



ST. GREGORY'S DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Friday, September 13

Pre Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

7:00 P.M. Vespertal Divine Liturgy

Saturday, September 14

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

5:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 15

Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross

9:10 A.M. Third Hour

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

The Epistle Reading will be Galatians 2:16-20 and the Gospel Mark 8:34-9:1. Supplications will be offered for +Barbara Margaret D'Alessandro, 40th Day Commemoration. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy we will have the blessing of all our ECF Students and Catechists for the beginning of the new school year.

Venerable father John of Damascus on the Nativity of the Theotokos

The day of the Nativity of the Theotokos is the feast of joy for the whole world, because through the Theotokos the entire human race was renewed, and the grief of the first mother Eve was changed into joy. For whereas the latter heard the divine statement, "In pain you shall bring forth children" [Gen. 3:16] the former heard, "Rejoice favored one!" [Luke 1:28]. The latter heard, "Your recourse shall be towards your husband!" and the former, "The Lord is with you!"

The holy parents of the Mother of God received from heaven a gift worthy of God; a throne higher than the very cherubim [Is. 6:1; Ez. 1:4] -- she who in childbirth would bear the Word of the Creator.

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE THEOTOKOS

A B O V D C R H T E R A Z A N P T
L W T E B O E Q K Z X C N A N N A
J P D M V T Q L K A U Z C F N M H
J R J H N Z U I E G T M D Q A P V
L Z D P R A Y E R B C T J R N U X
J S R D N J W L G K R W K L G P S
O G D F Z A U H V E N A B E E Z O
A Z O A S J T L B K W T T H L S K
C R H I J M M I O F G X V E H V O
H C B T W E R P V H E V O L K E T
I W I H S T S I I I Q W B C D T O
M F N M H V A U B H T E A J L Q E
P Y U P H E Y Q S M S Y J U Z L H
B V Q Y T F T R T B R R F B P I T
A N Z P X M N T A D Z B O V J C I
Q R V S Y L H H L M Q D L W H A S
S M O E N V M O C V Y C H U R C H

CELEBRATE
NATIVITY
PRAYER
BIRTH
LOVE

THEOTOKOS
WORSHIP
CHURCH
JESUS
ANNA

NAZARETH
JOACHIM
FAITH
ANGEL
MARY



***Next Sunday, September 15:
National Back to Church Sunday 2024***

Back to Church Sunday began in 2009 in response to a survey research that indicated 82% of people said they would attend church if someone they knew invited them, but only 2% of church members were inviting people to come with them to their church.

With the Anniversary of the Consecration of St. Gregory's, our Parish Picnic, and the Opening of the School Year, this is a perfect opportunity for all of us to participate in the National Back to Church Sunday.

Your Mission: Bring friends, neighbors, & family with you! In John 1: 46, the apostle Philip invited Nathanael to "Come and see" Jesus. For National Back to Church Sunday, YOU invite a loved one/friend to Come, See and Experience the life of the Church with us!



***Prayerful petitions for the
Anniversary of the 9/11 Attacks***

Again we pray to you, O Lord, for those who lost their lives in the unjust attacks of September 11th. Grant their souls peace and forgiveness of sins and offenses and grant consolation to their bereaved families. Hear O Lord, and have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Again we pray to you O Lord, look with merciful eyes upon your unworthy servants. Preserve our land from further attacks of hateful enemies, crush the power of evil, but comfort our hearts, increase the power of love, and grant us wisdom and understanding. Hear O Lord, and have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

The cross: God's way of uniting suffering with love.

- Georgia Harkness

Prayer for Grandparents

Loving God, you have given us the wondrous gift of grandmothers and grandfathers. Your gracious love is reflected in their love and care for us. We thank you, Lord, for the surprises grandmas bring, and for the mending they do. We thank you, Lord, for the toys that grandpas fix and the stories they read to us. We thank you, Lord, for the ways that our grandparents spoil us, for the celebrations they never forget, and for all the cuddles they give. We thank you for giving us grandparents to share their wisdom, to listen to us, to be there loving us. We thank you, Lord. Amen.



