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Forefeast of the Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Theotokos / Venerable Gregory Decapolite

November 20, 2022

Troparion – Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

Troparion – Tone 4

Today Anna bequeaths joy to all instead of sorrow, by bringing forth her fruit, the only ever-Virgin. In fulfillment of her vow, today with joy she brings to the temple of the Lord // the true temple and pure Mother of God the Word.

Troparion – Tone 4

The twofold lamps of divine gifts, Proclus, shepherd of New Rome, and Gregory, scion of Decapolis, guide us by the light of grace as divinely-inspired fathers. Let us draw near and eagerly beseech them, // that we may receive forgiveness and salvation of our souls!

Kontakion – Tone 6

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.

Kontakion – Tone 3

The Church knows thee to be a brilliant sun enlightening all with the rays of healing and the beauty of virtue. Therefore, as we celebrate thine honored memory, we glorify thy struggles, // ever-blest and all-wise Father Gregory.

Kontakion – Tone 4

Today the universe is filled with joy at the glorious feast of the Mother of God, // and cries out: "She is the heavenly tabernacle."

Prokeimenon – Tone 6

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance!

V. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Forefeast of the Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Theotokos

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple has only one day of prefeast. The hymns for today praise Saint Anna for bringing her daughter, the living temple of God, to the Temple in Jerusalem.

The three Old Testament readings at Great Vespers refer to the Temple. The first lesson (Exodus 40:1-5, 9-10, 16, 34-35) refers to the arrangement of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation (a portable sanctuary which was carried by the Israelites in their wanderings). The second lesson (III Kings/I Kings 7:51; 8:1, 3-7, 9-11) describes the dedication of Solomon's Temple. The third lesson (Ezekiel 43:27-44:4) speaks of the gate of the sanctuary which faces east. God enters through this gate, which is shut so that no one else can enter by it.

Venerable Gregory Decapolite

Saint Gregory the Decapolite was born in the Isaurian city of Decapolis (ten cities) in the eighth century. From his childhood he loved the temple of God and church services. He read the Holy Scripture constantly and with reverence.

In order to avoid the marriage which his parents had intended for him, he secretly left home. He spent all his life wandering: he was in Constantinople, Rome, Corinth, and he lived as an ascetic on Olympus for a while. Saint Gregory preached the Word of God everywhere, denouncing the Iconoclast heresy, strengthening the faith and fortitude of the Orthodox, whom the heretics in those times oppressed, tortured and imprisoned.

Through his ascetic effort and prayer, Saint Gregory attained the gifts of prophecy and wonderworking. After overcoming the passions and reaching the height of virtue, he was permitted to hear angelic singing in praise of the Holy Trinity. Saint Gregory left the monastery of Saint Menas near Thessalonica, where he had labored for a long time, and he went again to Constantinople in order to combat the Iconoclast heresy. At the capital, a grievous illness undermined his strength, and he departed to the Lord in the year 816.

Saint Gregory was buried at a monastery in Constantinople, and many miracles took place at his tomb. As a result, the monks removed the holy relics of Saint Gregory and enshrined them in the church where people could venerate them.

When Constantinople fell to the Turks in 1453, the relics of Saint Gregory were carried to the region of the Danube by a Turkish official. In 1498 Barbu Craiovescu, the Ban of the Romanian Land (Wallachia) heard of the miracles performed by the holy relics and bought them for a considerable sum of money. Barbu Craiovescu placed the relics in the main church of Bistritsa Monastery which he founded in Rimnicu Vilcea, where they remain to the present day.

A small book describing the miracles and healings performed by Saint Gregory the Decapolite in Romania has been written by Abbess Olga Gologan, who reposed in 1972.

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Service Schedule for the week of November 20

Sunday November 20 – 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Panikhida for Dorothy Lovchuk and Luncheon/Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Monday November 21 – **ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS IN THE TEMPLE** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Saturday November 26 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday November 27 – 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall in honor of Father Paul and Matushka Mary's 75th wedding anniversary

Upcoming Holy Day Service Schedule for 2022

Monday December 5 – **ST. NICHOLAS** Vespers with Litya 7:00 PM

Tuesday December 6 – **ST. NICHOLAS** Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

Christmas – to be announced

Weekly Giving

November 13 – 60 adults, 14 youth, \$2,437

Parish Announcements

Happy Thanksgiving and God Bless America! The Diocese has stated that it is okay to eat turkey on the Thanksgiving holiday.

There will be a FOCA Club meeting today during Coffee Hour.

Today the Ladies Altar Society will start selling chances for two items: An Eagles basket and a set of homemade Christmas baskets; \$1.00/ticket.

