

St. Gregory Palamas on the Paralyzed Man in the Gospel

Anyone addicted to the pleasures of the senses is paralyzed in his soul, and is lying sick on the bed of voluptuousness, with its deceptive bodily ease. But once he has been won over by the call of the Gospel, he confesses his sins, and triumphs over them and the paralysis they have brought upon his soul. He is taken up and brought to the Lord by these four: self condemnation, confession of sins, promising to renounce evil ways from now on, and prayer to God. They cannot, however, bring him near to God without uncovering the roof, scattering the tiles, earth, and other building material. Our roof is our reason, which is set above everything else within us. But it has lying on top of it, like a large quantity of building material, it's connection with temptations and earthly concerns. Once this connection has been loosed and shaken off by means of the four things we have mentioned, then we can really be let down, that is, humbled, fall down before the Lord, drawn near to him, and ask to receive his healing...

Let us stir up all who see us to glorify God as they recognize that this house has Christ within it, who give strength to those whose souls are paralyzed and commands them to lift up and offer up to Him, with the spirit of understanding pleasing to God, their physical senses and perceptions, instead of being mindlessly carried away and brought down by them. In this way they will go into the house that is really ours, by which I mean the country in and above the heavens, where Christ now is — the Heir and Bestower of our inheritance. *Homily 10*

“Let us Attend!”



“ O Gregory, Glory of Thessalonika and preacher of Grace”

A PARISH BULLETIN OF
ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH
Olyphant, Pennsylvania

20 March 2022- Second Sunday of the Great Fast –

St. Gregory Palamas

Bulletin, Sunday, 20 March 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 6. St. Gregory Palamas. Synaxis of the Venerable Fathers of the Kiev Caves Lavra. The Holy Fathers who were slain at the Monastery of St. Savva: Ven. John, Sergius, Patrick, and others (796). Monastic Martyr Euphrosynus of Sinozérsk (Novgorod—1612). Martyr Photin  (Svetlana, Fat ma), the Samaritan woman, and her sons: Martyrs Victor and Joses, and two others (ca. 66). Virgin Martyrs Alexandra, Claudia, Euphrasia, Matrona, Juliana, Euphemia and Theodosia, of Amisus (310). St. Nik tas the Confessor, Archbishop of Apollonias in Bithynia (ca. 813–820).

Epistles: Hebrews 1:10–2:3 (Sunday); Hebrews 7:26–8:2 (Saint)

Gospels: Mark 2:1–12 (Sunday); John 10:9–16; (Saint)

Our souls and minds are strengthened and fortified by the regular reading of the Holy Scriptures. Daily readings can be found on the parish’s wall calendar, or online by visiting the OCA’s daily reading page <https://www.oca.org/readings>.

Schedule of Services:

Monday, 21 March 2022 – Monday of the Third Week of Great Lent. 9:30AM Lenten Hours and Typica.

Wednesday, 23 March 2022 – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6PM, followed by Lenten Potluck Agape Meal.

Friday, 25 March 2022 – Feast of the Holy Annunciation. Vespers Liturgy, 9:30AM. Potluck Agape Meal to Follow.

Sunday, 27 March 2022: Third Sunday of Great Lent– Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross, Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, 9:30AM. Followed by Coffee Hour Agape. 4PM, Mission Vespers, St. Michael’s in Jermyn.

Announcements ~ A warm welcome back to All Saints Fr. Stephen Kopestonsky and Matushka Sandy, and we and thank Father for serving and preaching this morning.

~ A warm welcome as well to all visitors. Please join us downstairs following the Liturgy for our Agape fellowship.

~ Thanks to all those who gathered together at the end of the week to make pierogi. May God bless you for your efforts.

~ Donations are needed for flowers for Pascha. Please consider making a special contribution.

~ Holy Protection Monastery in White Haven is baking Greek Style breads for Pascha. Braided breads are \$8.00 each, round breads are \$12.00 each. If you wish to order a bread, please contact Helen Semon (570.586.2912). The deadline for ordering is 1 April 2022. Breads will be delivered the week of 11 April.

~ Our continued prayers for the Ukraine. We will take up a collection following the Divine Liturgy today, as we did last Sunday, for those who have been displaced from their homes to Poland.

~ Today the Church commemorates St. Gregory Palamas. In addition to being a powerful preacher, a brilliant theologian, and a faithful Bishop of Thessalonika, St. Gregory was the great teacher of having inner stillness in order to hear of the voice of God speaking in that stillness. As we go through Great Lent, we are challenged to set aside time to be still, free from distractions and the noise of the world, and find God in that stillness. As a small (but very challenging) exercise we can do is to sit still in a chair in a quiet room for 5 to 10 minutes in silence not trying to look at or think of anything in particular and find the Christ’s peace that is brought into that time of quiet. If it is difficult, we can simply say “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me.”