Ambo

St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

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- **Dn. Daniel Boerio**

- **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.**

FEBRUARY 22, 2015

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

CHEESEFARE SUNDAY

ST. PORPHYRIUS, BISHOP OF GAZA

FEBRUARY 26

Saint Porphyrius, Archbishop of Gaza, was born about the year 346 at Thessalonica. His parents were people of substance, and this allowed St Porphyrius to receive a fine education. Having the inclination for monastic life, he left his native region at twenty-five years of age and set off for Egypt, where he lived in the Nitrian desert under the guidance of St Macarius the Great (January 19). There he also met St Jerome (June 15), who was then visiting the Egyptian monasteries. He went to Jerusalem on pilgrimage to the holy places, and to venerate the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord (September 14), then he moved into a cave in the Jordanian wilderness for prayer and ascetic deeds.

After five years, St Porphyrius was afflicted with a serious malady of the legs. He decided to go to the holy places of Jerusalem to pray for healing. As he lay half-conscious at the foot of Golgotha, St Porphyrius fell into a sort of trance. He beheld Jesus Christ descending from the Cross and saying to him, "Take this Wood and preserve it."

Coming out of his trance, he found himself healthy and free from pain. Then he gave away all his money to the poor and for the adornment of the churches of God. For a time he supported himself by working as a shoemaker. The words of the Savior were fulfilled when the saint was forty-five years old. The Patriarch of Jerusalem ordained St Porphyrius to the holy priesthood and appointed him custodian of the Venerable Wood of the Cross of the Lord.

In 395 the bishop of the city of Gaza (in Palestine) died. The local Christians went to Caesarea to ask Metropolitan John to send them a new bishop who would be able to contend against the pagans, which were predominant in their city and were harassing the Christians there. The Lord inspired the Metropolitan to summon the priest Porphyrius. With fear and trembling the ascetic accepted the office of bishop, and with tears he prostrated himself before the Life-Creating Wood and went to fulfill his new obedience.

In Gaza there were only three Christian churches, but there were a great many pagan temples and idols. During this time there had been a long spell without rain, causing a severe drought. The pagan priests brought offerings to their idols, but the woes did not cease. St Porphyrius imposed a fast for all the Christians; he then served an all-night Vigil, followed by a church procession around the city. Immediately the sky covered over with storm clouds, thunder boomed, and abundant rains poured down. Seeing this miracle, many pagans cried out, "Christ is indeed the only true God!" As a result of this, 127 men, thirty-five women and fourteen children were united to the Church through Holy Baptism, and another 110 men soon after this.

The pagans continued to harass the Christians. They passed them over for public office, and burdened them with taxes. St Porphyrius and Metropolitan John of Caesarea journeyed to Constantinople to seek redress from the emperor. St John Chrysostom (September 14, January 27 and 30) received them and assisted them.

Ss. John and Porphyrius were presented to the empress Eudoxia who was expecting a child at that time. "Intercede for us," said the bishops to the empress, "and the Lord will send you a son, who shall reign during your lifetime". Eudoxia very much wanted a son, since she had given birth only to daughters. Through the prayer of the saints an heir was born to the imperial family. As a result of this, the emperor issued an edict in 401 ordering the destruction of pagan temples in Gaza and the restoration of privileges to Christians. Moreover, the emperor gave the saints money for the construction of a new church, which was to be built in Gaza on the site of the chief pagan temple.

St Porphyrius upheld Christianity in Gaza to the very end of his life, and guarded his flock from the vexatious pagans. Through the prayers of the saint numerous miracles and healings occurred. The holy archpastor guided his flock for twenty-five years, and reposed in 420 at an advanced age.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22

Feb. 22 Rom. 13:11-14:4
Matt. 6:14-21

Feb. 23 Genesis 1:1-13
Proverbs 1:1-20

Feb. 24 Genesis 1:14-23
Proverbs 1:20-33

Feb. 25 Genesis 1:24-2:3
Proverbs 2:1-22

Feb. 26 Genesis 2:4-19
Proverbs 3:1-18

Feb. 27 Genesis 2:20-3:20
Proverbs 3:19-34

Feb. 28 Heb. 1:1-12
Mark 2:23-3:5

Ridge Manor Fish Fry Fridays

Every Friday night

4:00 PM- 9:00 PM

February 20th - April 3rd, 2015

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, March 15th, 2015
following Divine Liturgy

