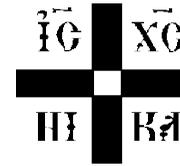


## Weekly Schedule

**Saturday** Great Vespers, 6:00p.m.  
Confessions following Great Vespers

**Sunday** Reading of Hours, 9:40 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.  
*Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy*

**Saint Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa**, was a younger brother of St 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 St Basil the Great as bishop of the city of Nyssa in Cappadocia. St Gregory was an ardent advocate for Orthodoxy, and he fought against the Arian heresy with his brother St 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 St 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), St Gregory was restored to his cathedra and was joyously received by his flock. His brother St Basil the Great died in 379. Only with difficulty did St Gregory survive the loss of his brother and guide. He delivered a funeral oration for him, and completed St Basil's study of the six days of Creation, the Hexaemeron. That same year St 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 St Gregory visited Jerusalem and the Holy Places. In the year 381 St 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 St Gregory, the Nicene Symbol of Faith (the Creed) was completed. Together with the other bishops St Gregory affirmed St Gregory the Theologian as Archpastor of Constantinople. In the year 383, St 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 St Gregory was present in Constantinople at a local Council, convened to resolve church matters in Arabia. St 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, St Gregory of Nyssa died soon after the Council of Constantinople. Together with his great contemporaries, Sts Basil the Great and Gregory the Theologian, St Gregory of Nyssa had a significant influence on the Church life of his time. His sister, St Macrina, wrote to him: "You are renowned both in the cities, and gatherings of people, and throughout entire districts. Churches ask you for help." St 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. St Gregory left behind many remarkable works of dogmatic character, as well as sermons and discourses. He has been called "the Father of Fathers."



## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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**Rev. Matthew Cantrell, Acting Rector**

**Rev. Sergius Willis, Associate Pastor**

Call to arrange sacraments, services, instruction, counseling, home visits, sick calls.

### **Troparion (Tone 6) (Resurrection)**

The angelic powers were at Your tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure body. You captured hell, not being tempted by it. You came to the Virgin, granting life.// O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

### **Troparion (Tone 4) (Saint)**

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 6) (Resurrection)**

When Christ God the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race.// He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

**January 10, 2010**

**31st Sunday after Pentecost**

**Tone 6**

**Sunday After the Theophany. Afterfeast of the Theophany.** St. Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa (4<sup>th</sup> c.).

### **Kontakion (Tone 1) (Saint)**

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.

### **Prayers for The Faithful and Departed**

Jim, Ronald, Albert, Margaret. **May God Grant Them Many Years!**

Anna, Helen, Maryann, Kimberly, John, Anna, Alex, Mary. **May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

***Glory to God For All Things!***

### Epistle Reading

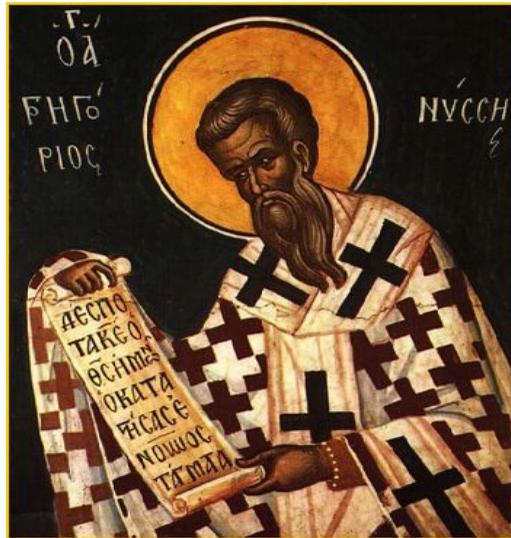
#### **Ephesians 4:7-13**

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended"-what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

### Gospel Reading

#### **Matthew 4:12-17**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."



### Welcome to our Visitors!

A warm welcome to all our visitors and guests who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us for our Fellowship Hour in the Church Hall . **Please note: Only those Orthodox Christians that have properly prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession of sins may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Food Collection

Please bring any food you would like to donate to church. We, as a church, will offer food to one of the local food banks.

#### Annual Parish Meeting

We will hold our annual parish meeting the last Sunday in January, the 31st. I encourage all parishioners to attend and to participate in this important meeting. The reports will be available the week beforehand.

#### Church Telephone Number

Our church's telephone number is 215-468-3535. If there is inclement weather, do please call the number and wait for the answering machine. If church is canceled, it will be announced here.

#### March for Life Bus

There is room on a bus travelling from northeast Pennsylvania to Washington, D.C. on January 22, which will make a stop in Harrisburg, for the March for Life. These free seats are limited. If you would like to reserve a spot to meet the bus in Harrisburg, please contact Fr. Matthew.