

# Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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February 4, 2007

34th Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday of the Prodigal Son

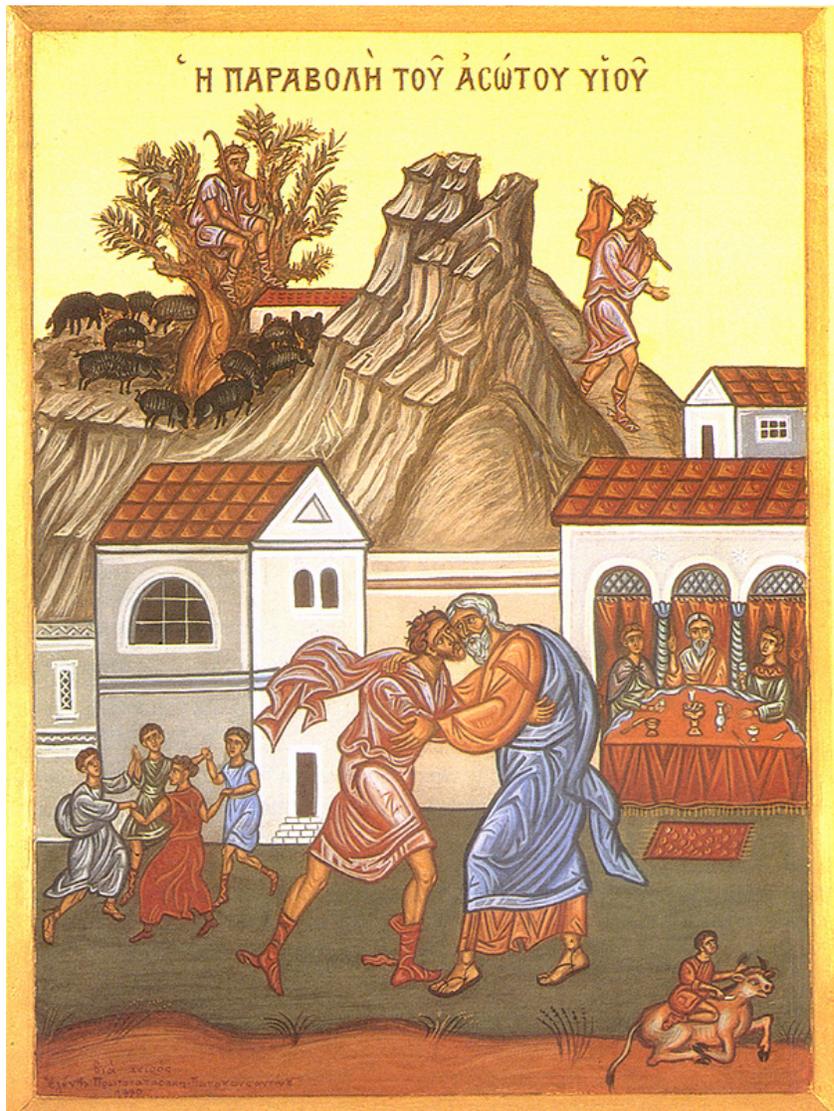
**Glory to God for All Things!**

- Archpriest John Zdinak  
Dean
- Archpriest Pavel Soucek  
Retired/Attached
- Subdeacon Theodore Lentz  
Sacristan
- 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



## Welcome Visitors

*Our parish welcomes you and thanks you for joining us in worship and praise this morning. 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.*

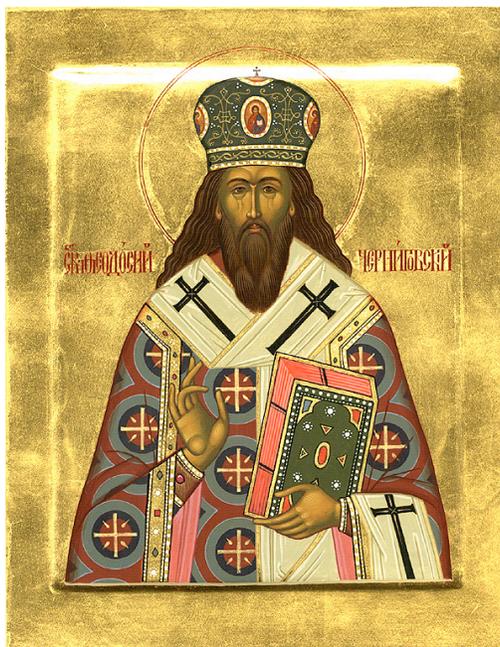
## REPOSE OF ST THEODOSIUS OF CHERNIGOV Commemorated on February 5

