

Ambo

ST. THEodosius ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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- Protodeacon Daniel Boerio

- Father Jacob Van Sickle

- Subdeacon Theodore
Lentz, Sacristan

- Reader Julius Kovach,
Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

- Reader Paul Pangrace,
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

* AMBO: Articles for publication should be submitted to: sttheocemetery@yahoo.com by Wednesday of each week before noon.

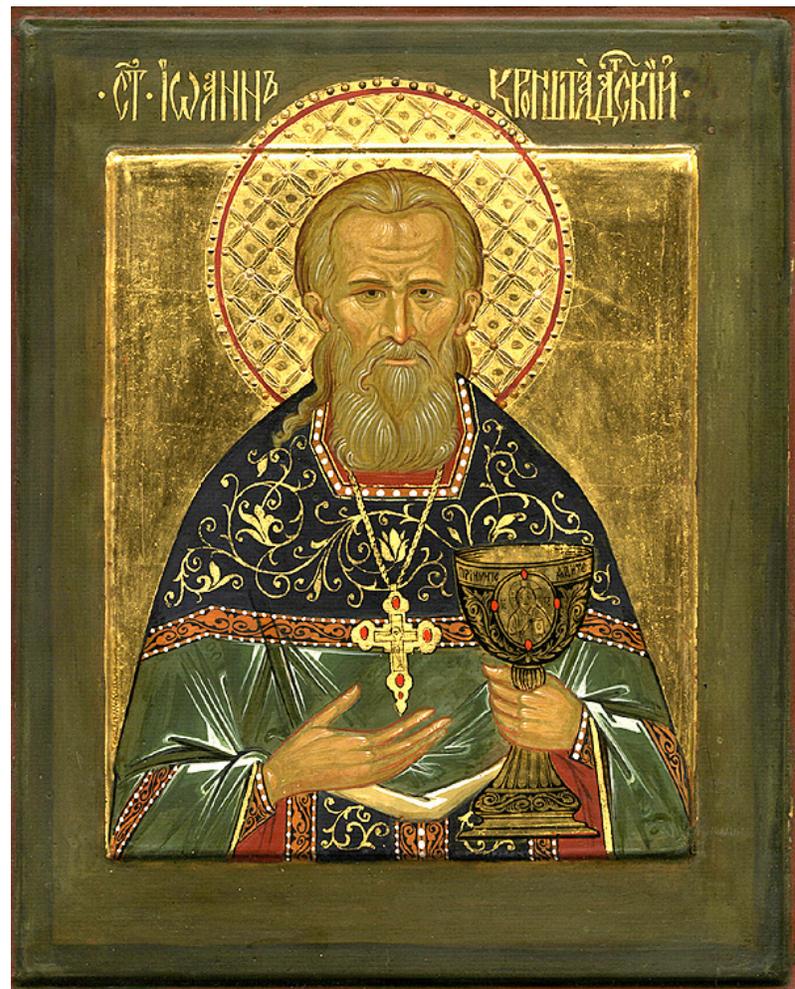
* CALENDAR: Event dates must be submitted by the 15th of each month.

DECEMBER 18, 2016

SUNDAY BEFORE

NATIVITY

ST. JOHN OF KRONSTADT



DECEMBER 20

St John of Kronstadt was born in the village of Sura in Archangel province on October 19, 1829, and was called John in honor of St John of Rila (August 18). His parents were very poor but were very devoted to the Church. Even though he was poor, as a young boy John learned to feel compassion for others in their misfortune. His neighbors frequently asked him to pray for them, as they noticed this special grace-endowed gift in him. When John was ten, his parents were able to raise some money and send him to the local school which was attached to the church. At first, the boy had an extremely difficult time with his studies. He worked for days on end, but still failed to keep up.

