

### oReadings for Next Sunday:

#### Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17, Romans 8:28-39

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28, Luke 21:8-19

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour. And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them. But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately." Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls.



# St. Gregory Palamas Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Diocese of New York  
and New Jersey  
Orthodox Church in America (OCA)

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19 Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
31<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Ven. Macarius of Egypt

5 Church St.  
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826



**Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17**  
**Gospel: Luke 18:35-43**

**Schedule of Services:**

**Sat. Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>** : Great Vespers at 5pm  
**Sun. Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>** : Divine Liturgy at 10am  
The Hours at 9:40am

**Next Week Coffee Hour Social** (Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>): The Sisterhood

**Announcements:**

**Thank you Jessica** for hosting coffee hour today!

**Great Vespers** will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month at 5pm.

**The Building Maintenance Fund/ Rectory donation program** sheet is still available downstairs to sign. Most of the year has been filled by donors. Thank you for your generosity.

**Annual Parish meeting on Jan. 26 (Snow Date).** The Annual Parish Meeting has been rescheduled for next Sunday. We have rescheduled due to the weather. Indeed, we would like all who consider St. Gregory's their spiritual home to attend. The sisterhood will still provide a luncheon. Thank you.

**Confessions after Vespers.** For those who would like to go to confession following Saturday Vespers may do so. We'll have a prayer of repentance followed by the prayer of absolution for those who wish to receive it.

**Food Pantry.** Please continue to bring food for the food pantry.

**Upcoming Events**

Jan. 26-Annual Parish Meeting

**Please remember in your prayers:**  
Living: Galina, Joseph, and Johnny

**A Word for the Day:**

Once when Abba Macarius was passing through Egypt with some brothers, he heard a young woman saying to her mother: "Mama, a rich man loves me, and I hate him while a poor man hates me, and I love him." Abba Macarius was amazed at hearing this. The brothers said to him: "Father, what is this saying that you were amazed at it?" The elder said to them: "Truly, our Lord is rich and he loves us—and we do not want to hear him. Our enemy, the devil, is poor and hates us—and we love his impurity."

***Sayings of the Desert Fathers, Macarius the Egyptian, saying 24.***

The Circumcision of Christ, one of the Major Feasts of the Church Year, is celebrated on January 1<sup>st</sup> on the new calendar and on the 14<sup>th</sup> on the old. Often, many Orthodox Christians miss out on this major feast, as it is often overshadowed by the Nativity/New Year season. Nevertheless, it is a major feast for a reason. Following are words from Fr. Thomas Hopko regarding the feast:

According to the Church's liturgy, the Lord underwent circumcision in order to fulfill the Law of Moses, which no one had been able to fulfill before. In performing "everything according to the Law" (Lk. 2:39), the Messiah finds it fitting "to fulfill all righteousness" (Mt. 3:15). In this sense he is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets; not only by doing what was written of him, but also by doing all things that everyone should do if they truly fulfilled the Word of God. In performing everything exactly according to the law, he shows that he has come to be a servant, and to identify himself completely with his sinful creatures. This is God's divine humility, his exceedingly great lovingkindness and condescension to us who are lost. For he not only is found "in the likeness of men," but he empties himself of his divine glory, and takes on the "form of a slave" (Phil. 2:7-8), he submits to the high priest's knife, enduring the sign of complete submission to God, the act which expresses the total helplessness and weakness of unholy creatures before their Holy Creator. Words cannot convey the condescension of the Lord in his willingness to be circumcised. It is an act of self-emptying humiliation which is wholly ineffable.

***Fr. Thomas Hopko, The Winter Pascha, pgs. 136-137***