

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



Mailing:

733 Starkweather Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
T 216. 741. 1310

F 216. 623. 1092

www.sttheodosius.org

- Archpriest John Zdinak,
Dean

dean@sttheodosius.org

Cell: 216. 554. 7282

- Dn. Daniel Boerio

- Subdeacon Theodore
Lentz, Sacristan

- Reader Julius Kovach,
Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

- Casandra Vasu,
Office Administrator
Office Hours, M-F
9:00 AM-3:00 PM

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

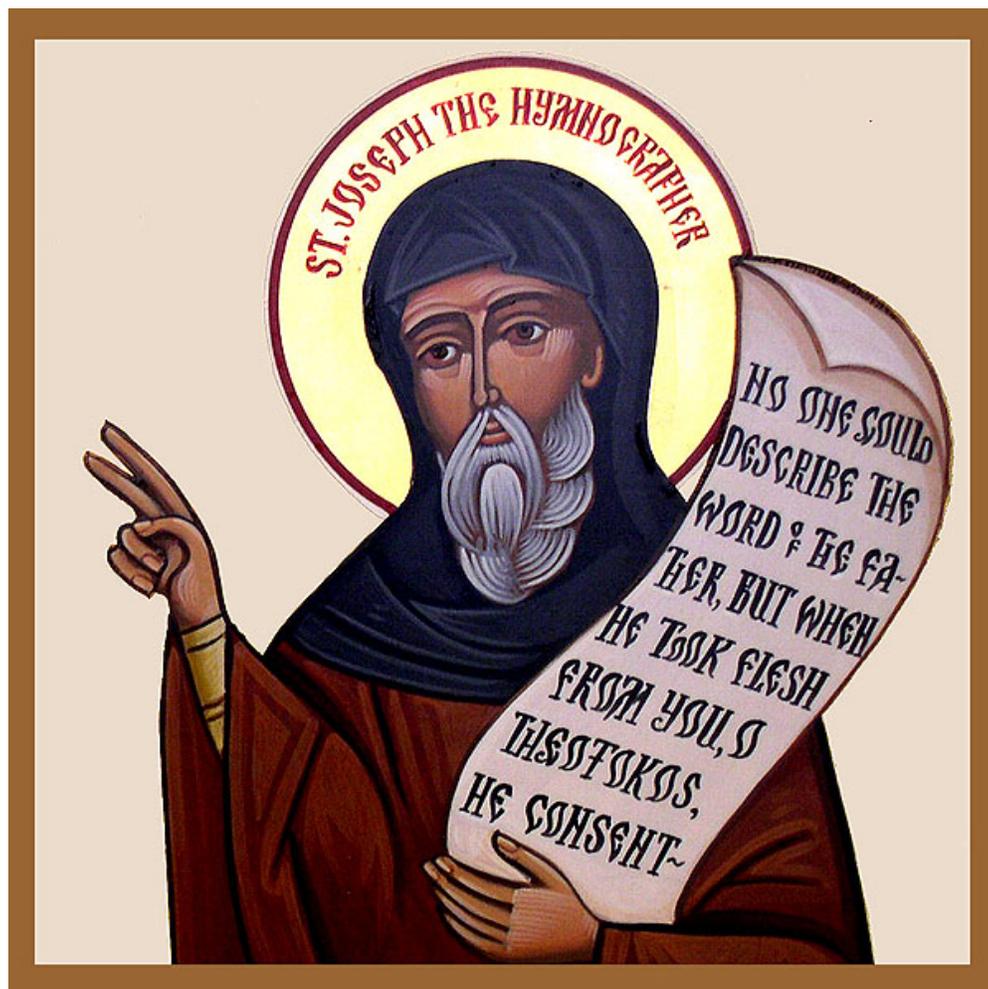
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

* AMBO: Articles for publication should be submitted to: sttheocemetery@yahoo.com by Wednesday of each week before noon.

