

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



MARCH 8, 2020

Sunday of Orthodoxy

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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

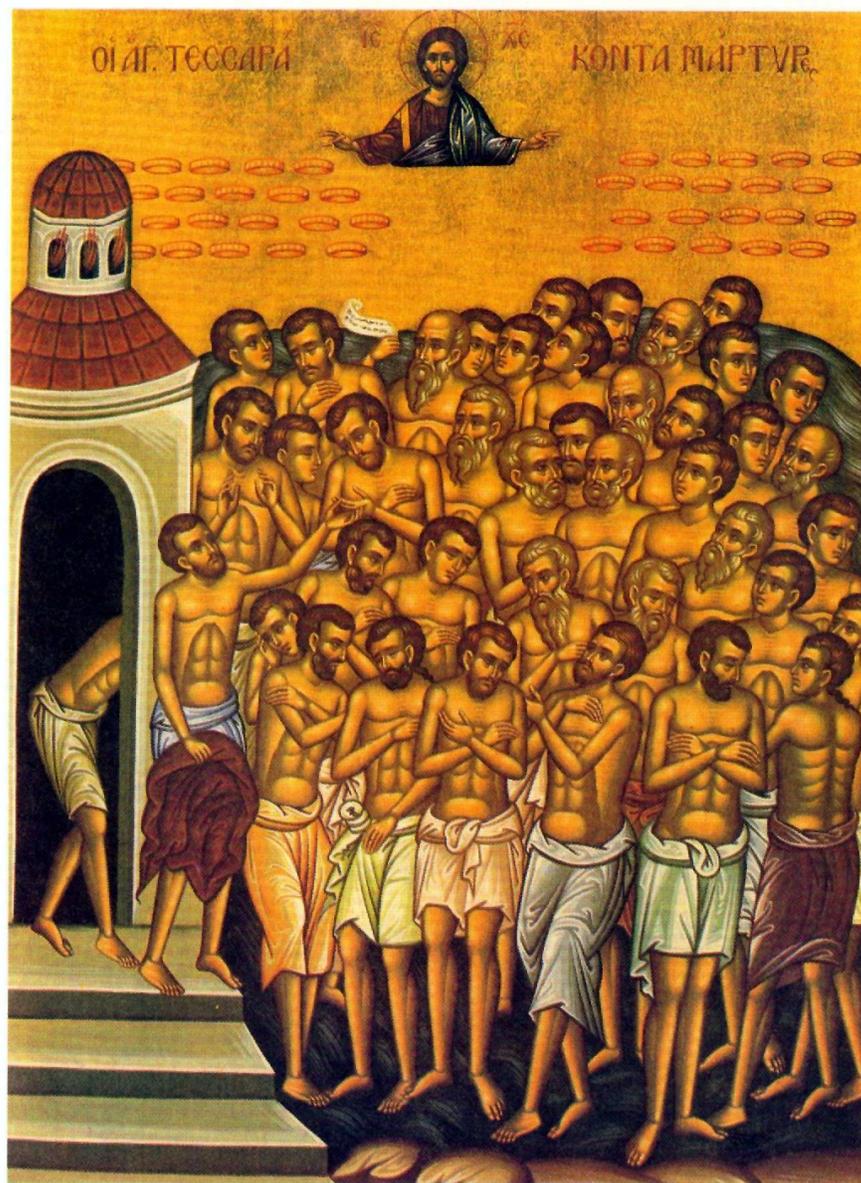
AMBO: Articles for publica-
tion should be submitted to:

[ambo-theodosius](mailto:ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com)

[@googlegroups.com](mailto:ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com)

by Wednesday of each week
before noon.

* CALENDAR: Event dates
must be submitted by the
15th of each month.



The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste

(March 9)

The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste (March 9)

In the year 313 Saint Constantine the Great issued an edict granting Christians religious freedom, and officially recognizing Christianity as equal with paganism under the law. But his co-ruler Licinius was a pagan, and he decided to stamp out Christianity in his part of the Empire. As Licinius prepared his army to fight Constantine, he decided to remove Christians from his army, fearing mutiny.

