

March 4, 2018

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

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The Gospel according to Saint Luke 24:36-53 (6th Matins Gospel)

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have. When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 6. St. Gregory Palamas. Synaxis of the Venerable Fathers of the Kiev Caves Lavra. Ven. Gerasimus of the Jordan (475). Ven. Gerásim of Vologdá (1178). Ven. Joasaph of Snetogórsk (Pskov—1299). Rt. Blv. Prince Basil (Vasilko) of Rostov (1238). Rt. Blv. Prince Daniel of Moscow (1303). Martyrs Paul and his sister, Juliana (ca. 273). St. James (Jacob) the Faster of Phœnicia (Syria—6th c.). Translation of the Relics of Rt. Blv. Prince St. Wenceslaus (Viacheslav), Prince of the Czechs (935). St. Gregory, Bishop of Constantius in Cyprus.

TROPARIA (Tone 6) The angelic powers were at Thy tomb the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: 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 6

v: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

v: He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust!"

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO 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!

ST. GREGORY PALAMAS – 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT 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.

THE RESPONSE "IT IS MEET AND RIGHT" IN THE ANAPHORA

St. Tikhon's Press recently published the text for the Liturgies of Saint John Chrysostom, St. Basil the Great, and the Presanctified Liturgy. There is a change in the Liturgy that we will notice as we sing the anaphora. Below is the rationale for the change from the booklet accompanying the *Hieratikon*. "It is meet and right [to worship...] We have put the words "to worship the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit..." in square brackets to indicate that they are a later interpolation. Though a well-established part of Slavic liturgical practice, they obscure the sequence of thought in this dialogue. In the original reading, the singers' and the people's short response "It is meet and right" affirms the priest's bidding to "give thanks unto the Lord." Thus, as St. John Chrysostom explains, when "they assent that 'it is meet and right so to do,' then he (the priest) begins the thanksgiving." (Homily 18 on Second Corinthians) And the priest does so in words that echo and amplify the people's response: "It is meet and right to hymn You, to bless You..." *Hieratikon, Notes on the Text* by Hieromonk Herman with contributions from Vitaly Permiakov

March 4, 2018



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Bosa Kantar & Betty Dimich~Good health & God's blessings | Peter & Jo Sredich |
| Mira & Stojan Prusac~a blessed & happy anniversary | Peter & Jo Sredich |
| Fr. Tom, Fr. Dimitri, Fr. Anthony, Reggie, Allen, Deborah, JoAnn, Gloria, Luba, Kosta, Jimmy, Laurie, David, Helen, Anna, Walt, Zina, Vladimir, Nicolai, Dorothy, Michael, Nicolai, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Nicholas, Margaret, Joseph, Gladys, Ted, Marlene, my family and friends | Joe Tome |
| Special Intention | Joe Tome |
| Special Intention | Alex & Magda Popoff |
| Health & Blessings: Susie Ford, Randy Cleavenger & Gretchen Cleavenger | Les Ford |

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

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| Peter Popoff & John Naum | Alex & Magda Popoff |
| Peter Sutak & Mitra Tsotsos ~ Memory Eternal! | Peter & Jo Sredich |
| Peter Sutak & Mitra Tsotsos | Allison Borkovich |

ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR

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|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Bogdan Beslach ~ Blessed Repose | Milica Beslac |
|---------------------------------|---------------|



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors. Please join us in our fellowship hall following the veneration of the cross.



COFFEE HOUR

Volunteers are needed to help serve coffee and bagels for the rest of the month of March. Please see the sign-up sheet outside of the kitchen. Call or email the parish office as well as signing up, if you'd like to sponsor the bagels and/or coffee.

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting Baby Items, Wipes & Formula for the month of March. 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

PAN-ORTHODOX YOUTH RETREAT – MARCH 9, 10 & 11 AT DORMITION MONASTERY

Please see Matushka Lisa to make your reservation and to obtain a registration form.

DONATIONS FOR NEW COPY MACHINE After looking at several options the parish council has decided to purchase a new copy machine rather than leasing one. The cost is \$4500, if you would like to donate the copier or towards it, please call the parish office.

Weekly Schedule: **THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT**

Monday, March 5 Communion calls
6:30 pm Compline at St. George

Tuesday, March 6 **Father Matthew in Toledo**

Wednesday, March 7
10am Lenten Hours
 No Adult Education
6 pm **Presanctified followed Lenten potluck**
 Fast from after your lunch to receive Holy Communion.
 Please bring a Lenten dish to share.

Friday, March 9
6 pm Teen Retreat arrivals at Dormition Monastery

Saturday, March 10 ***Daylight Savings Time begins***
4:45 pm **Trisagion for those fallen asleep**
5 pm **Vespers**

Sunday, March 11 **3rd SUNDAY of LENT – Veneration of the Cross**
9:30 am Hours
10 am Divine Liturgy



Offerings for the week February 25, 2018

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|--|-------------------|
| <i>Weekly Offerings</i> | \$ 3,550.00 |
| <i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i> | \$ 4,034.03 |
| | -\$ 484.00 |

*81 people were in attendance on
Sunday, February 25, 2018*

“It is not that which we say, but that which we live. It is not what we do, but what we are.” *Mother Gavrilia*