

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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Cleveland, Ohio 44113
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Cleveland, Ohio 4411
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www.sttheodosius.org

DECEMBER 12, 2010
HOLY FOREFATHERS
ST. SPYRIDON
THE WONDERWORKER

MARTYR SEBASTIAN AT ROME (Dec. 18)



REMINDER

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

- Archpriest John Zdinak
Dean
- Dn. Daniel Boerio
- Subdeacon Theodore
Lentz
- Reader Julius Kovach
Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

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

Fr. John Office Hours
Tuesday & Wednesday
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

* **AMBO**: Articles for publi-
cation 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.



The Holy Martyr Sebastian was born in the city of Narbonum in Gaul (modern France), and he received his education at Mediolanum (now Milan). Under the co-reigning emperors Diocletian and Maximian (284-305) he occupied the position of head of the imperial guards. St Sebastian was respected for his authority, and was loved by the soldiers and those at court. He was a brave man filled with wisdom, his word was honest, his judgment just, insightful in advice, faithful in his service and in everything entrusted to him. He was a secret Christian, not out of fear, but so that he could provide help to the brethren in a time of persecution.

The noble Christian brothers Marcellinus and Mark had been locked up in prison, and at first they firmly confessed the true Faith. But under the influence of the tearful entreaties of their pagan parents (Tranquillinus and Marcia), and also their own wives and children, they began to waver in their intent to suffer for Christ. St Sebastian went to the imperial treasurer, at whose house Marcellinus and Mark were held in confinement, and addressed the brothers who were on the verge of yielding to the entreaties of their family.

"O valiant warriors of Christ! Do not cast away your everlasting crowns of victory because of the tears of your relatives. Do not remove your feet from the necks of your enemies who lie prostrate before you, lest they regain their strength and attack you more fiercely than before. Raise your banner high over every earthly attachment. If those whom you see weeping knew that there is another life where there is neither sickness nor death, where there is unceasing gladness and everything is beautiful, then assuredly they would wish to enter it with you. Anyone who fears to exchange this brief earthly life for the unending joys of the heavenly Kingdom is foolish indeed. For he who rejects eternity wastes the brief time of his existence, and will be delivered to everlasting torment in Hades."

Then St Sebastian said that if necessary, he would be willing to endure torment and death in order to show them how to give their lives for Christ.

So St Sebastian persuaded the brothers to go through with their act of martyrdom, and his speech stirred everyone present. They saw how his face shone like that of an angel, and they saw how seven angels clothed him in a radiant garment, and heard a fair Youth say, "You shall be with Me always."

Zoe, the wife of the jailer Nicostratus, had lost her ability to speak six years previously, and she fell down at the feet of St Sebastian, by her gestures imploring him to heal her. The saint made the Sign of the Cross over the woman, and she immediately began to speak and she glorified the Lord Jesus Christ. She said that she had seen an angel holding an open book in which everything St Sebastian said was written. Then all who saw the miracle also came to believe in the Savior of the world. Nicostratus removed the chains from Marcellinus and Mark and offered to hide them, but the brothers refused.

Mark said, "Let them tear the flesh from our bodies with cruel torments. They can kill the body, but they cannot conquer the soul which contends for the Faith." Nicostratus and his wife asked for Baptism, and St Sebastian advised Nicostratus to serve Christ rather than the Eparch. He also told him to assemble the prisoners so that those who believed in Christ could be baptized. Nicostratus then requested his clerk Claudius to send all the prisoners to his house. Sebastian spoke to them of Christ, and became convinced that they were all inclined to be baptized. He summoned the priest Polycarp, who prepared them for the Mystery, instructing them to fast in preparation for Baptism that evening.

Then Claudius informed Nicostratus that the Roman eparch Arestius Chromatus wanted to know why the prisoners were gathered at his house. Nicostratus told Claudius about the healing of his wife, and Claudius brought his own sick sons, Symphorian and Felix to St Sebastian. In the evening the priest Polycarp baptized Tranquil-

linus with his relatives and friends, and Nicostratus and all his family, Claudius and his sons, and also sixteen condemned prisoners. The newly-baptized numbered 64 in all.

