Man), because according to Tradition, the Icon was transferred from the Kremlin to the newly-consecrated Khamovniki church on this day.

At Khamovniki is the Novodevichii Convent (founded in 1524) and the Zachatievsky convent (founded in 1584), the rebuilt cathedral of Christ the Savior, the church of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker at Khamovniki and others. More than ten Orthodox churches in Khamovniki were destroyed during the Soviet era. Memorial chapels and memorial signs have now been placed on the site of some of the destroyed temples. Khamovniki is also the working residence of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, and the Publishing Council of the Russian Orthodox Church.

¹ Sunday of the Blind man, at Vespers, fourth stikheron on "Lord, I Call."

An opportunity to assist IOCC in a home rebuild in Tennessee June 14 - 20th.

Homes have been damaged from tornadoes. We will leave from Holy Trinity, Parma, after Divine Liturgy on June 14th. Any level of home repair skills is acceptable. We will carpool. Anyone interested I would need their name, phone number, and email address to begin the registration process. Cost is \$100 which covers much of the food's expenses for the individual for the week. Thank you!

Yours in Christ,

Diane Hastings, IOCC Cleveland Chapter Chairperson, Holy Trinity, 440-364-6045, dianehastings3@gmail.com

Coffee Hour Quarter 2 2026

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

April 5 Mary	May 10 (<i>Mother's Day</i>) Men's Potluck	June 14 (<i>Apostle's Fast</i>) Whitlock
April 12 Holy Pascha	May 17 Joyce & Judy	June 21 (<i>Apostle's Fast, Father's Day</i>) Heather Openshaw
April 19 Tammy & Cathy	May 24 Mat. Jana (<i>Sponsored by Una & John</i>)	June 28 (<i>Apostle's Fast</i>) Gabe Tabeling
April 26 Cindy Zdinak (<i>Sponsored by Una & John</i>)	May 31 Sarah & Mike Brennan	
May 3 Whitlock (<i>Sponsored by Una & John</i>)	June 7 Cindy Zdinak	

Candle Price Increase by \$1.00

Thus the \$1.00 candles are now \$2.00, and the larger \$2.00 candles are now \$3.00 — Revenue from candle sales go towards acquiring liturgical supplies necessary for services.



CATCH THE VISION: A DAY AT ST. GREGORY CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Thursday, May 28, 8:30 p.m.

At St. Gregory Classical Academy, our core belief is that each person possesses an inherent dignity that must be cultivated. We are a community where students experience both truth and love, shaped by a curriculum that forms not only the mind, but the heart.

We invite you to experience this vision firsthand. Please fill out this short form by clicking this [link](#) or scanning the QR code to register for our session. Once registered, you will receive a Zoom link to attend the meeting.

During this session, we will explore:

- Our daily routines and student life
- The distinctive features of our classical curriculum
- Feast days, field trips, and the rhythm of the school year
- The spiritual formation of the mind—rooted in the Tradition of the Early Church





EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD OF GREATER CLEVELAND

Unity Through Participation

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR
YOU," DECLARES THE LORD, "PLANS TO
PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU,
PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.

~JEREMIAH 29:11

Theotokos of Vladimir

Saturday, June 6, 2026 @10:00AM



St. E Premte Albanian Orthodox Church
10716 Jasper Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44111



- **Guest Speaker: Father Ives Babich**
"Orthodox Spiritual Struggles"
- Review of the Year
- Social & Refreshments

CELEBRATE OUR 40TH SEASON!

JOIN THE ST. NICHOLAS BALALAIKA ORCHESTRA!

We're seeking **NEW MEMBERS** to join Ohio's **ONLY** balalaika orchestra!
One of just 10 in the US!

WHAT WE OFFER

- **FREE** participation!
- **Loaner** instruments and lessons.
- A fun, welcoming atmosphere for musicians of **ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS**.
- Perform at concert series, festivals, cultural events, and with symphony orchestras.
- **OBOE** and **ACCORDION** players are also welcome!

Whether you're a professional, amateur, or simply love music, come meet us at a rehearsal!



A FOLK ORCHESTRA FROM MOGADORE, OHIO

All that is required is the desire to learn, perform, and have fun!

REHEARSALS

Thursdays, April - December
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
Church Basement

INTERESTED?

Mary Jane Malackany
Director & Founder
CALL / TEXT 330-268-9448
EMAIL mj1domra@gmail.com

A Peaceful Present - Parish Retreat

An Acts 1:8 retreat on listening to Christ and to the places we live — so our lives may bear witness, here and everywhere.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
6822 Broadview Road
Parma, OH 44134

Retreat Leader: Geoff Whiteman, ThM, LMFT

Geoff is an Orthodox Christian counselor and author with interest in global worker resiliency, and served with OCMC for many years. He lives with his family in KY. He has led interactive retreats in the US and abroad.

Friday May 22nd - 6pm-8pm - Moleben, Potluck, Introductions

Saturday May 23rd - 9:30am-4pm - Morning Sessions, Lunch, Afternoon Sessions

Registration Information for Saturday:

High School Students and Adults are encouraged to register

Link: <https://forms.gle/pkZbAZbMa2b4Z9a1A> or QR CODE →

Cost: Participant: \$15.00, Couple: \$25.00, Child/Student: \$5.00

Childcare will be provided for registrants up to Middle School age for the Saturday sessions.



