
Commemoration of the Day:

Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica, was born in the year 1296 in Constantinople. Endowed with fine abilities and great diligence, Gregory mastered all the subjects which then comprised the full course of medieval higher education. Gregory, barely twenty years old, withdrew to Mount Athos in the year 1316 and became a novice in the Vatopedi monastery where he was tonsured and began on the path of asceticism. There he studied under Elder St. Nikodemos and Elder Nikephoros. After their death's, Gregory transferred to the Lavra of Saint Athanasius. Here he resettled in the small skete of Glossia, and the head of this monastery began to teach the young man the method of unceasing prayer and mental activity, which had been cultivated by monastics. During his stay at Glossia the future hierarch Gregory became fully imbued with the spirit of hesychasm and adopted it as an essential part of his life. In the year 1326, because of the threat of Turkish invasions, he and the brethren retreated to Thessalonica, where he was then ordained to the holy priesthood. Five days of the week he spent in silence and prayer, and only on Saturday and Sunday did he come out to his people. He celebrated divine services and preached sermons.

In the 1330s events took place in the life of the Eastern Church which put Saint Gregory among the most significant universal apologists of Orthodoxy, and brought him great renown as a teacher of hesychasm. In 1331 the saint withdrew to Mt. Athos and lived in solitude at the skete of Saint Savva, near the Lavra of Saint Athanasius. In 1333 he was appointed Igumen of the Esphigmenou monastery in the northern part of the Holy Mountain. It was during this period that the learned monk Barlaam came to the East from Calabria in Italy and argued against Hesychasm and the idea that a person could through prayer know come to know God. He went so far as to assert that the Light of Tabor, the Holy Transfiguration, was itself created light and only thus knowable. Saint Gregory, at the request of the Athonite monks, replied writing the "Triads in Defense of the Holy Hesychasts" in 1338. At the Constantinople Council of 1341 in the church of Hagia Sophia Saint Gregory Palamas debated with Barlaam, focusing upon the nature of the light of Mount Tabor. The Council accepted the position of Saint Gregory Palamas, that God, unapproachable in His Essence, reveals Himself through His energies, which are directed towards the world and are able to be perceived, like the light of Tabor, but which are neither material nor created. Political support for Barlaam would carry on throughout the next decade and see the great saint arrested and imprisoned for four years on charges of being the cause of disturbance and disorder in the Church. He would finally be released in 1347 and consecrated Archbishop of Thessalonica. In 1351 the Council of Blachernae solemnly upheld the Orthodoxy of his teachings.

Saint Gregory Palamas fell asleep in the Lord on November 14, 1359 and was canonized in 1368, only nine years after.

Announcements

Individuals interested in helping with the planned Church Education Program coming in the fall please speak to Fr. Nathan so that you can be set up for the necessary background checks and clearances as per the OCA guidelines. Please provide the email address you would like submitted to the diocese.

St. Nicholas will be hosting Mission Vespers on Sunday April the 21st, St. Mary of Egypt Sunday, please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

We are asking for donations for the baskets of flowers that will be placed around the Grave of our Lord at Pascha in memory of your departed loved ones. Please contact Father if you are willing to donate a basket for \$25. If you would like you can make a smaller donation toward the potted flowers decorating the church please use the Easter flower envelope in your box.

Sign up sheet is at the candle desk for grave watch, please sign up to read during the hours between services for Holy Pascha.

Parish Council will meet following coffee hour next week, April the 7th.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

Everything we desire pleases us only so long as we do not possess it; and when we get it, we soon get tired of it.

- St. Innocent of Alaska,
Enlightener of North America

Prayers for the Sick:

Archbishop Nathaniel	Thom
Archpriest Vladimir	Nancy
Priest John	Julie
Archpriest Michael	Joan
Archpriest Gregory	James
Matushka Gloria	James
Matushka Myra	Gerald

Upcoming Services:

April 3rd – Presanctified Liturgy – 6:00pm

April 5th – Panikhida – 6:00pm

April 6th – Great Vespers – 6pm

April 7th – Divine Liturgy: Veneration of the Cross – 9:30am

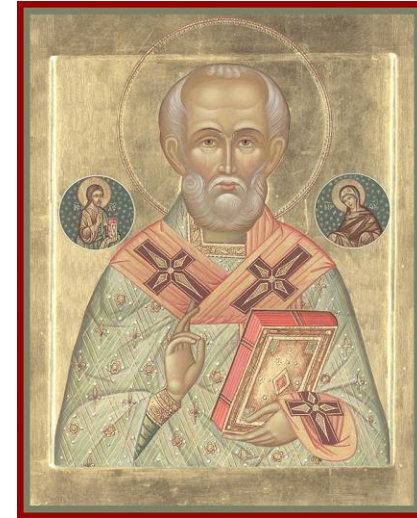
Mission Vespers: Holy Trinity Church, Stroudsburg – 4:00pm

Contact Information:

Parish Mailing Address	Website
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2nd Sunday of Great Lent: St. Gregory Palamas

March 31st, 2024



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Archbishop Mark – Hierarch

Fr. Nathan Clausson – Acting Rector
Fr. Vladimir Fetcho – Attached
Fr. John Nightingale – Attached
Mark Howanetz – Choir Director
Thomas LaTournous – Parish President