Appearing before the eparch Chromatus, Nicostratus told him how St Sebastian had converted them to Christianity and healed many from sickness. The words of Nicostratus persuaded the eparch. He summoned St Sebastian and the presbyter Polycarp, and was enlightened by them, and became a believer in Christ. Nicostratus and Chromatus, his son Tiburtius and all his household accepted holy Baptism. The number of the newly-enlightened increased to 1400. Upon becoming a Christian, Chromatus resigned his office of eparch.

During this time the Bishop of Rome was St Gaius (August 11). He blessed Chromatus to go to his estates in southern Italy with the priest Polycarp. Christians unable to endure martyrdom also went with them. Father Polycarp went to strengthen the newly-converted in the Faith.

Tiburtius, the son of Chromatus, desired to accept martyrdom and he remained in Rome with St Sebastian. Of those remaining, St Gaius ordained Tranquillinus as a presbyter, and his sons Marcellinus and Mark were ordained deacons. Nicostratus, his wife Zoe and brother Castorius, and Claudius, his son Symphorian and brother Victorinus also remained in Rome. They gathered for divine services at the court of the emperor together with a secret Christian named Castulus, but soon the time came for them to suffer for the Faith.

The pagans arrested St Zoe first, praying at the grave of the Apostle Peter. At the trial she bravely confessed her faith in Christ. She died, hung by her hair over the foul smoke from a great fire of dung. Her body then was thrown into the River Tiber. Appearing in a vision to St Sebastian, she told him about her death.

The priest Tranquillinus was the next to suffer: pagans pelted him with stones at the grave of the holy Apostle Peter, and his body was also thrown into the Tiber.

Sts Nicostratus, Castorius, Claudius, Victorinus, and Symphorian were seized at the riverbank, when they were searching for the bodies of the martyrs. They were led to the eparch, and the saints refused his command to offer sacrifice to idols. They tied stones to the necks of the martyrs and then drowned them in the sea.

The false Christian Torquatus betrayed St Tiburtius. When the saint refused to sacrifice to the idols, the judge ordered Tiburtius to walk barefoot on red-hot coals, but the Lord preserved him. Tiburtius walked through the burning coals without feeling the heat. The torturers then beheaded St Tiburtius, and his body was buried by unknown Christians.

Torquatus also betrayed the holy Deacons Marcellinus and Mark, and St Castulus (March 26). After torture, they threw Castulus into a pit and buried him alive, but Marcellinus and Mark had their feet nailed to the same tree stump. They stood all night in prayer, and in the morning they were stabbed with spears.

St Sebastian was the last one to be tortured. The emperor Diocletian personally interrogated him, and seeing the determination of the holy martyr, he ordered him taken out of the city, tied to a tree and shot with arrows. Irene, the wife of St Castulus, went at night in order to bury St Sebastian, but found him alive and took him to her home.

St Sebastian soon recovered from his wounds. Christians urged him to leave Rome, but he refused. Coming near a pagan temple, the saint saw the emperors approaching and he publicly denounced them for their impiety. Diocletian ordered the holy martyr to be taken to the Circus Maximus to be executed. They clubbed St Sebastian to death, and cast his body into the sewer. The holy martyr appeared to a pious woman named Lucina in a vision, and told her to take his body and bury it in the catacombs. This she did with the help of her slaves. Today his basilica stands on the site of his tomb.

