



## *Sunday Bulletin March 12, 2017* *Greek Orthodox Church of the* *Annunciation*

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**Rev. Dr. Michael Bahlatzis, Presiding Priest-  
Proistamenos**

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### **Epistle Reading Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3**

They will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

### **Gospel Reading Mark 2:1-12**

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"-he said to the paralytic-"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Message from Fr. Michael....

Dearly Beloved Faithful:

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Great Lent. On this day, we commemorate St. Gregory Palamas. It was St. Gregory (359 AD) who bore living witness that the faithful may become divine through the grace of God in the Holy Spirit and that even in this life, by prayer and fasting, human beings can become participants of the uncreated light of the divine glory. "Come let us receive the Unwaning Light of glory!"

Each day that goes by brings us closer to receiving this Paschal Divine Light. We are inspired by the life of St. Gregory Palamas which he dedicated to prayer and fasting. May we derive motivation and spiritual strength through such inspiration. The Lord told His apostles that they could not cast out demons from the possessed, as "this kind cannot be driven out except by prayer and fasting." These are our basic tools which we will use to heal the sick and/or possessed. May our prayers, through the intercession of St. Gregory Palamas be heard and received by the Lord our God. May the Lord continue to teach us and guide us on our Lenten journey, as we draw closer to the Unwaning Light.

Thank you for coming to Church today! I pray that the Lord's grace and His tender mercy continue to shine upon you always!

Humility, Patience, Love, and to not judge our brother are all qualities that we ask for in the Lenten prayer by St. Ephraim, the Syrian, Those qualities along with prayer and fasting will propel us in a forward direction, allowing us to receive the Lord's Divine Light. Kali Sarakosti!

Prayerfully in His service, I remain ready to help you always,  
With pastoral love,

+Fr. Michael

## **Theophanes the Confessor**

Saint Theophanes, who was born in 760, was the son of illustrious parents. Assenting to their demand, he married and became a member of the Emperor's ceremonial bodyguard. Later, with the consent of his wife, he forsook the world. Indeed, both of them embraced the monastic life, struggling in the monastic houses they themselves had established. He died on March 12, 815, on the island of Samothrace, whereto, because of his confession of the Orthodox Faith, he had been exiled by Leo the Armenian, the Iconoclast Emperor

## Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas



This 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.

His holy relics are kept in the Cathedral of Thessalonica. A full service was composed for his feast day by the Patriarch Philotheus in 1368, when it was established that his feast be celebrated on this day. Since works without right faith avail nothing, we set Orthodoxy of faith as the foundation of all that we accomplish during the Fast, by celebrating the Triumph of Orthodoxy the Sunday before, and the great defender of the teachings of the holy Fathers today.

## Symeon the New Theologian

Saint Symeon became a monk of the Studite Monastery as a young man, under the guidance of the elder Symeon the Pious. Afterwards he struggled at the Monastery of Saint Mamas in Constantinople, of which he became abbot. After enduring many trials and afflictions in his life of piety, he reposed in 1022. Marvelling at the heights of prayer and holiness to which he attained, and the loftiness of the teachings of his life and writings, the church calls him "the New Theologian." Only to two others, John the Evangelist and Gregory, Patriarch of Constantinople, has the church given the name "Theologian." Saint Symeon reposed on March 12, but since this always falls in the Great Fast, his feast is kept today.

**Holy Week Schedule for the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation for 2017**  
**Presiding Priest/Proistamenos: Rev. Dr. Michael Bahlatzis**

**Saturday of Lazarus, April 8th:** Orthros 9 AM Divine Liturgy 10 AM

(There will be a children's breakfast served following the Liturgy and this will be followed by the making of crosses from palms afterwards)

**Palm Sunday, April 9th:** Orthros 8:45 AM Divine Liturgy 9:45 AM

**Palm Sunday evening, April 9th:** Service of the Nymphios/Bridegroom matins  
6:30 PM

**Holy Monday, April 10th:** Service of the Bridegroom matins 7:30 PM

**Holy Tuesday, April 11th:** Service of the Bridegroom matins and Hymn of Kassiani 7:00 PM

**Holy Wednesday morning, April 12:** Pre-sanctified Liturgy 9 AM  
(Annunciation Church)

**Holy Wednesday evening, April 12th:** Service of the Sacrament of Holy Unction  
7:00 PM (Annunciation Church), 3:00 PM (Holy Trinity Church, Binghamton)

**Holy Thursday morning, April 13th:** Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 9:00 AM

**Holy Thursday evening, April 13th:** Service of the Holy Passions of our Lord and the 12 Gospels 6:30 PM

**Holy Friday morning, April 14th:** Service of the Royal Hours 9:30 AM

All are invited to assist in the flower decoration of the Epitaphios at the conclusion of this service. Fr. Michael will provide written excuses for school absences for those children who spend the day at the church.

