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

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MARTYRS CALLISTRATUS AND HIS COMPANY

Saint Callistratus was a native of Carthage. An ancestor of Saint Callistratus, Neochorus, had served under the emperor Tiberius in Palestine, under the command of Pontius Pilate, the procurator of Judea, and was a witness to the suffering on the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, His voluntary death and glorious Resurrection. The saint's father was a Christian, and he raised his son in faith and piety. Also like his father, Saint Callistratus became a soldier and excelled among his pagan military comrades by his good conduct and gentle disposition.

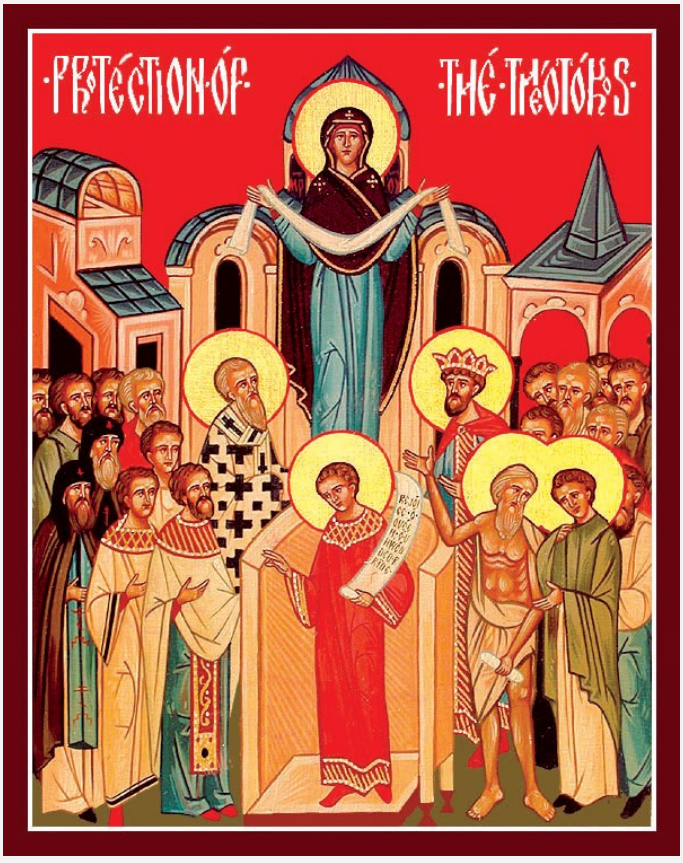
At night when everyone slept, he usually stayed up at prayer. Once, a soldier sleeping nearby heard Saint Callistratus invoking the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and he reported this to the military commander, who in turn summoned Callistratus, interrogated him and wanted to make him offer sacrifice to idols. The saint resolutely refused to do this, so the military commander ordered that the saint be beaten. Then, covered with wounds, the saint was dragged over sharp stones. The beating and the torments did not sway the firm will and brave endurance of the sufferer.

The saint was sewn up in a leather sack and drowned in the sea. By God's mercy, however, the sack struck a sharp rock and was torn open. Saint Callistratus came to dry land unharmed, carried by dolphins. Viewing such a miracle, forty-nine soldiers came to believe in Christ. Then the military commander threw Saint Callistratus and the believing soldiers into prison. Before this, all of them were subjected to innumerable flog-

gings.
In jail Saint Callistatus continued to preach the Word of God to the soldiers and he bolstered their spirits for martyrdom. Summoned again before the military commander, the sufferers firmly confessed their faith in Christ, after which they were bound hand and foot and thrown into the depths of a great lake behind a dam. But there their bonds broke, and with bright faces the holy martyrs stood in the water, rejoicing in their Baptism, which coincided with the act of martyrdom. Beautiful bright crowns appeared over their heads, and all heard a voice: "Be brave, Callistratus, with your company, and come rest in the eternal habitations." At the same time, the earth shuddered and an idol standing nearby fell down and smashed. Seeing this, another 135 soldiers also believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. The military commander, fearing a mutiny in the army, did not put them on trial, but again imprisoned Saint Callistratus with his 49 companions, where they fervently prayed and gave thanks to the Creator for giving them power to endure such sufferings.
At night the martyrs were cut to pieces with swords by order of the military commander. Their holy relics were buried by the 135 soldiers who remained alive. Later, a church was built on the spot of their sufferings, as Saint Callistatus had foretold.

