

Ambo

ST. THEodosius ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



MAY 16 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF PASCHA
MYRRHBEARING WOMEN

733 Starkweather Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

www.sttheodosius.org

Eric Seddon, Parish Secretary
1(216) 574-4886

StTheodosiusCathedral@protonmail.com

Father Jan Cizmar
1(440) 732-8182

jerejian@gmail.com

Protodeacon Daniel Boerio

Subdeacon Michael Tabeling,
Sacristan

Reader Julius Kovach,
Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

Erin Zawolowycz
Ambo Editor

Paul Zawolowycz
1(440) 941-7099

zawolowycz@gmail.com
Parish Council President

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)

AMBO: Articles for publica-
tion should be submitted to:

ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com



Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and his mother Helen

(May 21)

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The Church calls **Saint Constantine** (306-337) “the Equal of the Apostles,” and historians call him “the Great.” He was the son of the Caesar Constantius Chlorus (305-306), who governed the lands of Gaul and Britain. His mother was Saint Helen, a Christian of humble birth.

At this time the immense Roman Empire was divided into Western and Eastern halves, governed by two independent emperors and their corulers called “Caesars.” Constantius Chlorus was Caesar in the Western Roman Empire. Saint Constantine was born in 274, possibly at Nish in Serbia. In 294, Constantius divorced Helen in order to further his political ambition by marrying a woman of noble rank. After he became emperor, Constantine showed his mother great honor and respect, granting her the imperial title “Augusta.”

Constantine, the future ruler of all the whole Roman Empire, was raised to respect Christianity. His father did not persecute Christians in the lands he governed. This was at a time when Christians were persecuted throughout the Roman Empire by the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and his corulers Maximian Galerius (305-311) in the East, and the emperor Maximian Hercules (284-305) in the West.

After the death of Constantius Chlorus in 306, Constantine was acclaimed by the army at York as emperor of Gaul and Britain. The first act of the new emperor was to grant the freedom to practice Christianity in the lands subject to him. The pagan Maximian Galerius in the East and the fierce tyrant Maxentius in the West hated Constantine and they plotted to overthrow and kill him, but Constantine bested them in a series of battles, defeating his opponents with the help of God. He prayed to God to give him a sign which would inspire his army to fight valiantly, and the Lord showed him a radiant Sign of the Cross in the heavens with the inscription “In this Sign,

conquer.”

After Constantine became the sole ruler of the Western Roman Empire, he issued the Edict of Milan in 313 which guaranteed religious tolerance for Christians. Saint Helen, who was a Christian, may have influenced him in this decision. In 323, when he became the sole ruler of the entire Roman Empire, he extended the provisions of the Edict of Milan to the Eastern half of the Empire. After three hundred years of persecution, Christians could finally practice their faith without fear.

Renouncing paganism, the Emperor did not let his capital remain in ancient Rome, the former center of the pagan realm. He transferred his capital to the East, to the city of Byzantium, which was renamed Constantinople, the city of Constantine (May 11). Constantine was deeply convinced that only Christianity could unify the immense Roman Empire with its diverse peoples. He supported the Church in every way. He recalled Christian confessors from banishment, he built churches, and he showed concern for the clergy.

The emperor deeply revered the victory-bearing Sign of the Cross of the Lord, and also wanted to find the actual Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. For this purpose he sent his own mother, the holy Empress Helen, to Jerusalem, granting her both power and money. Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem and Saint Helen began the search, and through the will of God, the Life-Creating Cross was miraculously discovered in 326. (The account of the finding of the Cross of the Lord is found under the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, September 14). The Orthodox Church commemorates the Uncovering of the Precious Cross and the Precious Nails by the Holy Empress Helen on March 6.

While in Palestine, the holy empress did much of

benefit for the Church. She ordered that all places connected with the earthly life of the Lord and His All-Pure Mother, should be freed of all traces of paganism, and she commanded that churches should be built at these places.

The emperor Constantine ordered a magnificent church in honor of Christ's Resurrection to be built over His tomb. Saint Helen gave the Life-Creating Cross to the Patriarch for safe-keeping, and took part of the Cross with her for the emperor. After distributing generous alms at Jerusalem and feeding the needy (at times she even served them herself), the holy Empress Helen returned to Constantinople, where she died in the year 327.

Because of her great services to the Church and her efforts in finding the Life-Creating Cross, the empress Helen is called "the Equal of the Apostles."

The peaceful state of the Christian Church was disturbed by quarrels, dissensions and heresies which had appeared within the Church. Already at the beginning of Saint Constantine's reign the heresies of the Donatists and the Novatians had arisen in the West. They demanded a second baptism for those who lapsed during the persecutions against Christians. These heresies, repudiated by two local Church councils, were finally con-

demned at the Council of Milan in 316.

