

# Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



## Mailing:

733 Starkweather Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113  
T 216. 741. 1310  
F 216. 623. 1092  
[www.sttheodosius.org](http://www.sttheodosius.org)

- Archpriest John Zdinak,  
Dean

[dean@sttheodosius.org](mailto:dean@sttheodosius.org)

Cell: 216. 554. 7282

- Father Jacob Van Sickle

- Protodeacon Daniel Boerio

- Subdeacon Theodore  
Lentz, Sacristan

- Reader Julius Kovach,  
Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

- Reader Paul Pangrace,  
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

\*AMBO: Articles for  
publication should be  
submitted to the office by  
Wednesday of each week  
before noon.

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

**DECEMBER 10, 2017**

**MARTYRS MENAS,  
HERMOGENES  
AND EUGRAPHUS**

ST. SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER



DECEMBER 12

Saint Spyridon of Tremithus was born towards the end of the third century on the island of Cyprus. He was a shepherd, and had a wife and children. He used all his substance for the needs of his neighbors and the homeless, for which the Lord rewarded him with a gift of wonderworking. He healed those who were incurably sick, and cast out demons.

After the death of his wife, during the reign of Constantine the Great (306-337), he was made Bishop of Tremithus, Cyprus. As a bishop, the saint did not alter his manner of life, but combined pastoral service with deeds of charity.

According to the witness of Church historians, Saint Spyridon participated in the sessions of the First Ecumenical Council in the year 325. At the Council, the saint entered into a dispute with a Greek philosopher who was defending the Arian heresy. The power of Saint Spyridon's plain, direct speech showed everyone the importance of human wisdom before God's Wisdom: "Listen, philosopher, to what I tell you. There is one God Who created man from dust. He has ordered all things, both visible and invisible, by His Word and His Spirit. The Word is the Son of God, Who came down upon the earth on account of our sins. He was born of a Virgin, He lived among men, and suffered and died for our salvation, and then He arose from the dead, and He has resurrected the human race with Him. We believe that He is one in essence (consubstantial) with the Father, and equal to Him in authority and honor. We believe this without any sly rationalizations, for it is impossible to grasp this mystery by human reason."

As a result of their discussion, the opponent of Christianity became the saint's zealous defender and later received holy Baptism. After his conversation with Saint Spyridon, the philosopher turned to his companions and said, "Listen! Until now my rivals have presented their arguments, and I was able to refute their proofs with other proofs. But instead of proofs from reason, the words of this Elder are filled with some sort of special power, and no one can refute them, since it is impossible for man to oppose God. If any of you thinks as I do now, let him believe in Christ and join me in following this man, for God Himself speaks through his lips."

At this Council, Saint Spyridon displayed the unity of the Holy Trinity in a remarkable way. He took a brick in his hand and squeezed it. At that instant fire shot up from it, water dripped on the ground, and only dust remained in the hands of the wonderworker. "There was only one brick," Saint Spyridon said, "but it was composed of three elements. In the Holy Trinity there are three Persons, but only one God."

The saint cared for his flock with great love. Through his prayers, drought was replaced by abundant rains, and incessant rains were replaced by fair weather. Through his prayers the sick were healed and demons cast out.

A woman once came up to him with a dead child in her arms, imploring the intercession of the saint. He prayed, and the infant was restored to life. The mother, overcome with joy, collapsed lifeless. Through the prayers of the saint of God, the mother was restored to life.

Another time, hastening to save his friend, who had been falsely accused and sentenced to death, the saint was hindered on his way by the unanticipated flooding of a stream. The saint commanded the water: "Halt! For the Lord of all the world commands that you permit me to cross so that a man may be saved." The will of the saint was fulfilled, and he crossed over happily to the other shore. The judge, apprised of the miracle that had occurred, received Saint Spyridon with esteem and set his friend free.

Similar instances are known from the life of the saint. Once, he went into an empty church, and ordered that the lampadas and candles be lit, and then he began the service. When he said, "Peace be unto all," both he and the deacon heard from above the resounding of "a great multitude of voices saying, "And with thy spirit." This choir was majestic and more sweetly melodious than any human choir. To each petition of the litanies, the invisible choir sang, "Lord, have mercy." Attracted by the church singing, the people who lived nearby hastened towards it. As they got closer and closer to the church, the wondrous singing filled their ears and gladdened their hearts. But when they entered into the church, they saw no one but the bishop and several church servers, and they no longer heard the singing which had greatly astonished them."

