

Great Lent:

The Second Sunday of Lent is the commemoration of **St Gregory Palamas**. It was St. Gregory (d.1359) who bore living witness that men can become divine through the grace of God in the Holy Spirit; and that even in this life, by prayer and fasting, human beings can become participants of the uncreated light of God's divine glory.

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts:

Presanctified Liturgy is an evening service, a solemn **Lenten Vespers** with the administration of Holy Communion added to it. Holy Communion is given from the eucharistic gifts sanctified on the previous Divine Liturgy; hence its name of "*presanctified*."

The Presanctified Liturgy is served on Friday evenings in our parish (6:00 pm). It comes in the evening after a day of spiritual preparation and total abstinence. (The faithful, who are unable to make the effort of total fasting, normally eat a light lenten meal earlier in the day.)

During the psalms of Vespers, the presanctified gifts are prepared for communion and transferred from the altar table where they have been reserved since the Divine Liturgy, and are placed on the table of oblation. **After the evening hymn, Genesis and Proverbs are read**, between which the celebrant blesses the kneeling congregation with a lighted candle and the words: "*The Light of Christ illumines all*," indicating that all wisdom is given by Christ in the Church through the scriptures and sacraments. After the readings, the evening Psalm 141 is solemnly sung with the offering of incense. Then, after the litanies of intercession, the presanctified eucharistic gifts are brought to the altar in a solemn, silent procession. The song of the entrance calls the faithful to communion.

Now the heavenly powers (i.e., the angels) do minister invisibly with us. For behold the King of Glory enters. Behold the mystical sacrifice, all fulfilled, is ushered in.

Let us with faith and love draw near that we may be partakers of everlasting life. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

After the litany and prayers, the Our Father is sung and the faithful receive Holy Communion to the chanting of the verse from Psalm 34: "*0 taste and see how good is the Lord. Alleluia.*" The post-communion hymns are sung and the faithful depart with a prayer to God who "**has brought us to these all-holy days for the cleansing of carnal passions,**" that he will bless us "**to fight the good fight, to accomplish the course of the fast, and to attain unto and to adore the holy resurrection**" of Christ.

See us on the web at:

ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

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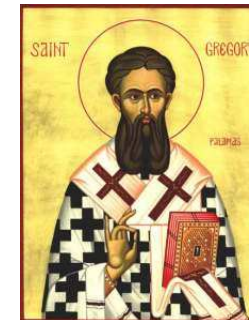
Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

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St. Gregory Palamas

On this day the Church remembers:

• Second Sunday Of Lent • St. Gregory Palamas

- The Holy Fathers who were slain at the Monastery of St. Sabbas: Ven. John, Sergius, Patrick, and others (796) • Monk Martyr Euphrosynus of Sinozérsk (Novgorod—1612) • Martyr Photina (Svetlana, Fatíma) • 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. Nicetas the Confessor, Archbishop of Apollonias in Bithynia (9th c.).

Now is the time for action!

Judgment Judgment is at the doors!

So let us rise and fast,

offering alms with tears of compunction and crying:

"Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea;

but forgive us, O Master of All,

so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns."

(Kontakion - St Gregory Palamas Sunday)

Sunday, March 20, 2011

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

2nd Sunday of Great Lent

Tone 2 of the Octoechos.

Triodion week 6

Today's Bulletin is Sponsored:**For the health of:**

Fr. Boris on his 10-year anniversary in the Priesthood. Many years, Fr. Boris!

James (Jim) Matthews, the son-in-law of Lore Stefy on his birthday.

Readings:

- John 10:9-16 (Saint Gregory)
- Hebrews 7:26-28;8:1-2 (Saint Gregory)
- Hebrews 1:10-14;2:1-3 (2nd Sunday of Great Lent)
- Mark 2:1-12 (2nd Sunday of Great Lent)

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and 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 a 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!"

Sunday service:

9:40 AM – Hours

10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy

Church School - 9:30 Choir practice - 9:30 Coffee hour after Liturgy

2011 Services for Great Lent

Friday, March 11, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, March 18 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, March 25, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 1, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 8, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 15, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Saturday, April 16, 6:00 PM - Vespers - Saturday of Lazarus' Resurrection

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to joins us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** will be served every Friday, at 6:00 pm, during lent.
- **The next meeting of the Parish Council will be March 27**, after coffee hour.
- **The next meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos will be April 3**, after coffee hour.
- **Choir practice** will be held at 9:30 Sunday mornings, downstairs.
- Today and throughout Lent, there will be a **special collection after the sermon**. This collection is for **Plaschinitsa Flowers** and for Pascha basket raffle items.

Special Announcements:

- **There will be no General Confession during great lent**; Father can hear Confessions before any service. (Arrive early)
- **Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored**; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- **Special Announcements** for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- **Dues and assessments** are being collected for the year 2011, **Total is \$175**. (\$30 dues, \$145 assessment) Partial payments are gladly accepted.