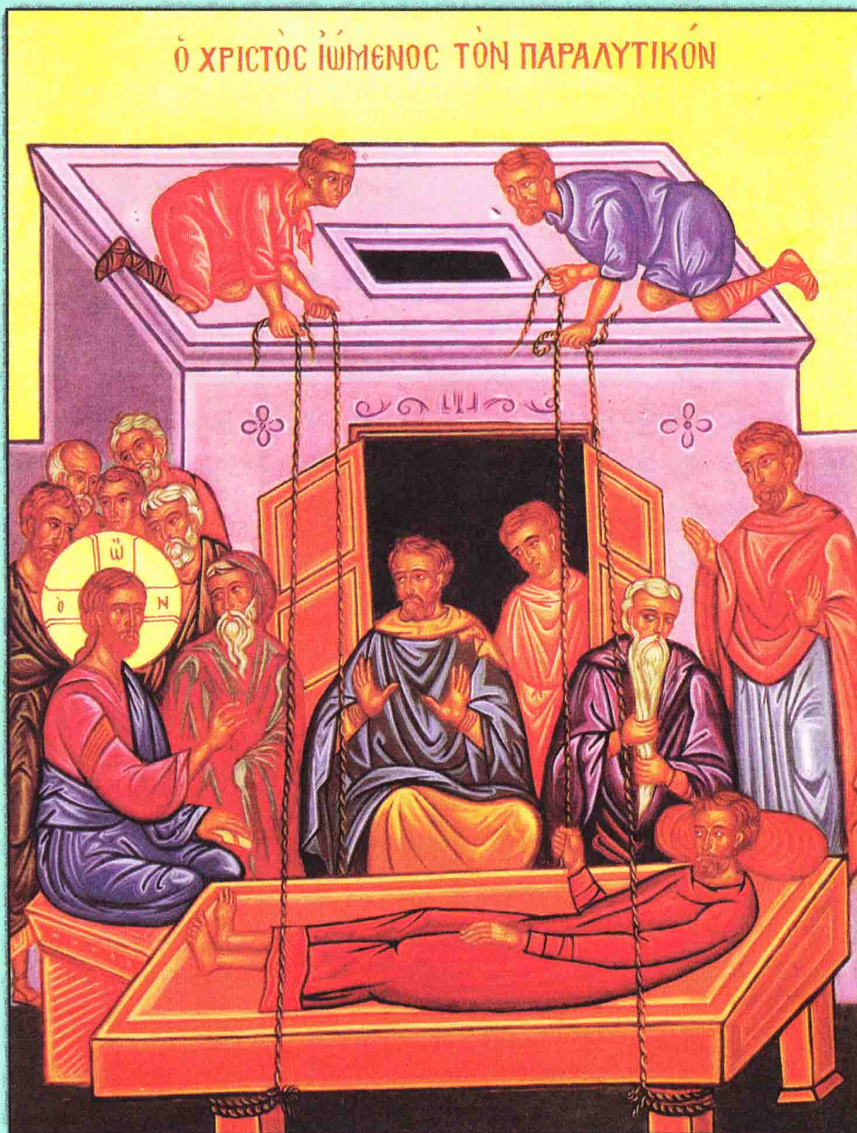


SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS



Icon of Healing the Paralytic

March 20, 2011

Second Sunday of the Great Fast – Sunday of Gregory Palamas

Tone 2

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 21 – MARCH 27

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

6:30 PM LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS (LENTEN MEAL AND DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW)

FRIDAY, MARCH 25 – ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS (HOLY DAY)

9:30 AM – DIVINE LITURGY

7:00 PM – LENTEN RETREAT PREACHED BY FR. NICHOLAS

SATURDAY, MARCH 26 – SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL

9:30 DIVINE LITURGY AND PANAKHYDA WITH RETREAT TO FOLLOW

6:00 PM GREAT VESPERS WITH LYTIA

SUNDAY, MARCH 27 – FEAST OF THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL

FOR ALL PARISHIONERS

Please Note Schedule Change

The Lenten meal and reflection will be now be on Wednesday evenings following the Presanctified Liturgy. We need volunteers to prepare the soup for the dates of 4/6 and 4/13. Please talk to Olena Bankston to volunteer. ***On Fridays, Presanctified Liturgy is being moved to 9:30 AM followed by a light Lenten lunch and reflection. There will be no service Friday Evenings.***

Shevchenko Commemoration

Mark the date: The local Shevchenko commemoration will take place on Sunday, April 3rd at 4:00PM in our church hall.