PRAYER REQUESTS

DEPARTED:

Frances Dosseff + 11/17/10
Mary Dimitrijevs + 11/25/10
(Mary Swit's Godmother and former parishioner)

Ill Afflicted & Special Intentions

Fr. David Lis
Sister Anastasia (Monastery Marcha)
Mother Anna (Monastery Marcha)
Alice Artino
Afanasi Balasz
John Baranich
Carol Bohurjak
Thomas Bohurjak
John Conrad
Eugene Erhardt
Melanie Faunce
Judy Gartman
Bernadine Gindlesperger
Julia Grabowski
Sande Holod
Donna Jacak
Nick Jovanovich
Lexus Kasubienski
(Judy Baughman's Granddaughter)

Sarah Kersey
Dorothy Laskovich
Paul Laskovich
Susan Lentz
Evelyn Makarek (Debbie Mytrohovich's Sister)
Brian Marshall
Phil Maxin
Virginia Medvec
Brian Nemeč *(Frank Tkacz's Godson)*
Alex and Jerilyn Oppenheim
Walter & Grace Parhamovich *(Karen Felon's parents)*
Peter and Gina Petkac (Judy Gartman's Brother)
David Roman *(Nephew of Margaret Rusynyk)*
Thomas Shepard
Stephanie Shumkaroff
Mary Ann Silberhorn
Mila Stepanovich
Barbara Thompson *(Phyllis Gindlesperger's Sister-In-Law)*
Christopher Walsh
Mary Wazevich
Aleksandr Zdinak

Russell & Tanya Carlton & Unborn Child

Chris & Amy Engle & Unborn Child

Patrick & Anna Gallagher & Unborn Child

Edward & Maria Hanzel & Unborn Child

Michael & Michelle Scott & Unborn Child

Tom & Gabrielle Wilkerson & Unborn Child

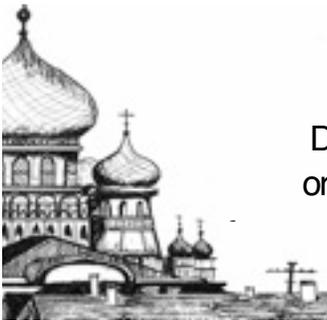
Christopher & Nolan Wojnicz & Unborn Child

Mark & Christina & Unborn Child

CONGRATULATIONS:
Jason & Emily Grimes & Newborn Theodore Carl Grimes

Kimberly & Bryan Warren & Newborn Ethan Warren
(Fr. John's Niece)

Newly Baptized & Chrismated
Caleb Joseph 11/13/10



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.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who supported the FOCA Soup Sale. Proceeds will go to GIFTS OF LOVE and to the ALASKAN SEMINARY.

ANNOUNCEMENT

HIEROMONK MATHIAS MORIAK
WAS APPROVED BY THE HOLY SYNOD ON NOV. 16
TO BECOME BISHOP OF THE MIDWEST.
CONSECRATION IN CHICAGO ON
BRIGHT SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENT - FAITH ENRICHMENT

There will be no Faith Enrichment classes on
Thursdays - Dec. 16, 23, 30, and Jan. 6
Classes will resume Thursday, Jan. 13.

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 Hosts:

12/12/10 Nick & Kate Zolikoff
12/19/10 Natalia Prisinovskis
12/26/10 Albert Jacob Casey
01/02/11 Cindy Zdinak & Jenifer Boerio
01/09/11 Mary Swit & Tammy Ponomarenko

Greeters:

Albert Casey & Thomas Broslawik
Linda Smotzer & Karen Felon
Sonia Vorell & Tammy Ponomarenko
Tom Broslawik & Michael Tabelaing
Sonia Vorrell & Paul Pangrace



UPDATE ON FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to all those who have begun contributing to our revived Food Pantry program! The need has indeed increased over the winter, so please consider "Sponsoring a Food Bag" for \$10.00.

There are envelopes by the candle stand, and they can be placed in the offering, or given to Dan Moris. Questions to Daniel Morris.

God bless you for helping those in need.

GOD'S GIFTS TO US - OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Weekly expenses: \$ 6,538.00
Last week's collection \$ 4,241.00
Over/Under < \$ 2,297.00 >

ATTENDANCE

Members 91 ~ Visitors 3 ~ Total 94

BOOKSTORE

The 2011 Orthodox Pocket Planners are now available .. \$3.00 each.

