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ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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- 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.

DECEMBER 6, 2015

**ST. NICHOLAS
THE WONDERWORKER,
ABP. OF MYRA IN LYCIA**

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, St 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 St 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 St 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, St 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," St 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 St 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."

St Simeon Metaphrastes (November 9), the author of his Life, likened St 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, St 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 St 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 St 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 St 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.

St 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 6

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

Dec. 8 2 Tim. 3:16-4:4
Luke 21:12-19

Dec. 11 Titus 1:15-2:10
Luke 21:37-22:8

Dec. 7 2 Tim. 2:20-26
Luke 20:27-44

Dec. 9 2 Tim. 4:9-22
Luke 21:5-7,
10-11,20-24

Dec. 12 Eph. 1:16-23
Luke 13:18-29

Dec. 10 Titus 1:5-2:1
Luke 21:28-33



Cookie Walk

**Saturday, December 12th
Agostino's @ 10:00 AM**

Cookies will be sold for \$9.00/lb.

**Cookies can be delivered to
Agostino's on the day of the sale
between 8:00 and 10:00 AM**

**Thank you so much to
everyone who called & sent
cards for my 90th birthday.**

**Your well wishes and
kind words are
much appreciated.**

- Dorothy Laskovich

**For those who would like to bake
their cookies ahead of time, they can
be stored in the freezer at the Parish
Hall. Please let Susan Lentz
(216-621-2282) know that you will be
storing your cookies there so she
can make sure they get to Agostino's
on the day of the sale.**



St. Herman House
St. Nicholas Spaghetti Dinner



Sunday, December 6, 2015 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

St. Malachi's Parish Hall 2459 Washington Ave Cleveland, OH

All proceeds benefit St. Herman House.

For more information or to volunteer, call Dan or Debbie Jenks at (440) 526-8465 or (440) 223-2800.

<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Make all checks payable to St. Herman's Friends To purchase tickets in advance, return this form and your check to: Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Jenks 14084 State Rd N. Royalton, Ohio 44133</p>	<p>Dinners (price is minimum donation requested): \$8.00 - Adults \$6.00 - Seniors (over 60) \$5.00 - Kids (6-12) Free - 5 & under</p> <p>Number of dinners purchased: _____ Adults _____ Seniors _____ Children</p> <p>I cannot attend, but wish to sponsor _____ dinner(s).</p> <p>Please accept my additional donation of _____.</p> <p>I can work from _____ to _____.</p> <p>All Pre-Ordered tickets will be picked up at the door on the day of the event.</p>
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We Hope to See You, Your Family and Friends there!
 (Take Out Orders are welcome)

FOCA Lenten Soup Sale

TODAY

**Proceeds benefit
 Gift of Love Program**



The Merrick House Angel Tree is up! Won't you please take a tag, sign the sheet, and make a child's Christmas much brighter?

Presents are due Sunday Dec. 13th, with distribution - all are welcome! - at Merrick House on Thursday Dec. 17th at 7:00 PM.

Suggested amount per child is \$35 - you can go with that, or do more if you're able. A "Christmas list" is on each tag.

Any questions, please see Dan Morris. Thank you and God bless you for the past years' success, and in advance for another one!

On Sunday, November 15—we entered into the forty-day Nativity Fast, or Advent, that prepares us liturgically and personally for the Feast of our Lord’s Nativity in the Flesh on December 25. This is a sacred season because it leads us toward the awesome event of the Incarnation, expressed so powerfully in the Gospel according to Saint John: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth [John 1:14].

