

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN MARCH 8, 2015

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP NICOLAE** will be with us **NEXT** Sunday, March 15th, the Sunday of the Cross. Please make an effort to come and greet His Eminence as we celebrate together the mid-point of the Fast. Remember, Divine Liturgy begins at 10:00 am.

**DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED** toward the flowers that will adorn the Precious Cross next Sunday. Please see Tim Rucho.

**PITA BAKING**, this coming **Thursday March 12th** at 9:00 am. The weather has taken its toll on our baking schedule, so any and all help is desperately needed. Questions? **Please talk to Chris Toda**. Also, thanks to the people who came and rolled dough yesterday. This really helped to get us back on track!

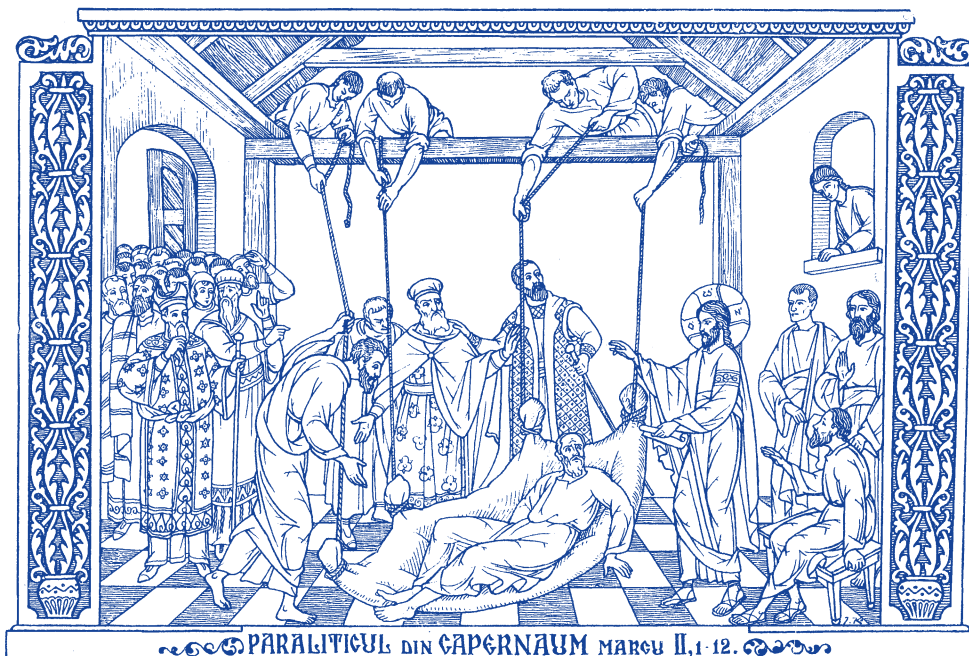
**THE PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY** sponsored by the Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches will be at **St. George Cathedral** on this coming Wednesday, March 11th at 6:00 pm.

**THANKS TO THE FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS** for working the Orthodox Food Center on behalf of our parish

**GREETERS TEAM 3:**  
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

**COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW B:**  
KARADIMITRIOU/KALPIDO FAMILY

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



### THE SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

**APOSTOLIC READING: HEBREWS 1:10-2:3** ☩ **GOSPEL: MARK 2:1-12**  
**(JESUS HEALS THE PARALYTIC IN CAPERNAUM** ☩ **St. GREGORY PALAMAS)**  
**TONE 6** ☩ **MATINS GOSPEL 6**

yesterday. Our regular commitment is the first Saturday of the month from 9am to noon. About 4 people are needed. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please speak with Lisa Mielnicki or Nicole Apostola. Our next Saturday is April 4th.

**VESPERS AND CONFESSION** will be held each Saturday evening at 5:00 pm during Great Lent. Fr. Nick will be available for confession each week after Vespers, and before Vespers by appointment (call or e-mail Fr. Nick).

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE** a memorial for the servant of God **Gary Michael Soter**, the son of George and Carol Soter. **May his memory be eternal!**

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by **George and Carol Soter** and family in his memory.

