

Saint Gregory of Nyssa

Saint Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, was a younger brother of Saint Basil the Great (January 1). His birth and upbringing came at a time when the Arian disputes were at their height. Having received an excellent education, he was at one time a teacher of rhetoric. In the year 372, he was consecrated by Saint Basil the Great as bishop of the city of Nyssa in Cappadocia.

Saint Gregory was an ardent advocate for Orthodoxy, and he fought against the Arian heresy with his brother Saint Basil. Gregory was persecuted by the Arians, by whom he was falsely accused of improper use of church property, and thereby deprived of his See and sent to Ancyra.

In the following year Saint Gregory was again deposed in absentia by a council of Arian bishops, but he continued to encourage his flock in Orthodoxy, wandering about from place to place. After the death of the emperor Valens (378), Saint Gregory was restored to his cathedra and was joyously received by his flock. His brother Saint Basil the Great died in 379.

Only with difficulty did Saint Gregory survive the loss of his brother and guide. He delivered a funeral oration for him, and completed Saint Basil's study of the six days of Creation, the Hexaemeron. That same year Saint Gregory participated in the Council of Antioch against heretics who refused to recognize the perpetual virginity of the Mother of God. Others at the opposite extreme, who worshipped the Mother of God as being God Herself, were also denounced by the Council. He visited the churches of Arabia and Palestine, which were infected with the Arian heresy, to assert the Orthodox teaching about the Most Holy Theotokos. On his return journey Saint Gregory visited Jerusalem and the Holy Places.

In the year 381 Saint Gregory was one of the chief figures of the Second Ecumenical Council, convened at Constantinople against the heresy of Macedonius, who incorrectly taught about the Holy Spirit. At this Council, on the initiative of Saint Gregory, the Nicene Symbol of Faith (the Creed) was completed. Together with the other bishops Saint Gregory affirmed Saint Gregory the Theologian as Archpastor of Constantinople.

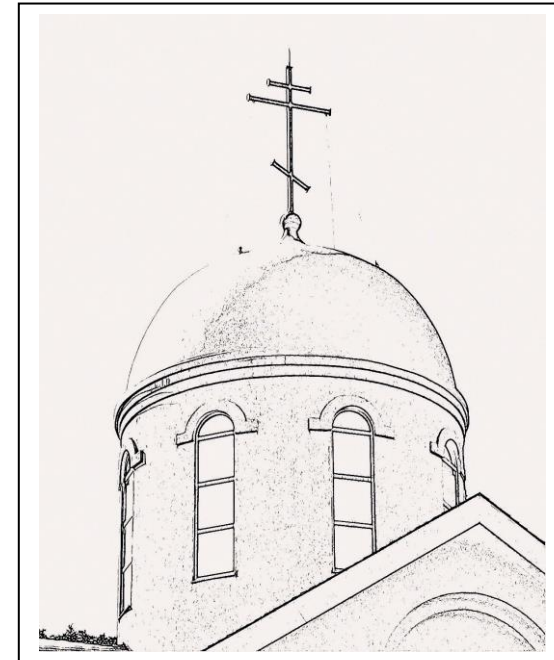
In the year 383, Saint Gregory of Nyssa participated in a Council at Constantinople, where he preached a sermon on the divinity of the Son and the Holy Spirit. In 386, he was again at Constantinople, and he was asked to speak the funeral oration in memory of the empress Placilla. Again in 394 Saint Gregory was present in Constantinople at a local Council, convened to resolve church matters in Arabia.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa was a fiery defender of Orthodox dogmas and a zealous teacher of his flock, a kind and compassionate father to his spiritual children, and their intercessor before the courts. He was distinguished by his magnanimity, patience and love of peace.

Having reached old age, Saint Gregory of Nyssa died soon after the Council of Constantinople. Together with his great contemporaries, Saints Basil the Great and Gregory the Theologian, Saint Gregory of Nyssa had a significant influence on the Church life of his time. His sister, Saint Macrina, wrote to him: "You are renowned both in the cities, and gatherings of people, and throughout entire districts. Churches ask you for help." Saint Gregory is known in history as one of the most profound Christian thinkers of the fourth century. Endowed with philosophical talent, he saw philosophy as a means for a deeper penetration into the authentic meaning of divine revelation.

Saint Gregory has been called "the Father of Fathers."

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Rev. Fr. Alexander Smida, *Attached Priest*

Rev. Fr. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Tara Paxton, *Senior Warden*

Reader Matthew Hascha, *Choir Director*

January 10, 2021

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Afterfeast of the Theophany

Tone 6. Sunday after Theophany. St. Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa (4th c.). St. Dometian, Bishop of Melitene (601). St. Marcian, Presbyter, of Constantinople (5th c.). Ven. Paul, Abbot of Obnora (Vologdá—1429). Ven. Macarius, Abbot, of Pisma (14th c.). Bl. Theosebia the Deaconess, sister of Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa (385). Ven. Antipas the Athonite (1882). St. Theophan the Recluse, Bishop of Tambov (1894).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today @ 9am Divine Liturgy

Saturday @ 6pm Great Vespers

Sunday @ 9am Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: Colossians 1:12-18 and Hebrews 13:17-21

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27 and Luke 6:17-23



*Theophany of our
Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ*

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news and directives by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.orthodoxbrick.org.

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, June Farkouh, Rdr. John Economou, Margaret Makara, Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Dorothy Studier, Helen Ciurczak, and Pauline Barnowsky.**

The Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program is an essential vehicle for funding the activities and programs of our diocese. Please consider participating in the program. Brochures are located by the bulletin board in the parish hall or at the diocesan website at www.nynjoca.org.

Annunciations

TODAY – We are continuing a modified and controlled **Coffee Hour** ministry. The Parish Hall is set up to accommodate social distancing. Masks are required when traveling around the hall, but not when sitting and partaking of the refreshments. The hall will be sanitized after the Coffee Hour.

TODAY – There is NO Church School. The **younger members of the parish** will meet next Sunday for their session.

THURSDAY – The **Parish Council** will hold its meeting at 7pm.

THIS SATURDAY – **Tom and Chelsey Sietsema** will be received into the Orthodox Church. Glory to God for all things!

NEXT SUNDAY – **Group 2** is invited to attend Divine Liturgy.

SUNDAY, January 31 – The **Parish Annual Meeting** will be held. Details of the meeting format along with meeting reports will be distributed shortly.

Giving Statements have been sent out via email to all who made donations to the parish last year. Statements will be sent via mail to those who don't have access to email. Please contact Father Gary if you did not receive your statement.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Archbishop Michael has directed that **houseblessings** throughout the Diocese are to be postponed until sometime after Pascha.

Holy water was blessed on the Feast of Theophany. People may bring their own containers to be filled. Also, **bottles of holy water** are available in the church narthex or by request; please take no more than one per family.

Parish wall calendars for 2021 are available for pick-up in the church narthex. If you've been unable to attend church services and would like a calendar, please contact Father Gary. Thanks again to our sponsor, O'Brien Funeral Home.

Grocery Gift Cards are available for purchase. Please contact Matushka Mary by email (matmaryb@gmail.com) or by phone at (848) 333-7075 to make arrangements.

Stewardship Donations may be brought to the church or mailed to the church address: 360 Van Zile Road, Brick, NJ 08724. On-line donations are possible by visiting our website for a link. Many thanks for continuing to support your parish in these challenging times.

**Please pray for vocations to
the Holy Priesthood!**