It is also the time of year that more than ever reflects what I call the “battle of the calendars”— our ecclesiastical calendar with its ongoing liturgical cycle and rhythm of fasting and feasting and the secular calendar that is basically oblivious of the Christian revelation (though “Christmas” may show up on it). But even if Christmas appears on both calendars, the path to that event is very different according to the two calendars! The secular calendar has every day theoretically open to “partying” all the way up through the long-awaited Christmas gift opening/exchange and the final dinner party to follow. Eat, drink and be merry, it is the holiday season! Yet, the ecclesiastical calendar directs us to fast up to the Feast with the year’s longest fast-free period—December 25 through January 4—to follow. History is with the Church, for in centuries past, Christian society would spend the “twelve days of Christmas” in a festal mood after December 25 itself. The contrast is rather stark, so the choices present to us reflect two very different approaches to how we will celebrate Christmas. When the Lord comes we will celebrate; but the time of expectation—the Nativity Fast—we will spend in vigilant prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Fasting implies restraint, and restraint is not only about the types of food and drink that we consume. Last year I recall one of my priest friends telling me of a clever yet convicting way of describing the consumer twist that we now inflict upon the Feast of Christ’s birth. For our society as a whole, Christmas has become “Getmas.” Getmas is all about “getting” as much as possible, with no real restraint applied to the getting process. How many children evaluate a “good Christmas” based upon what they “get?” (Not all adults are exempt from such an evaluation I would imagine). Not to get everything on the list could spoil the event. Warming all of this up with a bit of Jesus in the manger is hardly a well-thought out response to the travesty of Getmas. Of course, there is giving as well as getting. But even that can be one more face of the consumer-driven event of the secular calendar. In our Orthodox tradition, fasting is part of an over-all discipline that seeks to free us from the constraints and demands of the world and its passions. Yet, what if we succeed in not eating meat for forty days, but still shop till we drop? What if we fast from food but make the mall more of a “home away from home” than the church? What if we practice a bit of charity for Christmas, yet spend way beyond our designated budget and get in further debt over Getmas? That sounds like placing the form over the substance of true religious piety.

Over the years I admit to having become something of an ecclesiastical Scrooge; but the hypocrisy of abandoning Christ while maintaining the spirit of maximal spending and consuming has taken its toll on my over-all appreciation of the world’s embrace of Christmas—an embrace which has inexorably and unapologetically led to “Getmas.”

- Fr. Steven Kostoff





PRAYER REQUESTS

Departed:

Ill Afflicted & Special Intentions:

Father John Udics
Matushka Catherine Jula
Archpriest Theodore Bobosh
Mother Anna
Mary
Michael
Betty Balasz
David C. Baringer (*friend of Karen Felon*)
Judy Baughman
Carol Bohurjak
Frank Byndas
Elsie Conrad
John Conrad
Methodije Damljanovic (*Child*)
Horia Dascalescu (*Lavinia Morris's brother*)
Cindy Durkalski
Nadine Ellis
Nashwa Fam
Leonora Felon
Dorothy Fowler
Vladimir Fowler
Julia Grabowski

Roger Haupt (*Lisa Theodore's cousin*)
Janet Hennig (*friend of Judy Schwind*)
Sandee Holod
Matthew Hunley (*Phyllis Gindlesperger's brother-in-law*)
Donna Jacak
Victor Jacak
Patrick Jacobson (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Joy Jahans (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Stephen Jahans (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Diane Kearsy (*Janice Tkacz's sister*)
Maher Khalil
Thomas Khalil
John Kovalski (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Dorothy Laskovich
Paul Laskovich
Ralph Magee (*Erin Zawolowycz's father*)
Paul Mihal
Anna Mysiw (*friend and neighbor of Helen Antonik*)
Lydia Mytrohovich

Maude Palumbo (*Michelle Rajisch's mother*)
Debra Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's sister*)
Grace Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's mother*)
Daria Petrokowski
Debby Pinta
Cindy Powkowski
Cheryl Regrut (*Deb Ellis's sister-in-law*)
Valerie Rolls (*Fr. John's cousin*)
Dorothy Romig
Julia Sankovic (*Child*)
Elaine Sudnick (*Joy Pfeiffer's mother*)
Janice Tkacz
Elisabeth Wright (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Erin Zawolowycz
Theodore Zolikoff (*Nick Zolikoff's father*)
Alice Zdinak (*Fr. John's Mother*)

Douglas & Kaitlyn Evans & Unborn Child

Gabriel & Shyanne Tabeling & Unborn Child

Please note that names will remain on the list for approximately one month and then removed. If you would like a name to be relisted, please contact the office at 216-741-1310.