Also packaged Christmas cards are on sale for \$10.00. See Frank Tkacz
20% OFF most items!

ANNOUNCEMENT BOILER CHALLENGE

On Palm Sunday, Fr. John challenged the parish to help pay for our newly installed boiler. He challenged each family to donate \$100. When this is met, the cost of the boiler will be repaid. As of December 5, we have \$7,954.00 toward the goal of \$9000.00.



BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12

Dec. 12 Col. 3:4-11
Luke 14:16-24

Dec. 14 Heb. 9:8-10, 9:15-23
Mark 8:22-26

Dec. 17 Heb. 11:8, 11-16
Mark 9:33-41

Dec. 13 Heb. 8:7-13
Mark 8:11-21

Dec. 15 Heb. 10:1-18
Mark 8:30-34

Dec. 18 Eph. 5:1-8
Luke 14:1-11

Dec. 16 Heb. 10:35-11:7
Mark 9:10-16

**AN EVENING AT
MONASTERY MARCHA**

5095 Broadview Rd., Richfield

Tuesday, Dec. 14, 7-9:00 PM

PRESENTER:

Rev. Donald Freude

From St. Elia Church of Akron

**CHRISTMAS FAST &
WINTER PASCHA**



**Reminder:
Event dates
for the January
Calendar are
due this
Wednesday
Dec. 15**

ANGEL TREE GIFTS

THANK YOU to all who
helped out with the Merrick
House Angel Tree!

**DEADLINE FOR GIFTS
TODAY!!**

DISTRIBUTION OF GIFTS:

**Dec. 16 at 7:00 PM
at Merrick House.**

All are welcome to help!!
See Dan Morris for details.



ALTAR SOCIETY

There will be an Altar Society meeting
TODAY!!
after Divine Liturgy in the Parish Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greeters (and potential Greeters): we are developing the Greeter's schedule for the year 2011. Please prayerfully consider joining your fellow parishioners in this Ministry. *The pay is terrible but the benefits are heavenly!* Please see one of our Greeters to find out more and to volunteer your time and talent.



ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

Please offer your time and talent and become a part of this years **Annual Cathedral Cookie Walk.**

Here are a few ways that you can help:

- 1.) Sign-up to make your favorite Christmas cookies.
- 2.) Help decorate cut-out cookies at Ridge Manor on Thursday, Dec 16, starting at 9:00 a.m.
- 3.) Help set up the display of cookies at Ridge Manor on Friday, Dec. 17, from 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- 4.) Volunteer to work the **Cookie Walk Sale** held at Ridge Manor on Dec. 18, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 NOON
See Joyce Tabelaing for more information...
or contact Joyce at 216-521-9418



**CHURCH SCHOOL
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Church School
resumes on Saturday,
January 8, at 4:45 PM



Are Your Hearts Hardened?

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>.



On December 13th we read Mark 8: 11-21, in which the Pharisees come to Jesus and ask Him for a sign from heaven. Their aim, as it is so often, is to test Him..

Considering all that Jesus has already done—healings, miracles, loving acts toward all kinds of people—it's a curious request that the Pharisees are making. They certainly are aware of these things He has done, and also of the miraculous feeding of several thousand people, described in the verses just before these.

Mark uses some striking words to describe Jesus' reaction to their questioning. He says that the Lord "sighed deeply in His spirit." It profoundly grieved Him to encounter the obstinate refusal of some people to acknowledge Him, because it was a rejection of His love and of His desire to give them salvation.

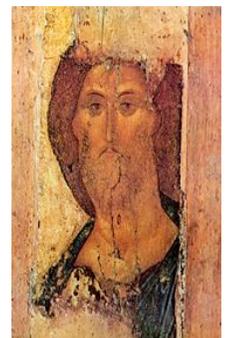
In the Old Testament we have, long before the Incarnation of Christ, an example of God's interest in those who grieve over the sins of others. God asks His servant to "go through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed there" (Ezekiel 9:4). Centuries later, in the letter Saint Paul writes to the Romans, he expresses a similar grief. He writes that because of the unbelief of the people of Israel, "I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart" (Romans 9:2).