The Nativity Fast began this past Tuesday. Please remember to partake of the Sacraments of Confession and Communion prior to the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Contact Father Volodymyr if you need to set up a time for Confession other than after Saturday evening Vespers.

The FOCA Club is participating in the National FOCA Seminarian Christmas Wish Project once again this year. We have participated for many years in this project by providing Christmas gifts for Seminarian families. As you know, most Seminarians attend Seminary full time and are unable to work, and require assistance throughout the school year to support their families. **We will once again collect Target, Amazon, Walmart, Barnes & Noble, and Kohls gift cards in any denomination, or cash/check (checks payable to Trenton Senior R Club).** Please give your gift to a member of the FOCA Club no later than next Sunday November 27. Thank you for your generosity!

Mark your calendar: Next Sunday, November 27 is the 75th milestone anniversary of Father Paul and Matushka Mary! (Yes, November 27th is the actual wedding date. In 1947, it was Thanksgiving Day, pre-fast under the Julian calendar.) Please join us in prayer for them Sunday during Divine Liturgy, and then please join us at Daria Hall for coffee hour in their honor, hosted by their family.

Last December the parish donated non-perishable food items to the local neighborhood. **We will have another food giveaway on Saturday, December 10.** The following items are needed – please no items contained in glass. **Please bring all items to Daria Hall by Sunday December 4** – they may be placed on the stage. On Sunday, December 4 we will ask the Sunday School children to help organize the food. Bags will be packed at 9:30 AM Saturday, December 10 prior to the food give-away. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Parish Council or Father Volodymyr. Thank you for your generosity in helping support our neighbors, who may be in a time of need.

1 lb. boxes of pasta

Spaghetti sauce in plastic jars

Canned vegetables

Canned beans

Rice-A-Roni type food items

Small packages of rice

Canned tuna

Canned chicken

Ramen noodle soup or Cup of Soup

Juice boxes (no sugar)
Applesauce in plastic jars
Fruit cups
Canned fruit
Cereal
Canned soup
Small packages of diapers
Toothbrush & toothpaste
Individually packaged bars of soap
Hand sanitizing wipes
\$5 - \$10 grocery store gift cards

The Sunday School Yolka will be held in Daria Hall on Sunday, December 18 during Coffee Hour. Please plan on attending to support the youth of our parish!

Any parishioner wishing to run for Parish Council, please see Father Volodymyr prior to December 31. Elections will be held during the Annual Parish Meeting on January 29, 2023.

Please remember to sign-up for on-line giving, if you are interested. See a member of the Parish Council if you have any questions!

Youth and adults of the parish are invited to Bible Study classes during Coffee Hour. The classes are taught by Alan Berck.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

John Cassar – November 24

Sami Bachir – November 26

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

If you do not see your birthday listed above during your birthday week, please let Darice know and she will add it to the schedule!

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE – Coffee Hour Preparation Instructions are available in the Daria Hall kitchen

Nov. 20 **FAST DAY** Ladies Altar Society
Nov. 27 **FAST DAY** Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Nina Shafran, Nina Laushell
Dec. 4 **FAST DAY** Paul Denko, Francine Brady, Herman Meyer
Dec. 11 **FAST DAY** Olga & James Bates, Awet Tesfa
Dec. 18 **FAST DAY** Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana, Awet Tesfa
Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS – no Coffee Hour
Jan. 1 Matthew & Kris Bohush, Darice Keyes
Jan. 8 Sami Bachir, Nancy Mitsos
Jan. 15 Matthew & Nana Barrett, Nina Laushell
Jan. 22 Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun, Darice Keyes
Jan. 29 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Alla Strauss
Feb. 5 Anna Brasowski, Francine Brady
Feb. 12 FOCA Club - Breakfast Fundraiser
Feb. 19 Carmen & Cezar Mateiescu, Darice Keyes
Feb. 26 **NO MEAT** Manuel & Lourdes Montiel, Awet Tesfa
March 5 **FAST** Melody Stavisky, Darice Keyes
March 12 **FAST** Awet Tesfa, Nebiat Tesfa
March 19 **FAST** Alan & Mimi Berck, Francine & Herman
March 26 **FAST** John Cassar, Nina Laushell
April 2 **FAST** Anne Cheslock, Nancy Mitsos
April 9 **FAST** Francine Brady, Herman Meyer, Alla Strauss
April 16 **PASCHA** – No Coffee Hour
April 23 Madeleine Sekulich, Mark McDevitt, Nancy Mitsos
April 30 Fiyori Habtesilasse, Awet Tesfa