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

MARCH 29, 2015
ST. MARY OF EGYPT
MUROM ICON

VEN. JOSEPH THE HYMNOGRAPHER



APRIL 4

Saint Joseph the Hymnographer, “the sweet-voiced nightingale of the Church,” was born in Sicily in 816 into a pious Christian family. His parents, Plotinos and Agatha, moved to the Peloponnesos to save themselves from barbarian invasions. When he was fifteen, St Joseph went to Thessalonica and entered the monastery of Latomos. He was distinguished by his piety, his love for work, his meekness, and he gained the good will of all the brethren of the monastery. He was later ordained as a priest.

St Gregory the Dekapolite (November 20) visited the monastery and took notice of the young monk, taking him along to Constantinople, where they settled together near the church of the holy Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus. This was during the reign of the emperor Leo the Armenian (813-820), a time of fierce iconoclast persecution.

Sts Gregory and Joseph fearlessly defended the veneration of holy icons. They preached in the city squares and visited in the homes of the Orthodox, encouraging them against the heretics. The Church of Constantinople was in a most grievous position. Not only the emperor, but also the patriarch were iconoclast heretics.

At that time the Roman bishops were in communion with the Eastern Church, and Pope Leo III, who was not under the dominion of the Byzantine Emperor, was able to render great help to the Orthodox. The Orthodox monks chose St Joseph as a steadfast and eloquent messenger to the Pope. St Gregory blessed him to journey to Rome and to report on the plight of the Church of Constantinople, the atrocities of the iconoclasts, and the dangers threatening Orthodoxy.

During the journey, St Joseph was captured by Arab brigands who had been bribed by the iconoclasts. They took him to the island of Crete, where they handed him over to the iconoclasts, who locked him up in prison. Bravely enduring all the deprivations, he encouraged the other prisoners. By his prayers, a certain Orthodox bishop who had begun to waver was strengthened in spirit and courageously accepted martyrdom.

St Joseph spent six years in prison. On the night of the Nativity of Christ in 820 he was granted a vision of St Nicholas of Myra, who told him about the death of the iconoclast Leo the Armenian, and the end of the persecution.

St Nicholas gave him a paper scroll and said, “Take this scroll and eat it.” On the scroll was written: “Hasten, O Gracious One, and come to our aid if possible and as You will, for You are the Merciful One.” The monk read the scroll, ate it and said, “How sweet are Thine oracles to my throat” (Ps 118/119:103). St Nicholas bade him to sing these words. After this the fetters fell off the saint, the doors of the prison opened, and he emerged from it. He was transported through the air and set down on a large road near Constantinople, leading into the city.

When he reached Constantinople, St Joseph found that St Gregory the Dekapolite was no longer among the living, leaving behind his disciple John (April 18), who soon died. St Joseph built a church dedicated to St Nicholas and transferred the relics of Sts Gregory and John there. A monastery was founded near the church.

St Joseph received a portion of the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew from a certain virtuous man. He built a church in memory of the holy apostle. He loved and honored St Bartholomew, and he was distressed that there was no Canon glorifying the holy Apostle. He desired to adorn the Feast of St Bartholomew with hymns, but he did not dare to compose them himself.

For forty days St Joseph prayed with tears, preparing for the Feast of the holy apostle. On the eve of the Feast the Apostle Bartholomew appeared to him in the altar. He pressed the holy Gospel to Joseph’s bosom, and blessed

him to write church hymns with the words, “May the right hand of the Almighty God bless you, may your tongue pour forth waters of heavenly wisdom, may your heart be a temple of the Holy Spirit, and may your hymnody delight the entire world.” After this miraculous appearance, St Joseph composed a Canon to the Apostle Bartholomew, and from that time he began to compose hymns and Canons in honor of the Mother of God, of the saints, and in honor of St Nicholas, who liberated him from prison.

