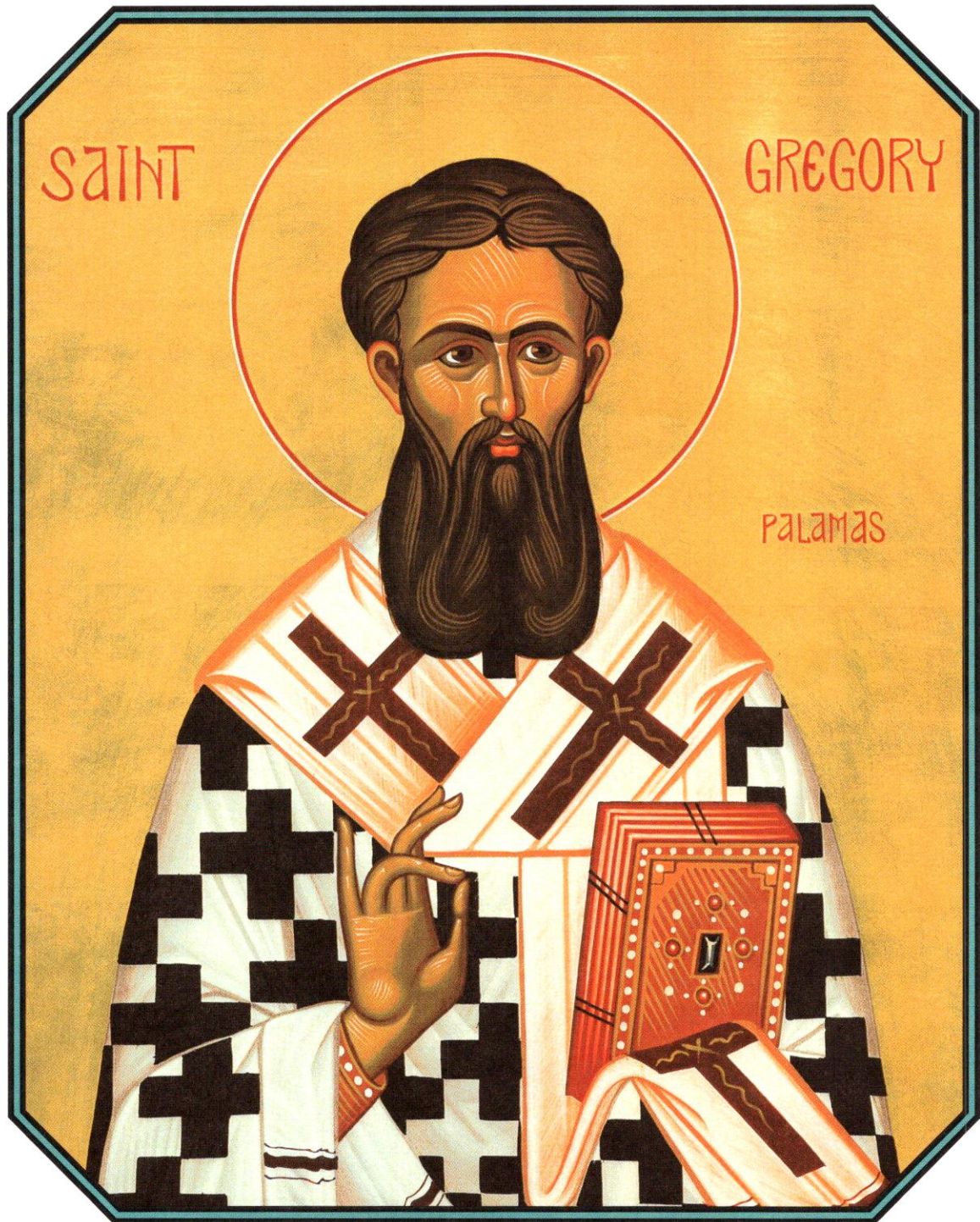


SAIN

GREGORY

PALAMAS



Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

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Father Stephen Hutnick

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HOLY MYSTERIES

VISITATIONS OF THE SICK AND INFIRM – If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Father Stephen at the Rectory. Our hospitalization code for Christiana and Wilmington Hospitals is **UKR**.

EMERGENCY CALLS – Please call the Rectory anytime (day or night) in an Emergency!

BAPTISMS – Celebrated by appointment.

