



ST. GREGORY'S DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, September 19 *Post-feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

7:00 P.M. Moleben to the Holy Cross with Holy Anointing

Thursday, September 21 *Final Day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

12:00 noon Prayer of the Sixth Hour

Saturday, September 23 *Conception of John the Baptist*

5:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 24 **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:10 A.M. Third Hour

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

The Epistle Reading will be II Corinthians 6:16-7:1 and the Gospel will be Luke 5:1-11. Following the Divine Liturgy, please join us in the Church hall following the Divine Liturgy for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Prayer to the Holy Cross

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered; and let those who hate Him flee from His face. As smoke vanishes, let them vanish; and as wax melts from the presence of fire, so let the demons perish from the presence of those who love God and who sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross and say with gladness: Hail, most precious and life-giving Cross of the Lord, for Thou drives away the demons by the power of our Lord Jesus Christ Who was crucified on thee, went down to hell and trampled on the power of the devil, and gave us thee, His honorable Cross, for driving away all enemies.

O most precious and life-giving Cross of the Lord, help me with our holy Lady, the Virgin Theotokos, and with all the Saints throughout the ages. Amen.

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C W O D R	S L E O	S E A V	O S L U		
<p>"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Mark 8:34b</p>					

Puzzle Clues

1. A large group of people gathered in one place.
 2. To misplace or be unable to find something.
 3. To rescue from danger or harm.
 4. The spiritual part of a person which exists after death.
- Solution: The object upon which Jesus was crucified.**



THE LEGEND OF THE TREE OF THE CROSS

The Tree of the Holy Cross and the site where it grew up are sanctified in ecclesiastical sources. In legends and ancient tradition, they are linked back to the biblical patriarch Abraham or earlier still to Seth, the son of Adam, planting a twig by his father's tomb.

The legend recounts that the three Angels who visited Abraham (Genesis 18) left him their staffs before proceeding to Sodom. After Lot sinned with his daughters at Sodom, he confessed to Abraham who instructed him to plant the staffs in the environs of

Jerusalem and give them water from the Jordan River – their blossoming would signify that God accepted his penance.

Lot planted the staffs in the valley outside Jerusalem where the Monastery of the Cross stands today. His unceasing attempts to haul water from the Jordan were stymied by Satan for 40 years before he finally managed to water the staffs, and they immediately blossomed and grew into a triplet pine/cypress/cedar Tree. During King Solomon's reign, the Tree was felled for timber in the building of the Judaic Temple, however, the beams would fit nowhere and were cast aside as cursed – the very ones that would make Jesus Christ's Cross in later times.

The Fathers Speak...

Abba John used to say that the saints are like a group of trees, each bearing different fruit, but all watered from the same source. The practices of one saint differ from those of another, but it is the same Spirit that works in all of them.

- The Desert Fathers

Blessed is the one who knows his own weakness, because awareness of this becomes for him the foundation and beginning of all that is good and beautiful. Love sinners but hate their works; and do not despise them for their faults, lest you also be tempted.

- St. Isaac the Syrian

Blessing of St. Gregory's Children for the Beginning of the New School Year



Lord Jesus Christ Who embraced the little children when they came or were brought to You, and laying Your hands on them blessed them and said: "Let the little children come to me and do not stop them. The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these; and their angels ever see the face of my Father" we beg You to look with favor on the innocence of these children here present and on the devotion of their parents, and to bless them today through our ministry. Let them advance in Your grace and goodness, the better to know You, love You, fear You, and serve You, and happily reach their blessed destiny. We ask this of You, Savior of the world, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit. May God bless you, and may He be the guardian of your hearts and your understanding, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Announcements

Today: St. Gregory's Parish Picnic

Our St. Gregory's Parish Picnic will take place following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. This Sunday is also the official beginning of our new school year for our Church School. We ask ALL the children and all our ECF teachers to please come forward at the end of the Divine Liturgy to receive a special blessing. Following the Divine Liturgy, please come to our parish picnic and to enjoy a wonderful time of Christian fellowship.