During the revival of the iconoclast heresy under the emperor Theophilus (829-842), St Joseph suffered a second time from the heretics. He was exiled to Cherson [Chersonessus] for eleven years. The Orthodox veneration of holy icons was restored under the holy empress Theodora (February 11) in 842, and St Joseph was made keeper of sacred vessels at Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. Because of his bold denunciation of the brother of the empress, Bardas, for unlawful cohabitation, the saint was again sent into exile and returned only after Bardas died in 867.

Patriarch Photius (February 6) restored him to his former position and appointed him Father-confessor for all the clergy of Constantinople.

Having reached old age, St Joseph fell ill. On Great and Holy Friday, the Lord informed him of his approaching demise in a dream. The saint made an inventory of the church articles in Hagia Sophia, which were under his official care, and he sent it to Patriarch Photius.

For several days he prayed intensely, preparing for death. He prayed for peace for the Church, and the mercy of God for his soul. Having received the Holy Mysteries of Christ, St Joseph blessed all who came to him, and with joy he fell asleep in the Lord (+ 863). The choirs of the angels and the saints, whom St Joseph had glorified in his hymnology, carried his soul to Heaven in triumph.

In 890, his biographer John the deacon of the Great Church wrote about the spirit and power of St Joseph’s Canons: “When he began to write verses, then the hearing was taken with a wondrous pleasantness of sound, and the heart was struck by the power of the thought. Those who strive for a life of perfection find a respite here. Writers, having left off with their other versification, from this one treasure-trove, from the writings of St Joseph, began to scoop out his treasure for their own songs, or better to say, daily they scoop them out.

And finally, all the people carry it over into their own language, so as to enlighten with song the darkness of night, or staving off sleep, to continue with the vigil until sunrise. If anyone were peruse the life of a saint of the Church on any given day, they would see the worthiness of St Joseph’s hymns and acknowledge his glorious life. Actually, since the lives and deeds of almost every saint are adorned with praises, is not he worthy of immortal glory, who has worthily and exquisitely known how to glorify them?

Now let some saints glorify his meekness, and others his wisdom, and others his works, and all together glorify the grace of the Holy Spirit, Who so abundantly and immeasurably has bestowed his gifts on him.”

Most of the Canons in the MENAION are St Joseph’s work. His name may be found in the Ninth Ode as an acrostic. He also composed many of the hymns in the PARAKLETIKE.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 29

Mar. 29 Heb. 9:11-14
Mark 10:32-45

Mar. 31 Genesis 31:3-16
Proverbs 21:3-21

Apr. 3 Genesis 49:33-50:26
Proverbs 31:8-31

Mar. 30 Genesis 27:1-41
Proverbs 19:16-25

Apr. 1 Genesis 43:26-31;
45:1-16
Proverbs 21:23-22:4

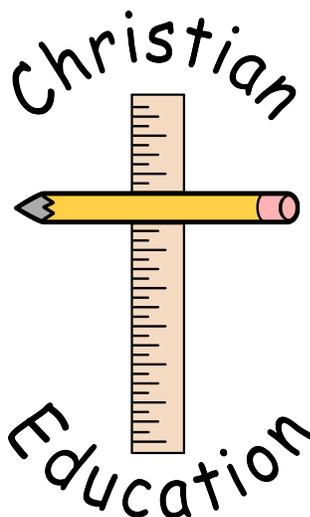
Apr. 4 Heb. 12:28-13:8
John 11:1-45

Apr. 2 Genesis 46:1-7
Proverbs 23:15-24:5

Ridge Manor Fish Fry Fridays

Every Friday night
4:00 PM- 9:00 PM

February 20th - April 24th, 2015



Upcoming Church School Dates

Morning of Saturday, April 4th after Divine
Liturgy of Lazarus Saturday (which begins at 9:00 AM)

Saturday, May 2nd at 4:45 PM

Evening of Wednesday May 20th
after Vespers of Ascension (which begins at 6:00 PM)
Fr. John will teach on the Feasts of Ascension & Pentecost -
This will be the LAST session of this Church School year.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Departed:

Fr. Matthew Baker
03-01-15

Karen Ohlin (*Tatiana Boyczewski's daughter-in-law's mother*)
03-04-15

Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko
03-18-15

Tamara Citron
03-19-15

Ill Afflicted & Special Intentions:

Protopresbyter Vasilije Sokolovic

Mat. May Ozone

Mat. Catherine Jula

Mother Anna

Sr. Anastasia

Michael

Betty Balasz

Judy Baughman

Carol Bohurjak

Thomas Bohurjak, Jr.

