

St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church

Weekly Bulletin

Week of Jan 10, 2015

32nd Sunday after Pentecost

Afterfeast of the Theophany

St Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa

St Dometian, Bishop of Melitene

Tone 7

Readings

Ephesians 4:7-13

Matthew 4:12-17

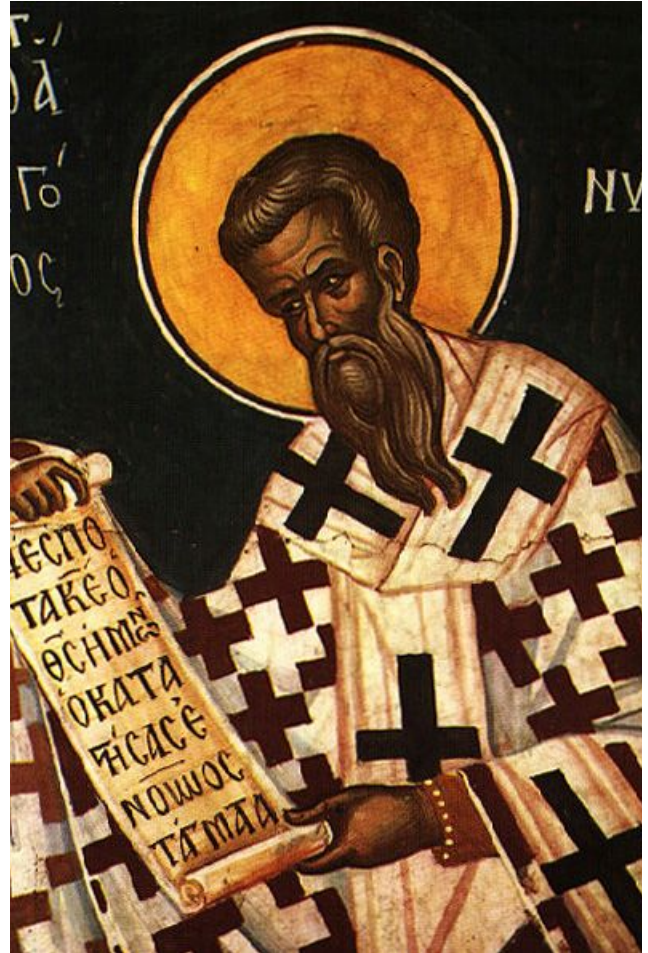
Troparion (Tone 4)

O God of our Fathers,
always act with kindness towards us;
take not Your mercy from us,
but guide our lives in peace
through the prayers of the hierarchs Gregory
and Dometian!

Kontakion (Tone 1)

You kept watch with the eyes of your soul, holy
bishop, revealing yourself as a watchful pastor
for the world. With the staff of your wisdom and
your fervent intercession, you drove away all
heretics like wolves.

You preserved your flock free from harm, most
wise Gregory.



Liturgical Service

A reminder to those who have liturgical responsibilities this weekend. Thank you for your service!

Panikhida and Great Vespers (1/9)

Reader: Pelinsky

Divine Liturgy (1/10)

Reader: Cantrell

Prospora: Helen Facchini

Weekly Calendar							
9	10	11	12	13 fast	14	15 fast	16
6 PM Great Vespers	9:30 AM Divine Liturgy 2 PM Outdoor Great Blessing of Water w/ St George's @ Falls Park			6 PM Daily Vespers 7 PM Catechumen Class	7 PM Ladies' Bible Study		6 PM Great Vespers
Birthdays and Anniversaries							
		Galina Chekanova		Jennifer Wykes	Nicholas Hesketh, Gary Prestash	Van Hale	

Please Keep in Your Prayers

Newly Departed: Maria, Peter, Warren
Sick and Suffering: Elizaveta, Wanda, Dan
Dying: Margaret
Recovering from Surgery: Abp Nikon
Suffering from Cancer: Vladimir, Alex, Rich, Bill, Natalya, Mitch, Susan, Douglas, Tara, Jay, Joyce, Debbie, Anne, Reg, Larry
Others: Joshua (deployed), Zachary, Priest Peter, Pr Kyriake & family, Michael, Natalia, Cecil, Ann

Newly Born: Alexis & the newborn Landon, Kim & the newborn Hudson Elijah
Expecting: Amanda, Kathy, Rebecca, Erin, Nichole, Melissa, Meredith, Melody, Kara
Catechumens: Jack, Darlene, Samantha
Missionaries: Floyd and Ancutsa Frantz (Romania), Fr Daniel Byantoro (Indonesia), Peter & Sharon Georges (Uganda)

For all those suffering in the world in Ukraine, Syria, Iraq and throughout the Middle East.

Report on IOCC Relief Kits

St. John of the Ladder faithful collected enough materials to put together 80 health relief kits and 10 infant care kits. Many thanks to all who contributed their financial aid and to those who helped assemble them and ship them off for distribution. May God reward you all!

--Fr. David



Ladies' Bible Study

The next ladies' Bible study will meet on Jan. 14 at the Wooten home. We are reading Fr David Smith's book, Mary, Worthy of All Praise. Children are welcome. Please contact Matushka Natalia Wooten with any questions.

House Blessings

The custom of blessing homes during the Theophany season is of special beauty and significance. It is not simply a sentimental tradition without meaning, nor is it a custom whose meaning we have forgotten, like an old friend whose face we remember, but whose impact on our life has been forgotten. When an Orthodox Christian believer moves into a new home, he dedicates his new home as the abode of a follower of Christ. He asks that God, the source of all goodness and the Giver of every perfect gift, to bless his house and all that is within it; he recalls that Jesus Christ, His Son, came to bring Salvation to all, even as He brought Salvation to the house of Zacchaeus; he prays that the Holy Spirit may abide in it, guiding those who dwell in it on the paths of righteousness.

On the Feast of Theophany we rededicate our homes for this original purpose, just as we must periodically rededicate our life to Christ. We do it especially on this Feast because this is the day on which we remember in the Church Year the coming of Christ who began His Ministry when He descended into Jordan to be baptized by St John the Forerunner and Baptizer. He enters again into our lives reminding us that we must "repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." An Orthodox Christian must dedicate not only himself and his house to the Lord, but his daily work and all his efforts as well. All things are to be done to the glory of God. That is why in the Orthodox Church, not only religious objects, such as icons, crosses, churches and vestments, are blessed, but also homes, fields, animals and all objects which are used in our daily life for the good of man. In this the Church expresses its faith that the Holy Spirit's sanctifying action extends over the whole Creation.

Contact Fr Marcus to schedule your house blessing. He will be available on Saturdays, Sundays, and by appointment for House Blessings from January 11th until February 21st. Fr David will also have some availability. As in years past, clusters of parishioners who live close to one another may schedule several house blessings for the same day.

The service of house blessings with some instructions on how to prepare can be found on the church website.

Upcoming Classes

Catechumen Classes: Wednesday @ 7 pm

January 13 Sickness, Dying, and Death (Fr David)

January 20 Fasting (Fr David)

January 27 An Approach to Great Lent

Adult Study: Hebrews Wednesday @ 7 pm

February 3

February 10

February 17

February 24

Catechumen Classes

March 2 Confession Wednesday @ 7 pm (Fr David)

March 19 Preparation for Eucharist (Saturday @ 4:30 pm)