

## QUOTES FROM ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

Life of the soul is union with God, as life of the body is union with the soul. As the soul was separated from God and died in consequence of the violation of the commandment, so by obedience to the commandment it is again united to God and is quickened. This is why the Lord says in the Gospels, 'The words I speak to you are spirit and life' (Jn. 6:63).

The light of the Lord's transfiguration does not come into being or cease to be, nor is it circumscribed or perceptible to the senses, even though for a short time on the narrow mountain top it was seen by human eyes.

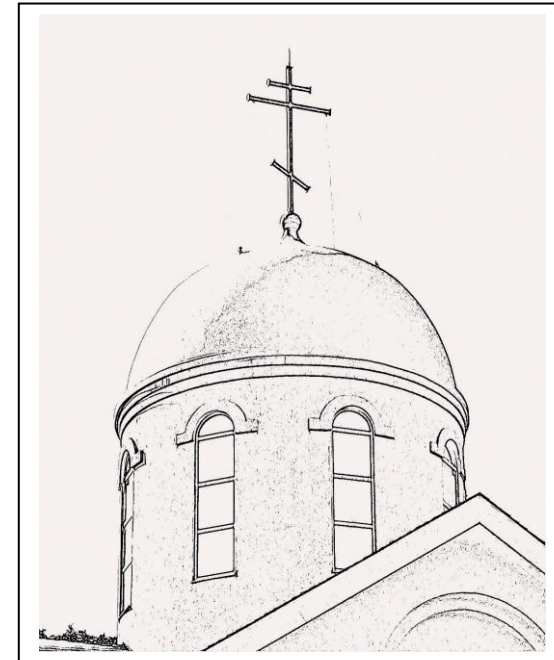
Given that we desire long life, should we not take eternal life into account? If we long for a kingdom which, however enduring, has an end, and glory and joy which, great as they are, will fade, and wealth that will perish with this present life, and we labour for the sake of such things; ought we not to seek the kingdom, glory, joy and riches which, as well as being all-surpassing, are unfading and endless, and ought we not to endure a little constraint in order to inherit it?

Being bodiless, God is nowhere, but as God He is everywhere. If there were a mountain, a place or any part of Creation where God was not, then He would be found to be in some way circumscribed. So He is everywhere and in everything. In what way is this so? Is He contained not by each part but by the whole? No, because then that would be a body. He embraces and encompasses everything, and is Himself everywhere and also above everything, worshipped by true worshippers in His Spirit and Truth.

...if anyone looks with faith at the mystical table and the Bread of Life placed on it, he sees the Person of the Word of God, Who was made flesh for our sake and dwelt among us (John 1:14). If he shows himself a worthy receptacle, he will not only see but become a partaker of Him, receive Him to dwell within him, and be filled with His divine grace.



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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Very Rev. Fr. Gary Joseph Breton, *Rector*

Very Rev. Fr. Paul Kucynda, *Retired Attached Priest*

Rev. Fr. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Christian Gamboa, *Choir Director*

March 16, 2025

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - St. Gregory Palamas

*Tone 5. Synaxis of the Venerable Fathers of the Kiev Caves Lavra. Martyr Sabinas of Egypt (287). Martyr Pappas of Lyconia (305-311). St. Serapion, Archbishop of Novgorod (1516). Apostle Aristobulus of the Seventy, Bishop of Britain (1st c.). Hieromartyr Alexander, Pope of Rome (119). Martyr Julian of Anazarbus (3rd c.). Hieromartyrs Trophimus and Thalus of Laodicea (ca. 300).*

### Today's Readings:

*Epistle:* Hebrews 1:10-2:3 and Hebrews 7:26-8:2

*Gospel:* Mark 2:1-12 and John 10:9-16

### Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Today – 5:00pm Deanery Mission Vespers in Wantage

Wednesday – 6:00pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday – 6:00pm Akathist

Saturday – 6:00pm Great Vespers

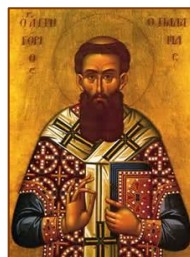
Sunday – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday – 5:00pm Deanery Mission Vespers in Trenton

### Next Sunday's Readings:

*Epistle:* Hebrews 4:14-5:6

*Gospel:* Mark 8:34-9:1



*St. Gregory  
Palamas*

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy. **The reception of the Holy Eucharist** is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is **offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.**

## Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are **Fr. Paul Kucynda, Brian Price, Victorianne Vessio, Mary Herelick, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Mary Tczap, George Stavrou, Margaret Makara, Dennis & Ann Marie Gahr, Michael Getmanov, Alan Diaz, Ellen Norman, Maryann Sivilic, Lia Eickhorn, Jack Rinderer, and Lori Ratushnuk.**

## Annunciations

**TODAY** – We welcome all our guests visiting us today. Please join us for the **COFFEE HOUR** in the Parish Hall after we venerate the Cross. **Team #4** is in charge of today's Coffee Hour.

**TODAY** The **Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers** will be served at Holy Spirit Church in Wantage at 5:00pm. All are invited to participate!

**THIS TUESDAY** – The **Parish Council** will meet in the Parish Hall at 7:00pm.

**THIS WEDNESDAY** - The **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** will be served at 6:00pm. An **agape pot-luck meal** will follow, to which everyone is invited to bring a Lenten dish.

We have begun the **Lenten discipline of fasting** from meat and dairy until the Great Feast of Holy Pascha. All fasting should be undertaken with regard to each person's ability to tolerate its physical demands. If you have questions about the Lenten discipline, please contact Father Gary for further clarification.

If we wish to receive the **Eucharist at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**, some fasting should precede the reception. Ideally, no food or drink should be taken from the midnight prior to the service. If this is not possible, then fasting after a light breakfast or an early lunch is advised.

Please continue to use the **clothing bin** located in the church parking lot. A list of items that can be donated is located on the whiteboard in the Parish Hall. Each donation helps the parish financially. Many thanks for your participation.

The **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** program is an essential vehicle for funding the activities and programs of our diocese. Please consider participating in the program. More information is available at the diocesan website at [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org).

*Keep up on OCA news by visiting [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org), diocesan news by visiting [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org), and parish news by visiting [www.occa-brick.org](http://www.occa-brick.org).*

***MANY YEARS***

***Birthdays this week:***

*Today* – Laura Macmillan

*Tuesday* – Dennis Gahr

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