Get Involved!

On March 27th – Lenten pot-luck and presentation by Fr. Simeon Corona. He will speak about outreach to the poor through “God’s Extended Hands.” He will describe his parish’s involvement in this local ministry and talk about opportunities for our participation.

Cards for sale

Easter Cards, and various other greeting cards are available for sale in the church hall following each Divine Liturgy. See Mary Kitt to purchase.

Lenten Retreat!

Fr. Nicholas Zachariadis, Hegumen of Holy Resurrection Monastery will be at our parish this coming Friday and Saturday, March 25th and 26th to lead a Lenten retreat. The first session will be Friday, March 25th at 7:00 PM. On Saturday, there is Divine Liturgy and Panakhyda followed by the second session. Even though this is short notice, please make an effort to attend.

Annunciation – Friday, March 25th

On this day, we celebrate the visit to the Virgin Mary by the Archangel Gabriel, who announced to her the good news that, if she so willed, God Himself would take up His abode within her womb. Annunciation is one of the Twelve Great Feasts, for which we seek to be present at the services. If you are following the traditional fast, in celebration of this great event, we are permitted to eat fish.

O God, help us to have a Christ-like spirit and breadth of love, so that we may help to widen the doors of Your Church. Help us to work with others in Your love, as one family, as one body, so that we may grow in the spirit of fellowship, as Your children. Amen.



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.

When through self-control we have purified our body, and when through divine love we have fixed our desire on virtue, and when we offer to God our intellect cleansed by prayer, then we will possess and see within ourselves the grace promised to the pure in heart.

St. Gregory Palamas (+1359)

ON THE MYSTERY OF CONFESSION

By Saint John of Kronstadt

The person who is accustomed to give account of his life at Confession will not fear to give an answer at the terrible Judgment Seat of Christ. For this purpose was the mild tribunal of penitence instituted, that we may give an answer without shame, having been cleansed and healed through repentance here below.

The more sincerely we confess our sins, the more calm will the soul be afterwards. For sins are secret serpents, gnawing at the heart of a man, and never letting him rest; they are prickly thorns, constantly piercing the soul, they are spiritual darkness.

Bear the sufferings of the operation so that you may be restored to health – I speak of Confession. I mean that at Confession, you must declare all your shameful deeds to your confessor, without concealment, though it may well be painful, shameful, ignominious, and humiliating. Otherwise, the wound will remain unhealed, will continue to pain you, will undermine your spiritual health, and will become a cause for other spiritual weaknesses, or sinful habits or vices.

As soon as you have told the Lord your sins, with a contrite heart, they melt away; as soon as you have sighed and sorrowed for them, they are no more.

Confession can be heard following any service or by appointment. Please speak with Fr. James if you have any questions or if you would like to schedule an appointment.

Flower Collection

Special envelopes are available in the back of the church do help with the purchase of flowers for the Feast of Pascha.



**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква
Святого Йоана Хрестителя
St. John the Baptizer
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

Святкуємо 50-років!

Celebrating 50 Years!

4400 Palm Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91941
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

Website: stjohnthebaptizer.org

Pastor: Fr. James Bankston

Парох: о. Яків Бенкстон

frjames@mac.com

Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

You are Forgiven and Healed

In Capernaum Jesus is surrounded by great numbers of people. As He preaches to the crowd, four friends of a paralyzed man lower him on his mat through the roof so that he can be close enough for Jesus to see him and cure him. Jesus responds to this act of faith, not by healing the man immediately, but by touching off the first of a series of controversial dialogues with the Scribes and Pharisees. When Jesus says, "Child, your sins are forgiven," He is as much as saying, "It is God whom you approach." In the Old Testament, only God is capable of forgiving sins; and it was expected that He would do so only at the end of time. It becomes clear why the Scribes murmur "he is blaspheming" and why Jesus brings it all out in the open. His claim to be able to forgive sins better reveals His identity as Son of God than do the miracles He performs.

Aware of the silent censure His forgiving word has caused in the crowd, Jesus proceeds to prove that "the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" by commanding the man to rise and walk in the sight of everyone. In concluding this miracle, Mark asks his readers to praise God for His presence in their midst as the forgiver-healer, just as the crowd did, even in the face of those who did not believe.

It is significant that Mark has chosen to present this miracle and teaching about Jesus' power to forgive sins so early in his Gospel drama. It shows that the need for the experience of God's forgiveness was as important to first-century Christians as it is today. Mark's readers praise God for saying clearly, and even today, "My sons, my daughters, I absolve you from your sins."