Particularly ruinous for the Church was the rise of the Arian heresy in the East, which denied the Divine Nature of the Son of God, and taught that Jesus Christ was a mere creature. By order of the emperor, the First Ecumenical Council was convened in the city of Nicea in 325.

318 bishops attended this Council. Among its participants were confessor-bishops from the period of the persecutions and many other luminaries of the Church, among whom was Saint Nicholas of Myra in Lycia. (The account about the Council is found under May 29). The emperor was present at the sessions of the Council. The heresy of Arius was condemned and a Symbol of Faith (Creed) composed, in which was included the term "consubstantial with the Father," at the insistence of the Emperor, confirming the truth of the divinity of Jesus Christ, Who assumed human nature for the redemption of all the human race.

After the Council of Nicea, Saint Constantine continued with his active role in the welfare of the Church. He accepted holy Baptism on his death-bed, having prepared for it all his whole life. Saint Constantine died on the day of Pentecost in the year 337 and was buried in the church of the Holy Apostles, in a crypt he had prepared for himself.

A Message from our Webmistress

Dear St. Theodosius Church Family, Christ is Risen!

To keep the parish website updated, we would like to create an album of photos from this year's Holy Week and Pascha celebrations. Please submit a few of your favorite photos to ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com

We would like to try and have all submissions by Friday May 21 if possible. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Due to the pandemic, and our financial position last year, we suspended the Food Pantry bags for **Merrick House** (20 bags of groceries for their Moms First program). Now, things are looking up, and we have restarted the monthly program in March. There are envelopes in the foyer specifically for this, or you can earmark a special offering envelope for the Merrick House Food Pantry. Please consider 'sponsoring a bag' for \$10.

Thank you for your consideration.

- Dan Morris

VISITATIONS

Fr. Cizmar would like to know who requires visitation. He is eager to visit those who might have gone a long time without visitation due to COVID, our absence of a rector, or for any reason at all. A key duty of a priest's ministry is to visit the sick and confined, those unable to attend the holy services for any reason.

He asks that we use the contact number provided should we need anything from him. His phone number and email address are printed on the front of every Ambo, and are repeated here:

Father Jan Cizmar

1(440) 732-8182

jerejian@gmail.com

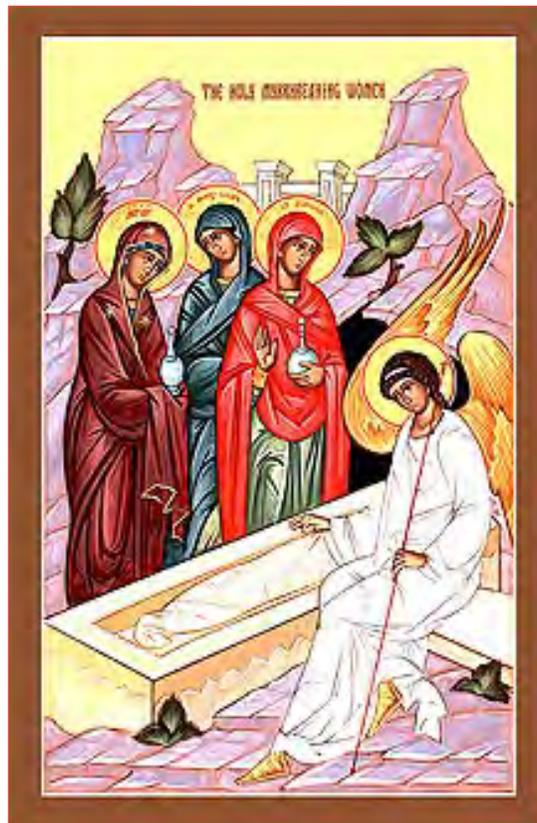
It is possible that someone who requires his aid may be out of the loop, unaware that we are blessed with a new priest. If you know of such a person, please let us know as well. That information can be submitted directly to Fr. Jan or to the Ambo submissions email and we will be sure it gets to Fr. Jan right away.

-Paul Zawolowycz

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY MYRRHBEARING WOMEN WITH THE NOBLE JOSEPH

The Myrrh-bearing women are those women who followed the Lord, along with His Mother. They remained with her during the time of the saving Passion, and anointed the Lord's body with myrrh. Joseph and Nikodemos asked for and received the Lord's body from Pilate. They took it down from the Cross, wrapped it in linen cloths and spices, then they laid it in a tomb, and then they placed a great stone over the entrance of the tomb.

According to the Evangelist Matthew (27:57-61) Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses (Mark 15:40) were there sitting opposite the sepulchre, and they saw where He had been laid. This other Mary was the Mother of God. Not only were these present, but also many other women, as Saint Luke says (24:10).



Today the Church honors Saints Mary Magdalene (July 22), Mary the wife of Cleopas (May 23), Joanna (June 27), Salome, mother of the sons of Zebedee (August 3), Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus (June 4), and the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who was the stepmother of her husband Joseph's sons James (October 23) and Joses (October 30). Today we also also remember Saint Joseph of Arimathea (July 31), who was a secret disciple (John 19:38), and Saint Nikodemos, who was a disciple by night (John 3:3; 19:38).

