Ambo

St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

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Ambo Editor

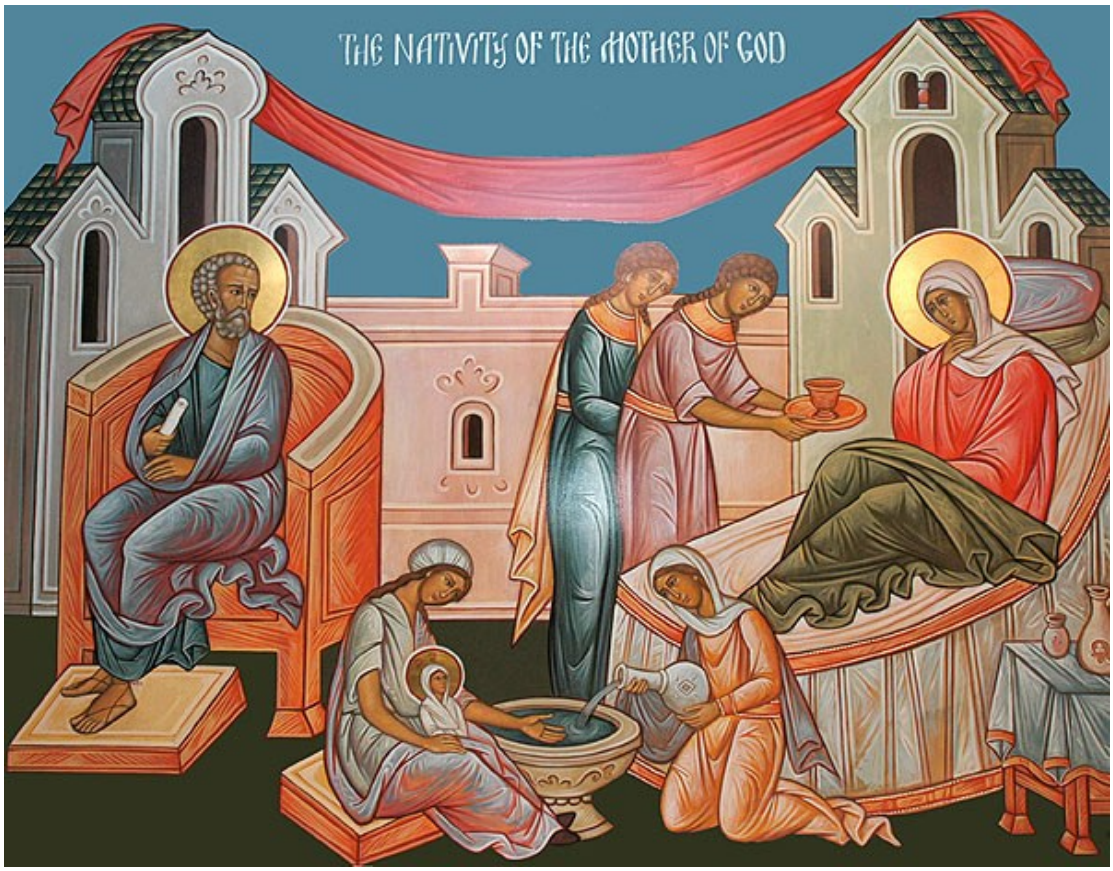
Divine Services

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
Please check weekly schedule for specific days (last page).
Previous Ambos on website.

Articles for publication should be submitted to:
ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
COMMEMORATION OF THE MIRACLE OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AT COLOSSÆ



The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her

parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcame the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple. Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feast-days at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

