

# SOBORNOST

## St. Thomas the Apostle Orthodox Church

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*American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese*

*ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE  
OF CONSTANTINOPLE*

## SERVICES

**Wed: Moleben to the Theotokos 6:00 AM**

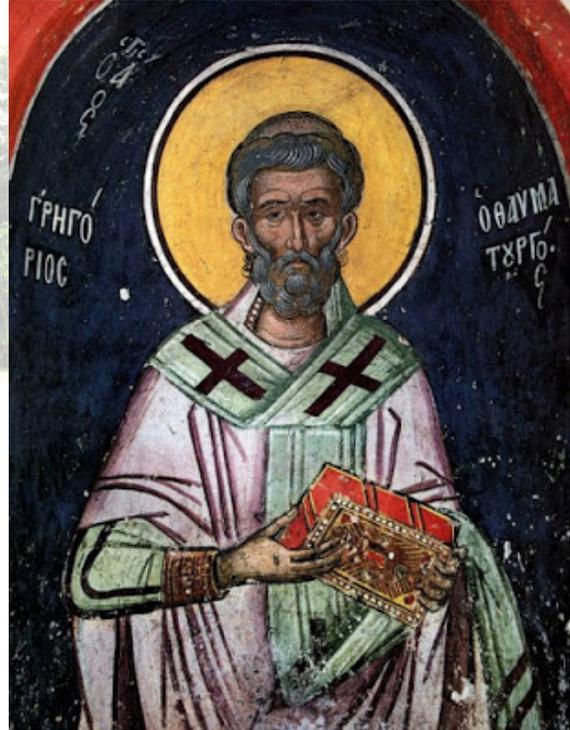
**Friday: Moleben to the Cross 6:00 AM**

**Saturday: Confession 5:00 PM,  
Great Vespers 5:30 PM**

**Sunday: Matins (Orthros) 8:45 AM**

**Children's Sunday School 9:30 AM**

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM.**



**November 17, 2019 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

## St. Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop of Neo-Caesarea

Born in the city of Neo-Caesarea, he received an excellent education under the direction of the famous Origen. Upon the completion of his education, St. Gregory left for the desert in which he "subdued demonic assaults and carnal deception", and entirely turned himself over to prayer and the study of Holy Scripture. Soon because of his virtuous life, the inhabitants of Neo-Caesarea elected him bishop. In this rank he so zealously worked at converting the pagans to Christ, that when he died there were only 17 pagans in Neo-Caesarea. When he became bishop there were only 17 Christians. St. Gregory was called wonderworker and another Moses because of the many miracles performed by him. He died about the year 270. The Holy Church blesses him as "the strong conqueror of atheistic evil," "giver of the laws of piety and wise teacher," "an imitator of the apostles as a worker of miracles," "guide of those who had gone astray and physician of the infirm," "giver of abundant requests to those entreating you, the mightiest oppressor of demons." (from Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., by S. V. Bulgakov (Trans. Archpriest Eugene D. Tarris))

### **Today's Epistle Lesson – St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18**

Brethren, see with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these *would* compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.

### **Today's Gospel Lesson – Saint Luke 12:16-21**

Jesus spoke this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

## *A Word From the Holy Fathers*

He who wishes to receive the mercy of God must keep the Lord's commandments, and the commandments of God order one to turn away from evil deeds and to do good deeds (Ps. 33:14). Turn away from evil deeds.

Do not offend one another. Do not steal another man's goods, nor take anything by deceit. Do not lie. Do not have enmity between yourselves. Do not be angry. Do not remember wrongs. Do not be a prodigal. Do not be a drunkard. Do not be a mocker, one who swears, or an idle-talker. Do not be a buffoon or dancer. Do not perform witchcraft or other heretical deeds and do not help the sick by such means. All of this is ungodly.

Pray to God with a contrite heart that He may remit our sins, that He will order our lives according to His mercy, and thank Him for all His mercy toward us. Go to the Church of God on all the feasts of the Lord. Listen to everything that the Holy Church commands us and on other days perform without laziness whatever one's task may be and give alms to the poor from one's own labors and make offerings to

the Church of God. Help one another in their needs. Whoever has been at enmity with someone, forgive him without anger; endure every chance misfortune, calamity or other necessity that befalls you without sorrow, with thanksgiving to God. Always have the fear of God in your recollection, that you be not tormented eternally. Ever entreat God that He grant us to be in the heavenly Kingdom. All this is pleasing to God.