The holy right-believing Queen Tamara of Georgia is honored twice during the year: on May 1, the day of her repose, and also on the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women.



PRAYER REQUESTS



Special Intentions:

Deacon Paul Mitchell (*Tom Mitchell's father*)

Protodeacon Dan Boerio

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Reader Paul Pangrace

Arlene Czajkowski

Jennifer Boerio

Child Mary Kate Zweidunger

Child Vivian Sherer

Melissa (*cousin of Mary Ann Kovach*)

Elizabeth (Betty) Balasz

Marie Borland

Horia Dascalescu

Debra Ellis

Gregory Galan

Aleksei Green

Virginia Haupt (*Lisa Theodore's mother*)

Don Hinkl

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

Diane Kearsey (*Janice Tkacz's sister*)

Annamarie Luvison (*Daughter of Kaite Ellis-Luvison*)

Chris Magee (*Erin Zawolowycz's brother*)

Paul Mihal

Natalya Miller (*Arlene Neale's great-niece*)

Andrew Mytrohovich

Debra Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's sister*)

Grace Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's mother*)

Jim Paulitzky (*Jerry Czajkowski's son-in-law*)

James Peter Petkac

Susan Reese (*friend of Jerry & Arlene Czajkowski and Betty Balasz*)

Elena Rich (*Jerry Czajkowski's daughter*)

Andrew Sykaluk

Elaine Sudnick (*Joy Pfeiffer's mother*)

Tony Sykaluk (*friend of Lydia Mytrohovich*)

Janice Tkacz

Gayle Vidovitch

Eleanor Wachovec (*friend of Karen Felon*)

Robert Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

Colleen Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

Erin Zawolowycz

Kristin Robinson

Janet Budko (*sister-in-law of Arlene Neale*)

Laurie Budko (*niece of Arlene Neale*)

Mary Kay Weber

Mirta Szewczyk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Mickey O'Brien (*friend of Arlene*)

Kelly Buehner

Anna Sykaluk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Edward Zewczyk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Joe Czajkowski (*son of Jerry*)

Patrick Gallagher

Elliott Udell (*grandson of Michael Udell*)

Constance Zimmerman (*Cindy's cousin*)

William Nasi (*brother-in-law of Kenneth Kovach*)

Jonathan Maas (*friend of Eric Seddon*)

Michelle Frampton (*cousin of Fr. Zdinak*)

Jeanne Charles (*friend of Arlene Neal/Czajkowski*)

Carol Nielsen (*Paul Pangrace's sister*)

Dennis Kovach (*Kenneth Kovach's brother*)

Millie Koberling (*friend of Arlene*)

Jimmy Koberling (*friend of Arlene*)

Tom Jacobson

Matthew Ponomarenko

Alexander Ponomarenko

Virginia Medvec

Wayne Vidovich

Rocky (Brooklyn Heating)

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 16

May 16

Mark 16:9-20
Acts 6:1-7
Mark 15:43-16:8

May 17

Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60
John 4:46-54

May 18

Acts 8:5-17
John 6:27-33

May 19

Acts 8:18-25
John 6:35-39

May 20

Acts 8:26-39
John 6:40-44

May 21

3[1] Kings 8:22-23, 27:30
Isa 61:10-62:5
Isa 60:1-16
John 10:9-16
Acts 26:1-5, 12-20
John 10:1-9

Acts 8:40-9:19
John 6:48-54

May 22

Acts 9:20-31
John 15:17-16:2

May 23

Luke 24:1-12
Acts 9:32-42
John 5:1-15

ST. THEODOSIUS IS NOW 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>
Special thanks to Council Vice President Cathy Weber and our Webmaster Kate Zolikoff for making this happen.



Sunday, May 16

3rd Sunday of Pascha Myrrhbearing Women

Ven. Theodore the Sanctified, disciple of
Ven. Pachomius the Great
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Modified Coffee Hour to follow

Monday, May 17

Apostle Andronicus of the Seventy and
his fellow-laborer, Junia

Tuesday, May 18

Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra and those
with him

Wednesday, May 19

Hieromartyr Patrick, Bishop of Prussia
and his companions

Thursday, May 20

Martyr Thalelæus at Aegæ in Cilicia, and his
companions, Martyrs Alexander and Asterius

Friday, May 21

Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Emperor
Constantine and his mother Helen

Saturday, May 22

Martyr Basiliscus, Bishop of Comana
Great Vespers 6:00 PM

Sunday, May 23

**4th Sunday of Pascha
Sunday of the Paralytic**
St. Michael the Confessor,
Bishop of Synnada
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours read
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Modified Coffee Hour to follow

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2021