

March 27, 2016

Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America

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Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie – Rector

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SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2016 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 2. St. Gregory Palamas. Synaxis of the Venerable Fathers of the Kiev Caves Lavra. Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica (3rd-4th c.). Martyrs Manuel and Theodosius (304). Ven. John the Clairvoyant, Anchorite, of Egypt (394-395). The “GLYKOPHYLOUSA” and the “AKATHIST” Icons of the Most-holy Theotokos on Mt. Athos.

TROPARIA

(Tone 2) When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

(Tone 8) O light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, its confirmation, / O ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians, / O wonderworking Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, // always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

(Tone 4) In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence, so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty, O Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

KONTAKION (Tone 8) O victorious leader of triumphant hosts! We, your servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might set us free from ev'ry calamity so that we may sing: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

The Prokeimenon in the Fifth Tone: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever.

v: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (1:10-2:3) Brethren: “Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end.” But to what angel has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

Alleluia, Tone 2

v: May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the Name of the God of Jacob protect you!

v: Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK (2:1-12) When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “My son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your pallet and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins” -- he said to the paralytic -- “I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.” And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child, our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

COMMUNION HYMN Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

On the second Sunday of Great Lent, there is a great feast in the blessed city of Thessalonika, Greece. It is the feast of St. Gregory Palamas. On this day, the holy relics of the saint are taken from the Church of St. Gregory in a procession throughout the city, escorted by bishops, priests, sailors, policemen, and thousands of faithful. One wonders why his earthly remains are still held in such great veneration. How could his bones remain incorruptible more than six hundred years after his death? Indeed, St. Gregory’s life clearly explains these wondrous facts. It illustrates the inspired words of the apostles that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 6:19) and that we are "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).

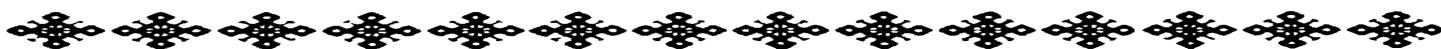
St. Gregory Palamas was born in the year 1296. He grew up in Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey) in a critical time of political and religious unrest. Constantinople was slowly recovering from the devastating invasion of the Crusades. It was a city under attack from all sides. From the west, it was infiltrated by Western philosophies of rationalism and scholasticism and by many attempts at Latinization. From the east, it was threatened by Muslim Turkish military invaders. The peace and faith of its citizens were at stake.

Gregory’s family was wealthy. His father was a member of the senate. Upon his father’s sudden death, Byzantine Emperor Andronikos II Paleologos (1282–1328), who was a close friend of the family, gave it his full financial support. He especially admired Gregory for his fine abilities and talents, hoping that the brilliant young man would one day become a fine assistant. However, instead of accepting a high office in the secular world, Gregory sought “that good part, which will not be taken away” from him (Luke 10:42).

Upon finishing his studies in Greek philosophy, rhetoric, poetry, and grammar, Gregory, at only twenty or twenty-two years of age, followed a burning passion in his heart. Like a lover who strives to stay alone forever with his loved one, Gregory was thirsty for this living water (see Revelation 22:17). Therefore, no created thing could separate him from the love of God (see Romans 8:39). He simply withdrew to Mount Athos, an already established community of monasticism. He first stayed at the Vatopedi Monastery, and then moved to the Great Lavra.

Gregory’s departure was not a surprise to the rest of his family. Many priests and monks, friends of the family, frequently visited the family home. The parents were careful to pass on to their children the “pearl of great price” (Matthew 13:46). Great wealth and high education were not a hindrance, but an excellent tool in their pursuit of salvation. As a result of their way of life and belief, Gregory’s mother, two brothers, and two sisters soon distributed all their earthly possessions to the poor and entered different monasteries.

March 27, 2016



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Health & Blessings Angela Bakousidis	Gerry & Lena Bakousidis
Amir Abu-Aita, Dorothy Goodman, Gloria Zelenko, Joe Tome, Matushka Lisa, Theodore Wilhelm, Kate Stevens, Kathy Persich.....	Adams Family
Debbie Neely Health & God’s Blessings.....	Mom, David, Ashley & family

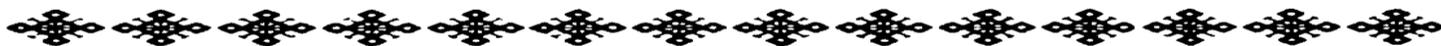
Special Intention	Joe Tome
Health & God's Blessings Debbie Neely.....	Ralph, Joe & Sarah
Fr. Joe, Fr. Moses, Fr. Lavrenty, Deacon Anthony, Aaron, Anna, Gloria, Laurie, Walt & Zina, Dorothy, Ruth, Jeanette, Reggie, Stojan & Mira, Bosa, Joseph, Helen, Ted & Marlene, Fr. David, Gladys, my family & friends	Joe Tome
Health & Blessings Anna Branoff	Adams Family