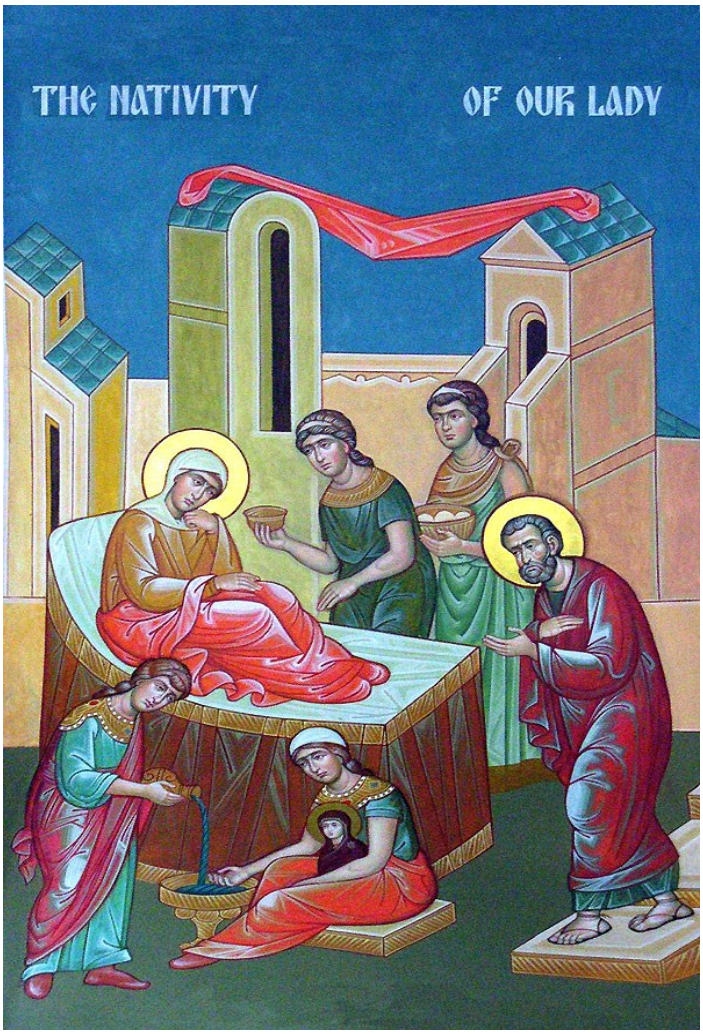
The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

Forefeast of the Nativity of the Mother of God

The first lesson at Great Vespers (Genesis 28:10-17) describes Jacob's dream of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven, and the angels ascending and descending upon it. The second lesson (Ezekiel 43:27-44:4) speaks of the gate of the sanctuary which faces east. God enters through this gate, which is shut so that no one else can enter by it. The third reading (Proverbs 9:1-11) talks about the house that Wisdom has built.

These readings are interpreted as prefiguring the Mother of God.



Coffee Hour Quarter 3 2026

Questions/Concerns/volunteer? call Cathy Weber (412-215-1928)

July 5	*(Sponsored by Una & John)*	September 6
Joyce & Judy	August 9 *(Dormition Fast)*	Shawna
July 12	Matushka Jana	*(Sponsored by Anonymous)*
Matushka Jana	August 16	September 13
July 19	Tammy	Holly Roe
Christopher & Emiko	*(Sponsored by Una & John)*	September 20
July 26	August 23	Heather
Mary	Joyce & Judy	September 27
August 2 *(Dormition Fast)*	August 30	Shawna
Dan & Lavinia	Sarah & Mike Brennan	

Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Tuesday, 1 September 2026
The Indiction
№. 147

ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE OF THE MOST REVEREND DANIEL ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO AND THE MIDWEST AT THE BEGINNING OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR

Beloved Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and dearly Beloved Faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

As we approach the beginning of the new Ecclesiastical Year on September 1, the Holy Church once again invites us to enter the sacred rhythm of her liturgical life. Unlike the passing measures of secular time, the Church's year is not merely a succession of days and months. It is an unfolding season of grace, in which the saving works of our Lord Jesus Christ are made present to us through prayer, worship, fasting, feasting, repentance, and thanksgiving.

This annual cycle of fasts and feasts is a precious gift. Through it, the Church gathers our scattered lives and directs them toward the Kingdom of God. We celebrate the Nativity of Christ, His Holy Theophany, His life-giving Passion and Resurrection, His glorious Ascension, and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We honor the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, the holy Apostles, Martyrs, Hierarchs, Monastics, and all the Saints. Their commemorations remind us that holiness is not an abstract ideal but the true vocation of every Christian.