Saint Theodosius, Archbishop of Chernigov, was born in the seventeenth century at the beginning of the decade of the thirties in Podolsk governance. He was descended from a noble family, the Polonitsky-Uglitskys. His parents were the priest Nikita and Maria. The saint was taught Christian piety in his parents' home, and this piety remained with him throughout his life.

From childhood he was distinguished by a fervent love for God and zeal for the Church. The innate abilities of the youth came to light in the Kiev Brotherhood school at Kiev's Theophany monastery. The school was flourishing at the end of the 1640s, when its rectors were Archimandrite Innocent (Gizel), and Igumen Lazar (Baranovich), who later became Archbishop of Chernigov. Among its instructors were: Hieromonk Epiphanius (Slavinetsky), Hieromonk Arsenius (Satanovsky), Bishop Theodosius (Baevsky) of Belorus, Igumen Theodosius (Saphonovich) and Meletius Dzik. These were the enlightened men of those days. The comrades of St Theodosius at the school would become future outstanding pastors: Simeon Polotsky, Joannicius Golyatovsky, Anthony Radivilovsky, Barlaam Yasninsky. The Kiev Brotherhood Theophany school was the chief center in the struggle of Orthodoxy against the assaults of Catholic clergy, particularly the Jesuits.

St Theodosius grew to spiritual maturity near the relics of Sts Anthony and Theodosius and other God-pleasers of the Kiev Caves, and he tried to imitate their holy life as much as he could. He devoted all his free time to prayer, meditation on God, and the reading of Holy Scripture.

It might be surmised that the saint did not finish the full course of studies, since the school ceased its activity for several years following the devastation



of Podolia by the Poles. All his life the saint had a deep regard for the Kiev Brotherhood monastery where he was educated. In the Synodikon of the Kiev-Vydubitsk monastery is the following comment about St Theodosius: "He was a man of fine intellect, and generous to the Kiev Brotherhood monastery."

Upon receiving his education, the future hierarch received monastic tonsure at the Kiev Caves Lavra with the name Theodosius, in honor of St Theodosius of the Caves (May 3).

Metropolitan Dionysius (Balaban) of Kiev made him archdeacon of Kiev's cathedral of Holy Wisdom (Hagia Sophia), and then appointed him steward of the episcopal household. Soon he left Kiev and went to the distant

Krupitsky monastery near Baturino (in the Chernigov diocese), which was famed for its strict monastic life. There he was ordained to the holy priesthood, but remained there only a short time.

In 1662, St Theodosius was appointed Igumen of the Korsun monastery in Kiev diocese, and in the year 1664 he was made head of the ancient Kiev-Vydubitsky monastery. This monastery had fallen into the hands of the Uniates and Poles at the beginning of the seventeenth century and was in complete ruin. Thanks to the energy and initiative of St Theodosius, the Vydubitsky Mikhailovsk monastery was quickly restored.

He was particularly concerned with the order of church services. He formed an excellent choir, which was famed not only in Little Russia, but also in Moscow. St Theodosius sent his singers to Moscow in 1685 to instruct their choirs in Kievan chant.

As a strict ascetic himself, St Theodosius was concerned with the spiritual growth of his monks. He founded a small skete on the island of Mikhailovschina, not far from the monastery, for brethren wishing to live in solitude. He appointed the hieromonk Job (Opalinsky), one of the most zealous monks of his monastery, to organize and administer the skete.

St Theodosius had to live through some quite difficult days, enduring many sorrows. He and other Igumens were accused by Bishop Methodius of Mstislav and Orshansk of betraying Russia in a supposed correspondence with the enemies of Russia.

continued on page 5

# Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Commemorated on February 4

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn "By the Waters of Babylon." It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel. ❖❖

## LADIES' NIGHT OUT!

**ALL LADIES** please come for a relaxing evening out for dinner to gain new friendships and renew old ones.

Date: Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007

Place: Outback Steakhouse

at 77 and Rockside

Time: 6:30 pm - ??