Parish Reports WERE DUE by Sunday, February 15th, 2015. Please email them ASAP in either PDF or Word format to sttheocemetery@yahoo.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Departed:

Deacon Basil Frenchek
01-15-15

Ill Afflicted & Special Intentions:

Hieromonk Joseph
Mat. Vera Proctor
Mat. May Ozone
Mat. Catherine Jula
Mother Anna
Sr. Anastasia
Michael
Betty Balasz
Judy Baughman
Carol Bohurjak
Thomas Bohurjak, Jr.
Marie Borland
Frank Byndas
Navada Coneley
Elsie Conrad
John Conrad
Anne Crichton *(Joseph Crichton's sister-in-law)*
Christine Crichton
Thomas Crichton *(Joseph Crichton's brother)*
Arlene Czajkowski (Neale)
Laina Dachtyl
Metodije Damljanovic (*Child)*
Horia Dascalescu (*Lavinia Morris's brother*)
Cindy Durkalski
Debra Ellis (*Katie & Nadine Ellis's mother)*

Peter Fickinger (*friend of Joseph Crichton)*
Vladimir Fowler
Frank Fox *(Carol Machaskee's son)*
Igor Gajewsky
Julia Grabowski
Roger Haupt *(Lisa Theodore's cousin)*
Sandee Holod
Matthew Hungley *(Phyllis Gindlesperger's brother-in-law)*
Donna Jacak
Victor Jacak
Joy Jahans *(friend of Paul Pangrace)*
Stephen Jahans *(friend of Paul Pangrace)*
Diane Kearsey *(Janice Tkacz's sister)*
John Kovalski *(friend of Paul Pangrace)*
Dorothy Laskovich
Paul Laskovich
Elise Manella
Anna Mysiw *(friend and neighbor of Helen Antonik)*
Karen Ohlin *(Tatiana Boyczewski's daughter-in-law's mother)*
Maude Palumbo *(Michelle Rajisch's mother)*
Debra Parhamovich *(Karen Felon's sister)*
Grace Parhamovich **(***Karen Felon's mother)*

Donna Pelton
Liz Peterson (*Joseph Crichton's friend*)
John A. Petkac (Gartman)
Peter and **Gina** Petkac *(Judy Gartman's brother & sister-in-law)*
Debbie Pinta
Anastasia Pogorily
Cindy Powkowski
Marshall Prock
Joseph Rusynyk
Julia Sankovic *(Child)*
Steven Soeder
Elaine Sudnick *(Joy Pfeiffer's mother)*
Katrina Toone
Frank Tkacz
Janice Tkacz
Donald Tipka
Elisabeth Wright (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
John Yavornitzki
Erin Zawolowycz
Elaine Zdinak
Elizabeth Zdinak

Fr. Andrew & Presbytera Lori Lentz & Unborn Child

Alex & Jerilyn Oppenheim & Unborn Child

Please contact the Parish Office at 216-741-1310 when names need to be removed from the prayer list. Thank you.

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.

COFEE HOUR & GREETERS SCHEDULES

	Coffee Hour:	Greeters:
2/22/15	Dan & Lavinia Morris	Mat. Jenn Boerio & Tammy Ponomarenko
3/1/15	Nick & Kate Zolikoff	Linda Smotzer & Sonia Vorell
3/8/15	Cathy Weber & Mat. Jenn Boerio	Paul Pangrace & Michael Tabeling
3/15/15	Lauren Miklos & Chandra Czaruk	Nina & Elizabeth Antonik
3/22/15	Mary Swit & Tammy Ponomarenko	Linda Smotzer & Michael Tabeling
3/29/15	Joyce Tabeling & Judy Schwind	Karen Felon & Tammy Ponomarenko
4/5/15	TBA	Linda Smotzer & Sonia Vorell

GOD'S GIFTS TO US - OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Weekly expenses:	$ 6,538.00
Last week's collection	$ 3,394.00
Over/**Under**	< $ 3,144.00 >

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 weeks of February 15th - 22nd:

In loving memory of Helen Chwalyk

by Stephen Chwalyk

ADULT MACEDONIAN FOLK DANCE GROUP

ALL ETHNIC GROUPS AND SKILL LEVELS WELCOME TO JOIN US IN THIS WONDERFUL ADULT DANCE GROUP AGES 18 AND UP

(Our dance group has members of a wide variety of ages!)

