

PETRA NEWS

SAINT
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ARCHBISHOP OF

THESSALONIKI

SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

WEEK OF MARCH 15TH 2020



WELCOME,

FR PAUL COSTOPOULOS

We are blessed to have Fr Paul join us for today's Liturgy.

HOSTS & VOLUNTEERS

MYRRHBEARERS

Cassie & Katie Tinsley,
Demetra Gregory

EPISTLE READER

Xander Dzilvelis

USHERS

Dion & Kiki Cheronis
(John & Sharon Dzilvelis - 3/15)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Sunday, March 15

Pan Orthodox Vespers _____ 5pm
Location: Holy Transfiguration of
Christ Cathedral

Monday, March 16

Great Compline _____ 6pm

Wednesday, March 18

Presanctified Liturgy _____ 6pm
Pot Luck Lenten Dinner and
Lenten Reflection _____ 7:30pm

Friday, March 20

Presanctified Liturgy _____ 8am
Salutations (Hairitismi) _____ 6pm

Saturday, March 21

Great Vespers _____ 5pm

HYMNS OF THE DAY

RESURRECTION HYMN

(PLAGAL 2ND TONE, P. 86-87 GREEN HYMNAL)

"When the angelic powers appeared at your tomb and those who guarded You became as though dead, and standing by Your sepulchre was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch You came unto the virgin woman, bestowing the gift of life O You who rose from the dead. Lord we give glory to You."

HYMN FOR ST GREGORY

"Beacon of Orthodox belief, the strong support of the Church and her teacher inspired by God, you are the ornament of monks, the unassailable champion of theologians, O Gregory the Wonder-worker and the boast of Thessalonica, the messenger of grace. Forever earnestly entreat for the salvation of our souls."

HYMN FOR STS PETER AND PAUL

"O leaders of the Apostles and teachers of the world, intercede with the Master of all that He may grant peace unto the world, and to our souls His great mercy."

KONTAKION

*"O Champion General, I your City now inscribe to you * triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, * being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. * Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, * from all kinds of perils free me so that unto you * I may cry aloud: Rejoice, o unwedded Bride."*

SPECIAL MEGALYNARION HYMN TO THEOTOKOS

"All of creation rejoices in you, O full of grace: the assembly of angels and the human race. You are a sanctified temple and a spiritual paradise, the glory from whom God was incarnate and became a child - our God, existing before all ages. He made your womb a throne, and your body more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O full of grace. Glory to you."

SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

SIXTH ORTHROS GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 24:36-53

At that time, Jesus, having risen from the dead, stood in the midst of his disciples and said to them, "Peace to you." But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See my hands and feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

Then he said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets

and the psalms must be fulfilled. Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

EPISTLE: ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE HEBREWS 1:10-14; 2:1-3

"IN THE BEGINNING, 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 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.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 2:1-12

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!"

ST. GREGORY PALAMAS: THE WONDER OF NOETIC PRAYER

By Archimandrite Dionisios Karagiannis

During the Second Sunday of Great Lent, the Church celebrates the memory of the epitome of faith and life, St. Gregory Palamas, later Archbishop of Thessaloniki, who, according to the hymns, is the great teacher of the Church and the preacher of divine light.

The distinction of essence and energies of God involves all of those things God can share and those He cannot share. The essence of God is inaccessible and unknown to creation, including people. However, one can come into relationship and communion with God through His uncreated energies, and the grace offered generously.

In the relation of sanctification and communion, the heart, not the mind, is the way for anyone to have the divine experience of uncreated light. Saint Gregory Palamas gives us the example of the sun.

For Palamas, God is known sort of like the sun is known. We see the sun's light and sense its heat. And though we may not be able to stand on the surface of the sun without melting, or be joined to its essence without disintegrating, we can nevertheless experience its energy. Thus, the face of the Prophet Moses radiated on Mount Sinai.

Yet perhaps one is wondering what is the benefit for us today, of a teaching of a Saint, a Hesychast, focused on noetic prayer known as "prayer of the heart", an ancient practice of monks and people of the fourteenth century?

Why is the essence-energies distinction of God a basic element of our Orthodox spirituality and our personal relationship with God? Many of us are not monks and ascetics.

Learning the ascetic prayer method of the Holy Fathers gives us the possibility to taste the uncreated light of God. It also gives us the necessary spiritual goods in order to participate in this experience.

It is not, therefore, merely a reflection that forms the basis of Hesychasm. Nor is it a super-cognitive inner self-revelation of the mind, which is the hesychastic experience.

We feel that these profound teachings of St. Gregory Palamas touch the boundaries of divine presence, out of noetic capabilities, in the depths of our heart, where the prayer is working for union with God.

Noetic prayer, which St. Gregory Palamas hands down to us as a spiritual treasure, is not only for those who live in the monasteries and deserts, but also for the faithful. This prayer makes the nous to meet in the heart. The heart in the neptic and hesychastic tradition is the center of the moral and spiritual, and the throne and the place of the grace of God.

There a human being meets God and God meets a human being. In this meeting the filthy thoughts and sinful desires will emerge, trying to infect our hearts and sever the ties of communion with the uncreated light.

That is why we need silence, a special way that protects us from the devil's

scourges and our desires.

With the basic prerequisite of the essence-energies distinction, noetic prayer is the light in our soul. It is a chain that connects a human being with God.

These two things are not doctrinal or abstract concepts and some philosophical views of the Saint. On the Second Sunday of Great Lent the gracious preacher reminds us that God is light, in Whom there is no darkness.

Our noetic prayer helps us to taste this divine state and experience, because otherwise God and the uncreated light will remain unknown and invisible and will not touch our everyday life.

This light and experience is given to us by the Church through its mysteries, and noetic prayer helps us to become the vessels of the grace of God. Amen.



A HOMILY ON THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC

Holy Metropolis of Serbia and Kozani

By Fr. A.K.G.

The period of Great Lent, my brethren, is an ecclesiastical period of intense spiritual struggle, in which the Church very wisely raises us up step by step up the steps of the ladder to our spiritual perfection and our preparation for the great and holy days of the Passion and the Resurrection of our Lord. This Sunday, the second of the Fast, the Church has appointed to be read from the Gospel the healing of the paralytic of Capernaum, seeking through it to teach us that Christ is the only one who can redeem us from sin and its consequences.

What we find at the beginning of the Gospel reading is that the paralyzed man is brought before Jesus not from his own desire but because of the faith of his four friends in the power of Jesus. The paralytic himself, probably because of his sin which has become a burden on his conscience, does not desire to communicate with the Lord. Jesus however “saw their faith” (that of his four friends) and went ahead to do the miracle. The love and faith of the four friends was the reason and grounds for the paralytic to be healed.

Making a comparison with today we will find that it is this faith of the community that is missing from our lives. When someone speaks of faith today they mean the personal and individual faith of a particular person and not the faith of his family, of society or of the church where he belongs. If it is expected in a fallen world for sin and denial to exist, equally dramatic is the fact is that there are not some friends, some relatives, a community who with their faith and love can draw the mercy of our compassionate God, so that a miracle would take place.

Faith and sanctification are ecclesiological events and are

Source: Translated by John Sanidopoulos.

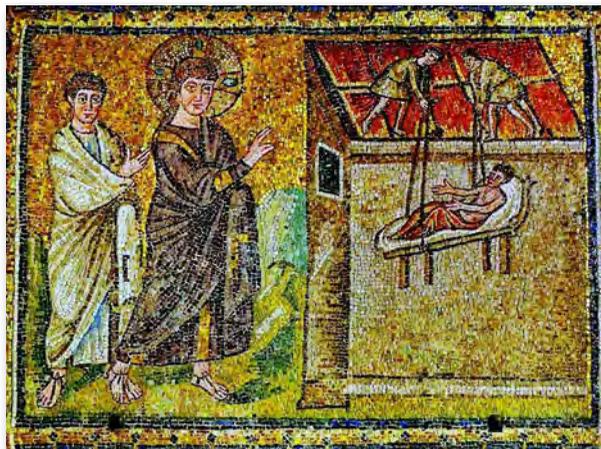
transferred to the whole world. Within the ecclesiastical community individual perception has no place, rather the community operates soteriologically when the members take care to be sanctified out of love for one another, such as when they know that someone else is praying for them out of love. Besides a miracle may not only have a relation with the healing of the disease but also with the change in our manner of life and behavior towards others.

So when the four friends brought the paralytic before Jesus, He acts in a way that is strange to us. While He has before Him a man who is physically suffering, He forgives his sins! For God and the Church, man must be dealt with

as a totality and in unity, since the entire man is saved and on the journey towards the Kingdom of God. This is why for Jesus it would be inconceivable to heal him only physically and not care about his soul, or vice versa. The Lord as Savior saves all of human nature and assumes the whole human being as a unity in order to restore us to our ancient beauty of Paradise. Therefore He also gives physical health to the paralytic, having first healed

his soul. Jesus knows that sin wears down the body and the soul, which is why when He heals, first He intervenes in the area of sin and then in the area of physical illness.

My beloved, sin has penetrated so deep in our lives, that it has managed to impair how we operate. Christ, however, came precisely to crush this demonic and catastrophic operation, offering first the healing of the soul and then the healing of the body. And the various lessons from the Gospel, like that of today, which refer to the miracles of Jesus, are not intended to project the tragedy of sin, but the great redemptive message of the salvific presence of Christ in the world. Amen.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH CLEANING



We all have a responsibility to keep our beautiful church clean. We are blessed with a handful of faithful servants who take care of the church and parish hall. Please take the time to help keep our church clean and beautiful. One hour of your service after church will make a huge difference. We need help with cleaning on the following Sundays:

TODAY & MARCH 29

Please see Presbytera Kedrann after service.
Thank you

SUNDAY SCHOOL & FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Sunday school classes and Sunday Fellowship hour have been cancelled for this coming Sunday and the Fellowship Hall will not be open. We will keep the parish informed regarding when Sunday school and fellowship will resume.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

SUMMER CAMP MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Father Jordan will be meeting with the parents to discuss plans for summer camp. The goya summer camp for high school age children will be held @ Camp Emmanuel (New Mexico) July 5 - 11.



SATURDAY OF LAZARUS FEAST DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Divine Liturgy - 9am, followed by Pancake Breakfast, Palm Cross Making, and Goya Discussion with Father Jordan



OCF COLLEGE WINTER RETREAT APRIL 3 - 5, 2020

Prophet Elias Chapel, Hot Sulfur Springs
Questions & Registration, please contact
Fr Jordan at frjordanbrown@gmail.com

PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY

Every week throughout Lent the Church celebrates the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy,

Wednesday evenings at 6pm
Friday mornings at 8am.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS & DINNER

Father Christodoulos Papadeas will be offering the Lenten Reflection for this Wednesday's dinner fellowship.

It has been a wonderful parish tradition to bring a Lenten dish to share with our parish family following Wednesday evening's Liturgy. The ministries of the Philoptochos, Parish Council, and Sunday School, will be hosting the Wednesday evening Lenten fellowships. **Parishioners are welcome and encouraged to bring a Lenten dish.** We will meet in the parish hall around 7:15pm.

Recommended Books: "Great Lent" by Fr Alexander Schmemmann and the "Holy Week Service Book" by Fr George Papadeas.

DEAR STEWARDS OF STS PETER & PAUL,

Great news! The new furnace and air conditioning system for the church is slated to be installed at the end of the month. The cost for this system is \$29,776 and should keep us warm and cool for another 20 years. The Parish Council humbly requests that we all make a donation to offset the large expense for this necessary improvement.

If all members of our church community contribute around \$300 by April 30, 2020, the system will be paid in full. Some will be able to pay a little or a lot more, some a little or a lot less. All donations are important and greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made with cash, check or on-line. We want to make sure every dollar is tracked. Please label cash and check donations with “furnace.” To donate on-line, go to the Sts Peter and Paul website (stspeterandpaulboulder.org) and click on the link for easyTithe. On the easyTithe website, choose “Heater/Air Conditioning Replacement” from the Fund drop down menu and then submit your donation.

Thank you all for your consideration and donations for the improvement of our church home. We will update the community as we progress towards reaching our goal!

The Parish Council





SAINTS PETER & PAUL

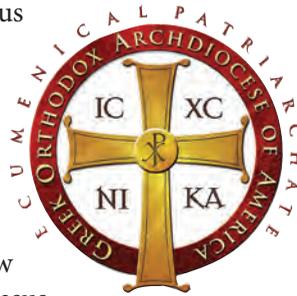
Greek Orthodox Church

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ABOUT OUR PARISH

We welcome visitors worshipping with us today. Our diverse church family encompasses many converts to the Orthodox Christian Faith, as well as Greek, Arab, Romanian, Serbian and Russian Orthodox Christians. The foundation of the Orthodox Church are the teachings and Holy Tradition of Jesus Christ. We follow the first Christians who began to worship Jesus Christ after the Crucifixion and Resurrection.



Please introduce yourself to our priest and members of our community. We also encourage you to join us for our fellowship after services in the parish hall and visit our bookstore. If you are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian faith, please visit with our priest, Fr. Jordan Brown.

HOLY COMMUNION IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Holy Communion is reserved only for baptized and/or chrismated Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared by prayer, fasting, and confession.

The Orthodox Church understands the reception of Holy Communion to be the highest expression of our faith. Both Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike are invited to receive the 'antidoros' (blessed bread) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.



PRIEST

Reverend Father Jordan Brown

PARISH COUNCIL

President - Erica Gerakos
Vice President - Nicholas Kallan
Treasurer - Brian Gregory
Secretary - Phillip Haratsaris

PHILOTOCHOS

Presidents - Dana Gall and Sharon Dzilvelis
Treasurer - Julie Powers

BOOK STORE

Sharon Dzilvelis

YOUTH / GOYA

Fr. Jordan Brown

SENIOR MINISTRY

Dena Tinsley

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Presbytera Marika Brown

RECURRING SERVICES

Orthros - Sundays, 8:15am
Divine Liturgy - Sundays, 9:30am
Great Vespers - Saturdays, 5pm
Confession by appointment.