Writing about his life he once recalled an evening when everyone had already gone to bed. “I could not sleep, and I still failed to understand anything I was taught. I still read poorly and could not remember anything I was told. I became so depressed I fell to my knees and began to pray. I don’t know whether I had spent a long time in that position or not, but suddenly something shook my whole being. It was as if a veil had fallen from my eyes, and my mind had been opened, and I remembered clearly my teacher of that day and his lesson. I also recalled the topic and the examples he had given. I felt so light and joyous inside.” After this experience he did so well he became one of the first in his class to be chosen to go to seminary, and after seminary to the Theological Academy in St Petersburg (a great honor at that time).

Throughout his studies, John thought about the importance of forgiveness, meekness, and love, and came to believe that these were the very center and power of Christianity, and that only one path—the path of humble love—leads to God and the triumph of His righteousness. He also thought a great deal about the Savior’s death on the Cross at Golgotha, and pitied those who did not know Jesus Christ. He wished to preach to them about His death and Resurrection. He dreamed about becoming a missionary to distant China, but saw that there was a great deal of work for a genuine pastor of Christ’s flock both in his own city and the surrounding towns.

When John graduated from the Academy he met Elizabeth Nesvitsky who lived in the town of Kronstadt. They dated, he proposed, and they were married. After his studies, John still desired to learn more about his faith and his Church.

It was in this frame of mind that he prepared to be a priest and to enter public ministry. He was ordained a deacon on December 10, 1885, and then priest on December 12. He was assigned to St Andrew’s Cathedral in the city of Kronstadt. He said, “I made myself a rule to be as sincere as possible in my work, and of strictly watching myself and my inner life.”

Fr John wanted most of all to earn the love of the people in his care, because only a loving attitude could provide the firm support and help he needed as he faced the difficult work of the priesthood. His constant thought was how he would come before the Last Judgment and have to give an account, not only for his own deeds, but also the deeds of his flock, for whose education and salvation he was responsible. To him no one was a stranger; everyone who came to him for help became a friend and relative. He would tell people “The Church is the best heavenly friend of every sincere Christian.” He conducted divine services daily and offered the prayers of the faithful. He called all who rarely receive Holy Communion to prepare themselves and live their lives in a Christian way so that they could receive more often. Listening to Fr John, many people changed their lifestyle, repented sincerely, and joyfully received Holy Communion on a regular basis.

At that time the government exiled murderers, thieves and other criminals to Kronstadt. Life was horrible for the exiles. Even children of exiles would become thieves and criminals. He would go to their dugouts, hovels and

shacks to visit with them. Not satisfied with staying for five or ten minutes to administer some rite and then leave, Fr John believed he was coming to visit a priceless soul, his brothers and sisters. He would stay for hours, talking, encouraging, comforting, crying, and rejoicing together with them.

From the beginning he also concerned himself with the material needs of the poor. He would shop for food, go to the pharmacy for prescriptions, to the doctor for help, many times giving the poor his last few coins. The inhabitants of Kronstadt would see him returning home barefoot and without his cassock. Often parishioners would bring shoes to his wife, saying to her, "Your husband has given away his shoes to someone, and will come home barefoot." He would also write articles for the newspaper exhorting the people of Kronstadt to "support the poor morally and materially." These appeals touched the hearts of many and Fr John organized many charitable efforts. Realizing that his individual charity was insufficient for aiding the needy, he founded the Orthodox Christian House Parish Trusteeship of St Andrew the First-Called. This brotherhood coordinated many charitable efforts throughout the city and helped many needy people.

In 1857, he began teaching in the local city schools. He would tell people, "If children cannot listen to the Gospel, it is only because it is taught like any other subject, with boredom and indifference. Such teaching defeats the purpose of the Gospel. It fails because it forces students only to read words and memorize them instead of making them live in their lives." To Fr John there were no incapable students. He taught in such a way that poor pupils as well as good ones were able to understand. His attention was aimed not so much at forcing students to memorize as to fill their souls with the joy of living according to Christian values, sharing with them the holy thoughts which filled his soul.