RSVP: Joy Pfeiffer

(440) 838-5408

CHICAGO, IL [OCA Communications] —The Rev. Thomas Soroka, rector of Saint Nicholas Church, McKees Rocks, PA, will host a new internet radio program called "The Path" beginning Monday, January 29, 2007.

Broadcast by and produced in conjunction with Ancient Faith Radio, "The Path" will feature readings from the daily and festal epistles and gospels. Appropriate Old Testament readings will be featured during Great Lent. Thoughtful words inspired by traditional Orthodox commentary and writings will also be featured, along with references to the commemorations of the saints.

The ten minute daily broadcasts will air Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m. ET, 12:30 p.m. ET, and 11:00 p.m. ET. They will also be available via download on Ancient Faith Radio's web site.

## Sunday of Orthodoxy

February 25 at 6:00 PM

St. Mary Romanian  
Orthodox Cathedral  
3256 Warren Rd.

Thank You for Your Continuing Donations to the Cathedral Roof Fund. As of January 28, 2007, \$45,103 has been collected toward the \$50,000 goal.

Since the rest of society likes to consider this month "love" month with a perversion of St. Valentine's Day, why don't we consider February to be "Show Orthodox Christian Love" month. A suggestion: During February, express your love to your Orthodox brothers and sisters by introducing yourself--using first and last name--to at least one unknown person each week. Everybody likes to be acknowledged. Speak to them and you will be rewarded with a big smile! and their self-introduction.

Some of us have been doing this for a while: you could send a "Valentine" to one of our dear ones who can't join us. The list of Shut-ins and Nursing Home folks is available at the Parish Hall or the Cemetery Office.

Now with **FOCA** TODAY!!!

Sunday, February 4th After Liturgy



FOCA will meet after Liturgy next Sunday, February 11th.

Proceeds to benefit the Cathedral Chapter of JR. FOCA

Boys' Night Out  
TONIGHT! Sun. Feb. 4 - 5PM!

Maya Mexican Restaurant  
368 W. Bagley in Berea  
See Daniel Morris.

Eastern Orthodox  
Women's Guild

Pan-Orthodox Luncheon

Saturday, February 10, 2007 12:30 PM  
St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church  
2587 W. 14th St. at Starkweather  
RSVP by TOMORROW February 5th  
Ann Porterfield 216.328.9247  
Josephine Vuich 216.676.4186.

## Prayer Requests

### Departed:

Mary Hassfurth +1/1/07  
 Michael Sacco +1/12/07  
 Irene Kobelak +1/24/07

### Ill-afflicted:

Helen Baldner  
 Mary Marhefka  
 John Clements  
 Eileen Eschuk  
 Henry & Julia Grabowski  
 John & Ann Shuleva  
 Jan Tkacz  
 Jeanne Twitchell  
 Billy J Spurlock  
 James Sheehan  
 Julia Zimmerman  
 Mary Wazevich  
 Valentina Ponomarenko  
 Natalie Ponomarenko  
 Roy A. Baldner  
 Michael & Jennifer Turczyk  
 Helen Kozak  
 Nick Jarachovic  
 Marshall Prock  
 Mary Ann Silberhorn

**Maura & Will Oprisko & Unborn Child**  
**Emily & Jason Grimes & Unborn Child**

## Parish Council News

☛ The next Parish Council Meeting is 6:00 PM, Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at Ridge Manor. Any parish member is welcome.

*REMEMBER TO LISTEN TO "COME RECEIVE THE LIGHT" ON RADIO AT WHK, 1220AM TODAY AT 2:30 PM. OR VISIT [WWW.RECEIVE.ORG](http://WWW.RECEIVE.ORG)*

## Upcoming Events

- 🕯 February 4 - FOCA Chili Cook-off
- 🕯 February 4 - Boys' Night Out @ Maya Mexican Rest't
- 🕯 February 6 - Ladies' Night Out @ Outback (Rockside)
- 🕯 February 10 - EOWG Pan-Orthodox Luncheon
- 🕯 February 11 - FOCA meeting after Liturgy
- 🕯 February 18 - Forgiveness Sunday
- 🕯 February 19 - Great Lent begins
- 🕯 February 25 - Sunday of Orthodoxy @ St. Mary's
- 🕯 March 25 - Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos
- 🕯 April 8 - Pascha

February 1, 2007

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of The Orthodox Church in America

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

The life of Saint Herman of Alaska is marked with numerous impressive accomplishments, especially in light of the harsh external conditions under which he labored. While living in a world far different from his, we too can accept the call as St. Herman did, to bear witness to the Orthodox Faith in our communities.

In the midst of today's society and the opposition and obstacles with which it confronts us, our efforts in proclaiming the Gospel may sometimes appear to be hindered. However, we cannot allow ourselves to become discouraged. Instead, if we remember how the Lord helped Saint Herman overcome innumerable obstacles as he worked to bring the Gospel to the native peoples of Alaska, we can trust that He will also bless us as we continue the legacy of evangelization which has been entrusted to us.

I encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to experience the richness and fullness of Orthodox Christianity. Share the joy of your parish and welcome guests into your community as you would welcome Christ Himself. By reaching out to those in need, and sharing your Faith with any and all who will listen, the mission of St. Herman continues.

That same mission continues in established parishes and our newest missions across North America. In 2007, four communities have been designated as recipients of The Orthodox Church in America's Church Planting Grant program. The grants are made possible through your generous gifts to the annual Mission Appeal, and the more you give, the more the Church can assist the many other newly-established missions that are also in need of such financial support.

May the Holy Spirit guide our willingness to continue the mission of Saint Herman and the other North American Saints in our efforts to proclaim the Gospel to all peoples throughout this continent.

Thanking you in advance for your gift to the annual Mission Appeal, I remain

With love in Christ,

+ HERMAN

Archbishop of Washington and New York  
 Metropolitan of All America and Canada

## Coffee Hour & Greeters Schedules

### Coffee Hour Hosts:

2/04 Kate Zolikoff  
 2/11 Donna Jacak  
 2/18 Maca Tyler & Judy Schwind  
 2/25 Mat. Cindy Zdinak  
 3/04 Mary Swit & Tammy Ponomarenko

### Greeters:

Paul Pangrace  
 Karen Felon & Maca Tyler  
 Linda Smotzer & Virginia Medvec  
 Debbi Pinta & Tom Broslawik  
 Steven & Eileen Bondor

## 2006 and 2007 Dues

**\$250.00 per Adult member (18 and older) per year**

continued from page 2

On September 20, 1668 St Theodosius explained the matter. On November 17, 1668 the lie was exposed, and St Theodosius together with the other Igumens were vindicated. Archbishop Lazar (Baranovich) esteemed the high spiritual qualities of St Theodosius and befriended him. He called him "a sheep of the flock of Christ, teaching by humility," and he prophetically expressed the wish that the name of St Theodosius might be inscribed in Heaven.

When Archbishop Lazar became locum tenens of Kiev's Metropolitan See in 1689, he appointed St Theodosius as his vicar in Kiev, while he remained at Chernigov. In his capacity as vicar of the locum tenens of the Kiev Metropolitan See, St Theodosius had an active role in many churchly events. In 1685 he participated with the right of a decisive vote in the election of Bishop Gideon (Chetverinsky) as Metropolitan of Kiev, and he was sent to Moscow with news of this event with Igumen Jerome (Dubin) of Pereyaslavl. In Moscow, both representatives were received with honor and esteem. Indeed, the result of this delegation was the reuniting of the Kiev Metropolitan See with the Russian Orthodox Church.

In 1688 St Theodosius was appointed archimandrite of Chernigov's Eletsy monastery, replacing the deceased Archimandrite Joannicius (Golyatovsky). In appointing St Theodosius, Archbishop Lazar told him to spare no effort in placing the Eletsy monastery in good order. This monastery had not yet been set aright after the expulsion of the Jesuits and Dominicans, and it was in great disorder.

Through the efforts of St Theodosius, in his two or three years as igumen, the monastery's revenues and properties increased, the church of the Dormition was repaired, and the Elets Icon (February 5) was enshrined there.