Thank You!

As your parish priest, I wish to thank you all for your prayers, best wishes, cards, and gifts I received on the occasion of my birthday. May Our Lord reward you for your kindness and generosity!

Tuesday: Moleben to the Cross and Anointing

On Tuesday evening, September 19th, a Moleben-Prayer Service to the Holy Cross will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. As part of this Moleben-Prayer Service, Holy Anointing will also be administered. This Mystery-Sacrament is celebrated for the healing of spiritual and bodily ills and is celebrated at St. Gregory's on regular bases for everyone in good ecclesiastical standing.

Haven't Seen Someone in a While?

Visit them or give them a call or an email. It is nice to hear from a friend from Church. Let them know that you miss seeing them and hope that everything is okay.

Wednesday: Single Seniors Luncheon

The Single Senior's Luncheon for September is scheduled at 11:30 am on Wednesday, September 20th, at All American Bistro (Pinebridge Commons, 1580 McLaughlin Run Rd, Upper St Clair). Please make your reservation by calling Lois Griffith at 412- 854-0853.

Our Single Seniors Ministry of St. Gregory's is for men and women who have never married or have lost a spouse through death, divorce, or separation. As a group it is our goal to provide spiritual, emotional, and mental support for one another. Please come and join us for this luncheon.

Thursday: Sixth Hour and Soup

On Thursday, September 21st, at 12:00 noon we will have the Prayer of the Sixth Hour followed by soup and bread in the Church Hall. If you are at home, come and join us for this time of prayer and fellowship.

E-mail the Bulletin

We will be happy to email our parish bulletin to you each week. Just send an email request to: stgregoryusc@aol.com, and you will be added to our electronic mailing list.



Collection- May God bless you...

The total for Sunday, September 10th, 2023, was \$5,597.64 (Envelopes: \$2,346.00; Online: \$334.64; Loose: \$20.00; Candles: \$67.00; Debt: \$100.00; ECF: \$130.00; Iconography: \$1,000.00; \$1,000.00; \$500.00; \$100.00).

The QR code will take you to our donation portal. Your engagement, support and prayers are very much appreciated.

Dance Classes at St. Gregory's

Join us Friday nights beginning on September 29th from 7:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. for Date Night Dance Classes in preparation for our Harvest Dinner Dance in November. We will learn beginner slow dance, hustle, and tango. No experience necessary.

Our instructors: Our parishioners Jonathan and Stratton DeWitt!

A \$10 donation per person is requested. Registration required by September 24th. Sign-up sheets are in the church vestibule.

St. Gregory's Library Ministry Book Club

We invite you to join us on Tuesday evening, September 26th at 6:30 p.m. as we discuss the book CHRIST THE LORD: THE ROAD TO CANA by Anne Rice.

This second novel about the life of Jesus takes place in his adulthood, which Anne Rice treats with awe and respect while delving into his humanity. It also presents the bigger biblical picture of ongoing tensions between the Jewish community and all-powerful Rome. Then we are taken on the road to Cana!

Books are available in the back of the church.

St. Gregory's Prayer List

Kindly remember in your prayers our parishioners and friends who struggle with sickness, pain, hardship, or any special need: Maureen Cerny, Theresa Lokes, Rita Smochko, Michael Sirochman, and Agnes Yanchak.

If you would like to add your name or the name of a loved one to this list, please contact the parish office via phone or email. In the Church vestibule, you are invited to add the names of the sick and any other intentions you would like to be remembered in our Prayer Intention book.

The Three Crosses

If you were to look at Rembrandt's painting of The Three Crosses, your attention would be drawn first to the center Cross on which Jesus died. Then as you would look at the crowd gathered around the foot of that Cross, you'd be impressed by the various facial expressions and actions of the people involved in the awful act of crucifying the Son of God. Finally, your eyes would drift to the edge of the painting and catch sight of another figure, almost hidden in the shadows. Art critics say this is a representation of Rembrandt himself, for he recognized that by his sins he helped nail Jesus to the Cross.