When speaking to other priests about their vocation he would say, "You are a representative of the faith of the Church, O priest; you are a representative of Christ the Lord Himself. You should be a model of meekness, purity, courage, perseverance, patience, and lofty spirit. You are doing the work of God and must not let anything discourage you."

St John has performed more miracles than almost any other saint, with the possible exception of St Nicholas. Through his prayers he healed the sick, gave hope to the hopeless, and brought sinners to repentance.

Fr John labored endlessly in his work for the Lord preaching, teaching, and helping those in need. Having spent his entire life serving God and His people, Fr John fell ill and died on December 20, 1908. Almost immediately, people from near and far began to make pilgrimages to the monastery where he was buried. Even today millions of Orthodox Christians in Russia and around the world pray to him to intercede for them as he had always done from his childhood.

St John was glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church on June 8, 1990.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 18

Dec. 18 Heb. 11:9-10,17-23,
32-40
Matt. 1:1-25

Dec. 20 1 Tim. 5:11-21
Mark 10:2-12

Dec. 23 2 Tim. 1:1-2,8-18
Mark 10:23-32

Dec. 19 1 Tim. 5:1-10
Mark 9:42-10:1

Dec. 21 1 Tim. 5:22-6:11
Mark 10:11-16

Dec. 24 Gal. 5:22-6:2
Luke 16:10-15

Dec. 22 1 Tim. 6:17-21
Mark 10:17-27

**Thank you VERY much for making
our Merrick House Angel Tree
project a success once again!
I continue to be told how much this
means for these kids each Christmas.
May God truly bless you
for your generosity!
- Dan Morris**



Thank You!

The Cathedral Chapter of the FOCA wishes to express our sincere appreciation to our parish family for supporting our recent soup sale. With the proceeds from this event, we were able to purchase \$200 in gift cards that have been sent to seminarian families for Christmas. We also thank everyone who prepared and donated their time and talent in the preparation of the soup and halushki.





PRAYER REQUESTS

Departed:

Peter Romantschuk
11-19-16

Ill Afflicted & Special Intentions:

Archpriest Yves Babich
Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan
Matushka Catherine Jula
Archpriest Theodore Bobosh
Mary
Michael

Pauline Alexander (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)

Judith Allgire (*friend of Sonia Vorell*)

Judy Baughman

Christopher Baymiller (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)

Paula Baymiller (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)

Karen Beech (*friend of Jerry Czajkowski & Arlene Neale*)

Tami Blaylock (*Igor Gajewsky's daughter*)

Carol Bohurjak

Thomas Bojurjak, Jr.

Thomas Bojurjak, Sr.

Marie Borland

Julie Byndas

Elsie Conrad

Arlene Czajkowski

Jerry Czajkowski

Metodije Damljanovic (*Child*)

Horia Dascalescu (*Lavinia Morris's brother*)

Cindy Durkalski

Nadine Ellis

Nashwa Fam

Dorothy Fowler

Gayle Franks (*Judy Schwind's cousin*)

Vera Gajewsky (*Igor Gajewsky's sister*)

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

Kevin Jackam (*Sonia Vorell's cousin*)

Tom Jacobson

Joy Jahans (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)

Stephen Jahans (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)

Diane Kearsy (*Janice Tkacz's sister*)

Maher Khalil

Thomas Khalil

Jacquelyn Kiiskila (*Subdeacon John & Debby Pinta's family member*)

John Kovalski (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)

Dorothy Laskovich

Joseph Laskowski (*Dorothy Laskovich's nephew*)

Chris Magee (*Erin Zawolowycz's brother*)

Melissa McCutcheon

Jethro Miles

Paul Mihal

Andy Mytrohovich

Maude Palumbo (*Michelle Rajisch's mother*)

Debra Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's sister*)

Grace Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's mother*)

Anastasia Pogorily-Soljanik

Cindy Powkowski

Kay Rogozinski (*Janice Tkacz's mother*)

Dorothy Romig

Julia Sankovic (*Child*)

