



# St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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## SAINT GREGORY, WONDERWORKER OF NEOCAESAREA NOVEMBER 17, 2024

### TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

#### **Troparion – Tone 4**

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen,// granting the world great mercy!”

#### **Troparion – Tone 8**

Thou didst become worthy of thy name through thy way of life; through thy vigilance in prayer and thy constant works of mercy. Therefore, O Father Gregory, beseech Christ God to enlighten our minds,// that we may not sleep in sin, which leads to death!

#### **Kontakion – Tone 4**

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master,// He has risen on the third day!

#### **Kontakion – Tone 2**

Thou didst receive the power to perform miracles, frightening the devils and healing the sick through thy wonderworking. O All-wise Father Gregory, // thy deeds truly entitle thee to be called Wonderworker.

#### **Prokeimenon – Tone 4**

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all.  
V. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

### LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

#### **Saint Gregory, Wonderworker of Neocaesarea**

Saint Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop of Neocaesarea, was born in the city of Neocaesarea (northern Asia Minor) into a prominent pagan family (between 210 - 215), and his original name was Theodore.

After his elementary education, Saint Gregory and his brother Gregory, or Athenodoros (Athēnódoros) (according to some hagiological sources) they went to Beirut to study law. The great thinkers of antiquity were not able to quench his thirst for knowledge, however. Truth was revealed to him only in the Holy Gospel, and the young man became a Christian.

In order to continue his studies, Saint Gregory went to Alexandria, known at that time as a center for pagan and Christian learning. Eager to acquire knowledge, Gregory went to the Alexandrian Catechetical School, where the presbyter Origen taught. Origen was a famous teacher, possessing a great strength of mind and profound knowledge. Saint Gregory became a pupil of Origen. Afterward, the Saint wrote of his mentor: “This man received from God a sublime gift, to be an interpreter of the Word of God for people, to apprehend the Word of God, as God Himself did use it, and to explain it to people, insofar as they could understand it.” Saint Gregory studied for eight years with Origen, who baptized him.

Saint Gregory's ascetical life, his continence, purity, and lack of covetousness aroused the envy of his conceited and sin-loving peers, pagans that they were, and they decided to slander Saint Gregory. Once, when he was conversing with philosophers and teachers in the city square, a notorious harlot came up to him and demanded payment for a sin he had supposedly committed with her. At first Saint Gregory gently remonstrated with her, saying that perhaps she had mistaken him for someone else. But the profligate woman would not be silenced. Then he asked a friend to give her the money. Just as the woman took the unjustified payment, she fell to the ground in a demonic fit, and the fraud was revealed. Saint Gregory prayed over her, and the demon was expelled. This was the first of his miracles.

After returning to Neocaesarea, the Saint fled from worldly affairs, into which influential townsmen persistently sought to push him. He went into the desert, where by fasting and prayer he attained great spiritual heights, as well as the gifts of clairvoyance and prophecy. Saint Gregory loved his life in the wilderness and wanted to remain in solitude until the end of his days, but the Lord willed otherwise.

Learning of Saint Gregory's ascetical life, Bishop Phaidemos (Phaídēmos) of the Cappadocian city of Amaseia, decided to make him Bishop of Neocaesarea. But foreseeing in spirit the intention of Bishop Phaídēmos, the Saint hid himself from the hierarch's messengers who were sent to find him. Then Bishop Phaidemos consecrated Saint in absentia as Bishop of Neocaesarea, entreating the Lord to bless the unusual ordination. Saint Gregory regarded the extraordinary event as a manifestation of God's will, and he did not dare to protest. This episode in the life of Saint Gregory was recorded by Saint Gregory of Nyssa (January 10). He relates that Saint Gregory of Neocaesarea received the episcopal rank only after Bishop Phaidemos had ordained him to all the canonical ranks.

During this time, the heresy of Sabellius and Paul of Samosata began to spread. They taught falsely concerning the Holy Trinity. Saint Gregory prayed fervently and diligently imploring God and His most pure Mother to reveal the truth to him. The Most Holy Theotokos appeared to him, as radiant as the sun, and with her was the Apostle John the Theologian dressed in hierarchal vestments.

By the command of the Mother of God, the Apostle John taught the Saint the correct way to speak of the Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Saint Gregory wrote down all that Saint John revealed to him. The Symbol of the Faith, as written down by Saint Gregory, is a great divine revelation in the history of the Church. The teaching concerning the Holy Trinity in Orthodox Theology is based on it. Subsequently, it was accepted by the Holy Fathers of the Church: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and Gregory of Nyssa. Saint Gregory's Symbol (Creed) was later examined and affirmed in the year 325 by the First Ecumenical Council, showing its enduring significance for Orthodoxy. Even those who disagreed with Saint Gregory regarded him as a second Moses.

After becoming a hierarch, Saint Gregory journeyed to Neocaesarea. Along his way from Amaseia, he cast out the demons from a pagan temple, the priest of which he converted to Christ. That convert was a witness to yet another of the Saint's miracles: at his word a large stone moved from its place.

The Saint's sermons were direct, lively and fruitful. He taught and worked miracles in the name of Christ: he healed the sick, helped the needy, and settled disputes and complaints. Two brothers who shared an inheritance were unable to agree about their dead father's property. A large lake was the cause of their dispute, for each brother wanted the lake for himself. Both of them gathered their friends together, and were ready to come to blows. Saint Gregory persuaded them to delay their fight until the following day, while he prayed all night long on the shore of the lake which had sparked the quarrel. When dawn came, everyone saw that the lake had dried up or gone underground. Now, by the Saint's intense prayer, there was only a stream, and its course defined the boundary line. Another time, during the construction of a church, he commanded a hill to move and make room for the foundation to be dug.