The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.



On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop's Throne, she continued her prayer. After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed "more than the rays of the sun." Saint Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, "Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?" Epiphanius answered, "I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe."
The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, "O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard."
Saints Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and "for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation."
At the Blachernae church, the memory of the miraculous appearance of the Mother of God was remembered. In the fourteenth century, the Russian pilgrim and clerk Alexander, saw in the church an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos praying for the world, depicting Saint Andrew in contemplation of her.
The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor reflects that the protective intercession of the Mother of God was needed because an attack of a large pagan Russian fleet under the leadership of Askole and Dir. The feast celebrates the divine destruction of the fleet

which threatened Constantinople itself, sometime in the years 864-867 or according to the Russian historian Vasiliev, on June 18, 860. Ironically, this Feast is considered more important by the Slavs then by the Greeks.

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor also notes the miraculous deliverance followed an all-night Vigil and the dipping of the garment of the Mother of God into the waters of the sea at the Blachernae church, but does not mention Saints Andrew and Epiphanius and their vision of the Mother of God at prayer.

These latter elements, and the beginnings of the celebrating of the Feast of the Protection, seem to postdate Saint Nestor and the Chronicle. A further historical complication might be noted under (October 2) dating Saint Andrew's death to the year 936.

The year of death might not be quite reliable, or the assertion that he survived to a ripe old age after the vision of his youth, or that his vision involved some later pagan Russian raid which met with the same fate. The suggestion that Saint Andrew was a Slav (or a Scythian according to other sources, such as S. V. Bulgakov) is interesting, but not necessarily accurate. The extent of Slavic expansion and repopulation into Greece is the topic of scholarly disputes.

In the Prologue, a Russian book of the twelfth century, a description of the establishment of the special Feast marking this event states, "For when we heard, we realized how wondrous and merciful was the vision... and it transpired that Your holy Protection should not remain without festal celebration, O Ever-Blessed One!"

Therefore, in the festal celebration of the Protection of the Mother of God, the Russian Church sings, "With the choirs of the Angels, O Sovereign Lady, with the venerable and glorious prophets, with the First-Ranked Apostles and with the Hieromartyrs and Hierarchs, pray for us sinners, glorifying the Feast of your Protection in the Russian Land." Moreover, it would seem that Saint Andrew, contemplating the miraculous vision was a Slav, was taken captive, and became the slave of the local inhabitant of Constantinople named Theognostus.

Churches in honor of the Protection of the Mother of God began to appear in Russia in the twelfth century. Widely known for its architectural merit is the temple of the Protection at Nerl, which was built in the year 1165 by holy Prince Andrew Bogoliubsky. The efforts of this holy prince also established in the Russian Church the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God, about the year 1164.

At Novgorod in the twelfth century there was a monastery of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos (the so-called Zverin monastery) In Moscow also under Tsar Ivan the Terrible the cathedral of the Protection of the Mother of God was built at the church of the Holy Trinity (known as the church of Saint Basil the Blessed).

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, "Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you."

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

To the Wedding of ***Gabriel Tabeling*** and ***Trisha Allen***

at ***Holy Trinity Orthodox Church***

6822 Broadview Rd. Parma, OH

At 2:00 PM on the day of October 11, 2026

Coffee Hour Quarter 3 2026

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

July 5
Joyce & Judy

July 12
Matushka Jana

July 19
Christopher & Emiko

July 26
Mary

August 2 *(Dormition Fast)*
Dan & Lavinia

(Sponsored by Una & John)

August 9 *(Dormition Fast)*
Matushka Jana

August 16
Tammy
(Sponsored by Una & John)

August 23
Joyce & Judy

August 30
Sarah & Mike Brennan

September 6
Shawna
(Sponsored by Anonymous)

September 13
Holly Roe

September 20
Heather

September 27
Shawna

ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIAN SUNDAY

With the blessing of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, our parishes of the Orthodox Church in America recognize - on this first Sunday in October - our many church singers, music directors, composers, arrangers of music, and bell-ringers. May God grant you Many Years!