One of the military commanders of that time in the Armenian city of Sebaste was Agricola, a zealous champion of idolatry. Under his command was a company of forty Cappadocians, brave soldiers who had distinguished themselves in many battles. When these Christian soldiers refused to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, Agricola locked them up in prison. The soldiers occupied themselves with prayer and psalmody, and during the night they heard a voice saying, "Persevere until the end, then you shall be saved."

On the following morning, the soldiers were again taken to Agricola. This time the pagan tried flattery. He began to praise their valor, their youth and strength, and once more he urged them to renounce Christ and thereby win themselves the respect and favor of their emperor.

Seven days later, the renowned judge Licius arrived at Sebaste and put the soldiers on trial. The saints steadfastly answered, "Take not only our military insignia, but also our lives, since nothing is more precious to us than Christ God." Licius then ordered his servants to stone the holy martyrs.

But the stones missed the saints and returned to strike those who had thrown them. One stone thrown by Licius hit Agricola in the face, smashing his teeth. The torturers realized that the saints were guarded by some invisible power. In prison, the soldiers spent the night in prayer and again they heard the voice of the Lord comforting them: "He who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live (John 11:25). Be brave and fear not, for you shall obtain imperishable crowns."

On the following day the judge repeated the interrogation in front of the torturer, but the soldiers remained unyielding.

It was winter, and there was a severe frost. They lined up the

holy soldiers, threw them into a lake near the city, and set a guard to prevent them from coming out of the water. In order to break the will of the martyrs, a warm bath-house was set up on the shore. During the first hour of the night, when the cold had become unbearable, one of the soldiers made a dash for the bath-house, but no sooner had he stepped over the threshold, then he fell down dead.

During the third hour of the night, the Lord sent consolation to the martyrs. Suddenly there was light, the ice melted away, and the water in the lake became warm. All the guards were asleep, except for Aglaius, who was keeping watch. Looking at the lake he saw that a radiant crown had appeared over the head of each martyr. Aglaius counted thirty-nine crowns and realized that the soldier who fled had lost his crown.

Aggias then woke up the other guards, took off his uniform and said to them, "I too am a Christian," and he joined the martyrs. Standing in the water he prayed, "Lord God, I believe in You, in Whom these soldiers believe. Add me to their number, and make me worthy to suffer with Your servants." Then a fortieth crown appeared over his head.

In the morning, the torturers saw with surprise that the martyrs were still alive, and their guard Aggias was glorifying Christ together with them. They led the soldiers out of the water and broke their legs. During this horrible execution the mother of the youngest of the soldiers, Meliton, pleaded with her son to persevere until death.

They put the bodies of the martyrs on a cart and committed them to fire. Young Meliton was still breathing, and they left him on the ground. His mother then picked up her son, and on her own shoulders she carried him behind the cart. When Meliton drew his last breath, his mother put him on the cart with the bodies of his fellow sufferers. The bodies of the saints were tossed in the fire, and their charred bones were thrown into the water, so that Christians would not gather them up.

Three days later the martyrs appeared in a dream to Saint Peter, Bishop of Sebaste, and commanded him to bury their remains. The bishop together with several clergy gathered up

the relics of the glorious martyrs by night and buried them with honor.

There is a pious custom of baking "skylarks" (pastries shaped like skylarks) on this day, because people believed that birds sing at this time to announce the arrival of spring. Forty "skylarks" are prepared in honor of the Forty Martyrs.

The names of the forty martyrs are: Cyrion (or Quirio), Candidus, Domnus, Hesychius, Heraclius, Smaragdus, Eunocius (Or Eunicus), Valens, Vivianus, Claudius, Priscus, Theodulus, Euty chius, John, Xanthius, Helianus, Sisinius, Aggias, Aetius, Flavius, Acacius, Ecdicius, Lysimachus, Alexander, Elias, Gorgonius, Theophilus, Dometian, Gaius, Leontuis, Athanasius, Cyril, Sacerdon, Nicholas, Valerius, Philoctimon, Severian, Chudion, Aglaius, and Meliton.