CROWNING IN MARRIAGE – Please discuss timing with Father prior to setting a date. At least six months notice is needed. There are three 2-hour courses that must be attended prior to the Wedding.

BULLETIN DEADLINE – The deadline for getting information printed in the Weekly Bulletin is Wednesday.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS – For the Needs of the Parish; 2nd Youth Ministry

March 16, 2025
Volume 61: Number 11
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of March 16 - 23, 2025

Sunday, March 16– 2nd Sunday of the Fast – St. Gregory Palamas -Tone 5

8:30 AM – Confessions

9:10 AM –Prayers before Communion

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

4:00 PM – Orthodox Clergy Vespers (Sts. Peter and Paul Albanian 9230 Old Bustleton
Road, Philadelphia)

Wednesday, March 19

8:00 AM – Baking Bread

6:00 PM – Community Lenten Service (Here)

Thursday, March 20

5:30 PM – Presanctified Liturgy (St. Nicholas – Dover, DE)

7:00 PM – Boy Scouts

Friday, March 21

7:00 AM - Matins

10:00 AM – mixing the meat for the holubtsi

Saturday, March 22

10:00 AM – Making holubtsi

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (Holy Trinity – Whaleyville, MD)

Sunday, March 23– 3rd Sunday of the Fast – The Holy Cross -Tone 6

8:30 AM – Confessions

9:10 AM –Prayers before Communion

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

4:00 PM – Orthodox Clergy Vespers (St. Nicholas Serbian
506 Stahr Road, Elkins Park, PA)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2nd Sunday of the Fast – Matins: Luke 24:12-35; Liturgy: Hebrews 1:10–2:3; Mark 2:1-12
To St. Gregory: Hebrews 7:26 - 8:2; John 10:9-16

Monday - Sixth Hour: Isaiah 8:13-9:7; Vespers: Genesis 6:9-22; Proverbs 8:1-21.

Tuesday - Sixth Hour: Isaiah 9:9-10:4; Vespers: Genesis 7:1-5; Proverbs 8:32-9:11.

Wednesday - Sixth Hour: Isaiah 10:12-20; Vespers: Genesis 7:6-9; Proverbs 9:12-18.

Thursday - Sixth Hour: Isaiah 11:10-12:2; Vespers: Genesis 7:11-8:3; Proverbs 10:1-22.

Friday - Sixth Hour: Isaiah 13:2-13; Vespers: Genesis 8:4-21; Proverbs 10:31-11:12.

Saturday - Hebrews 10:32-38; Mark 2:14-17; for the Departed: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17;
John 5:24-30

Third Sunday of the Fast - Matins: Luke 24: 36-53; Liturgy: Hebrews 4:14-5:6; Mark 8:34-9:1.

Second Sunday of the Great Fast



With the relief of modern medicines and the sophisticated techniques of surgery, we are finding it all the more difficult to realize and accept the fact that illness and disease in the world is a result of our sinful nature. If we don't think that there is a connection between sin and suffering, we can reflect on our own pattern of life and try to remember when was the last time we went to Confession and Communion before a scheduled hospital stay, or before we went out to face the tension of a job interview, or before we made an important decision in our life? We all desire as many graces as possible during final exams, but did we receive Confession and Communion before the semester started? Our Israelite ancestors clearly

explained it to us with the creation account in the Book of Genesis which is handed down to us. God created us with the free will to love Him and He created the world and the Universe for us to respect and enjoy. However, people soon began to turn away from God. They began to lose their cautious respectfulness of the world and their enjoyment of Creation was taken over by misery, despair and tiredness.

Sinning is the act of turning away from God and His ways; trying to do things on our own. When we sin or turn away from God, we turn away from our source of strength and life. We become weak and paralysis takes over; not only physically and mentally, but worse yet, spiritually. However, this sinful character of mankind is something which we all share in common and so it takes a group effort to bring ourselves and one another back to the Source of life. But we must remember that we each have to do our own fair share of the effort. And our fair share means using the full power which God has given us.

The men who carried the mat of their friend in the Gospel share the burden of his paralyzed life. They not only brought him to the building where Christ was present, but they also shared his faith and made every effort to bring him directly into the presence of Christ. Great things can be accomplished through faith and if we want to come closer to God and follow His ways bad enough, we can find ways to do so. Jesus saw that they had a sincere faith and desire to become well again and so the first thing he did was to get to the root of the problem and forgive his sins to heal that gap between the man and God. After his sins were forgiven and a new life was given to the paralytic. Christ told him to pick up his mat and go home; to return to his family and friends, show them what God had done for him, and live the new life which he had received.