The Pharisees were not the only ones who grieved the heart of Jesus. In the passage from Mark, the disciples are in a boat with Him, and discover that they have forgotten to bring bread, and now they have only one loaf. They go on talking about this, even as He tries to warn them about other, serious things. He urges them to remember how He provided bread for the crowds, and then asks, "Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?"

Jesus Himself is the Living Bread that the disciples need, but they are too preoccupied with fretting about their "bread problem" to understand. The Pharisees have seen many signs, but they want more, or a different kind. They are too preoccupied with their expectations to understand.

What about us? Will we demand some "sign" that specifically suits our expectations, and waver in our belief in Him if we don't get that very specific sign? Will we forget the wonder of having a God who feeds us and is present with us, as we fret about the needs of our daily life?

He asks, "Are your hearts hardened?" How good for us if we can offer Him not hardened hearts but soft ones, "broken and contrite" ones that grieve over our sins and the sins of others, and are open to His healing love.



**ST. ANDREW'S FRIDAY
FISH FRY DINNERS
2010**

**Serving From
4 PM to 7 PM**

*OUR AIM IS TO SERVE YOU
OUR VERY BEST!*

DECEMBER 17

Crispy Cod with Pirohi or
French Fries

St. Andrew's Perohi Dinners
Shrimp Dinners or Combos

Take Out Available

St. Andrew Church
Maple Park Dr., Maple Heights
216-475-9365



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting
will be held on Tuesday,
JANUARY 12, at 6:00 PM
@ Ridge Manor

ASSISTANCE NEEDED!

Do you have any wonderful, exciting or interesting ideas for a parish fundraiser or social activity such as bowling, monster golf, steak roast, lamb roast, sledding, wingding, spaghetti dinner, or fish fry? If you have ideas, or contacts, and are able to help at the event in any way, contact Darrell Felon @440-238-3837 or at makarov50@yahoo.com.



**WORKING HARD,
GETTING OLDER,
AND WEARING OUT....**

This is the status of our major equipment at the cemetery. Many cost-cutting measures have been implemented but, unfortunately, we do not have a large cash reserve for new equipment. Soon a replacement dump truck will be needed to replace our green 1982 model that can no longer dump properly! Unfortunately it is not repairable. A replacement new truck will cost approximately \$35,000 whereas a slightly used unit may be available for less. It is hoped that there is a very generous donor in the parish willing to help the cemetery in this time of need. Such a donor(s) can make a significant and long-lasting contribution to our equipment up-grade. For further information about these and other needs, please contact Fr. John or Leon Sheean, Cemetery Committee Chair.



Don't miss the St. Theodosius

Christmas Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 18, 2010

Doors open at 9 a.m. -
First come ... First served ...
Until the cookies are gone.

*Walk down aisles of beautifully decorated
Christmas Cookies ... all home baked by our parishioners!*

Select the cookies you like the best,
then pay by the pound at the end of your walk.

St. Theodosius Christmas Cookie Walk will be held at:

**Ridge Manor Banquet Center
4630 Ridge Road - Brooklyn, Ohio
(corner of Ridge and Biddulph Roads)**

Cash, check or credit card accepted.

Questions?

Call Joyce @ (216) 521-9418

**Saturday,
December 18, 2010**

**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
SPECIAL COLLECTION**

The Special Collection in September was for O.C.F. (Orthodox Christian Fellowship). Through the generosity of some of our parishioners we will be able to give to the O.C.F. a check for \$1,255.00. Your generosity and kindness will be greatly appreciated.

The money will enable Milan and Mira, the Cleveland local OCF coordinators, to plan many more activities/social events/retreats for the Orthodox college students in our area colleges for 2011.

We also had some good news. One non-Orthodox student who attended some of the functions at the college, is now going to convert to Orthodoxy. This great ministry is at work.