Welcome Visitors

Our parish welcomes you and thanks you for joining us at today's Divine Liturgy. While only Orthodox Christians may approach the chalice for Holy Communion, everyone is welcome to partake of the Holy Bread after Liturgy.

EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD

Saturday, March 21, 2020 10:00a.m

- Memorial service for Deceased EOWG Members
- Lenten Luncheon provided by St. Sava members
- Presentation: Bible Prophecy of the Holy Passion of Christ - Josephine Vuich
- See **Karen Felon** for details...

St. Sava Serbian Cathedral
6306 Broadview Road
Parma, Ohio 44134



Merrick House had receive a grant for food, and put our donations on hold.

That grant has been used, and MH is once again asking for grocery bags.

With the parish's current financial position, there isn't room for a monthly allotment for those bags.

So, we will continue to keep envelopes in the foyer, which are specifically earmarked for Merrick House.

\$10 fills one grocery bag, and anything we can offer is appreciated at MH.

Thank you for your help with those in need. See Dan Morris with any questions.

We are now serving lunch at St. Herman's on the SECOND Saturday of each month. We are then making sandwiches for them the very NEXT DAY (Sunday) in the Parish Hall during coffee hour. Everyone is welcome to help, kids included. Thank you to all who have been making these events successful - may God bless each of you.

See Dan Morris with any questions.

THOUGHTS FROM FR. JOHN ADAMCIO...

*The Prophets bore the fruit of eternal life;
they prepared the way of the Lord.*

*By their words they proclaimed You; by their deeds they honored You: they would not worship
creation instead of You, the Creator.*

Lord I Cry... Verses

The First Sunday of the Great Fast is dedicated to the *Triumph of Orthodoxy*, the restoration of icons to the Orthodox Faith. There was a time in the history of the Holy Orthodox Church that icons were no longer used either in the churches or personal veneration.

Early in the 8th Century, a group of Byzantine emperors, some under the political influence of Islam, began to destroy iconography, forbidding the use of icons in the worship of the Orthodox Church. These *iconoclasts* (icon-breakers), began a reign of terror within the Church and the Empire. This lasted for more than a century as icons were no longer used for veneration. Part of the rationale of this movement dealt with the Second Commandment not making graven images. Heretofore, icons were always used in personal and corporate veneration.

The Seventh Ecumenical Council was convened to discuss the problem, and finally restored icons to their proper place in the worship of the Church. On Sunday, March 11, 843, the First Sunday of the Great Fast that year, the Empress Irene proclaimed the decision of the Council.

On this day, the Church reminds us not only of the restoration of iconography and hymnography to

their proper place, but also anathematizes all heresies (false teachings). It is important for us to always follow the true teachings of the Church.

However, even though times change, heresy is often to be found hiding in plain sight. It could be said there was a second iconoclast movement during the time of the Protestant Reformation, when icons, and crosses, were expunged from the churches, It remains so even to this day!

The hymns of the Orthodox Church call us to worship the Creator, rather than creation. However, we see in these modern days not only a revival of false belief, but also of paganism itself.

The proliferation of non-Christian world religions in this pluralistic society is on the rise. We see belief systems that worship the created rather than our Lord Jesus Christ, His most holy Mother, and the saints.

It is vitally important for us to study and understand the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church, not falling into false or wrong beliefs which can influence us. Hold fast to the Nicean-Constantinopolitan Creed which we sing at every Liturgy, and many of the services of the Church.

Do you stay for coffee hour? Do you use Styrofoam cups? Well, how about using a real coffee mug? Bring your own mug, or bring some extras to share.



This is an effort to be more "green," which would also save the parish some green(back)s. You can wash your mug in the kitchen and store it there, put it on the mug tree, or take it home (and bring it back). There will still be Styrofoam cups as needed.

If you have any questions, please see **Dan Morris**.

