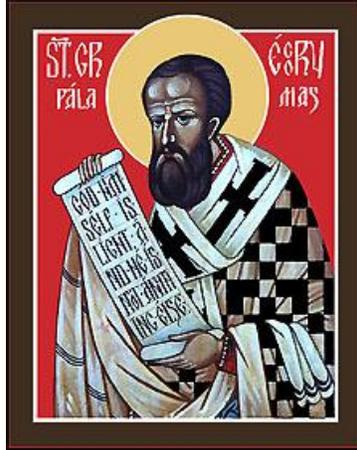


**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, as part of Orthodox Campus Fellowship
At the University of Mount Union, Dewald Chapel. Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)
Mission Phone # 330 768-7633
Mission Website <http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com/>
March 16, 2014: Second Sunday of Lent: St Gregory Palamas / St. Basil's Liturgy**



Tone 5 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 8 Troparion (St Gregory Palamas)

O light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, its confirmation, O ideal of monks and invincible champion of the theologians,
O wonderworking Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, // always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

Tone 4 Troparion (St. Nikolai)

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Nikolai, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved!

Tone 4 Kontakion (from the Lenten Triodion)

Now is the time for action! Judgment is at the doors! So let us rise and fast, offering alms with tears of compunction and crying: “Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea; but forgive us, O Master of all, // so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns!”

Tone 8 Kontakion (St Gregory Palamas)

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom, joyful trumpet of theology, together we sing your praises, O God-inspired Gregory. Since you now stand before the Original Mind, guide our minds to Him, O Father, // so that we may sing to you: “Rejoice, preacher of grace!”

Epistle :Hebrews 1:10-2:3

Tone 5 Prokeimenon

You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.
v: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

Tone 5 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation.

v: For You have said: "Mercy will be established forever; Your truth will be prepared in the heavens.

Tone 2 (*Triodion*)

v: The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment.

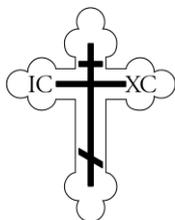
Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing the following Hymn to the Theotokos)

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins,
from whom God was incarnate and became a Child – our God before the ages.
He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



Presanctified Liturgy Schedule at the Mt. Union Chapel: March 26th and April 9th. All services at 7 PM.

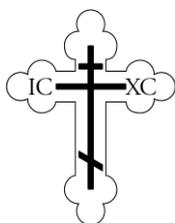
On this Sunday of Lent we remember St. Gregory Palamas. St. Gregory was born into a noble family in Constantinople. He left all his wealth and prestige to pursue a life of prayer on Mt. Athos where he acquired great holiness beholding the uncreated light of God. Later, he became Archbishop of Thessalonica. St. Gregory defended the doctrine of the church that divine grace is uncreated. He also explained that we experience only this divine energy of God but not His essence, which is beyond understanding.

From the writings of St. Gregory Palamas:

"Him (God) alone shall you love, and Him alone shall you worship with all your mind and all your heart and all your strength, and His sayings and His commandments will be in your heart to do them."

"To those who respect and worship Him, and who love and keep His commands, He promises and gives the heavenly kingdom and perpetual and painless life, and life immortal, and unsetting light to enjoy."

"Seek nothing other than to fear Him, to love Him, and to walk in all His ways. This is your boast, and this is your God."



Gathering of Orthodox Primates (First Hierarchs)

At the invitation of His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, a Synaxis (gathering) of Primates of the Orthodox Church convened at the Phanar (an area of Istanbul where the Patriarchate is located) March 6-9, 2014.

The gathering was called to consider a variety of issues related to the convocation of a Great and Holy Synod by the Ecumenical Patriarch in 2016. It is felt that such a gathering would offer the world a coherent and united Orthodox witness and voice while serving as an occasion for discerning a much-needed united Orthodox response to today's social and moral challenges.

The Orthodox Church in America, which was granted autocephaly, or self governing status, by the Church of Russia in 1970, was not invited to the meeting of Primates, as many of the Orthodox Churches, while maintaining Eucharistic communion with the OCA, do not recognize its autocephalous status.