In his new position, the saint also assisted Archbishop Lazar in many important matters. He participated in drafting a conciliar reply to Patriarch Joachim of Moscow in response to his questions about the attitude of the Kiev Metropolitan See to the Council of Florence, and its judgment on the question of the transformation of the Holy Gifts as accepted by this Florentine Council. When the Patriarch proved to be unsatisfied by these answers, the Baturino Igumen St Demetrius (the future Metropolitan of Rostov) was sent to him at the beginning of 1689. St Theodosius journeyed with him as the representative of Archbishop Lazar. He was entrusted with the delivery of a letter to the Patriarch, and to clear up the misunderstandings.

Because of his poor health, Archbishop Lazar wished to see St Theodosius consecrated to the episcopate, seeing in the saint a worthy successor to himself. On September 11, 1692 the election of St Theodosius as Archbishop of Chernigov was confirmed, and he was consecrated in the Dormition cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin two days later.

Little information regarding St Theodosius's administration of the Chernigov diocese has been preserved. The saint worked incessantly to raise the level of true Christian piety in his flock. He also focused on maintaining old monasteries, and founding new communities.

At the very beginning of his episcopate, the the Pecheniksk women's monastery was established with his blessing, and he himself consecrated the monastery church in honor of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos.

In 1694, a skete was founded near Liubech. The same year, at the Domnitsky men's monastery, the saint consecrated a temple in honor of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos. In the summer of 1695, he conse-

crated a majestic temple in honor of the Most Holy Theotokos, on the summit of Boldino Hill, near the ancient monastery of St Elias. Under St Theodosius there was a special enthusiasm for and strengthening of monasticism in the Chernigov diocese.

The saint also devoted much attention to the clergy, and he tried to choose worthy candidates for the priesthood. He also encouraged the pastoral education of the Chernigov clergy. He invited learned monks from Kiev, among whom was St John (Maximovitch), the future Metropolitan of Tobolsk (June 10), and also a helper and successor of St Theodosius in organizing the Chernigov clergy school.

Strict uprightness in regard to clergy and flock, deep compassion, concern and Christian love of peace were distinguishing features in the activity of St Theodosius. Not only did the Orthodox turn to him for help and advice, but even persons of other confessions.

St Theodosius did not remain with his Chernigov flock very long. Sensing the approach of death, he summoned the administrator of the Briansk Svensk monastery, St John (Maximovitch), and appointed him Archimandrite of the Chernigov Elets monastery.

St Theodosius died on February 5, 1696, and was buried in Chernigov's Sts Boris and Gleb cathedral church, in a special crypt near the right clerost. His successor St John (Maximovitch), who was healed of a grievous illness by St Theodosius, later placed a stone plaque over his grave with a poetic inscription in gratitude for the saint's help. The special grace which St Theodosius attained is shown by his ascetic life and his assistance to all who turn to him in prayer.

The glorification of St Theodosius occurred on September 9, 1896. ❖

**NEWS from the FINANCE COMMITTEE: You may now pay dues and make contributions using VISA or Mastercard at either the Cathedral Bookstore or the Cemetery Office.**

## Weekly Schedule

### Sunday February 4

**34th Sunday After Pentecost**

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

*9:00 AM Divine Liturgy*

FOCA Chili Cook-off after Liturgy

5:00 PM Boys' Night Out - Maya Restaurant

### Monday February 5

**Rest of St. Theodosius of Chernigov**

### Tuesday February 6

6:30 PM Ladies' Night Out - Outback Rockside

### Wednesday February 7

10:30 AM Ridge Manor Committee at RM

### Thursday February 8

11:00 AM Faith Enrichment at Ridge Manor

### Friday February 9

### Saturday February 10

4:30 PM Church School

*6:00 PM Great Vespers*

### Sunday February 11

**35th Sunday After Pentecost**

**Meatfare Sunday**

*9:00 AM Divine Liturgy*

“My child, as soon as you speak these words, ‘Love without limits,’ as soon as you give this supreme reality a place in your heart, you open a door. This is the doorway that leads into the Kingdom of freedom and light.

“This is the doorway of Hope, the threshold that leads to the infinite expansion of your being. Hope: awaiting what is to come, awaiting the One who is to come. Such waiting is filled with love. It is founded on love. For we never hope for what we do not love....”

*Archimandrite Lev Gillet, “A Monk of the Eastern Church”*

<http://www.oca.org/CHRIST-life-print.asp?ID=122>



**St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral**

**8200 Biddulph Rd**

**Brooklyn, OH 44144**

*Addressee*