Marie Borland

Frank Byndas

Navada Coneley

Elsie Conrad

John Conrad

Anne Crichton (*Joseph Crichton's sister-in-law*)

Christine Crichton

Thomas Crichton (*Joseph Crichton's brother*)

Arlene Czajkowski (Neale)

Laina Dachtyl

Metodije Damljanovic (*Child*)

Horia Dascalescu (*Lavinia Morris's brother*)

Cindy Durkalski

Debra Ellis (*Katie & Nadine Ellis's mother*)

Peter Fickinger (*friend of Joseph Crichton*)

Vladimir Fowler

Frank Fox (*Carol Machaskee's son*)

Julia Grabowski

Roger Haupt (*Lisa Theodore's cousin*)

Sandee Holod

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

Donna Jacak

Victor Jacak

Joy Jahans (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)

Stephen Jahans (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)

Diane Kearsey

(*Janice Tkacz's sister*)

John Kovalski (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)

Dorothy Laskovich

Paul Laskovich

Elise Manella

Anna Mysiw (*friend and neighbor of Helen Antonik*)

Maude Palumbo (*Michelle Rajisch's mother*)

Debra Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's sister*)

Grace Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's mother*)

Donna Pelton

Liz Peterson (*Joseph Crichton's friend*)

John A. Petkac (Gartman)

Peter and **Gina** Petkac (*Judy Gartman's brother & sister-in-law*)

Anastasia Pogorily

Cindy Powkowski

Marshall Prock

Joseph Rusynyk

Julia Sankovic (*Child*)

Emily Scott (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)

Steven Soeder

Elaine Sudnick (*Joy Pfeiffer's mother*)

Katrina Toone

Frank Tkacz

Janice Tkacz

Donald Tipka

Elisabeth Wright (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)

John Yavornitzki

Erin Zawolowycz

Elizabeth Zdinak

Fr. Andrew & Presbytera Lori Lentz & Unborn Child

Alex & Jerilyn Oppenheim & Unborn Child

Please contact the Parish Office at 216-741-1310 when names need to be removed from the prayer list. Thank you.

HOLY WEEK 2015

Sunday, Apr. 5

PALM SUNDAY

**ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO
JERUSALEM**

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy & Procession
6:00 PM Bridegroom Matins

Monday, Apr. 6

GREAT & HOLY MONDAY

4:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy
6:00 PM Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, Apr. 7

GREAT & HOLY TUESDAY

4:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy
6:00 PM Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, Apr. 8

GREAT & HOLY WEDNESDAY

4:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy
6:00 PM Bridegroom Matins

Thursday, Apr. 9

GREAT & HOLY THURSDAY

No Faith Enrichment
4:00 PM Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil
6:00 PM Matins of Great & Holy Friday
(12 Gospel Readings)
8:00 PM Decorate Tomb

Friday, Apr. 10

GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY

4:00 PM Great Vespers of Holy
Friday
7:00 PM Matins of Great & Holy
Saturday (Procession with Holy
Shroud)

Saturday, Apr. 11

GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY

1:00 PM Vespereal Liturgy
followed by Blessing of Loaves,
Wine and Dried Fruit
3:00 PM Blessing of Baskets
11:00 PM Nocturns