Camp Annunciation Holy Friday Program begins with decorating the Epitaphios followed by a light Lenten lunch at 12 noon. All are encouraged to bring and share a dish to pass that conforms with the fast of Holy Friday. A JOY/HOPE meeting will be at 1 PM. All adults and children are invited to attend.

**Holy Friday afternoon, April 14th:** Service of Great Vespers of the Apokathelosis (The un-nailing of our Lord from the cross) 3 PM

**Holy Friday evening, April 14th:** Service of the Lamentations matins  
6:30 PM

**Holy Saturday morning, April 15th:** Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (The First Resurrection of our Lord raising Adam and Eve from the dead) 10 AM

**Holy Saturday night, April 15th/April 16th:** Matins of the Pascha 11:00 PM

'O Come and Receive Ye the Light...' 11:45 PM

Reading of the Gospel of the Resurrection of our Lord 12 AM midnight  
followed by the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**Easter Sunday (Pascha), April 16th:** Vespers service of Agape (Annunciation Church)  
(The Gospel will be read in multiple languages. Please see Fr. Michael if you are interested in reading the Gospel in ANY other language besides Greek and English)  
11 AM

FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS...that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Michalena (Skiadas) Sukenik, Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon, Presbyteria Magdalena Michalopoulos. Please notify Fr. Michael if you have anyone else who should be included for special prayers. May they be under the grace and tender watch of our Lord.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy today, we will have a 40 Day Memorial Service for Lula (Florindia) Packs devoted and beloved wife of Nicholas Packs, mother of sons: John, Steve, and Michael, and sister of Louie Karedes. May her memory be eternal! She is missed by all! We send out our best wishes and our heartfelt prayers for her family!

Our General Assembly has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 19th, following the Divine Liturgy, in our fellowship hall. Please join us!

There will be a JOY/HOPE meeting today Sunday, March 12, 2017, during the coffee hour. See you there.

**SPECIAL SERVICES AND SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH 2017**  
All are invited!!!

**Friday, March 17, 2017:** The Third Salutations to the Theotokos at 7:00 pm. The Bible Study Group will meet at the conclusion of this service in the Parish Council Office (approx. 8:15 pm).

**Saturday, March 18, 2017:** GOYAN Retreat at Holy Spirit Greek Orthodox Church in Rochester, NY (see Fr. Michael for details).

**Friday, March 24, 2017:** Great Vespers on the Eve of the Annunciation of the Theotokos (The Forefeast of the Annunciation) at 7:00 pm

Refreshments and Coffee Hour Fellowship to follow. This is the eve of the Patron Feast day of our Church. All are invited!

**Saturday, March 25, 2017:** The Feast of the Annunciation

Orthros 8:45 am

Divine Liturgy 9:45 am

Greek Independence Day Celebration: Ceremony of Raising of the Greek Flag and Doxology

Light luncheon and Coffee Hour Fellowship to follow Divine Services

Whether you are an Orthodox Christian, or this is your first visit to an Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us. Although Holy Communion is reserved for baptized and chrismated (confirmed) Orthodox Christians, all are invited to receive the "ANTIDORON" (blessed bread) which is not a sacrament, but is a reminder of the "agape feast" that followed worship in the early Church. After the Divine Liturgy this morning, please join us in the Church Hall for fellowship and refreshments. We hope that you will return often to worship with us, to grow in Christ and in our Orthodox Faith. For any spiritual, religious, or sacramental matters, please contact Fr. Michael (607) 795-1474. For any building, facility or church property issues, please contact Parish Council President Steve Anastos, (607) 296-9799. Deadline for suggestions for the bulletin is 12:00 noon on Thursday.