The fasts of the Church likewise call us back to what is essential. By abstaining from certain foods and indulgences, we learn to restrain the passions, deepen our prayer, give generously to those in need, seek reconciliation, and hunger more earnestly for God. Fasting is never an end unto itself, nor is it merely a matter of dietary observance. Joined to repentance, mercy, and participation in the sacramental life, it becomes a path toward spiritual freedom and renewed communion with Christ.

The feasts teach us to receive life with gratitude and joy. Yet, Christian joy is not an escape from suffering. It is the fruit of Christ's victory over sin and death. Every feast reveals some aspect of this victory, while every fast prepares the heart to receive it. Together, the fasts and feasts form a school of discipleship, shaping us gradually into the likeness of our Savior.

I therefore urge the clergy, monastics, and faithful of our Diocese to begin this Ecclesiastical Year with renewed dedication. Let us order our homes and daily schedules according to the life of the Church. Let us participate faithfully in the Divine Liturgy and the appointed services, observe the fasts with discernment, receive the Holy Mysteries with proper preparation, read the Holy Scriptures, and establish a consistent rule of daily prayer.

Let our spiritual and churchly practice also bear visible fruit in works of mercy. May every parish and mission community within our God-protected Diocese strengthen its care for the poor, the lonely, the grieving, the displaced, and all who struggle in body or soul. A calendar filled with holy days profits us little if our hearts remain closed to our neighbors. The grace we receive in worship must extend into our families, workplaces, communities, and the whole of creation entrusted to our stewardship.

To my beloved clergy, my brothers and co-laborers in this Vineyard: teach the faithful the meaning of the liturgical cycle with patience and pastoral sensitivity. Invite them not only to know the calendar but to live by it and keep it. Make the divine services accessible, beautiful, and prayerful. Encourage frequent confession and worthy reception of Holy Communion. Above all, lead by your own example of humility, fidelity, hospitality, and love.

To parents and families: make your homes little churches. Mark the feasts with prayer, give places of honor to the holy icons, sing the Church's hymns, share meals, and live your family lives with acts of kindness and generosity. Teach children that the Church's seasons are not burdens imposed upon life but gifts that reveal life's deepest meaning. In this way, the faith will be handed on not merely as information, but as a living inheritance.

Beloved in Christ, each new Ecclesiastical Year is both a gift and a summons. The time given to us is precious, and its fulfillment is found in Christ. Let us not allow this year to pass without bearing spiritual fruit. May every fast soften our hearts, every feast enlarge our joy, every divine service deepen our communion, and every day become an offering of thanksgiving to God.

At the beginning of this new Church year, I ask you to join me in praying:

O Lord, bless the crown of the year with Thy goodness. Grant peace to Thy Church, strength to Thy people, wisdom to our leaders, healing to the afflicted, consolation to the sorrowful, peace to the world, and mercy to us all. Guide us through every season of fasting and feasting, that we may grow in repentance, faith, hope, and love, and at last enter the unending Day of Thy Kingdom.

Through the prayers of the Most Holy Theotokos, especially venerated in her sacred Tikhvin Icon, of our holy fathers and mothers, and of all the saints, may the blessing of the Lord rest upon the clergy, monastics, faithful, parishes, missions, institutions, and families of the Diocese of the Midwest throughout the coming Ecclesiastical Year.

With my Archpastoral blessing and love in Christ,

+Daniel

DANIEL
Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Thursday, 27 August 2026
Venerable Pimen the Great
№. 149

ARCHPASTORAL APPEAL OF THE MOST REVEREND DANIEL ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO AND THE MIDWEST SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS 2026

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we begin our annual Support Our Seminarians appeal, I invite you to join the parishes, church organizations, and individuals throughout the Diocese of the Midwest investing in the future of ministry in the Church.