Sunday, Apr. 12

GREAT & HOLY PASCHA

**RESURRECTION OF OUR
LORD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST**

12:00 Midnight Paschal Vigil
(Matins & Divine Liturgy)
Followed by Agape Meal

Monday, Apr. 13

BRIGHT MONDAY

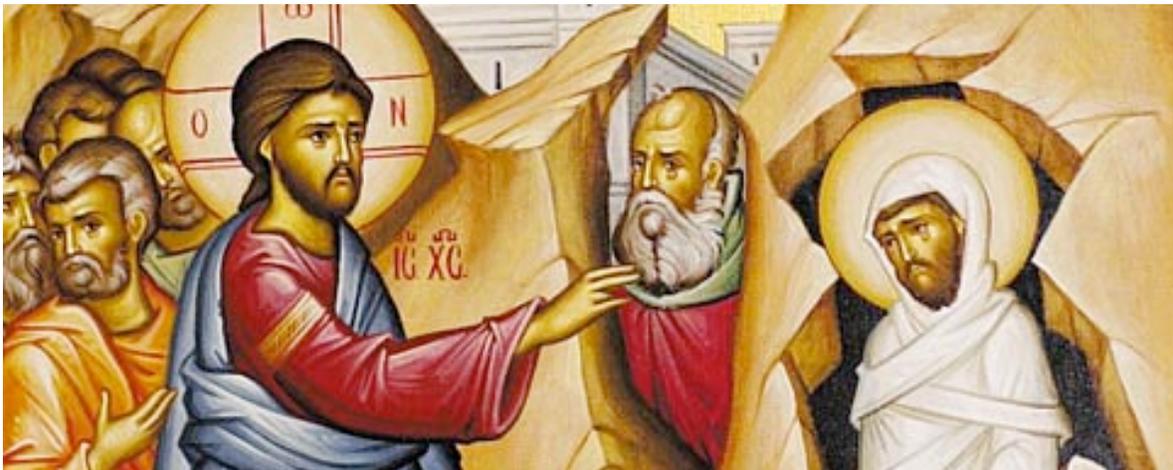
9:00 Divine Liturgy



***** Please note that on Great & Holy Saturday (April 10th), Nocturns will begin at 11:00 PM, NOT 11:30 PM. *****



Tomb candles are now available for \$45. Sign up at the candle stand.



In a carefully detailed narrative the Gospel relates how Christ, six days before His own death, and with particular mindfulness of the people “standing by, that they may believe that thou didst send me” (John 11:42), went to His dead friend Lazarus at Bethany outside of Jerusalem. He was aware of the approaching death of Lazarus but deliberately delayed His coming, saying to His disciples at the news of His friend’s death: “For your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe” (John 11:14).

When the stone was removed from the tomb, Jesus prayed to His Father and then cried with a loud voice: “Lazarus, come out.” The icon of the feast shows the particular moment when Lazarus appears at the entrance to the tomb. He is still wrapped in his grave clothes and his friends, who are holding their noses because of the stench of his decaying body, must unwrap him. In everything stress is laid on the audible, the visible and the tangible. Christ presents the world with this observable fact: on the eve of His own suffering and death He raises a man dead four days! The people were astonished. Many immediately believed on Jesus and a great crowd began to assemble around Him as the news of the raising of Lazarus spread. The regal entry into Jerusalem followed.

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:

3/29/15	Joyce Tabeling & Judy Schwind
4/5/15	Joseph Crichton & Steve Rusnak
4/12/15	No Coffee Hour
4/19/15	Joy & David Pfeiffer
4/26/15	Mat. Cindy Zdinak & Mat. Jenn Boerio
5/3/15	Dan & Lavinia Morris
5/10/15	Nick & Kate Zolikoff

Greeters:

Karen Felon & Tammy Ponomarenko
Linda Smotzer & Sonia Vorell
Debby Pinta & Michael Tabeling (Midnight)
Tammy Ponomarenko & Michael Tabeling
Nina & Elizabeth Antonik
Linda Smotzer & Sonia Vorell
Michael Tabeling



GOD'S GIFTS TO US - OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Weekly expenses:	\$ 6,538.00
Last week's collection	<u>\$ 4,592.00</u>
Over/Under	< \$ 1,946.00 >

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 2015 year:

In loving memory of Olga Fritskey
from John & Ruth Fritskey

Saints from One Age to Another

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.



