



ST. GREGORY'S DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Thursday, January 30 *Three Holy Hierarchs*

11:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Saturday, February 1 *Prefeast of the Encounter of Our Lord*

5:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday, February 2 **Sunday of Zacchaeus
Encounter of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

9:10 A.M. Third Hour

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

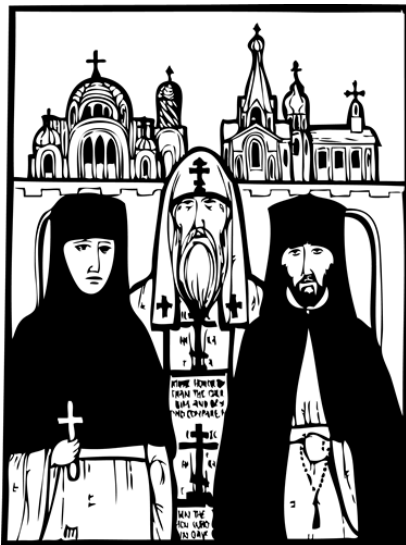
The Epistle Reading will be Hebrews 7:7-17 and the Gospel reading will be Luke 19: 1-10. Supplications will be offered for +Donna J. Chekan, 40th Day Commemoration. Following the Divine Liturgy, please join us in the Church hall for a potluck luncheon as we celebrate our parish feast day.

St. Theophylact on the Persistent Prayer of the Canaanite Woman

Somehow, this woman from an ungodly region heard of Christ and beseeches him on behalf of her daughter. Why this woman's daughter was demon possessed, we are not told. But her opening words are, "Have mercy on me..." The Lord's initial reaction to her plea: silence. It reminds me of the many times I have petitioned God for something in prayer and felt no answer, even though what I ask for seems to be good.

When petitioning God for what we know is good - our spiritual healing and salvation - we must persevere. Some of the saints would petition God only to have mercy on them. They would then leave it up to God to decide how to fulfill that request. It may seem like God is silent as we continually struggle with sin, but coming before him with constant intercession is part of the healing process.

E	P	E	H	S	P	A	R	C	S	GENNESARET	CANAANITE
T	E	R	A	S	E	N	N	E	G	TYRE	DEVIL
I	O	L	L	E	W	I	S	R	O	DAUGHTER	LOST
N	S	R	D	O	O	F	A	H	D	SHEEP	WOMAN
A	T	R	M	P	E	N	O	D	E	SCRAPS	HOUSEDOGS
A	I	A	A	E	T	S	O	L	S	TABLE	WELL
N	N	T	L	E	N	Y	F	I	U		
A	A	B	D	H	L	T	R	V	O		
C	A	L	H	S	I	W	E	E	H		
T	R	E	T	H	G	U	A	D	S		



*Venerable father Xenophon and
Venerable mother Maria
January 26*

Saint Xenophon, his wife Maria, and their sons Arcadius and John, were noted citizens of Constantinople and lived in the fifth century. Despite their riches and position, they distinguished themselves by their simplicity of soul and goodness of heart. Wishing to give their sons John and Arcadius a more complete education, they sent them off to the Phoenician city of Beirut.

By divine Providence the ship on which both brothers sailed was wrecked. The waves tossed the brothers ashore at different places. Grieved at being separated, the brothers dedicated themselves to God and became monks. For a long time the parents had no news of their children and presumed them to be dead.

Xenophon, however, already quite old, maintained a firm hope in the Lord and consoled his wife Maria, telling her not to be sad, but to believe that the Lord watched over their children. After several years the couple made a pilgrimage to the holy places, and at Jerusalem they met their sons, living in asceticism at different monasteries. The joyful parents gave thanks to the Lord for reuniting the family.

The parents Xenophon and Maria went to separate monasteries and dedicated themselves to God. The monks Arcadius and John, having taken leave of their parents, went out into the wilderness, where after long ascetic toil they were glorified by gifts of wonderworking and discernment. Our venerable father Xenophon and his wife Maria, laboring in silence and strict fasting, also received from God the gift of wonderworking.

15th COMEDY NIGHT AT ST. GREGORY'S: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28TH

The 15th annual Comedy Night will take place on Friday February 28th. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30.00 each and include soft drinks, beer, and pizza at intermission. BYOB and snacks. Table reservations are being taken by contacting Mike Kiss in person or by phone at 412-818-1295 or email at MKISS@CALLEQUITY.NET. Tickets are available following the Divine Services.

Announcements

Today: Honoring our Patron Saint

This weekend in our parish family is special as we celebrate our patron saint Gregory of Nazianzus. Following the Sunday Divine Liturgy, please join us in the Church Hall for a festive potluck luncheon as we honor our patron saint.