This year, our Diocese has been blessed with fourteen seminarians. These men, our sons and brothers, are studying at Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, South Canaan, PA or at Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Crestwood, NY. Six are new students just beginning their seminary careers, while eight are returning to continue their theological studies and priestly formation. Each of their photos and biographies are available on our diocesan website: https://domoca.org/diocesan-seminarians.

These seminarians and their families are your fellow parishioners and friends from throughout the Diocese of the Midwest. They have made significant sacrifices in moving to the seminaries where they are now preparing themselves for a life of service to God and His people. Along with their families, they are making sacrifices and embracing the call to prepare for future ministry. Their formation requires not only education and spiritual development, but also significant financial resources.

I ask you to prayerfully consider supporting our seminarians in two important ways: spiritually and financially.

Your prayers are an essential source of strength and encouragement as these men discern and prepare to serve the Church. In addition to this annual "SOS" appeal, I also encourage parishes, parish organizations, families, and individuals to contribute financially toward their formation and educational needs throughout the year, and whenever possible.

Each parish and mission of the Diocese of the Midwest is called upon to either take a special collection, hold a fundraising event, or direct funds from the parish budget in order to contribute to this annual diocesan-wide effort.

Every gift, regardless of size, makes a meaningful difference. Your generosity helps provide the resources that our seminarians need as they continue their journey toward their future ministry. By supporting them today, you are helping to build a stronger future for our Church, and ensuring that they are prepared to serve God and His people with faith, compassion, and dedication.

I sincerely thank you for your prayers, generosity, and continued commitment to the theological education and formation of our seminarians. May God bless you abundantly for your support, and for the significant contribution you make in preparing the next generation of priests.

With gratitude for your generous support, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

DANIEL
Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

Theotokos of Vladimir

Eastern Orthodox Women's Guild of Greater Cleveland

Unity Through Participation

"BLESSINGS"

FOR THE NEW CHURCH YEAR

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be merciful to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

~Numbers 6:24-26

Saturday, September 26, 2026 @10:00AM

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

6822 Broadview Road
Parma, Ohio 44134

- Fr. Christopher Moore Will Give the Blessing for the "New Church Year"
- Fellowship, Refreshments & Door Prizes
- Bring a Friend to Join Our Christ-Centered Ministry
- Updates on Events Planned for the Year
- Annual Fundraising Dinner Discussion
- Assembly of IOCC Kid's School Kits – Annual Service Project

Before civil war broke out in 2011, nearly every child was enrolled in primary school. By 2013, about 1.8 million Syrian children were out of school. One in four schools have been damaged, destroyed or occupied as shelter by families who lost their homes. Thanks to donors like you, IOCC has been in Syria working to preserve education for children—providing school uniforms and rehabilitating damaged schools. School kits packed with notebooks, pencils and other supplies have also been distributed to more than 40,000 Syrian children.

Saturday Sep. 26

Akathist to St. Innocent of Alaska - 10 am
Session w/ Dr. David begins - 11 am
Q&A afterward
Lunch begins - 12:30 pm (Provided)
Session w/ Dr. Mary begins - 2 pm
Q&A afterward, till 3:30
Vespers - 5 pm

Sunday Sep. 27

Dr. David Ford will give a presentation called "St. John Chrysostom: Glimpses into His Life and Wisdom" at 11:30 in the church.

Please RSVP to priestpaisios@gmail.com by Sep. 19 ito ensure enough food for the luncheon

PRAYER REQUESTS

9/6/2026

Special Intentions:

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Subdeacon Leon Felon

Reader Kenneth Kovach

Reader Frank Tkacz

Reader Daniel Morris

Reader Haralambos Steingass

Horia Dascalescu *(Lavinia's brother)*

Janice Tkacz

Eleanor Wachovec *(friend of Karen Felon)*

Rachel Ohlin *(relative of Tatiana)*

Jeffrey Parhamovich *(brother of Karen Felon)*

Margaret Parhamovich *(sister-in-law of Karen Felon)*

Jean Woycitzky Thompson *(Frank's cousin)*

Debra Parhamovich *(sister of Karen Felon)*

Robert Martin Prock

Valentina Zawolowycz

Child McKenna Kranek

Betty Balasz

Elisabeth Lavrisiuk

Phyllis Gindlesperger

Jerry Czajkowski

Barbara Sheean

Tamara Ponomarenko

Paige Benjamin
(niece of Una Alexandrovic)