Thank you again for your generosity.



**St. Theodosius Cathedral
733 Starkweather Avenue**

In 2011, St. Theodosius Cathedral will launch a one-year celebration of the 100th anniversary of the completion of its construction which began in 1911 and ended in 1912. A series of special programs is being planned that will be open to everyone in our Northeast Ohio community. This year you are cordially invited to participate in our annual holiday event to experience the beauty of this national landmark and an example of Orthodox Christianity in practice. The Cathedral Choir presents a program of Orthodox liturgical music sung a cappella followed by sing-a-long caroling by all!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2010

3:00 P.M.

FREE ADMISSION

Cleveland Landmark Concert

For additional information, please call the Cathedral Office at 216-741-1310

You are welcome to attend our regular liturgical services:
Saturday evening VESPERS at 6:00 pm
Sunday morning LITURGY at 9:00 am

Visit our website:
www.sttheodosius.org

This year we present our
34th ANNUAL CONCERT!



NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER AND DANCE

**ST. THEODOSIUS RIDGE MANOR
4630 RIDGE ROAD (AT BIDDULPH)
BROOKLYN, OHIO
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2010**

Music for Dancing and Entertainment by:
DON WOJTLA AND HIS ORCHESTRA
Music from 9:00p.m. to 1:00a.m.

A six piece orchestra playing many varieties of music for your listening and dancing pleasure.
Featuring Hall of Fame Female Vocalist: Christine Hibbs

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00p.m.

DINNER SERVED AT 8:00PM

Appetizers from 7:00P.M. – 8:00P.M.

A SIT DOWN Dinner with choice of Prime Rib, Baked Orange Roughy or Baked Chicken, Garlic Mashed Potato, Vegetable, Salad, Rolls, Dessert Tab Coffee, and Tea.

**OPEN BAR BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE
PARTY FAVORS**

Continental breakfast served after midnight.

Proceeds from this event will be used for the 100th Celebration of the cathedral.

PRICE: \$65.00 PER PERSON

FOR RESERVATIONS AND TICKETS CALL:

MARY LEE ERHARDT 440-554-6213

SHARON GLAGOLA 216-749-5509

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Sunday, Dec. 12
HOLY FOREFATHERS
ST. SPYRIDON
THE WONDERWORKER
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
6:00 PM Great Vespers (St. Herman)
ANGEL TREE GIFTS DUE TODAY



Weekly Schedule

Monday, Dec. 13
VEN. HERMAN OF ALASKA
WONDERWORKER OF
ALL AMERICA
8:30 AM Confessions
9:00 PM Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, Dec. 14
MARTYRS THYRSYUS
LEUCIS AND CALLINICUS
7:00 PM Evening At Monastery Marcha

Wednesday, Dec. 15
HIEROMART. ELEUTHERIUS
VEN. PAUL OF LATROS
Calendar Events for publication
due today!

Thursday, Dec. 16
PROPHET HAGGAI
BL. EMPRESS THEOPHANO
(THEOPANIA)
9:00 AM Cookie Decorating
@Ridge Manor
7:00 PM Gift Distribution
@Merrick House

Friday, Dec. 17
HOLY PROPHET DANIEL
3 HOLY YOUTHS:
ANANIAS, AZARIAS & MISAEL
3:00-7:00 PM Cookie Walk Set Up
@Ridge Manor
4:00-7:00 PM Fish Fry
@St. Andrew's Church

Saturday, Dec. 18
Saturday before Nativity
MARTYR SEBASTIAN
AND HIS COMPANIONS
AT ROME
9:00-12:00 Noon - Cookie Walk
@Ridge Manor
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, Dec. 19
Sunday before Nativity
MARTYR BONIFACE
AND RIGHTEOUS AGLAIDA
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
1:00 PM Tours of Cathedral
3:00 PM Cleveland Landmark Concert

REMINDER:
THE NATIVITY FAST

DECEMBER
SPECIAL COLLECTION - THE WALL