Tuesday: St. Gregory's Book Club

The upcoming St. Gregory's Book Club will be based on the book *The Heiress of Pittsburgh* by local author and President of Duquesne University, Ken Gormley. The Heiress of Pittsburgh is a twisty, fulfilling legal thriller in which the city of Pittsburgh takes center stage alongside a cast of memorable characters. Please join us on Tuesday evening, January 28th at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall for our book discussion.

Thursday: Three Hierarchs

At the end of the month of January we honor the Three Holy Hierarchs: Basil the Great, John Chrysostom and Gregory the Theologian. To celebrate the memory of these three holy bishops Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Thursday, January 30th, at 11:00 a.m. During these winter months in case of inclement weather, please contact the parish office first to see if the Divine Services are being celebrated or have been cancelled.

Next Sunday: Encounter of Our Lord

Next Saturday & Sunday, February 1-2, we will celebrate the Feast of the Encounter-Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As part of this celebration, we will have the Blessing of Candles. If you wish to have your candles blessed, please place them on the Tetrapod in the center of our Church. Remember to come and to celebrate this Feast Day that has been celebrated in the Eastern Church since the fourth century.

Super Bowl LIX Pool Fundraiser

We continue running a Super Bowl pool again this year with prize giveaways at the end of the first quarter (\$100), half-time (\$100), third quarter (\$100) and final score (\$200). To purchase a "square" on the Super Bowl Pool, please see our parishioner Greg Uhrlen in the Church narthex following the Divine Liturgy, or email Greg at saintgregorysb@gmail.com. You can also make your payment on our St. Gregory's our electronic giving app Tithe.ly. A square may be purchased for \$10. (Please supply your full name and email address or phone number if you do not have email) Final square purchases must be made by Sunday, February 2nd at 12:00 noon (the week before Superbowl Sunday).

PAC & PFC Meeting

On Tuesday, February 4th, a joint meeting of the Parish Advisory Council and Parish Financial Council will take place in the Church hall at 6:30 p.m. This meeting is open to all the parishioners. For those who may have parish related questions or concerns, our Parish Financial Council and Parish Advisory Council members are available to help clarify matters for you and ensure your input is heard. We also are open to comments and suggestions and extend a warm invitation to everyone who may wish to attend our meetings.

St. Valentine Party

Mark your calendars as we prepare to have a St. Valentine Party on Sunday, February 9th. This fun event will take place following the Sunday Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall. We will have refreshments, and you will get to enjoy making Valentine crafts, Valentine jewelry, Valentine cards, and more. Plan to be here!

Men's Club Meeting

The St. Gregory's Men's Club will meet on Sunday, February 16th after the 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy. All members or faithful who wish to become members are asked to attend this meeting to discuss and review this past year and map out the New Year ahead.

Last Call: Statement of Contribution

Those parishioners who would like to receive a statement of contribution for the year 2024 for tax purposes, please contact the parish office.



Collection- May God bless you...

The total for Sunday, January 19th, 2025, was \$3,461.95 (Envelopes: \$2,161.00; Online: \$673.28; Loose: \$60.00; Children: \$6.00; Candle: \$43.00; Initial: \$28.00; Comedy Night: \$450.00; Superbowl: \$40.67).

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

St. Gregory's Prayer List

Kindly remember in your prayers our parishioners and friends who struggle with sickness, pain, hardship, or any special need: Charles & Maureen Cerny, Theresa Lokes, Nancy Romza, Andy & 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.

Sunday of the Canaanite Woman

In today's Gospel reading, we find a woman in great need: her daughter is horribly demon-possessed. In such situations, when you experience pain, you do things that you wouldn't do under other circumstances. Just so, this Canaanite woman runs with determination to receive that which she seeks. First, her great faith and second, the depth of her humility, give her complete conviction that she will receive that which she desires. And her entire conversation with Christ develops gradually, in a remarkable way.



1. She seeks, although it looks as though God does not hear. In reality, ALL holy souls come across these difficult moments in life. St. Silvanus the Athonite reached the point of saying: "Lord, you are implacable."

2. Christ says something, but in a way that prohibits any such help: "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Everyone who wants to find God will feel that he is rejected by Him.) Humility makes the woman insist: "Lord, help me". The Canaanite woman is not affected; she does not take offence. In this way, humility holds the door of God's mercy open.

3. With Christ's final response: "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs", one would expect the woman to get up and leave. Her faith, however, informs her and she humbly responds: "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." (When you are humble, you know what to say to the Lord.) Following the whole of this trial the Canaanite woman is made worthy to hear from the Lord: "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." He does not simply say: "Your faith has saved you ..."

And what about us? I wonder, will we go down, one step at a time, just as the Canaanite woman did? Will we accept whatever the Lord permits so that we stay faithful until we receive our desired end, our salvation?

- Archimandrite Symeon Kragiopoulos