If you are interested in participating please call:

440-623-9215

This is a lot of fun and a great way to celebrate culture!

Do Not Rely on Your Own Insight

Department of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at http://dce.oca.org.

The title words are from Proverbs 3: 5b, which is read on February 26.

That verse begins: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart," and the following verses continue: "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones."

On this same day, the readings from Genesis that began on the first day of Great Lent continue, as they will until Palm Sunday. This day's verses include some of the most beautiful and fundamental in Genesis, telling us how Adam and Eve were created to be together.

Genesis 2: 17 gives the story of God forming Adam from the dust of the ground and "breathing into his nostrils the breath of life" and then planting the Garden of Eden with every tree that is "pleasant to the sight and good for food." The garden is watered by four rivers.

God puts Adam in the garden to till and keep it, and gives him the commandment to enjoy everything except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Almost as soon as He has done this, God declares that "it is not good that the man should be alone."

God presents all the beasts of the field and birds of the air to Adam, who has the privilege of naming them. But among all of these there isn't found "a helper fit for him." So finally God takes Adam's own ribs while he sleeps, and fashions Eve. Adam pronounces her to be that fit helper, "bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh."

All this beauty and true companionship, so perfectly planned by God, still depends on the free will that God has also given to His creatures. In the very next day's reading, Adam and Eve will, as we know, undo all the good things God planned for them. How we wish they could have heeded those words from Proverbs: "Do not rely on your own insight; be not wise in your own eyes," and "Trust in the Lord with all your heart."

In the Greek Orthodox Church's calendar on this day, another woman who needed to trust the Lord is commemorated. She is Photini, the Samaritan Woman who meets Christ at Jacob's Well. She has many questions, but she also has patience and she doesn't rush ahead to act on her "own insight." Once she understands that Christ is the promised Messiah, she humbly becomes one of His servants as an evangelist, and does great work in spreading the Gospel.

What about Adam and Eve? We know that the icon of the Resurrection will greet us at the Lenten journey's end. There on the icon they will be, the first two people, no longer outcasts from Paradise. Christ is stretching out His hand to take them to the Kingdom.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2015

Sunday, Feb. 22
FORGIVENESS SUNDAY
CHEESEFARE SUNDAY
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
6:00 PM Forgiveness Vespers

Monday, Feb. 23
HIEROMARTYR POLYCARP,
BISHOP OF SMYRNA
6:00 PM Great Canon

Tuesday, Feb. 24
1ST AND 2ND FINDING
OF THE HONORABLE HEAD
OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
6:00 PM Great Canon

Wednesday, Feb. 25
ST. TARASIUS,
ABP. OF CONSTANTINOPLE
6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy &
Potluck

REMINDER:

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

FEBRUARY
Special Collection
I.O.C.C.

Thursday, Feb. 26
ST. PORPHYRIUS,
BISHOP OF GAZA
MARTYR SEBASTIAN
11:00 AM Faith Enrichment @
Ridge Manor
6:00 PM Great Canon

Friday, Feb. 27
ST. RAPHAEL,
BISHOP OF BROOKLYN
VEN. PROCOPIUS,
THE CONFESSOR
9:00 AM Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, Feb. 28
VEN. BASIL
THE CONFESSOR
VEN. JOHN CASSIAN
9:00 AM Theodore Saturday Liturgy
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, Mar. 1
SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
5:00 PM Sunday of Orthodoxy
Vespers @ Holy Trinity in Parma

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FEBRUARY - MARCH