April 3 is the feast day of Saint Nicetas the Confessor. He was born in the 8th century in Bithynia (Asia Minor) to a family of dedicated Christians.

His parents were devoted to one another. Nicetas' mother died when he was only a few days old. After that his father decided to enter a monastery, leaving his son to be raised by his grandmother. So even though his father was alive, Nicetas didn't have the chance to grow up with him at home.

One of the readings for this day is Genesis 49: 33 to 50: 26. These verses tell part of the story of Joseph, the favorite son of his father Jacob. Joseph also was deprived of the chance to be with his father. His jealous brothers sold him into slavery, and he wouldn't see Jacob again for many years. The absence of their fathers is one of several parallels between Nicetas and Joseph.

Nicetas' grandmother saw to it that he finished school, but after that he was determined to become a monk. He went to the monastery at Midikion, and spent the next years in prayer and spiritual effort. He made close friends and became an example of holiness to the other monks. Their admiration was so great that when their abbot Nicephorus died, Nicetas was the unanimous choice to be his successor.

Joseph's circumstances were very different from those in which Nicetas lived. But he too gained the respectful admiration of the people around him by being honorable and taking his work seriously. He was bought by an Egyptian named Potiphar, who recognized his ability and "put him in charge of all that he had."

Joseph refused the efforts of Potiphar's wife "day after day" to seduce him, refusing to betray his master and to "do this great wickedness, and sin against God." The result was that she made false accusations against him, and he was put in jail. But even there, he was so admired that the keeper committed all the prisoners to his care.

Saint Nicetas was also unjustly imprisoned, and persecuted for refusing to betray his faith. He would not support the iconoclasts or the corrupt patriarch appointed by the emperor. In prison, like Joseph he encouraged and kept up the spirits of other prisoners.

God gave Saint Nicetas wonderful gifts. He healed physical and mental illnesses, and delivered people from danger through his prayers. When he died, people received healing by touching his body.

Joseph was not a miracle worker. But he was given the gift of forgiveness, and the gift of vision to see God's plan for Israel's future. Reunited with his brothers, Joseph told them that though they had meant to do evil to him, God "meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

Saint Nicetas and Saint Joseph show us, through their similar experiences, that God continues to unfold His plan down through the centuries. Now we are the ones who can use His gifts to carry it forward for those people still to come.



Troparion - Tone 4

You were a firm pillar
and an undaunted guardian
of sacred tradition, O Nicetas;
you were adorned with holy dispassion
and became an illustrious confessor
of the Faith.
Accept the prayers
of those who cry to you,
interceding for them
with Christ our God.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE 2015

Sunday, Mar. 29
ST. MARY OF EGYPT
MUROM ICON
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, Mar. 30
VEN. JOHN CLIMACUS
ST. SOPHRONY,
BISHOP OF IRKUTSK

Tuesday, Mar. 31
REPOST OF ST. INNOCENT,
METR. OF MOSCOW AND
APOSTLE TO THE AMERICAS
9:00 AM Presanctified Liturgy

Wednesday, Apr. 1
VEN. MARY OF EGYPT
VEN EUTHYMIUS
OF SUZDAL'
5:00 Confessions
6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy &
Potluck

REMINDER:



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

APRIL Special Collection YOUTH WORK



Thursday, Apr. 2
VEN. TITUS
THE WONDERWORKER
11:00 AM Faith Enrichment @
Ridge Manor

Friday, Apr. 3
VEN. NICETAS
THE CONFESSOR
9:00 AM Presanctified Liturgy
4:00 PM Fish Fry @ Ridge Manor

Saturday, Apr. 4
LAZARUS SATURDAY
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Church School following Divine
Liturgy/Preparation for Holy Week
following Divine Liturgy
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, Apr. 5
PALM SUNDAY 
ENTRANCE OF OUR
LORD INTO JERUSALEM
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy & Procession
6:00 PM Bridegroom Matins



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MARCH - APRIL