Perhaps in our own lives we may have fallen into the bad habit of leaving the confessional feeling like we just left a car wash with our old car all cleaned and polished. This is wrong. Rather than leaving like an old car, cleaned and polished, we should leave as if we received a completely brand new car which has never been driven before.

Through the forgiveness of our sins we receive a completely brand new life. All past suffering and anguish should be forgotten and, through Communion, We receive the strength to face future burdens and Christian tests of courage and faith.



REFLECTION ON TODAY'S GOSPEL

In today's reading Jesus shows that there are parallels between sickness and sin, between healing and forgiveness.

By healing the man's paralysis with just a word (verses 11-12), Jesus demonstrates that he has God's power to cure, and thus God's authority to forgive. The visible healing of the man's body is evidence that an invisible healing of the man's relationship with God has taken place. The healing shows that forgiveness is not just words. When he forgives us, something really happens. This is good news for us. When we look at our stubborn patterns of sin, we know that we need more than nice words and positive thinking: we really need changing!

In the second incident Jesus speaks of himself as a doctor who has arrived to treat sinners (verse 17). Sin, then, must be a kind of sickness. Jesus is saying that he has come to heal the diseases of mind and heart that we contract through our sins.

Physical sicknesses are not only an evil in themselves; they also provide images of the effects of sin. Leprosy, for example (1:40-42), an incurable disease that cut the sufferer off from other people, gives us a picture of the living death that sin is. Paralysis gives us a picture of the proud heart that is unmoved by compassion, epilepsy of the sometimes wild instability of sin, blindness of the inability to see who Jesus is.

By the same token, Jesus' healings give us pictures of what he can do in our minds and hearts when we turn to him repentantly in faith.

For reflection: It is easy to be more concerned about physical complaints than about the pride and self-concern and resentment and other sicknesses in our hearts.

Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, you see to the depths of my being you diagnose all my ills. Heal me as you alone know I need to be healed. Free me to love you and serve you.

SERMON FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST



When Leonardo da Vinci was painting his masterpiece, "The Last Supper", he selected as the person to sit for the character of Jesus a young man, Pietri Bandinelli by name. Pietri was a gentle and kind person who was connected with the Milan cathedral as a chorister. Years passed before the great picture was near completion. There was only one character left to finish - Judas Iscariot. Leonardo noticed a young man in the streets of Rome who would be perfect as a model. His shoulders were far bent toward the ground and he had a cold, hardened, evil expression on his face. He would be perfect for the painting of Judas.

When in the studio, the model began to look around as if recalling incidents of years gone by. Finally, he turned and with a sad look in his eyes at the realization of the change that had taken place, he said, "Maestro, I was in this studio twenty-five years ago. It was I who sat as the model for Christ."

Today's Gospel shows how much our lives change over time. Last Sunday we heard that all of us are called to be disciples of Christ and that through our example, we can bring others to believe because of the faith that we exhibit. Today, the message changes. We are shown that all of us as sinners need forgiveness. We see this through the example of the paralytic who is brought to Jesus to be healed. When the Lord saw the faith in this man as well as the faith of his friends, He said, "My child, your sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:6). With these words, those around Jesus began to murmur, "Who does he think he is forgiving sins? Only God can forgive sins!"

Isn't it strange that when we are ill we run to the doctor for advice and medicine - even when it is the smallest of problems! But we use every excuse in the book so that we do not have to face our own sinfulness. As soon as the word "sin" is mentioned, we become uncomfortable. We don't want to seek help, we don't want to get advice, we don't want to seek a cure. We decide that we will wait for another time.

And yet, we never think of the consequences. It is harder to treat a neglected physical disease, even for the best doctor. It often remains incurable. Therefore, to preserve life, when our bodies become pained and weak we seek help.

One thing that we do not realize is that the sickness of the spirit is worse and more dangerous than not attending to a sickness of the body. Sin is not something which is always painful or makes us weak. On the contrary, sin can be pleasant. Before sin can be wiped out by repentance, it often blinds us so that we do not consider the peril, but actually makes us feel quite happy. Sin without repentance first turns into a habit; and habit turns into second nature. Then, even if a person wants to get rid of it, he doesn't have the strength. While a tree is young, a single man can uproot it without much effort, but when it has grown man-size, it can no longer be uprooted by a single man, sometimes not even by several.