Debbie Seguin (*friend of Leon Felon*)

Helen Smotzer

Elaine Sudnick (*Joy Pfeiffer's mother*)

Janice Tkacz

Elisabeth Wright (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)

Erin Zawolowycz

Peter Zimmerman

Alice Zdinak (*Fr. John's Mother*)

**David & Jessie Jacobson &
Unborn Child**

**Yohnathan & Melissa King
(Alex & Debbie Wojnicz's
daughter) & Unborn Child**

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:

12/18/16	Lauren Miklos & Chandra Czaruk
12/25/16	NATIVITY
1/1/17	Mat. Cindy Zdinak & The Van Sickles
1/8/17	Naira Chovelidze
1/15/17	Steve Rusnak & Jim Schwind
1/22/17	Dan & Lavinia Morris
1/29/17	Joy & David Pfeiffer

Greeters:

Tammy & Eva Ponomarenko
Linda Smotzer & Sonia Vorell
TBA

GOD'S GIFTS TO US - OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Weekly expenses:	\$ 6,538.00
Last week's collection	<u>\$ 4,452.00</u>
Over/Under	< \$ 2,086.00 >

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 2016 year:

In loving memory of Olga Fritskey
from John & Ruth Fritskey



Cordially Invites You To Join Us For Our

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

Featuring The

JERSEY BEAT BAND SHOW

Saturday December 31st, 2016 7:00pm to 1:00am

Your Evening Includes:

- * The Jersey Beat Band Performing Two Separate 90 Minute shows
- * Listening and Dancing to DJ Brian Stanis Throughout the Evening
- * Fabulous Hors D'oeuvres Station Starting at 7:00pm
- * Elegant Prime Rib Dinner Buffet Starting at 9:00pm
- * Mouthwatering Dessert and Sweets Station
- * Open Bar Starting at 7:00pm and Champagne Toast at Midnight
- * New Years Eve Breakfast Buffet Served at 12:30am

\$69.00

 per person

ALL THIS AND MUCH MORE FOR ONLY

Call For Tickets, Details, and Additional Information:

Copper Stone Catering and Event Center
4630 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, Ohio 44144 216.749.5509
www.copperstonecatering.com @copperstone CLE

Thank you to all the men and women of the parish for your time and effort in making this year's Cookie Walk a success. The cookies were beautiful as well as delicious! There will be cookies available for purchase at the reception after today's Christmas concert.

Thanks again! - Susan Lentz



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2016

Sunday, Dec. 18

SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY

**MARTYR SEBASTIAN
AND HIS COMPANIONS AT ROME**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
3:00 PM Cleveland Landmark
Christmas Concert

Monday, Dec. 19

**MARTYR BONIFACE
AND RIGHTEOUS AGLAIDA**
6:00 PM Daily Vespers

Tuesday, Dec. 20

**HIEROMARTYR IGNATIUS
THE GOD-BEARER
ST. JOHN OF KRONSTADT**
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Daily Vespers & 1st
Royal Hour

Wednesday, Dec. 21

**VIRGIN MARTYR JULIANA
AND HER COMPANIONS**
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Daily Vespers & 3rd
Royal Hour

REMINDER:

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



NATIVITY FAST
Nov. 15th - Dec. 24th

DECEMBER
Special Collection
THE DEANERY



Thursday, Dec. 22

**GREATMARTYR ANASTASIA
AND HER COMPANIONS**
11:00 AM Faith Enrichment @
Copper Stone
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Daily Vespers & 6th
Royal Hour

Friday, Dec. 23

**HOLY TEN MARTYRS
OF CRETE**
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Daily Vespers & 9th
Royal Hour

Saturday, Dec. 24

**NUN MARTYR EUGENIA
AND HER COMPANIONS**
9:00 AM Vespers Liturgy
6:00 PM Vigil for the Nativity

Sunday, Dec. 25

**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy



St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral
733 Starkweather Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

DECEMBER