In every generation, ordinary Christians found a way to live faithfully in difficult times — weary, restless, and overwhelmed. The tradition they gave us — our prayers, our liturgy, our Scriptures, our community — helped ordinary men and women like you and me to become saints.

And yet many of us feel the gap between the faith we practice and the life we actually live. It can be hard to connect what happens in the nave on Sunday to what happens at work on Monday, at the dinner table on Tuesday, or in the news on Wednesday.

Acts 1:8 closes that gap. *You will be my witnesses* — not an impossible demand, but a promise Christ spoke to his disciples at his Ascension and speaks to us today. A commission into our daily life: your home, your neighborhood, your work, your parish, even our world.

Over a gentle Friday evening and Saturday, we'll gather — parishioners and the guests you bring — for prayers, shared meals, honest conversation, and simple practices rooted in our lived faith. You won't leave with a long to-do list of expectations you can't live up to.

You'll leave with clarity on your next right step — and a fresh lens on the life you're already living, and how being sent as Jesus' witness changes the way you show up in the relationships and spaces that matter most.

We can't change the world – but we can show up.

This retreat is about learning to be present as an act of peace in daily life.

SERBIAN GOLF OUTING DINNER AND MUSIC SATURDAY, July 11, 2026

Net proceeds for the *SERBIAN CULTURAL GARDEN*



**\$150 FEE
INCLUDES**

**18 Holes Golf
and Cart
Italian
Luncheon
Prizes * Music
* Dinner**

NEW SHOTGUN FORMAT

SLEEPY HOLLOW GOLF COURSE
9445 Brecksville Road
Brecksville, Ohio 44141
SHOTGUN START FORMAT

TIME	EVENT
11:30 a.m.	Registration (with a shot of Slivo)
12:30 p.m.	Tee time for shotgun start
6:00 p.m.	Dinner, Music and Awards
GOLFER FEE PAYMENT REQUIRED IN ADVANCE	

Winning foursome receives a cash prize!

St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church
2151 West Wallings Rd., Broadview Hts., OH 44147
Non-golfing spouses, friends and guests welcome!
\$35.00 includes Dinner, Prizes and Music!



Credit Cards & PayPal now accepted (fee applies) on website:
www.serbianculturalgarden.org

OR Checks payable to the: **Serbian Golf Outing**
Mail to: Serbian Golf Outing, P. O. Box 91896, Cleveland, Ohio 44101

PAYMENT TO BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2026

For further information, call (216) 716-4305 or email
amaoffice80@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

5/17/2026

Deceased:

Joseph Wade

Special Intentions:

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Subdeacon Leon Felon

Reader Frank Tkacz

Reader Daniel Morris

Reader Haralambos Steingass

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

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*)

Elena Rich

Donald & Catherine & unborn child

Quinn (*niece of John Alexandrovic*)

Michael

Allison

Mackenzie

Thomas Virostek

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>



Time for Boys' Night Out!

Sunday, May 24th at 5PM
we will have our Boys' Night Out at
The South Side
2207 W11 St. in Tremont
Please let Dan Morris know if you plan to attend. See you there!

Sunday, May 17

Sixth Sunday after Pascha

Sunday of the Blind Man

Icon of the Mother of God "of the Passion"

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

Event Committee Meeting to follow

Monday, May 18

Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra, and those with him (303)

Tuesday, May 19

Hieromartyr Patrick, Bishop of Prussa, and his companions: Presbyters Acacius, Menander, and Polyenus (2nd-3rd c.)
6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 20

Leavetaking of Pascha

Forefeast of the Ascension

Unmercenary Physician Thallelaios at

Aegae in Cilicia and his companions,

Martyrs Alexander and Asterios (ca. 284)

6:00 PM Vespers for the Ascension

Thursday, May 21

Ascension of the Lord

Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Emperor

Constantine and his mother, Helen (327)

9:00 *Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church @ 6822 Broadview Rd, Parma*

Friday, May 22

Afterfeast of the Ascension

Martyr Basiliscus, Bishop of Comana (ca. 308)

Saturday, May 23

Afterfeast of the Ascension

St. Michael the Confessor, Bishop of Synnada (831)

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Great Vespers

BIWEEKLY SCHEDULE 2026



The Icon of the Mother of God "Of the Passion" The icon received its name because on either side of the Mother of God are two angels with the implements of the Lord's suffering: the Cross, the lance, and the sponge.

Sunday, May 24

Seventh Sunday after Pascha

Afterfeast of the Ascension

Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

5:00 PM *Boys' Night Out*

Monday, May 25

Afterfeast of the Ascension

Third Finding of the Honorable Head of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John (ca. 850)

Tuesday, May 26

Afterfeast of the Ascension

Apostles Carpus and Alphæus of the Seventy (1st c.)

Wednesday, May 27

Afterfeast of the Ascension

Hieromartyr Therapon, Bishop of Sardis (3rd c.)

Thursday, May 28

Afterfeast of the Ascension

St. Niketas, Bishop of Chalcedon (9th c.)

**6:00 PM Thanksgiving Akathist
Anniversary of the Fire of 2024**

Friday, May 29

Leavetaking of the Ascension

Holy Virgin Martyr Theodosia of Tyre (307)

Saturday, May 30

Memorial Saturday

Ven. Isaac, Founder of Dalmátos Monastery at Constantinople (383)

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM All Night Vigil

Sunday, May 31

Eighth Sunday after Pascha

Holy Pentecost: Feast of the Holy Trinity

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour