

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



St. Gregory Palamas

2nd Sunday of Great Lent

March 12th, 2023

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 7:26-8:2; Hebrews 1:10-2:3
Gospel: St. John 10:9-16; St. Mark 2:1-12

A very warm welcome to everyone, and especially to our visitors this morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

+ Presanctified Liturgy – Wednesday March 15th – ***Ninth Hour & Liturgy*** at 5:30) - *Lenten potluck* fellowship following in the Hall. *Please begin your Eucharistic Fast after your noonday meal if you plan on receiving Communion.*

+ Parish Council Meeting – Thursday March 16th at 5:30

+ Presanctified Liturgy – Friday March 17th – ***Ninth Hour & Liturgy*** at 5:30) - *Lenten potluck* fellowship following in the Hall.

+ Saturday March 18th - *Great Vespers* at 5

+ Sunday March 19th – Sunday of the Cross - *Hours & Divine Liturgy* at 9:40 - Fellowship following in the Hall.

Our Giving – March 5th, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$3,793.00 / Online Giving - \$200.00

Candle Offerings – \$98.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

Regarding Holy Communion: Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have **properly prepared themselves** by **fasting, prayer** [i.e., *Prayers Before Communion*], **recent confession**, and who were *at least present for the reading of the Epistle and Gospel* should approach to receive the Holy Eucharist. *We should all be at peace with everyone too.* If you have any questions about Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

St Gregory Palamas (1359)

Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica, was born in the year 1296 in Constantinople. Saint Gregory's father became a prominent dignitary at the court of Andronicus II Paleologos (1282-1328), but he soon died, and Andronicus himself took part in the raising and education of the fatherless boy.

Endowed with fine abilities and great diligence, Gregory mastered all the subjects which then comprised the full course of medieval higher education. The emperor hoped that the youth would devote himself to government work. But Gregory, barely twenty years old, withdrew to Mount Athos in the year 1316 (other sources say 1318) and became a novice in the Vatopedi monastery under the guidance of the monastic Elder Saint Nikódēmos of Vatopedi (July 11). There he was tonsured and began on the path of asceticism. A year later, the holy Evangelist John the Theologian appeared to him in a vision and promised him his spiritual protection. Gregory's mother and sisters also became monastics.

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. In 1336 the saint returned to the skete of Saint Savva, where he devoted himself to theological works, continuing with this until the end of his life.

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.

Saint Gregory performed many miracles in the three years before his death, healing those afflicted with illness. On the eve of his repose, Saint John Chrysostom appeared to him in a vision. With the words "To the heights! To the heights!" Saint Gregory Palamas fell asleep in the Lord on November 14, 1359. In 1368 he was canonized at a Constantinople Council under Patriarch Philotheus (1354-1355, 1364-1376), who compiled the Life and Services to the saint. (www.oca.org)

Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: Many Years!

Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Archpriest Moses (Berry), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Mat. Mary Lynn Henry, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Elias Ciaccio, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Sebastian Fillar, Infant John, Isaac Bannister, Barbara Cain, Vera Christopher, Paisios Sundin, Christine Perrin, Tim Bannister & those suffering in Ukraine, Turkey & Syria

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Archpriest Daniel Rentel +2/7, Priest John Bernardi +1/25, & those who have lost their lives in Ukraine, Turkey & Syria