But we should not despair - we need repentance. To repent means to be aware of the guilt in our hearts and to recognize that we have insulted our Heavenly Father by opposing His will and not living up to His commandments.

The power of the Holy Mystery of Confession is great and there is no sin too big for its healing power. The mercy of God is boundless to a repentant sinner. Only in repentance will we receive the forgiveness of sins. But when we return to God in repentance, we too will hear the voice of Jesus saying, "My child, your sins are forgiven." Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to John Plachuta, 3/16 & Konstantin Muntyanu 3/20. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

FROZEN PASKA BREAD FROM THE FALL BAZAAR - will be on sale today. Please see Kathy Duncan if you are interested.

BAZAAR NEWS

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE BAZAAR - Some of the things needed are Diet Coke and Sprite products, cases of water, paper products and dishwashing detergent.

CALLING ALL BAKERS - we always rely on your tasty treats that you donate to the Bake Table. Again, we ask for your sweet donations. Any questions call Andrea. (302) 439-4899.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Making Holubtsi - Saturday, March 22

Making Pyrohy - Saturday, March 29.

DONATIONS FOR FLOWERS FOR PASCHA

We shall be taking donations to help pay for the flowers that we ordered to decorate the Tomb for Good Friday and the Church for Pascha. You can donate in memory of a loved one or for the health of a loved one(s). If you are interested, donation per flower is \$15. Please fill out a form and give them to Linda Hnatow. Thanks.

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 16 - Sandy Cramer

March 23 - Sonya Patronik

March 30 - David and Eve Lazaration

April 6 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur

April 13 - Kathy and Michael Chalfont

UOL SOUPS FOR THE FAST - \$10/quart.

MEETINGS - PARISH BOARD - Tuesday, April 8 @ 6:30 PM

EASTER EGG HUNT - will take place for our youth on Sunday, April 12th after the Divine Liturgy. Please register with either Pani Elizabeth or Olena Smith. Thanks.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

(Please find a substitute if you cannot make a given week)

March 16 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow

March 23 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow

March 30 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

April 6 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

April 13 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta

TENTATIVE CALENDER OF EVENTS - 2025

Wednesday, March 19 – Community Lenten Service and Dinner Here 6PM

Sunday, March 30 – Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood Here (4PM)

Saturday, April 5 – Spring Bazaar

Sunday, April 12 – Easter Egg Hunt (Palm Sunday)

Sunday, April 20 – Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, May 11 – Mother's Day Dinner

Sunday, May 18 – Boy Scout Court of Honor (2PM)

Sunday, June 15 – Father's Day Dinner – Graduation Sunday

Sunday, July 13 – Patronal Feast Day

Saturday, August 2 – UOL Flea Market

Saturday, August 23 – Boy Scout Car Wash at the Church (TTBA)

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 16 - Andrew Duncan

March 23 – Thomas Sulpizi

March 30 – Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

April 6 - Linda Hnatow

April 13 - Jean Roeth

April 20 - Thomas Scholz

April 27 - John Plachuta

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of March 17 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of March 24 - Thomas and Lynn Sulpizi

Week of March 31 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus

Week of April 7 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of April 14 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly

Week of April 21 – John Plachuta and David Lazaration

Week of April 28 - Mark & Laura Andreas

PLEASE WELCOME – Father Charles Sanderson into our Parish family. May God continue to bless and keep him and his family for many, happy and blessed years!

Orthodox Clergy Lenten Services

All Services 4PM

Sun., March 16 – Sts. Peter & Paul Albanian
9230 Old Bustleton Road, Philadelphia

Sun., March 23 – St. Nicholas Serbian
506 Stahr Road, Elkins Park, PA

Sun., March 30 – Sts. Peter and Paul
Here

Sun., April 6 – Assumption OCA
2101 S 28th St., Philadelphia

Community Lenten Services

All Services 6:00 PM

Wed., March 19 – Sts. Peter and Paul
Here

Wed., March 26 – IHM Catholic
4701 Weldin Road Wilmington

Wed., April 2 – S. Nicholas Ukr Cath
800 W Lea Blvd, Wilmington, DE

Wed., April 9 – Holy Rosary Church
3200 Philadelphia Pike

PASKA ORDER FORM – ORDER BY APRIL 21

_____ **Small Round (\$8)** _____ **Large Round (\$12)** _____ **Butter Lamb (\$5)**

Name _____

() **With Raisins**

() **Without Raisins**

**Please give to Father Stephen or Kathy Duncan with payment on April 6
Paskas will be ready for pickup on Palm Sunday, April 13**