SUNDAY

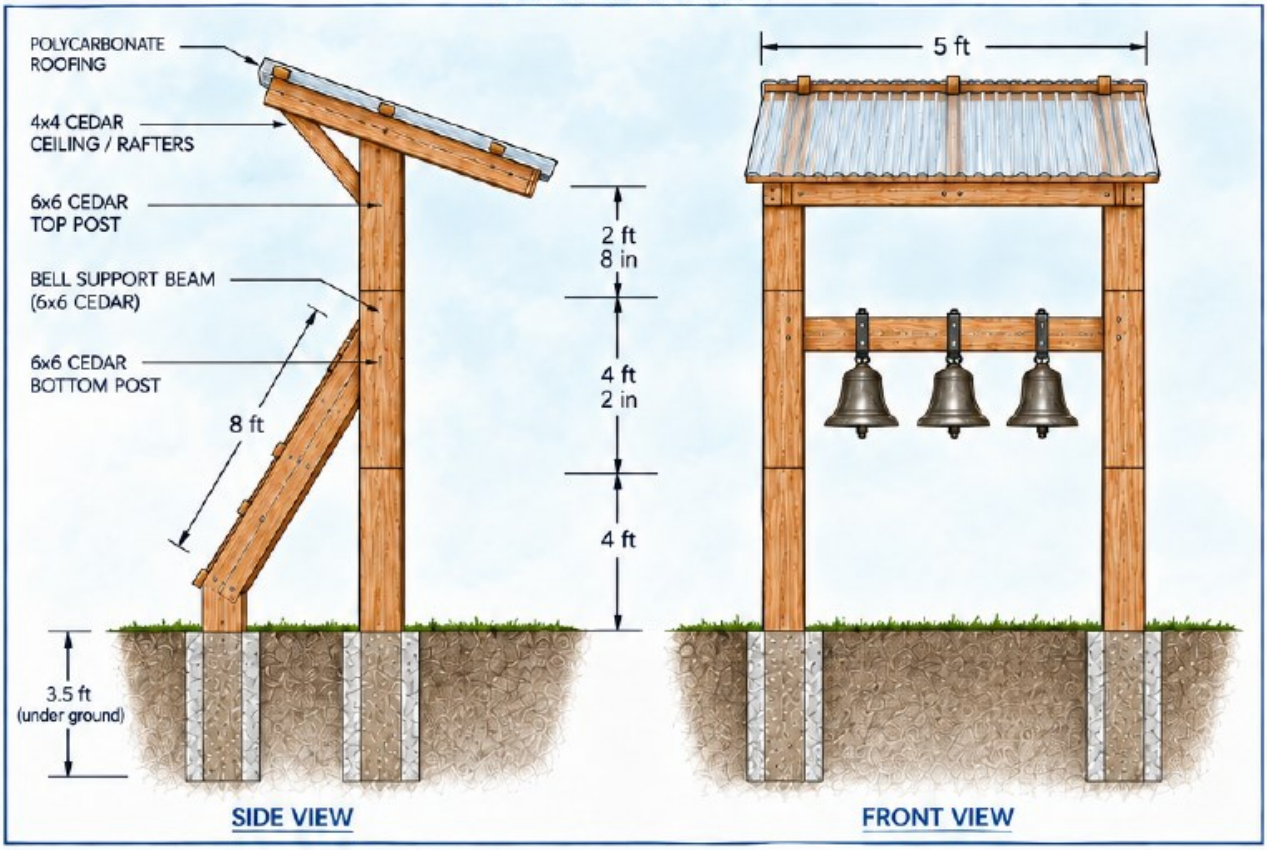
OCTOBER 4

Caleb Eppele's Eagle Scout Project

To Benefit St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

Help bring this bell tower to life!

This project will create a beautiful and lasting bell tower for our church, honoring our faith and community. Any contribution, big or small, makes a difference!