Announcements

Today: Honoring Grandparents

On this Saturday and Sunday, we honor in our parish family all our Grandparents. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy a special blessing of grandparents will take place. Following the Sunday Divine Liturgy, we will continue with our celebration in our Church Hall with refreshments and fellowship.

Men's Club Meeting

Following the Sunday Divine Liturgy, a very important Men's Club meeting will take place in the parish library. We invite all St. Gregory's men who are interested in being part of this organization that promotes camaraderie and sponsors parish events and projects. During this meeting we will plan our upcoming parish picnic, different events, and future projects.

Tuesday: St. Gregory's Book Club

On Tuesday evening, September 10th, at 6:30 p.m. St. Gregory's Book Club will be taking place in our parish library. Please join us as we discuss #1 New York Times Bestseller, Educated, a memoir by author Tara Westover. We look forward to a lively discussion!

Thursday: Chant Group Rehearsal

According to St. Augustine: "He Who Sings, Prays Twice". On Thursday evening, September 12th, at 6:30 p.m. the Chant Group rehearsal will take place in the Church hall. Join us as we practice together our liturgical chant in preparation for Catechetical Sunday and our Parish Picnic.

Exaltation of the Cross

On Saturday, September 14th, we will celebrate the Universal Exaltation of the Holy Cross. To commemorate the discovery of the Holy Cross in the year 326, a Vespers Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Friday evening, September 13th at 7:00 p.m. Please remember that by tradition, **strict abstinence** is prescribed on this day.

Single Seniors Luncheon

The Single Senior's Luncheon for September is scheduled at 11:30 am on Wednesday, September 18th, at Al's Cafe (440 McMurray road, Bethel Park). Please make your reservation by calling Pat Weber at 412-835-4952. 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.

Men's Club Gathering

The September Men's Club Gathering will take place on Saturday, September 21st. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. The morning will consist of an hour of prayer, scripture, guided discussion, as we explore the truth of our Byzantine Catholic Faith. Join us for these monthly gatherings which are open to men of all ages who desire to grow closer to God. No registration or long-term commitment is needed, and you are welcome to join us as frequently as you are able.

Women of Faith Ministry Meeting

Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 22nd, the Women of Faith will meet in the parish library at 11:00 a.m. The agenda will include a report from the very successful recent Flea Market, the initial planning for the upcoming Taste of Heaven cookie sale on Saturday, December 7th and plans for the remainder of 2024. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please forward suggestions for additional agenda items to Susan Ruglovsky at srflynn@comcast.net, or call/text 412-720-3542.



Collection- May God bless you...

The total for Sunday, September 1st, 2024, was \$5,048.34 (Envelopes: \$3,100.00; Online: \$610.34; Loose: \$225.00; Candles: \$72.00; Debt: \$470.00; Children: \$1.00; ECF: \$260.00; Other: \$50.00; Golf Outing: \$220.00; Flowers in honor of Dylan & Ellie & Lincoln Jacob: \$40.00).

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

Announcing St. Gregory's Parish Picnic 2024



Our St. Gregory's Parish Picnic will take place next Sunday, September 15th following the Divine Liturgy. The picnic will be held in our Church hall and on the parish grounds. As part of this event, we will also have games, music, and the PETTING ZOO is coming back!

Our St. Gregory's Men's Club will be providing charcoal grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, buns and rolls, and condiments.

Sign-up sheets for this fun event are available in the Church vestibule.

We are asking parishioners whose last names begin with letters A-M to provide desserts and with letters N-Z to provide appetizers/side dishes.

PLEASE BE SPECIFIC SPECIFYING WHAT YOU PLAN TO BRING WHEN YOU SIGN UP to attend. This way we can avoid having too much of any one item. For example, indicate chocolate chip cookies, not just cookies. Or potato salad not just salad. Plan on your contribution feeding 8 to 10 people.

Good dessert ideas include cookies, fruit cobbler, fruit salad or trays, brownies. Good appetizer/side dish ideas include coleslaw, potato salad, pasta salad, baked beans, chips, veggie tray, seven-layer dip and chips, cheese tray.

If you need an idea, please see/contact our parishioner, Tom Prokop.

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, Nancy Romza, Joan Sakmar, 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.