– St. Theodore of Sanaxar

## **REFLECTION BY ST. NIKOLAI VELIMIROVICH**

Let the following examples from the Life of Saint Gregory show how God guards and saves the righteous from assaults. While he was still at the school of philosophy in Alexandria, Gregory preserved the purity of his soul and his body, as he preserved it to the end of his life. In this, he was an exception among the dissolute youth of that time. This evoked envy and hatred among his companions. In order to debase Gregory, they found a harlot to help them carry out an evil plan.

Once, when Gregory was standing in the square with eminent teachers and philosophers, the foul woman approached him and loudly demanded that Gregory pay her the remainder due for impure relations with her. Some of the people present were scandalized, while others were angry at this shameless woman and began to chase her away; but she shouted even louder, demanding money. The innocent Gregory blushed, as any decent man would before such coarse slander, but he displayed neither anger nor hatred, and asked a friend to give her the amount that she sought so she would leave. The friend heeded Gregory, and gave her the money she wanted. But at that moment God let an evil spirit enter the woman and she fell to the ground and began writhing and convulsing, gnashing her teeth, and foaming at the mouth. Seeing this, everyone was terrified. But Gregory, innocent as a lamb, prayed to God for her, and the woman was healed and arose. Thus, instead of humiliation, Gregory acquired even greater glory.

Another example: When a bitter persecution of Christians took place, Gregory counseled Christians to hide, and he and his deacon hid on a hill. But the imperial soldiers caught sight of them and pursued them. When they were almost upon them, Gregory prayed to God for help, and God rendered them invisible to their pursuers. The soldiers searched for them in vain, and finally left without them.

**HYMN OF PRAISE:** Saint Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop of Neocaesarea

St. Gregory, holy and glorious, / A shining light of the Church and an Orthodox hero, / Raised himself up to God by a very narrow path: / Through suffering and tears, he attained holiness. / He saved himself, and helped many. / By his

exemplary life, words and miracles, / He helped the unbelievers to belief, / And believers to be pure and true to the Faith. / The heavens were open to him, / And he clearly penetrated the secrets of men. / He received mystical teachings from heaven; / As the heart of that teaching, he taught the Holy Trinity - / The Divine Trinity, one in Essence, / And Christ, the life-giving food and drink. / Just as pure dewdrops are full of sunlight, / Pure hearts are the dwelling place of the heavens. / With God's help, holy Gregory / Overcame the moonless night of idolatry, / And baptized pagans by the thousands; / Then he departed in peace, to stand with his King! / Holy Gregory, implore God / That the Orthodox Church overcome the adversary! (from *The Prologue of Ohrid*)

### **Social Team for November 24**

Team 1 is up next week – Blaydoe P., Chumak, Connour. Thank you!

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***In Your Prayers – Please Remember...*** His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch BARTHOLOMEW, His Eminence Metropolitan GREGORY, Fr. Joseph & Family, Greek Orthodox Archbishop Paul Yazigi of Aleppo, Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim of Aleppo, His Grace Bishop Neofitos of Nyeri and Mt. Kenya, Fr. John & Pani Betty Jean Baranik, Presbytera Katie Baker and family, Dn. Steve Hall, Santiago Alzugaray, Jeffrey Carey, Tatyana and Slava Chumak & family, Xenia Chilkowich, Jon Church, Ramius Connour, Curtis Cooper, Luke Cooper, Tina Crull, Mary Diane David, Ron Dominiecki, Linda A. Georgiev, Heather Himler, John Homick, Cameron Houk, Helen Janowiak, John M. Janowiak, Tucker Karl and family, Robert & Pam Karpin, Andrew Kinn, Kopan family, Brian, Helen, and Luke Mahony, Valentina Makowelski, Susan Matula, Anna Meinhold, Dn. Henry Middleton, David & Kathryn Newman, Bobby Nutter & Family, Henry & Lisa Osborne, Westin Perry & Parents, John Reece, Mary Reed, Chris & Kaitlin Rixey, Jerry Von Ronne, Anne Rosario, James, Theodore and Christina Ristas, Samson Family, Sharon Sheptak, Alexander Shostko, Bernie Takabayashi & family, Dawn & Faith Ulmschneider, Lydia Vita, Christine, Marshall, Nathaniel, Dcn. Nectarios and Ia, the Syrian Christians displaced by war, Mother Virginia Marie and the Carmelite Nuns of Port Tobacco, and all those in need of our prayers. (Please advise Fr. Joseph of changes.)