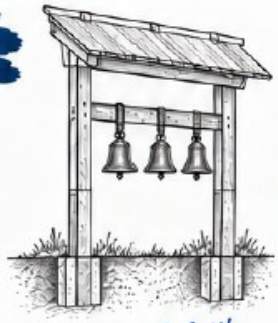


Ways to Give

Donations to the Church can be noted as **"Caleb Eagle Project"**

Payment via Venmo to **Lauren Eppele** **@lmeppele**

Thank you for your support!



Built with faith, community and Scouting values.

Eagle Scout Project Proposed Budget

Materials	
Wood	$1,000
Roof	$100
8" bell	$175.00
10" bell	$310.00
14" bell	$1,125.00
Concrete	$90
Screws	$200
Joists	$300
Total	**$3,300**

Please Join us at Holy Assumption Orthodox Church
2027 18th St NE Canton OH 44705
Tuesday October 27th at 9:30am (Hours at 9:10am)
Divine Liturgy
On the Occasion of the Feast Day of the recently Glorified Matushka Olga
Mother Olga, Pray for us!

PRAYER REQUESTS

9/27/2026

Special Intentions:

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Subdeacon Leon Felon

Reader Kenneth Kovach

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

Child McKenna Kranek

Betty Balasz

Elisabeth Lavrisiuk

Phyllis Gindlesperger

Jerry Czajkowski

Barbara Sheean

Tamara Ponomarenko

Paige Benjamin
(niece of Una Alexandrovic)

Sara Wilmot *(friend of Tim Clos)*

Catherine *(niece of Judy Schwind)*

Elena Rich

Quinn *(niece of John Alexandrovic)*

Erin Zawolowycz

Anthony Swit

Nina Mytrohovich

Aleksandr Zdinak (Sasha)

John Pound (friend of Fr. & Mat. Zdinak)

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

BIWEEKLY SCHEDULE 2026

Sunday, September 27
17th Sunday after Pentecost
Martyrs Callistratus and his company (49 Martyrs—ca. 304)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

Monday, September 28
Ven. Chariton the Confessor, Abbot of Palestine (ca. 350)

Tuesday, September 29
Ven. Kyriakos the Anchorite (556)

Wednesday, September 30
Hieromartyr Gregory, Bishop of Greater Armenia, Equal of the Apostles,
Enlightener of Armenia (ca. 335)
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Thursday, October 1
The Protection (Pokrov) of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

Friday, October 2
Hieromartyr Cyprian, Virgin Martyr Justina, and Martyr Theoctistus, of Nicomedia (304)

Saturday, October 3
Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite, Bishop of Athens, and with him Martyrs Rusticus the Presbyter and Eleutherius the Deacon (96)
5:00 PM Confessions
5:45 PM Panichida
(Mary & Martha Gajewsky)
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, October 4
18th Sunday after Pentecost
Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens (1st c.)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

The Holy Apostle Mark of the Seventy (Sept 27), also named John, is mentioned by the holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 12:25, 15:37-39) and also by the holy Apostle Paul in both the Epistle to the Colossians (Col 4:10) and the Epistle to Philemon (Philemon 1:23).
The holy Apostle Mark preached the Word of God together with Paul and Barnabas and was made bishop of the Phoenician city of Biblos. The holy Apostle Mark attained great boldness before God, so that his very shadow healed the sick (also January 4 and April 15).

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

Monday, October 5
Martyr Charitina of Amisos (304)

Tuesday, October 6
Glorification of St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts, and Apostle to the Americas
(1977—Sept 23rd O.S.)

Wednesday, October 7
Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus in Syria (290-303)
6:00 PM Akathist to St. Theodosius

Thursday, October 8
Ven. Pelagía the Penitent (457)
6:30 AM Hours & Typica

Friday, October 9
Glorification of St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Enlightener of North America
(1989—Sept 26th O.S.)
Holy Apostle James (Jacob), Son of Alphæus (1st c.)

Saturday, October 10
Martyrs Eulampius and Eulampia, at Nicomedia, and 200 Martyrs with them (303-311)
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, October 11
19th Sunday after Pentecost
Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
2:00 PM Wedding of Gabriel Tabeling and Trisha Allen
@Holy Trinity Orthodox Church