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

**Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center & Holy Trinity Hospice are Orthodox Charities** and rely on your donations to continue the mission of providing the best care possible.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed, March 11 PreSanctified Lit at St. George 6pm  
Thur, March 12 Pita Baking, 9am  
Sat, March 14 Vespers/Confession, 5pm  
Wed, March 18 PreSanctified Lit at St. Mary 6pm  
Sat, March 21 Vespers/Confession, 5pm  
Wed, March 25 Annunciation Lit at St. George 6pm  
Sat, March 28 Vespers/Confession, 5pm  
Wed, April 1 PreSanctified Lit at St. Spyridon 6pm  
Sat, April 4 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry  
Sun, April 5 Palm Sunday Luncheon  
Sun, April 12 Great and Holy Pascha

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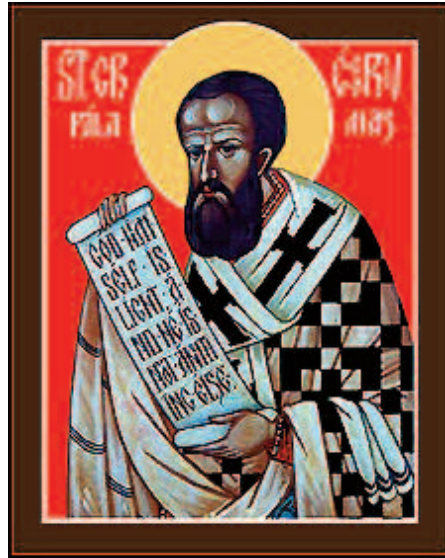
A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

## A LENTEN PRAYER

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**L**ORD AND MASTER OF OUR LIVES: Educate us, your ignorant servants, during these lenten days, by letting your wisdom enlighten our minds and hearts. Make us alert, lest the deceits of this world seduce us. Teach us how to distinguish between substance and appearance, how to discern what is of the Holy Spirit and what is not. Do not leave us to fight the enemy of our life by ourselves, for he is constantly striving to silence the word of life within us. Rather, be with us today, and every day, through your loving mercy.

For you are good and full of love for us, O God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages, amen.



## ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

**T**his divine Father, who was from Asia Minor, was from childhood reared in the royal court of Constantinople, where he was instructed in both religious and secular wisdom. Later, while still a youth, he left the imperial court and struggled in asceticism on Mount Athos, and in the Skete at Beroea. He spent some time in Thessalonica being treated for an illness that came from his harsh manner of life. He was present in Constantinople at the

Council that was convened in 1341 against Barlaam of Calabria, and at the Council of 1347 against Acindynus, who was of like mind with Barlaam; Barlaam and Acindynus claimed that the grace of God is created. At both these Councils, the Saint contended courageously for the true dogmas of the Church of Christ, teaching in particular that divine grace is not created, but is the uncreated energies of God which are poured forth throughout creation: otherwise it would be impossible, if grace were created, for man to have genuine communion with the uncreated God. In 1347 he was appointed Metropolitan of Thessalonica. He tended his flock in an apostolic manner for some twelve years, and wrote many books and treatises on the most exalted doctrines of our Faith; and having lived for a total of sixty-three years, he reposed in the Lord in 1359.

## NAMEDAYS

### February 28

#### *St. Theodore of Tyre*

Theodore Belba  
Theodora Collins  
Theodhoraq Lolo  
Teodor Nedelcu  
Theodore Peter Tonna  
Theodore Russell Tonna  
Derek Wilder

### March 3

#### *Henricus, hermit martyr in Norway*

Eric Lolo  
Erik Mayer

### March 9

#### *The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste*

Mircea Nedelcu

### March 17

#### *St. Alexios the Man of God*

Alex John Johnson  
Alex Leo Toda

#### *St. Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland*

Padraic Donnchadh Peterson  
Patricia Thanas

## THE PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

**L**ord and master of my life! Dispel from me the spirit of discouragement and slothfulness, of ambition and vain talk!

**I**nstead, give me the spirit of prudence and humility, of patience and charity.

**Y**es, my king and Lord, let me look at my own sins and refrain from judging others: For you are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

## THE LORD WHO SEES INTO OUR HEARTS

**T**HIS is the second Sunday of Great Lent, when we remember the great Archbishop of Thessalonika, St. Gregory Palamas. During Lent, the Gospel readings are taken from St. Mark, and this week we hear the account of the healing of a paralytic man in Capernaum (Mark 2:1-12). Capernaum was the largest city in the region of Galilee. It was not far from Nazareth, where Jesus lived as an adult. This account begins with his return to Capernaum after having begun his ministry touring the cities and towns of Galilee.

St. Mark records that after he had been baptized in the Jordan by John, and then tempted in the desert by the devil, Jesus started preaching of the coming “kingdom” (Mark 1:15). Shortly after, He called his first disciples (v. 1:16-20) and then proceeded to: heal a man with an unclean spirit (v. 1:21-28), lift the fever of Peter’s mother-in-law (v. 1:29-32), and cure many other sick and demon-possessed people (v. 1:32-34). He went on a “preaching tour” in the surrounding cities and towns, and during this time healed a leper (v. 1:40-45). When he returned to Capernaum the word had spread of the miracles and wonders. He is now famous. People flocked to see and hear him. St. Mark records that when they heard that he was home, “so many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door” (v. 2:2). Jesus “was speaking the word to them” and everyone wanted to listen.