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE

Blessed Repose Ljubomir Prusac-Memory Eternal.....	Bosa Kantar
Newly Departed Anthony Branoff-Memory Eternal	Dorothy & Family
Peter Popoff-Memory Eternal.....	Alex & Magda Popoff
Blessed Repose Ljubomir Prusac-Memory Eternal.....	Dorothy & Family
Sophie Stavridis-6 months Blessed Repose.....	Adams Family
Sophie Stavridis-6 months Blessed Repose, Angelo Stavridis, Tula Nastos, Lazaros Karatza.....	Stojan & Mira Prusac
Evanka Elieff-Memory Eternal	Her family
Blessed Repose Ljubomir Prusac-Memory Eternal.....	Sredich Family
Eric Burgess, Sandy Petis, Joe & Mickey Gonser.....	Adams Family

ETERNAL LIGHT

Ljubomir Prusac-Većnaja Pamjat	Stojan & Mira Prusac
Ljubomir Prusac-Memory Eternal	Calvin & Ruth Conrad



Welcome all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas! Please join us for fellowship, coffee and pastries in our parish hall.

There will be a six month Parastas for the repose of +Sophie Stavridis following the veneration of the cross. Coffee and pastries are being donated today in Sophie's memory by her family.

CHARITY MINISTRIES

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting Deodorant for the month of April. Place the items in the Blue Box in the hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

FOOD DRIVE Place non-perishable food items in the other blue box in the hall.

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN We serve on **Thursday, April 7 from 9 am to 1 pm.**

100th ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET AD forms are available in the parish hall. Also available are sheets that show the exact size of each ad, on the reverse side is the cost per ad size. Ad forms are due back April, 30. If you have any questions please see any member of the anniversary committee; Sharon Jernigan, Dorothy Goodman, Lucy Hogg, Cathy Steiner, Eileen Branoff, Linda Branoff, Paul Brayan or Father Matthew.

APRIL CHARITY PROJECT Backpacks for the Homeless. We are in need of the following items to fill the backpacks; Toothbrush and Toothpaste (individually wrapped), Washcloth and Hand towel, Thin Blanket, Deodorant, Disposable Razors, Shaving Cream, Comb and Brush, Bar Soap, Baby Wipes, Snacks (Granola Bars, Protein Bars, Individual Peanut Butter Snacks, Peanuts, Trail Mix, Etc.) Pad of Paper, Pen or Pencil, Shampoo (not to large), Socks, Small tube of Antibiotic Cream. This is the 100th Anniversary event for April.

PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE featuring Sweet Bread, Triangles; Cheese, Leek or Spinach, Piroshki (meat filled), Pierogi (potato filled) and Lamb shaped butter, will be held on Sunday, April 24. The order forms were included in your March bulletin and need to be returned no later than **April, 17**. See any member of St. Catherine's League to place your order or if you have any questions.

CANDY NEEDED FOR EASTER EGG HUNT we are in need of **individually wrapped** candy and/or fruit snacks for our Easter Egg Hunt to be held on St. Thomas Sunday, May 8. Now is the time to buy, as the Easter candy is on sale. You may drop the candy off at church during office hours.

MEMORY ETERNAL we extend our deepest sympathy to Stojan & Mira Prusac and their family, and too the family of +Ljubomir Prusac, brother of Stojan Prusac. +Ljubomir fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, March 21 in Serbia. May God grant his servant +Ljubomir a blessed repose and rest among the saints.

Schedule of services and events for the week of March 27:

Monday, March 28

6:30 pm Father in Toledo
 Compline at St. George
 Book Club @ St. George

Wednesday, March 30

9:00 am Lenten Hours
 11:00 am Adult Education
 6:00 pm Presanctified followed by Lenten Potluck
 Please bring a Lenten dish to share

Saturday, April 2

4:45 pm **MEMORIAL SATURDAY**
 Trisagion for all the departed
 5:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, April 3

9:30 am **VENERATION OF THE CROSS**
 Third Hour
 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
 St. Catherine's League Meeting

Offerings for the week March 20, 2016

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$2,725.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$5,255.62
	-\$2,530.62

*110 people were in attendance on
 Sunday, March 20, 2016*

“If you cannot see Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find Him in the chalice.”
St. John Chrysostom