Saint Simeon Metaphrastes (November 9), the author of his Life, likened Saint Spyridon to the Patriarch Abraham in his hospitality. Sozomen, in his CHURCH HISTORY, offers an amazing example from the life of the saint of how he received strangers. One time, at the start of the Forty-day Fast, a stranger knocked at his door. Seeing that the traveller was very exhausted, Saint Spyridon said to his daughter, "Wash the feet of this man, so he may recline to dine." But since it was Lent there were none of the necessary provisions, for the saint "partook of food only on certain days, and on other days he went without food." His daughter replied that there was no bread or flour in the house. Then Saint Spyridon, apologizing to his guest, ordered his daughter to cook a salted ham from their larder. After seating the stranger at table, he began to eat, urging that man to do the same. When the latter refused, calling himself a Christian, the saint rejoined, "It is not proper to refuse this, for the Word of God proclaims, "Unto the pure all things are pure" (Titus 1:15).

Another historical detail reported by Sozomen, was characteristic of the saint. It was his custom to distribute one part of the gathered harvest to the destitute, and another portion to those having need while in debt. He did not take a portion for himself, but simply showed them the entrance to his storeroom, where each could take as much as was needed, and could later pay it back in the same way, without records or accountings.

There is also the tale by Socrates Scholasticus about how robbers planned to steal the sheep of Saint Spyridon. They broke into the sheepfold at night, but here they found themselves all tied up by some invisible power. When morning came the saint went to his flock, and seeing the tied-up robbers, he prayed and released them. For a long while he advised them to leave their path of iniquity and earn their livelihood by respectable work. Then he made them a gift of a sheep and sending them off, the saint said kindly, "Take this for your trouble, so that you did not spend a sleepless night in vain."

All the Lives of the saint speak of the amazing simplicity and the gift of wonderworking granted him by God. Through a word of the saint the dead were awakened, the elements of nature tamed, the idols smashed. At one point, a Council had been convened at Alexandria by the Patriarch to discuss what to do about the idols and pagan temples there. Through the prayers of the Fathers of the Council all the idols fell down except one, which was very much revered. It was revealed to the Patriarch in a vision that this idol had to be shattered by Saint Spyridon of Tremithus. Invited by the Council, the saint set sail on a ship, and at the moment the ship touched shore and the saint stepped out on land, the idol in Alexandria with all its offerings turned to dust, which then was reported to the Patriarch and all the bishops.

Saint Spyridon lived his earthly life in righteousness and sanctity, and prayerfully surrendered his soul to the Lord. His relics repose on the island of Corfu (Kerkyra), in a church named after him (His right hand, however, is located in Rome). His memory is also celebrated on Cheesefare Saturday.