Sara Wilmot *(friend of Tim Clos)*

Catherine *(niece of Judy Schwind)*

Elena Rich

Quinn *(niece of John Alexandrovic)*

Erin Zawolowycz

Anthony Swit

Nina Mytrohovich

Alexander Zdinak (Sasha)

Please submit names to the Prayer List by emailing them to Fr. Jan Cizmar
st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com
Or calling at 1 (440) 732-8182
Names remain on the list for 30 days unless requested otherwise.

ST. THEODOSIUS IS A SUBSCRIBER TO TITHE.LY

In response to requests to be able to donate electronically, we have set up a Tithe.ly account so people can donate either regularly or for special occasions online. Click here to see: https://www.sttheodosius.org/donate

BIWEEKLY SCHEDULE 2026

Sunday, September 6
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Commemoration of the Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossæ. Martyrs Eudoxius, Zeno, and Macarius (311-312)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

Monday, September 7
Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
Martyr Sozón of Cilicia (ca. 304)
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Tuesday, September 8
The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
8:30 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
@Holy Trinity 6822 Broadview Rd. Parma Ohio 44134
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Wednesday, September 9
Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
Uncovering of the Relics of St. Theodosius, Archbishop of Chernigov
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Feastday Brunch following Divine Liturgy

Thursday, September 10
Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora, at Nicomedia (305-311)
6:30 AM Hours and Typica

Friday, September 11
Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
Ven. Theodora of Alexandria (474-491)

Saturday, September 12
Leavetaking of the Nativity of the Theotokos
Saturday before Elevation
Hieromartyr Autonomus, Bishop in Italy (313)
10:00 AM Baptism of Ariella Xenia Hochmann
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, September 13
15th Sunday after Pentecost
Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross
Sunday before Elevation

In Phrygia, not far from the city of Hieropolis, in a place called Cheretopos, there was a church named for the Archangel Michael, built over a miraculous spring.

This church was built by a certain inhabitant of the city of Laodicia in gratitude to God for healing his mute daughter. The holy Chief Commander Michael appeared to this man in a dream and revealed to him that his daughter would receive the gift of speech after drinking from the water of the spring. The girl actually did receive healing and began to speak. After this miracle, the father and his daughter and all their family were baptized. In fervent gratitude, the father built the church in honor of the holy Chief Commander Michael. Not only did Christians begin to come to the spring for healing, but also pagans. In so doing, many of the pagans turned from their idols and were converted to the faith in Christ.

Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) at Jerusalem (335)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
1:00 PM Parish Picnic
@St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
6306 Broadview Rd, Parma, OH 44134

Monday, September 14
The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Lifegiving Cross
Repose of St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (407)
8:30 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
@Holy Trinity 6822 Broadview Rd. Parma Ohio 44134

Tuesday, September 15
Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross
Greatmartyr Niketas (Nikita) the Goth (ca. 372)

Wednesday, September 16
Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross
Great Martyr Euphemia the All-praised (304)
6:00 PM Daily Vespers

Thursday, September 17
Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross
Martyr Sophia, and her three daughters: Faith (Vera), Hope (Nadézhda), and Love (Liubóv', Charity), at Rome (ca. 137)
6:30 AM Hours and Typica

Friday, September 18
Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross
St. Eumenes, Bishop of Gortyna (6th c.)

Saturday, September 19
Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross
Saturday after the Elevation of the Cross
Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius, and Dorymedon of Synnada (276)

Sunday, September 20
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross
Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross
Greatmartyr Eustáthios (Eustace) Placidas, his wife, Martyr Theopistes, and their children, Martyrs Agapius and Theopistus, of Rome (ca. 118)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour