

SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER OF TOLEDO: RECTOR

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November 17, 2019

22nd Sunday After Pentecost - Tone 5

St. Gregory the Wonderworker of Neo-Caesarea
Ven. Lazarus the Iconographer, of Constantinople



From the Fathers...

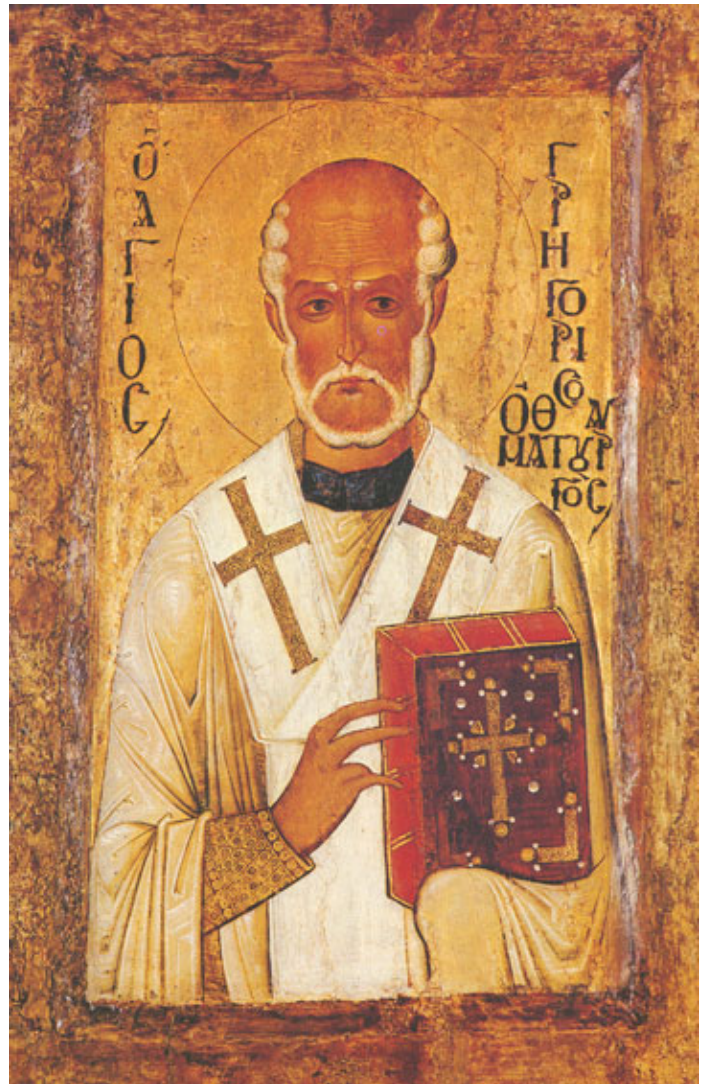
“Be mindful of yourself when a poor person in need of help will ask you; at this time the enemy will try to make your heart cold, indifferent and even neglect the needy; overcome these non-Christian and inhuman dispositions within yourself, arouse in your heart a compassionate love for the person and what the needy asks of you, fulfill his request by force”

-St. John of Kronstadt



Welcome Visitors!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed through your participation with us. In the Orthodox Church, the reception of Holy Communion is a mark of membership in the Church. Only those who have been united to the Orthodox Church through Baptism or Chrismation, and have prepared themselves through regular Confession, prayer and fasting are permitted to partake of Holy Communion. We encourage visitors to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the vestibule. Please feel free to ask questions before or after the service, as well as join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship after the Liturgy.



What shall we call thee, O Gregory?/ Master, for thou didst subject the passions to thy mind?/ Husbandman, for thou didst reap the fruit of wisdom?/ One granted the vision of God and taught with heavenly theology,/ a sacred performer of the mysteries,/ and most wondrous worker of miracles?// Pray that our souls may be saved!

What shall we now call thee, O Gregory?/ Mighty destroyer of godless impiety,/ setting forth the laws of true worship?/ Wise teacher and bestower of invincible peace?/ Unvanquished conqueror of armies?/ One who ever dwells in the mountains, beholding those living in the cities?// Pray that our souls may be saved! (*Stichera of Lord, I Call*)

A PARISH OF THE BULGARIAN DIOCESE OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

TODAY'S WORSHIP - HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

Resurrection Troparion in Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,/ co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,/ born for our salvation from the Virgin;/ for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,/ to endure death,/ and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

Great Martyr George Troparion in Tone 4

As deliverer of captives/ and defender of the poor;/ healer of the infirm,/ champion of kings;/ victorious Great Martyr George,/ intercede with Christ our God;// for our souls' salvation.

St. Gregory Troparion in Tone 8

Thou didst become worthy of thy name* through thy way of life;/ through thy vigilance in prayer and thy constant works of mercy./ Therefore, O Father Gregory, beseech Christ God to enlighten our minds,/ that we may not sleep in sin, which leads to death!

Resurrection Kontakion in Tone 5

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior,/ shattering its gates as Almighty,/ resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death./ Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man,// and we cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

Great Martyr George Kontakion in Tone 4

As we the faithful flee to thee for refuge and seek thy protection and speedy help,/ We entreat thee, O Champion of Christ, that we who sing thy praises may be delivered from the snares of the enemy/ and from every peril and adversary,// that we may cry: "Rejoice, O martyr George!"

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

St. Gregory Kontakion in Tone 2

Thou didst receive the power to perform miracles,/ frightening the devils and healing the sick through thy wonderworking./ O All-wise Father Gregory, // thy deeds truly entitle thee to be called Wonderworker.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Steadfast Protectress of Christians in Tone 6

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,/ constant advocate before the Creator;/ despise not the entreating cries of us sinners,/ but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith./ Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,// for you always protect those who honor you!

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!

As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'"

So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'"

But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

THIS WEEK AND LIFE IN CHRIST

Sunday, November 17th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

12:00 PM Ladies Tea

St. Gregory the Wonderworker of Neo-Caesarea
Ven. Lazarus the Iconographer, of Constantinople
Galatians 6:11-18, Luke 12:16-21

Monday, November 18th

Martyr Plato of Ancyra

Martyr Romanus the Deacon, of Caesarea

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, Luke 17:20-25

Tuesday, November 19th

9:30 AM Cookie Baking

Prophet Obadiah

Martyr Barlaam of Caesarea in Cappadocia

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10, Luke 17:26-37

Wednesday, November 20th

9:30 AM Cookie Baking

Forefeast of the Entrance into the Temple

Ven. Gregory Decapolites

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-14

Luke 18:15-17, 26-30, Luke 18:31-34

Thursday, November 21st

NO SERVICES FOR THE FEAST AT ST. GEORGE —

Please visit one of our sister parishes

Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple

Hebrews 9:1-7, Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Friday, November 22nd

Afterfeast of the Entrance into the Temple

Apostles of the Seventy Philemon and Archippus

1 Thessalonians 2:14-19, Luke 19:12-28

Saturday, November 23rd

5:00 PM Readers Vespers

Afterfeast of the Entrance into the Temple

Repose of Rt. Blv. Great Prince Alexander Nevsky

2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Galatians 5:22-6:2

Luke 10:19-21, Matthew 11:27-30

Sunday, November 24th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

12:00 PM Church School

Afterfeast of the Entrance into the Temple

Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria

Greatmartyr Mercurius of Caesarea in Cappadocia

Ephesians 2:4-10, Luke 13:10-17

The Apostle and Evangelist Matthew



If someone were to compose a list of people whose jobs made them unpopular, the local tax collector would probably be high on the list. If the tax collector was someone who gathered revenue from his own people for the oppressive foreign government that had given him his job, his name would rise higher. If everyone assumed that this particular tax collector, like all of them, stole and kept some of the tax money, his name would shoot up to the top.

All of these negatives were true of the apostle Matthew, remembered on Monday of this week. He collected taxes from his fellow Jews to turn over to the Romans, and was despised both by his own people and by the class-conscious citizens of Rome. Whether he actually "skimmed off" money or not, people would disdainfully assume that he did.

Yet this man was chosen by Jesus Christ to be one of His followers—one of the twelve closest to Him, in fact. Jesus evidently saw something in this person that others didn't notice. As always, He looked more deeply and lovingly than anyone else could or would.

