

ST. ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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March 12, 2017

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2nd Sunday of Great Lent: St Gregory Palamas

This Sunday was originally dedicated to Saint Polycarp of Smyrna (February 23). After his glorification in 1368, a second commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas (November 14) was appointed for the Second Sunday of Great Lent as a second "Triumph of Orthodoxy."

Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica, was born in the year 1296 in Constantinople. Saint Gregory's father became a prominent dignitary at the court of Andronicus II Paleologos (1282-1328), but he soon died, and Andronicus himself took part in the raising and education of the fatherless boy. Endowed with fine abilities and great diligence, Gregory mastered all the subjects which then comprised the full course of medieval higher education. The emperor hoped that the youth would devote himself to government work. But Gregory, barely twenty years old, withdrew to Mount Athos in the year 1316 (other sources say 1318) and became a novice in the Vatopedi monastery under the guidance of the monastic Elder Saint Nicodemus of Vatopedi (July 11). There he was tonsured and began on the path of asceticism. A year later, the holy Evangelist John the Theologian appeared to him in a vision and promised him his spiritual protection. Gregory's mother and sisters also became monastics.

Saint Gregory combined his priestly duties with the life of a hermit. Five days of the week he spent in silence and prayer, and only on Saturday and Sunday did he come out to his people. He celebrated divine services and preached sermons. For those present in church, his teaching often evoked both tenderness and tears. Sometimes he visited theological gatherings of the city's educated youth, headed by the future patriarch, Isidore. After he returned from a visit to Constantinople, he found a place suitable for solitary life near Thessalonica the region of Bereia. Soon he gathered here a small community of solitary monks and guided it for five years. Saint Gregory performed many miracles.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel Readings Mark 2:1-12

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VISITS: Tuesday March 7th: Franciscan Manor: Nell Semick UPMC Presby: Cynthia Bratich

Friday, March 10th : Irene Radakovich

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We are hosting the Lenten Vesper Service TODAY AT 5:00 P.M. Lenten Dinner to follow with a lecture to be given by Fr. Dejan Barac his topic "The Role of Today's Technology on Mission Work". This event will be held UPSTAIRS of the Church Center. Come and join us and bring a friend with you!

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HOME BLESSINGS: Fr. Branislav has completed the regular schedule for HOME BLESSINGS. If you did not hear from him he either does not have your correct number or you don't have a voicemail option where he could leave you a message. He will call again for those that were not home at the first scheduled date.

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Pre-Sanctified Liturgies are served every **Wednesday at 6pm** Abstinence for Holy Communion at Pre-sanctified Liturgy begins at the noon hour, for clergy and laity alike.

Confessions during the Great Lent will preferably be heard on Saturdays, by appointment.

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MOTHER'S CLUB is selling posno beans and sauerkraut soup today following Divine Liturgy and the KCC will have pogaca for sale also!

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SERB NATIONAL FEDERATION will host a **SERBIAN MOVIE FESTIVAL** on Friday-Saturday March 17-18, 2017 at the Cathedral of Learning/Room 232. Friday, March 17th 6pm *Enclave* Directed by Goran Radovanovic 8pm *Where the Yellow Lemon Blossoms* Directed by Zdravko Sotra - Saturday, March 18th 12pm *We Will Be the World Champions* Directed by: Darko Bajic 2:30pm *See You In Montevideo* directed by Dragan Bjelogrljic 6:30 pm `1 Directed by Srdjan Koljevic. Questions call the SSF Office at 412-458-5227.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS save the dates:

SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH - ST. ELIJAH CHURCH'S 12TH ANNUAL DAN RALICH MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT-BLACKHAWK GOLF COURSE

SATURDAY, MAY 13TH AND MAY 14TH SPRING FOOD FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, MAY 21ST ANNUAL TEA FUNDRAISER

MONDAY, JUNE 12TH – THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH 40TH ANNUAL CHURCH DAY CAMP