



Saint Gregory Palamas
Archbishop of Thessalonika

The Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church Of McKeesport & Duquesne, Pa
901 Hartman Street, McKeesport, Pa. 15132 Our Web-site: stsavapa.org*

*(PLEASE VISIT OUR Parish Website, and Also Our Facebook & Twitter Pages!)

Very Rev. (Stavrophor) Stevan Rocknage, Parish Priest

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MARCH 24th, 2019 – 2nd Sunday – St. Gregory Palamas – Tone 2
(Remembering St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem)

Today's Epistle Reading:

EPISTLE: Hebrews 1, 10-2, 3)

Today's Gospel Readings:

MATINS: Jn. 21: 1-14/LITURGY: Mt. 2: 1-12

Sunday Troparion: “When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths, Thou didst raise the dead; all the powers of heaven cried out to Thee: ‘O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!’ “

Troparion Of St. Gregory: “O Light of Orthodoxy! Teacher of the Church, its confirmation! O Ideal of Monks and invincible Champion of Theologians! O wonder-working Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and Preacher of Grace! Always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!”

Spiritual Food To Act On: During the past several weeks I have been ‘talking-up’ the fact that NEXT weekend, **March 30th and 31st**, our Bishop IRINEJ will be making his first-ever (hopefully, of many more) Arch-Pastoral visit to our Parish Community. Several parishioners have jokingly remarked that I seem to be nervous and uptight about this, making a big deal, etc., and perhaps I am. Why? **Because it is a big deal!** Whenever the Diocesan Bishop comes to one of his parishes, it is a manifestation of his Arch-Pastoral Love and Devotion in leading the community – because it is He, symbolizing the Person of Christ (in the person of the Parish Priest, his representative) –who is the Head of the Parish! As a result, we are ALL called to do our BEST to make our Parish more-than-ready to welcome him into our midst: preparing ourselves to worship with Him (through Confession and Communion); being ready to lift our voices in song; cleaning and shining the Church up as befitting the occasion, and opening our hearts to receive him joyfully while he is with us! We do all this so that the Liturgical services go smoothly and prayerfully, that all of us in attendance are uplifted and inspired by the event, and that His Grace leaves with the distinct impression that his St. Sava Community of McKeesport-Duquesne is one that has Christ FIRST in all that she does, and that her parishioners are making their Journey to HIM in Joy and Thanksgiving for all their blessings received! **Bring a friend and pray with us!**

Today's Special Announcements and Upcoming Events For Our Parish:

- (1) **TONIGHT:** Join us for the Lenten Vespers at 5 PM in Youngwood!
(**TODAY:** His Grace has asked that we offer a Pomen for the 20th Anniversary of the NATO Bombing of Serbia on Pascha!)
- (2) **TUESDAY** – we will be making nut-rolls for our Fish-Frys – 9 AM!
- (3) Our Fish-Fry continues this **FRIDAY** from 12 to 6 PM – You are needed!
- (4) **Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts** – **WEDNESDAY** at 6:30PM – Pot-Luck after!
- (5) **THURSDAY:** Choir Practice for Bishop's Visit - & Pre-Sanctified – 7 PM!
- (6) **Please pray for the health and well-being of our following loved ones within our parish:**
Donna Moss-NH Katie Repasky Violet Petrovich Ann Vunovic-NH
Beverly Stipanovich Sandy Miller Keith Bedell Margaret Ivkovich Melva Buzzelli-NH
V. Rev. Adam Yonitch V. Rev. Paul Lazor V. Rev. Joseph Cervo Mark Vojnovich-H
Helen Mochan Vlade Baskot Melva Dandrea Matthew Schaffer
- (7) **Also pray for the souls of those fallen asleep in the Lord:**
+ Nick Trbovic +Stella Stipanovich +Lucy Pcholinski +Protas Dr. Filipovic &
+Dennis Pavichevich +Carl Magdic +Martha Zivkovich- +Ray Moss +Ann Cervo
+Helen Lia +Alex Stipanovich +Dan Ikach +Sophie Vranesevic +Louise Zivkovich
+Mimi Pavlovich +Nick Pilipovich +Kh. Stefanie Yazge +Mika Rocknage
+Sharon Young +Amy Pacura +Betty Perich +Dorothy Shumkaroff +AP Stevan
Stepanov/+Rastko Trbuhovich,/+Vaso Sokolovic/Zvonko Kotorcevic
+George Medich +Arlene Crnkovich +Helen Medic
- (8) Please **SHARE** with your friends regarding our ONCD Program that: **NOW** is the Time to start signing up to be a part of the Focus Groups for Phase Two! Sign up at the Tutors' Desk...or go to our St Sava Web-page at): stsavapa.org/oncd.html
- (9) **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**
 - **NEXT WEEKEND:** HIS GRACE Here for Saturday Vespers-6PM and Sunday Liturgy!
(Please pass the word to family and friends to be here to greet His Grace on his Inaugural Visit to our Community – and try to receive Holy Communion then!)
 - **Sunday, April 14th:** Bus Trip To Johnstown Vespers – Bus leaves here at 2:45PM!
(Sign-Up Sheet at the Tutors' Desk!)
- (10) **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Drive:** bring in donated goods – basket in foyer of Entrance!

ENLIGHTEN MY DARKNESS

The Saints of the Church, as a rule, did not live easy lives. Their faith was constantly put to the test. Stumbling blocks were always thrust before them. How often their only consolation must have been the words of our blessed Saviour: "If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me first!"

ST. GREGORY PALAMAS certainly fits into the category of saints who were "tried and tested." At an early age, he entered a monastery on Mt. Athos, where he would have been content to live a contemplative life for the course of his days. But the Lord had other plans for Gregory! He was directed to leave his beloved Mt. Athos to oversee other monasteries. Later, he was given the position of Bishop of Thessalonika. Gregory found that the world outside the monastery was often cruel. Several times he was imprisoned by the Turks. Once he was accused of heresy and imprisoned for four years by his own people. Still, his faith sustained him and ultimately allowed him to prevail.

Gregory strove for spiritual excellence through constant prayer, emphasizing the necessity of making a concentrated effort to come closer to God in one's own heart. "Enlighten my darkness" became his continuous meditation, maintaining that all man really needs in life is to have his eyes opened to the will of God.

While his teachings were sometimes difficult to understand, our Church honors St. Gregory Palamas as one of her saints. His spiritual views strengthened and sustained monasticism in the Church at a time when its impact on society was declining. For this we give thanks.