While Jesus was speaking, four men came to the house where he was carrying a paralyzed man on a stretcher, and because they could not enter through the doorway, they tore up part of the roof and lowered the paralytic down through the hole. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven” (v. 5). Because of the faith of these four men as well as that of the paralytic, Jesus healed the man, but



he does it in such a way as to truly display his power as the Son of God.

The scribes who were sitting and listening to Jesus immediately understood the importance of what he was saying. They said to themselves — that is, they questioned in their hearts — “Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (v. 7) Jesus turns to them and said, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk?’” (v. 8-9)

Jesus just revealed a greater miracle. He showed his true power. He knew their thoughts. He could read their hearts. The prophets said that God alone had the power to know the human heart. For example, Solomon says of God, “only you know the human heart” (2 Chronicles 6:30); calling on God, David says, “you who test the minds and hearts” (Psalm 7:9); Jeremiah says, “The heart is devious above all else ... who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart” (Jeremiah 17:9-10); and the Lord speaking to Samuel says, “the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the

heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

And so, after telling the scribes what they were thinking, in their hearts, Jesus then turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand up, take your mat and go to your home” (v. 11).

As you read this Gospel lesson you might be confused by verse 10. Just before the Lord told the paralytic man to take up his bed, St. Mark writes, “but that you may know that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” While at first glance it seems that Jesus is addressing this to the scribes, when we study the verse in depth we see that the grammar and the context do not support this understanding. This verse was clearly meant for us, the readers. St. Mark wants *us* to understand that Jesus, even as the Son of Man, does not loose his authority as God to forgive sins. In other words, we should not let the wonder of the miracle distract us from the true importance of this event and who Jesus is.

Moreover, we should remind ourselves of Jesus’ willingness not only to forgive our sins, but to bear them as well. This is the central focus of our Paschal preparation. Even while we marvel at his ability to heal the sick, we should also prepare our hearts to ask for his forgiveness, for this is indeed the greater miracle.

— FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

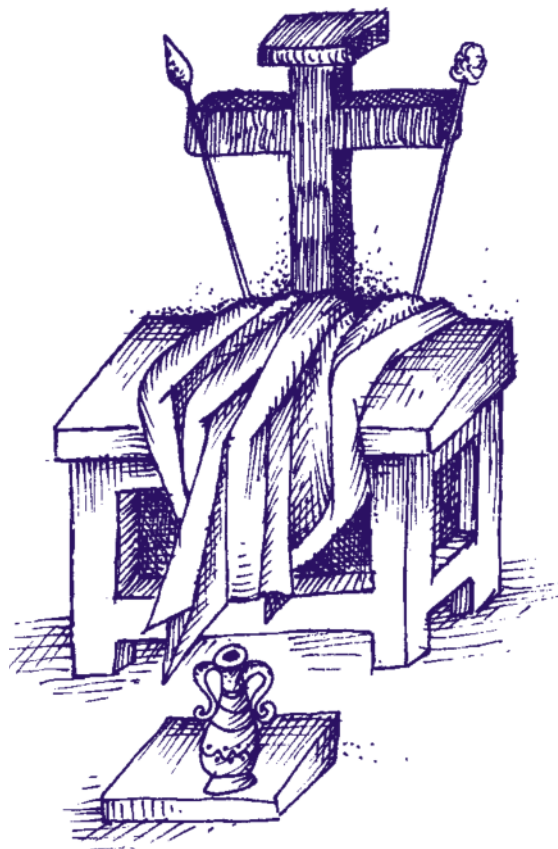


# PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGIES 2015

Wednesday, February 25, 2015  
St. Nicholas Church

Wednesday, March 4, 2015  
St. Spyridon Cathedral

Wednesday, March 11, 2015  
St. George Cathedral



Wednesday, March 18, 2015  
St. Mary's Assumption

Wednesday, March 25, 2015  
St. George Cathedral

Wednesday, April 1, 2015  
St. Spyridon Cathedral

Each Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts will begin at 6:00 p.m. The faithful should prepare themselves for Holy Communion in the usual way: prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and regular confession. There will be a modest 'pot-luck' lenten meal offered after the Liturgy. People are encouraged to bring something to share with others.