MESSAGE

March 9, 2014

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Through the grace of God, the Primates of the Most Holy Autocephalous Orthodox Churches, to the Orthodox faithful throughout the world, all of our Christian brothers and sisters as well as every person of goodwill: we extend God's blessing and our greeting of love and peace.

"We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess. 1.2-3)

1. Having convened by the grace of our compassionate God, at the invitation of the Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, at the Phanar, from March 6-9, 2014; having deliberated in fraternal love on matters concerning our Holy Church today; and concelebrating in the Patriarchal Church of St. George on the glorious occasion of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we address you with these words of love, peace and consolation.

Inasmuch as our One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Orthodox Church dwells in the world, it also experiences the challenges of every age. Faithful to Holy Tradition, the Church of Christ is in constant dialogue with every period of time, suffering with human beings and sharing their anguish. For "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and to the ages" (Heb. 13.8).

The trials and challenges of history are especially acute in our days, and Orthodox Christians cannot remain uninvolved or indifferent to them. This is why we have assembled "together in one place" (Acts 2.1) in order to reflect on the problems and temptations facing humanity today. "There is fighting without and fear within." (2 Cor. 7.5) These Apostolic words are also valid for the Church today.

2. In reflecting upon people's suffering throughout the world, we express our support for the martyrdom and our admiration for the witness of Christians in the Middle East, Africa, and other parts of the world. We call to mind their dual martyrdom: for their faith as well as for the safeguarding of their historical relationship with people of other religious conviction. We denounce the lack of peace and stability, which is prompting Christians to abandon the land where our Lord Jesus Christ was born and whence the Good News spread to the entire world.

Our sympathy extends to all victims of the tragedy in Syria. We condemn every form of terrorism and defamation of religion. The kidnapping of Metropolitans Paul and Youhanna, other clergymen as well as the nuns of St. Thekla Convent in Maaloula remains an open wound, and we demand their immediate liberation. We appeal to all involved for the immediate cessation of military action, liberation of captives, and establishment of peace in the region through dialogue. Christians in the Middle East are a leaven of peace. Peace for all people also means peace for Christians. We support the Patriarchate of Antioch in its spiritual and humanitarian ministry, as well as its efforts for reconstruction and the resettlement of all refugees.

3. We fervently pray for peaceful negotiation and prayerful reconciliation in the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. We denounce the threats of violent occupation of sacred monasteries and churches, and pray for the return of our brothers presently outside of ecclesiastical communion into the Holy Church.

4. A fundamental threat to justice and peace – both locally and globally – is the global economic crisis. The ramifications of this are evident on all layers in society, where such values as personal integrity, fraternal solidarity and justice are often wanting. The origins of this crisis are not merely financial. They are moral and spiritual in character. Instead of conforming to the worldly idols of power, greed and hedonism, we emphasize our vocation to transform the world by embracing the principles of justice, peace, and love.

As a result of self-centeredness and abuse of power, many people undermine the sacredness of the human person, neglecting to see the face of God in the least of our brothers and sisters (cf. Matt. 25.40,45). Many remain indifferent to the poverty, suffering and violence that plague humanity.

5. The Church is called to articulate its prophetic word. We express our genuine concern about local and global trends that undermine and erode the principles of faith, the dignity of the human person, the institution of marriage, and the gift of creation.

We stress the undisputed sanctity of human life from inception until natural death. We recognize marriage as the union of man and woman that reflects the union between Christ and His Church. Our vocation is to preserve the natural environment as stewards and not proprietors of creation. In this period of Great Lent, we exhort our clergy and laity to observe a spirit of repentance, to experience purity of heart, humility and forgiveness, bearing witness to the timeless teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ in society.

6. This Synaxis of Primates is a blessed occasion for us to reinforce our unity through communion and cooperation. We affirm our commitment to the paramount importance of synodality for the unity of the Church. We affirm the words of St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, that “the name of the Church signifies unity and concord, not division.” Our heart is set on the long-awaited Holy and Great Synod of the Orthodox Church in order to witness to its unity as well as to its responsibility and care for the contemporary world.