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Daniel, Archimandrite Raphael, Father George Bazylevsky, Father Vasyl Dovhan, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Mark Kozak, Father Andrew Molewski, Father James Norton, Father Victor Wronsky, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Father Michael Zaparyniuk, Matushka Andrejuk, Matushka Laura Odell, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Pani Matka Oksanna Bazylevsky, Pani Matka Maryann Ozlanski, Pani Matka Annette Zaparyniuk, Randy Allen, Carolyn Angelo, Jonathan Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Joyce Belles, Joyce Bendoakas, Ethel Bernhard, Irene Billon, James Bolton, Maria Borowenski, Betty Bosland, Becky Bosley, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Erik Colazo, Alex Czernik, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, Paula Daubert, William Dewhurst, Peter DiVirgilio, James Dudrick, Kathleen Dugan, Mary Eagleton, Maria Economou, Rose Eldridge, Thomas Fagan, Archantula Fanjoy, Mary Farrell, James Garrett, Lisa Gee, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovniou, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Richard Haslam, Rick Hastings, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Alicia Hlywak, John Hlywak, Daniel Holoviak, Jennifer Huertes, Joette Jago, Violet Jaskolka, Stephen Johnson, Bill Jones, Linda Josepinson, Michael Kapelus, Walter Katolik, Diane Keyser, Wendy Klinedinst, Judith Kocinski, Lorissa Kozakova, Ron Lazaration, Joan Libera, Karen Livick, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Jeremy Madea, Andrew Makolynyk, Jean Marano, Frederick McCarthy, Fred McKirachan, Stephen McNulty, Ronald Michel, Mary Ann Michalcewicz, Michelle Michalcewiz, Lisa Miller, Matthew Miller, Mary Elizabeth Moran, Barry Morris, Elsie Moroz, Karen Needham, Julie Neff, Ann Nester, Sienna Ozboya, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Anthony Pantelopulos, Daphne Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Janilyn Pinkowicz, Bernice Pinkowicz, Daphne Pantelopulos, George Pantelopulos, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Jeff Rozwadowski, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, Richard Scharba, Isaac Schmidt, Joella Seale, Clay Seman, John Serth, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Georgie Smolyar, Alexandra Sparco, Natalia Stanford, Rich Steinman, Joseph Stevens, Noel Strobino, Charles Joseph Sweeney, Evelyn Synczyszyn, Michael Synczyszyn, Pavlo Tabak, Nicholas Taylor, Sue Taylor, Elenora Thomas, Lydia Thomas, Brysen Tomei, Dominic Tomei, Mark Tomei, Violet Tomei, Aria Tonner, Mariel Trimble, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Laura Worley, Jack Ziegler & James Zook

“HEAVENWARD! HEAVENWARD!”

Teach year on the 2nd Sunday of the Great Fast, the Holy Orthodox Church honors the memory of ST. GREGORY PALAMAS. Gregory lived in the 14th century and would rise to the prominent position of Archbishop of Thessalonica one day. He is best remembered, however, for his exemplary life as a monastic: a life he embraced at the young age of 20.

Much of Gregory's life was lived on Mt. Athos. Much of his time was spent in contemplative silence and prayer. He fully embraced the spirit and philosophy of "hesychasm" -- a method of inward prayer of the heart that was taught by the severe ascetics of the Holy Mountain.

As St. Gregory gained popularity and notoriety with the Church, his teaching of hesychasm caused him to be at odds with other theologians and hierarchs. His position that God, unapproachable in His Essence, was nevertheless revealed through His Energies. This brought Gregory ridicule and condemnation. He was even imprisoned and labelled a "heretic" for maintaining that the Kingdom of God is within us -- in our **WHOLE NATURE**, body and soul. Ultimately, the Council of Blachernae upheld the truth of his teachings. This is why he is praised in his troparion on this day as being the "light of Orthodoxy" and the "champion of theologians."

St. Gregory Palamas fell asleep in the Lord on November 14, 1359 A.D. He was canonized a saint just 9 years later. His dying words were: "Heavenward! Heavenward!" Indeed, the life lived by this blessed saint was constantly pointed in the direction of the Kingdom of God.

Icon by Austin Kachek - Manville, NJ

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.