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:

12/6/15	Nick & Kate Zolikoff
12/13/15	Steve Rusnak
12/20/15	Joyce Tabeling & Judy Schwind
12/27/15	Joy & David Pfeiffer
1/3/16	TBA
1/10/16	TBA
1/17/16	TBA

Greeters:

Karen Felon & Sonia Vorell
Linda Smotzer & Michael Tabeling
Mat. Jenn Boerio & Tammy Ponomarenko
Nina & Elizabeth Antonik
TBA
TBA
TBA



GOD'S GIFTS TO US - OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Weekly expenses:	\$ 6,538.00
Last week's collection	<u>\$ 3,021.00</u>
Over/Under	< \$ 3,517.00 >

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

For the weeks of Dec. 6 - Dec. 27th

In memory of all deceased members
of the Laskovich Family
from Dorothy & Paul Laskovich

**EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD
OF GREATER CLEVELAND
53rd Anniversary Year**



Unity Through Participation



DECEMBER

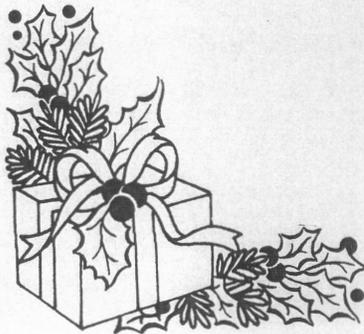


**Monday
December 14, 2015**



6:30PM

**CHRIST THE SAVIOUR
10000 State Road
North Royalton, OH 44133**



*****Gloria Zabala will speaking on Healing Oils of the Bible*****



DECEMBER 20, 2015 **CLEVELAND LANDMARK** **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

39th 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

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

FREE AND OPEN
TO ALL!

Reception after
the concert.

We keep "Christ"
in Christmas!

ST. THEODOSIUS
CATHEDRAL

733 Starkweather Avenue

www.sttheodosius.org

Telephone: 216-741-1310

Help the Orthodox Christian Mission Center provide the means for priests in Kenya to “make the rounds” in the new year!

Diocese of the Midwest Nativity Fast fundraiser



■ Please send all donations to the **Diocese of the Midwest, 927 North LaSalle, Chicago, IL 60610** by **January 1, 2016**.

■ Please make checks payable to the **Diocese of the Midwest**, with “**Motorbikes for Kenya**” noted in the memo line.

■ Once **all donations** have been received, they will be **forwarded to OCMC**, with our **prayers** for the **ongoing ministry** of the Kenyan clergy and the **faithful they serve**.



Unlike the clergy of our Diocese, Orthodox Christian **priests in Kenya** must serve several far-flung and remote parish communities – a **difficult ministry** to pursue **without proper transportation!**

With the blessing of **His Grace, Bishop Paul of Chicago**, the **Diocese of the Midwest** is partnering with the **Orthodox Christian Mission Center** to raise funds to **provide motorbikes** for the clergy in Kenya. **With your help**, we can ensure that they will be able to **serve their flocks** more regularly while bringing the **Good News of Jesus Christ** to **far more people**.

Parishes, organizations and individuals are asked to **raise funds** during this year’s Nativity Fast to **make it easier** for the Kenyan clergy to “**make the rounds**” in **2016!**



WEEKLY SCHEDULE 2015

Sunday, Dec. 6

ST. NICHOLAS
THE WONDERWORKER,
ABP. OF MYRA IN LYCIA
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
FOCA Lenten Soup Sale
11:00 AM Spaghetti Dinner @ St.
Malachi's Parish Hall
5:00 PM Pan-Orthodox Nativity
Concert @ St. Mary's Romanian

Monday, Dec. 7

ST. AMBROSE, BP. MILAN
ST. PHILOFTHEIA

Tuesday, Dec. 8

VEN. PATAPIUS OF THEBES
6:30 PM Orthodoxy 101 @
Parish Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 9

CONCEPTION BY
RIGHTEOUS ST. ANNA
OF THE THEOTOKOS
6:00 PM Akathist to the Nativity
of Christ

REMINDER:



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

ADVENT FAST
Nov. 15th - Dec. 24th

DECEMBER
Special Collection
THE DEANERY



Thursday, Dec. 10

MARTYRS MENAS,
HERMOGENES
AND EUGRAPHUS
11:00 AM Faith Enrichment @
Agostino's

Friday, Dec. 11

VEN. DANIEL THE STYLITE
NEW HIEROMARTYRS
SERAPHIM, PETER
ALEKSY AND NIKOLAI

Saturday, Dec. 12

ST. SPYRIDON
THE WONDERWORKER
10:00 AM Cookie Walk @ Agostino's
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, 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