

March 15, 2020: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (Of St. Gregory Palamas)

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3:

“You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail.” But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12:



And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.” And

some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the paralytic, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

On the second Sunday of Great Lent, the gospel message is about faith in action, about visible faith. Many people claim and even boast to have faith. However, when they are challenged to actually prove their faith they don't have too much to say.

Let us look at the four men from today's gospel reading who proved their faith by carrying their fellow human being (the paralytic) on the streets of Capernaum, in order to present him before the Savior. And, when they came to the house where Jesus was, their faith was put to the test: *they could not come near Him because of the crowd*. But strong faith never gives up; it always finds answers. So, instead of turning around and going back home, the four men went through further effort (proof of their faith) and *when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying*.

The faith of the four men brings about the healing of the paralytic: *When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."*

As we continue our spiritual journey to Pascha, let us learn from the four men and help those in need, proving that our faith is not just a statement but a way of life, an example, a light to the world!



On the Second Sunday of Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates our **Holy Father Gregory Palamas**, Archbishop of Thessalonica, the Wonderworker. The feast day of Saint Gregory Palamas is November 14, however, he is commemorated on this Sunday as the condemnation of his enemies and the vindication of his teachings by the Church in the 14th century was acclaimed as a second triumph of Orthodoxy.

Apolytikion:

"O, Gregory the Miracle Worker, light of Orthodoxy, support and teacher of the Church, comeliness of Monastics, invincible defender of theologians, the pride of Thessalonica, and preacher of grace, intercede forever that our souls may be saved."

Fr. George Bazgan

Altar boys for this Sunday:

**Corbu Arkin Gabriel
Gavriş Arsenie
Mustea Alexandru**

Sunday Fellowship

The following families are scheduled to look after
this Sunday's fellowship:

**Andrei Florea & Mihaela
Anton Călin & Cristina
Cotfasa Alex & Ioana**

**The Church Board recommends that the fellowship meal be kept
simple (muffins, donuts, small sandwiches, etc.) in order
to encourage more families to participate.**

Thank you all very much!

SPECIAL SERVICES DURING GREAT LENT:

Thursday at 7:00 PM: BIBLE STUDY

Friday at 7:00 PM: AKATHIST TO THE HOLY VIRGIN.

Saturday at 5:00 PM: VESPERS.

CONFESSION WILL BE HEARD AFTER EACH OF THESE SERVICES.

MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish, asking them **to pay their membership until Easter.**

This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our financial obligations during the Summer months and for the rest of the year as well.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

The new Fellowship Roster

The new Fellowship Roster begins on March 29, 2020

Those who want to drop out or those who would like to participate, are asked to contact Fr. George by March 15.

The Church Board recommends that the fellowship meal be kept simple (muffins, donuts, small sandwiches, etc.) in order to encourage more families to participate

Thank you!

Iconography project

The Annual General Meeting, held on March 1, 2020, approved the continuation of painting the Church interior (the 2 side walls). Ideally, the project would be finalized by May 2021, followed by the rededication of the Church. It depends on the availability of funds (\$80,000 - \$100,000) and the possibilities of the iconographer Florin Vlad if we can meet this target.

The project is to be done by private donations.

We already have a family who committed \$10,000.

Those who want to participate, please contact Fr. George (473-0029), who will make the list of donors by Easter and the funds to be given to the Treasurer by June the 1st. If we are unable to secure the necessary funds, the project will be extended.

Thank you all very much!