PLEASE SUPPORT

Chris Weber

and

TEAM IOCC

*at the Pittsburgh
Marathon Weekend*

May 2, 2020

Search for your runner & donate at:

iocc.org/pgh



PRAYER REQUESTS



Special Intentions:

Deacon Paul Mitchell (*Tom Mitchell's father*)

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Reader Paul Pangrace

Child Mary Kate Zweidunger

Child Vivian Sherer

Melissa (*cousin of Mary Ann Kovach*)

Lyndsey (*friend of Melissa McCutcheon*)

Elizabeth (Betty) Balasz

Marie Borland

Sandra Brello

Elsie Conrad

Horia Dascalescu

Debra Ellis

Gregory Galan

Aleksei Green

Virginia Haupt (*Lisa Theodore's mother*)

Don Hinkl

Matthew Hunly (*Phyllis Gindlesperger's brother-in-law*)

Diane Kearsey (*Janice Tkacz's sister*)

Lacey Udell (*wife of Michael Udell*)

Mara Kilbane (*Melissa McCutcheon's granddaughter*)

Annamarie Luvison (*Daughter of Kaite Ellis-Luvison*)

Chris Magee (*Erin Zawolowycz's brother*)

Melissa McCutcheon

Michael McCutcheon

Marguerite Mihal (*Paul Mihal's mother*)

Paul Mihal

Natalya Miller (*Arlene Neale's great-niece*)

Andrew Mytrohovich

Annie Mytrohovich

Debra Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's sister*)

Grace Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's mother*)

Jim Paulitzky (*Jerry Czajkowski's son-in-law*)

James Peter Petkac

Anastasia Pogorily

Susan Reese (*friend of Jerry & Arlene Czajkowski and Betty Balasz*)

Elena Rich (*Jerry Czajkowski's daughter*)

Joseph Rusynyk

Andrew Sykaluk

Elaine Sudnick (*Joy Pfeiffer's mother*)

Tony Sykaluk (*friend of Lydia Mytrohovich*)

Janice Tkacz

Joanne Theodore (*Lisa Theodore's mother-in law*)

Gayle Vidovitch

Eleanor Wachovec (*friend of Karen Felon*)

Robert Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

Colleen Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

Erin Zawolowycz

Susan Yurik

Kristin Robinson

Janet Budko (*sister-in-law of Arlene Neale*)

Laurie Budko (*niece of Arlene Neale*)

Alex Ponomarenko

Mary Kay Weber

Mirta Szweczyk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Mickey O'Brien (*friend of Arlene*)

Dominic & Megan Theodore and unborn child

Nicholas & Erin Reidy and unborn child

David & Jessie Jacobson and unborn child

Jeremy & Yvonne Pozderac and unborn child.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 8

Mar 8

Luke 24:2-35
Heb 11:24-26, 32-12:2
John 1:43-51

Mar 10

Isa 5:7-16
Gen 4:8-15
Prov 5:1-15

Mar 13

Isa 7:1-15
Gen 5:32-6:8
Prov 6:20-7:1

Mar 9

Isa 4:2-5:7
Gen 3:21-4:7
Prov 3:34-4:22
Isa 43:9-14
Wis 3:1-9
Wis 5:15-6:3
Luke 21:12-19
Heb 12:1-10
Matt 20:1-16

Mar 11

Isa 5:16-25
Gen 4:16-26
Prov 5:15-6:3

Mar 14

1 Thess 4:13-17
John 5:24-30
Heb 3:12-16
Mark 1:35-44

Mar 12

Isa 6:1-12
Gen 5:1-24
Prov 6:3-20

Mar 15

Luke 24:36:53
Heb 7:26-8:2
John 10:9-16
Heb 1:10-2:3
Mark 2:1-12

Sunday, Mar 8

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday of Orthodoxy

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, Mar 9

The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste

Tuesday, Mar 10

Martyr Quadratus and those with him

Wednesday, Mar 11

**St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem
6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy &
Potluck Following**

Thursday, Mar 12

Ven. Theophanes the Confessor

Friday, March 13

**Translation of the Relics of St.
Nicephorus, Patriarch of Constantinople**

Saturday, Mar 14

**Second Saturday in Great Lent
Ven. Benedict of Nursia
6:00 PM Great Vespers**

Sunday, Mar 15

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
St. Gregory Palamas
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy**

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2020

REMINDER:

Please be sure that cell
phones are turned off
before entering the
temple.

THANK YOU.