The Synaxis agreed that the preparatory work to the Synod should be intensified. A special Inter-Orthodox Committee will work from September 2014 until Holy Easter of 2015, followed by a Pre-Synodal Pan-Orthodox Conference to be convened in the first half of 2015. All decisions at the Synod and in the preparatory stages are made by consensus. The Holy and Great Synod of the Orthodox Church will be convened by the Ecumenical Patriarch in Constantinople in 2016, unless something unexpected occurs. The Synod will be presided by the Ecumenical Patriarch. His brother Primates of the other Orthodox Autocephalous Churches will be seated at his right and at his left.

7. Inseparably interconnected with unity is mission. The Church does not live for itself but is obliged to witness to and share God’s gifts with those near and afar. Participating in the Divine Eucharist and praying for the unity, we are called to continue this liturgy after the liturgy, sharing the gifts of truth and love with all humankind, in accordance with the Lord’s last commandment and assurance: “Go ye, and make disciples of all nations . . . And lo, I shall be with you until the end of the ages” (Matt. 28.19-20).

8. We live in a world where multiculturalism and pluralism are inevitable realities, which are constantly changing. We are conscious of the fact that no issue in our time can be considered or resolved without reference to the global, that any polarization between the local and the ecumenical only leads to distortion of the Orthodox way of thinking.

Therefore, even in the face of voices of dissension, segregation, and division, we are determined to proclaim the message of Orthodoxy. We acknowledge that dialogue is always better than conflict. Withdrawal and isolationism are never options. We reaffirm our obligation at all times to be open in our contact with “the other”: with other people and other cultures, as well as with other Christians and people of other faiths.

9. Above and beyond all challenges, we proclaim the good news of a God, who “so loved the world” that He “dwelt among us.” Thus, we Orthodox remain full of hope. Despite all tensions, we nevertheless dare to hope in the “almighty God, who is and who was and who is to come” (Rev. 1.8) For we remember that the last word – the word of joy, love, and life – belongs to Him, to whom is due all glory, honor and worship to the ages of ages. Amen.

At the Phanar, the 9th of March, 2014

+ Bartholomew of Constantinople

+ Theodoros of Alexandria

+ Theophilos of Jerusalem

- + Kirill of Moscow
 - + Irinej of Serbia
 - + Daniel of Romania
 - + Neophyte of Bulgaria
 - + Ilia of Georgia
 - + Chrysostomos of Cyprus
 - + Ieronymos of Athens
 - + Sawa of Warsaw
 - + Anastasios of Tirana
-

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LENTEN FISH FRY:

We are on for Fish Fry! Dinners will be served from 5 to 7 PM at the Marlinton Middle School. Please check the website for our flyer. Dinners will begin this Friday, March 14. We need volunteers to help cook, serve and clean up! If you can help in any way please contact Tom Baier or Jaga Radosevic in person or via the Mission email (stnikolaimission@gmail.com) Flyers will be available to hand out, pass the word!

COFFEE HOUR:

Thank you to Jaga Radosevic for serving as Coffee Hour Hostess last week.

This Sunday, March 16 our host is Dan Ralich.

TJ Cotterman is hosting on March 23, and Dan Ralich again on April 6.

We need volunteers for March 30 and April 13 (Palm Sunday)

PRAYERS:

Candi (friend of John and Lynette Baier)

Jovanka Kramanak, please pray for the repose of her soul, Jovanka passed away February 17.

Wendy (friend of Lana Baier)

Jacquelyn, friend of Dan and Jake Krupko who has been ill.

Gus, 1st Grade Student of Katie White, who had extensive and unexpected surgery

Jean Minnick Co-worker of Katie White's, whose father, Edgar Pryor passed away on March 4. Please pray for the repose of his soul.

Katie White - Kate and Josh are expecting a sister for Evey within the next few weeks.