The Gospels describe Jesus' invitation to Matthew to "follow Me" in a way that conveys the man's isolation before the Lord called him. The fifth chapter of Luke first tells of Jesus calling the fishermen, Simon Peter and the brothers James and John, who are his partners. They are out working together in their boats, comrades full of energy and purpose.

Matthew's call is different. He is "a tax collector...sitting at the tax office." He is alone, and though he too has a brother (James, the son of Alphaeus) he appears to be used to solitude. When he is called he leaves everything and follows, as the fishermen do. But he also shows a special generosity and gratitude by giving a "great feast" for Jesus to which other tax collectors and "sinners" eagerly come.

The authorship of Matthew's Gospel is disputed by some contemporary scholars. Some suggest that it is in part a collection of Jesus' sayings collected by the apostle. Yet several elements of the book reflect Matthew's Jewish background and his profession as a handler of money. The writer frequently points to Jesus' fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, in an effort to convince Jews that Jesus is the promised Messiah. He also reflects the hesitation of Jewish Christians to say God's name by referring to the "Kingdom of Heaven" rather than "Kingdom of God." His Gospel makes more references to money than any of the others, often using very specific terms such as "half-shekel" and "a hundred denarii."

Authorship aside, Matthew was a devoted apostle of His Master and Savior. After the Resurrection he traveled and preached, giving his life for the Gospel in Ethiopia. Whatever his sad past, he was lifted to a new and inspiring life by the One who said to him, "Follow Me."

HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED TO CHAT? CALL OR EMAIL FR. GREGORY.

Ladies Tea

The ladies of the parish are invited to celebrate the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos with a special tea following Liturgy today. Reservations to Vicki Ghareeb are helpful but not necessary. Please bring a Lenten finger food to share.

2019 Advent Celebration

In the spirit of St. Nicholas, we will once again celebrate the season of giving through our 2019 Advent Celebration. The Diocese will match our donations up to \$500.00 to purchase Christmas gifts for assigned Family House families. The donation campaign will continue through today. Checks should be written to St. George with memo for Advent Celebration. Families will be assigned **November 24th**. Advent Celebration: **December 15th**. See Flyer. Give generously!

Nativity Fast

The Nativity Fast began on **Friday, November 15th**. During this time, Orthodox Christians traditionally abstain from meat and dairy products until the Feast of the Nativity of Christ. Fish is generally allowed on Saturdays and Sunday until **December 20th** when we enter the Forefeast of the Feast. Considerations are made for those are elderly, ill, or pregnant and nursing mothers. Please discuss any questions about fasting with Fr. Gregory.

Psalter Prayer Group

The Psalter Prayer Group has started, but there is still room for more participants! The Psalter is made up of 20 Kathisma and each Kathisma is made up of a group of Psalms. The goal is to read the entire Book of Psalms every day of the Advent Fast by having 20 people reading an assigned Kathisma every day to help us with our spiritual journey. This a 20 minute daily commitment throughout Advent. Questions? Cindy Hopper.

2019 Holiday Cookie Sale

The 2019 Holiday Cookie Sale will be **Saturday, December 14th**.

How can you help?

- 1) Come to church on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:30am** to bake cookies in the hall.
- 2) Bake cookies at home and bring them for the sale.
- 3) Donate financially or with supplies to assist those who are baking cookies.
- 4) Advertise the Cookie Sale with your family and friends.
- 5) Pray for the bakers, helpers, coordinators, and all those involved for a successful event.

We are praying for...

Health and Well-Being:

Anthony, Maria, Tanya, Melissa, Kelly, Lawrence, Mary, Brian, Karen, Sandy, Panka, George, Cheryl, Barb, and the kidnapped hierarchs Metropolitan Boulos and Archbishop Yohanna of Aleppo; and those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East.

Catechumens:

Tyson, Jessica, Marilla, Harry, Tim, Laura, Ethan, Naomi, Olivia, Daniel, Phoebe, Ezekiel, and Jachin.



Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp is lit today by Pat Heffern for the health of her sister, Grace.



Celebrations

Birthdays:

Margaret Ostas (11/19)

Name's Days:

Mariana Ghareeb (11/21)

Alex Beleny (11/23)