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10

Dec. 10 Eph. 6:10-17  
Luke 17:12-19

Dec. 12 2 Tim. 3:16-4:4  
Mark 8:22-26

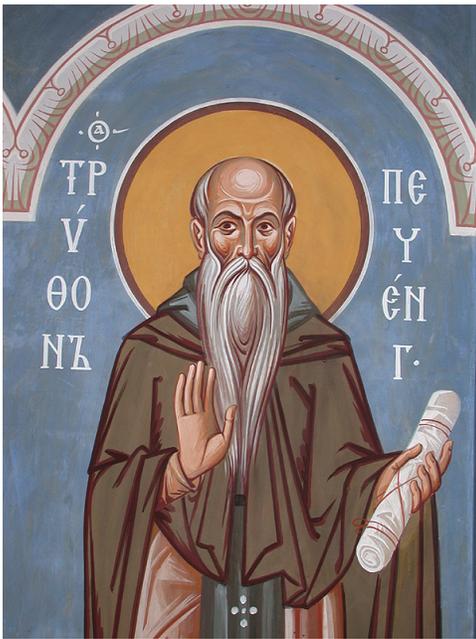
Dec. 15 Titus 1:15-2:10  
Mark 9:33-41

Dec. 11 2 Tim. 2:20-26  
Mark 8:11-21

Dec. 13 2 Tim. 4:9-22  
Mark 8:30-34

Dec. 16 Eph. 1:16-23  
Luke 14:1-11

Dec. 14 Titus 1:5-2:1  
Mark 9:10-16



Saint Tryphon of Pechenga and Kola, in the world Metrophanes, was born in the Novgorod governia into a priestly family. The pious parents raised their son in the fear of God. From his early years Tryphon had resolved to devote his life to apostolic deeds and to go to the pagan Laplanders and proclaim the Gospel of Christ. He knew of them only through the accounts of fish vendors.

Once, while praying in the forest he had heard a voice, “Tryphon, this is not your place. An empty and thirsty land awaits you.” Forsaking his parental home, the saint went out onto the Kola Peninsula and halted at the banks of the Pechenga River, where the Lapps lived. There he began to carry on trade with them. The saint first acquainted himself with the pagan beliefs of these people and studied their language, and then began to preach the Christian Faith to them. The Lapps greeted the words of the saint with great mistrust. The holy preacher suffered much hardship, enduring hostility and even beatings. But gradually, through his wise and kindly words and meekness, many were converted to Christ.

With the blessing of Archbishop Macarius of Novogord, Saint Tryphon and Saint Theodoretos built a church for the newly-converted. In 1532 he founded the Pechenga-Trinity monastery for those eager for the monastic life, “on the cold sea, on the frontier of Murmansk.”

Tsar Ivan the Terrible helped him and richly endowed the monastery. The Enlightener of the Lapps died in old age in 1583, having lived at the Pechenga almost 60 years. Local veneration of Saint Tryphon began soon after his death.

In 1589, the Swedes destroyed the Pechenga monastery. Later, by order of Tsar Theodore, the monastery was transferred to the Kola Peninsula. On the site of the restored monastery a church was built and named for Saint Tryphon. Over the saint’s grave a church was constructed in honor of the Meeting of the Lord. Saint Tryphon has often come to the aid of perishing seamen, who call upon his name with faith.



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Departed:**

**Catherine Rogozinski (Janice Tkacz's mother)**  
**11-25-17**

**Ill Afflicted & Special Intentions:**

**Parish of St. Matthew's Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan Archpriest Theodore Bobosh Child Katie Julia Christopher Baymiller (friend of Paul Pangrace) Paula Baymiller (friend of Paul Pangrace) Carol Bohurjak Marie Borland Elizabeth Bullock (friend of the Jacobsons) Julie Byndas Gregory Cervo Elsie Conrad Arlene Czajkowski Jerry Czajkowski**

**Horia Dascalescu (Lavinia Morris's brother) Gregory Galan Joseph Gammalo Joy Jahans (friend of Paul Pangrace) Stephen Jahans (friend of Paul Pangrace) Diane Kearsy (Janice Tkacz's sister) John Kovalski (friend of Paul Pangrace) Chris Magee (Erin Zawolowycz's brother) Paul Mihal Irene Mysiw (friend of Helen Antonik) Andrew Mytrohovich Daniel O'Donnell Pat O'Donnell Debra Parhamovich (Karen Felon's sister) Grace Parhamovich (Karen Felon's mother) Gina Marie Petkac**

**James Peter Petkac Anastasia Pogorily Elena Rich (Jerry Czajkowski's daughter) Julia Sankovic (Child) Andrew Sykaluk Elaine Sudnick (Joy Pfeiffer's mother) Janice Tkacz Robert Walsh (friend of The Felons) Colleen Walsh (friend of the The Felons) Elisabeth Wright (friend of Paul Pangrace) Erin Zawolowycz Peter Zimmerman**

**Christopher & Melanie (Wayne & Gayle Vidovich's daughter) Hunter & Unborn Child**

**Richard & Natalie (Evans) Thombs & Unborn Child**

**\*\*\* Please make sure that when you call to have names added to the Prayer List that you give the person's Christian name AND last name. Thank you. \*\*\***

Gifts for the Angel Tree are due TODAY. Distribution will be a Merrick House on Thursday, December 14th. All are welcome. God bless you for your kindness. (Any questions, please see Dan Morris).



## 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. You are also invited to join us for fellowship in the Parish Hall following Liturgy.

### COFFEE HOUR & GREETERS SCHEDULES

#### Coffee Hour:

12/10/17	Joyce Tabeling & Judy Schwind
12/17/17	Mats. Cindy Zdinak & Jenna Van Sickle
12/24/17	Michael Tabeling & Michael Udell
12/31/17	Steve Rusnak & Jim Schwind
1/7/18	TBD
1/14/18	TBD
1/21/18	TBD

#### Greeters:

Igor Gajewsky & Linda Smotzer
Linda Smotzer & Igor Gajewsky
Tammy & Eva Ponomarenko
TBD
TBD
TBD
TBD



**\*\*\* Parish Meeting TODAY**

**after Divine Liturgy \*\*\***

**Please attend!**

### FOOD PANTRY

Our Food Pantry ministry continues through Merrick House. They currently use the bags in their Moms First program. We can always use your help by "sponsoring a bag". Envelopes are in the foyer, \$10 fills a bag. Thank you and God bless you for helping those in need. - Dan Morris



## Dome Lighters

Donations to offset the cost of lighting the domes can be made for *The Health Of* or *In Memory Of* your loved ones. Contact the Parish Office if you are interested.

**For the entire 2017 year:**

In loving memory of Olga Fritskey

from John & Ruth Fritskey



**DECEMBER 17, 2017**  
**CLEVELAND LANDMARK**  
**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
**41<sup>st</sup> Annual Concert at 3:00 PM**

Please join us for a special Christmas holiday program in the historic St. Theodosius Cathedral in the Tremont community on Cleveland's west side. Each year our program reflects the large repertoire of liturgical music from the Orthodox Christian Church. We sing a cappella, in English, and in concert format. Come experience the beauty of this national landmark and example of Eastern Orthodox Christianity in practice. Following the Cathedral Choir's program all are invited to participate in a sing-a-long of popular carols!

**Tours: 1 PM**  
**Concert: 3 PM**

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Visit the "Mother"  
Church of the  
many Orthodox  
Churches in  
northeast Ohio!

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**FREE AND OPEN**  
**TO ALL!**

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Reception after  
the concert.

**ST. THEODOSIUS**  
**CATHEDRAL**

733 Starkweather Avenue

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Telephone: 216-741-1310

# WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2017

## Sunday, Dec. 10

MARTYRS MENAS,  
HERMOGENES  
AND EUGRAPHUS  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
Last Day for Merrick House Gifts  
\*\*\* Parish Meeting after Divine  
Liturgy \*\*\*



## Thursday, Dec. 14

MARTYRS THYRSYUS,  
LEUCIS AND CALLINICUS  
11:00 AM Faith Enrichment @  
Copper Stone

## Friday, Dec. 15

HIEROMARTYR ELEUTHERIUS  
VEN. PAUL OF LATROS

## Monday, Dec. 11

VEN. DANIEL THE STYLITE  
NEW HIEROMARTYRS  
SERAPHIM, PETER  
ALEKSY AND NIKOLAI  
7:00 PM Bible Study @ Parish Hall

DECEMBER  
Special Collection  
THE DEANERY

## Saturday, Dec. 16

PROPHET HAGGAI  
BL. EMPRESS THEOPHANO  
6:00 PM Great Vespers

## Tuesday, Dec. 12

ST. SPYRIDON  
THE WONDERWORKER  
ST. MARDARJE  
OF LIBERTYVILLE  
6:00 PM Great Vespers

## Sunday, Dec. 17

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY  
FOREFATHERS  
HOLY PROPHET DANIEL  
3 HOLY YOUTHS: ANANIAS,  
AZARIAS & MISAEL  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
3:00 PM Cleveland Landmark  
Christmas Concert

## Wednesday, Dec. 13

VEN. HERMAN OF ALASKA  
WONDERWORKER OF ALL  
AMERICA  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy



St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral  
733 Starkweather Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

DECEMBER