When the persecution of Christians began under Emperor Decius (249-251), Saint Gregory led his flock to a faraway mountain. A certain pagan, who knew where the Christians were hiding, informed the persecutors, and soldiers surrounded the mountain. The Saint went out into an open place, raised his hands to heaven, and ordered his deacon to do the same. The soldiers searched the entire mountain, and several times they went right past those who were praying. Unable to see them, they gave up and went away. In the city they reported that there was nowhere to hide on the mountain. There were no people, just two trees standing next to each other. The informer was struck with amazement, he repented of his ways and became a devout Christian.

Saint Gregory returned to Neocaesarea after the end of the persecution. With his blessing, Church Feasts were established in honor of the martyrs who had suffered for Christ.

By the holiness of his life, his effective preaching, his miracles, and inspired guidance of his flock, the Saint increased the number of converts to Christ. When Saint Gregory first came to his See, there were only seventeen Christians in Neocaesarea. At the time of his repose, only seventeen pagans were left in the city.

## **EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS**

### **Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20**

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

### **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."

## **PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED**

To add a name, please email Darice at [daricekeyes@gmail.com](mailto:daricekeyes@gmail.com).

### **For the Sick / Caregiver**

Subdeacon Serge (10/27)  
Melody (10/27)  
Michael (10/27)  
Charlotte (10/27)  
Liam (11/3)  
Kelly (11/3)  
Bill (11/3)  
Alexandra (11/3)

### **For the Deceased**

Father Paul (11/3)  
Matushka Mary (11/3)  
Thomas (11/3)  
Jeffrey (11/3)  
Carmine (11/17)  
Marianne (11/17)  
Paul (11/17)  
Martha (11/17)

## **SERVICES**

### **Service Schedule for the Week of November 17**

**Sunday November 17** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall  
**Wednesday November 20** – **ENTRANCE OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS** 7:00 PM Vespers with Litya  
**Thursday November 21** – **ENTRANCE OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy  
**Saturday November 23** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and Catechumen classes  
**Sunday November 24** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

## **DONATIONS**

### **Weekly Giving**

November 10 – 59 adults, 12 youth, \$3,020

## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The postponed Parish Council meeting is rescheduled for this Tuesday, November 19 at 7:00 PM.

There will be a FOCA meeting today during Coffee Hour.

The Ladies Assumption Altar Society is selling raffle tickets today and next Sunday for a homemade Christmas wreath and placemat set. The winner will be picked on November 24. Raffle tickets for a hand carved, hand painted nutcracker - "Major" - made in Russia will be sold on December 1 and December 8. The winner of that raffle will be selected on December 8. Raffle tickets are \$2 each, or 3 for \$5.

The Sunday School children are collecting coats and jackets to be distributed to the folks in Trenton. Adult and children's coats that are in good condition will be gratefully accepted and appreciated. Please bring donations to Daria Hall and place them in the appropriate boxes near the stage. If you have any questions, please see Julie Stell. Thank you and God bless you in advance for your generosity!

The fast of the Nativity began this past Friday November 15. Please remember to fast from meat and dairy products until the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is also important to partake in Holy Confession and Holy Communion during this time. Contact Father Volodymyr if you need to schedule a specific time for Confession.

The FOCA Club is having a Christmas Bake Sale in Daria Hall on Saturday, December 14. Today is the last day for pre-orders. Pre-Order forms are on the last page of this bulletin and forms are also on the credenza across from the candle desk. Please support our fundraising in order to help support Orthodox charities throughout the year. Thank you.

There are several openings for the Parish Council – elections will be held at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 26. If you are interested in serving on the Parish Council please see Father Volodymyr.

The Sunday School children's Yolka Christmas Program will be held during Coffee Hour on Sunday December 15. In preparation, rehearsals for the children will be held in Daria Hall after Holy Communion starting today and every Sunday thereafter until December 15. If you wish your child(ren) to participate, they must attend these rehearsals - last minute participation will not be permitted. Thank you for your understanding. We hope to see your child(ren) there!

**Notice to owners of plots in St. Vladimir Cemetery:** We are adding phone numbers for owners of plots to our database AND emergency contact information for plot owners (contact names and phone numbers). Also, if you are aware of any previously purchased plots that will not be used, please let us know. This requested information can be provided as follows:

Text: 609-475-2517

Email: meteugene@aol.com

Call: 609-475-2517 (if you have to leave a message, please spell your name and provide call back phone number)

Thank you! Michael Toth, Cemetery Caretaker

## **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Samson Manna – November 17

Tyler Burger – November 17

Matthew Anderson – November 18

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

## **COFFEE HOUR**

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. **PLEASE NOTE:** Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky or Alla Strauss.

**SUGGESTED MENU:**

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (non-dairy)

*If your menu includes a pork dish, please keep in mind that several of our parishioners do not eat pork, so please provide an alternative for them.*

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

- Nov. 17 **FAST** Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun
- Nov. 24 **FAST** Peter Abdallah, Jim Galcik
- Dec. 1 **FAST** Valeria & Timothy Srock, Trudy Ellmore
- Dec. 8 **FAST** Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Hannah Dougherty
- Dec. 15 **FAST** Mimi & Alan Berck, Amleset Gebrekvistos
- Dec. 22 **FAST** Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana, Svetlana Sosedov
- Dec. 29 Natalia Kolomatskaia, Guy Radcliffe
- Jan. 5 Darice Keyes, Bill & Margie DiCicco
- Jan. 12 Aftan Chowansky, Matthew & Nana Barrett
- Jan. 19 Juan Garcia, Benjamin & Julie Stell
- Jan. 26 **Annual Parish Meeting, FOCA Chili Cook-Off**
- Feb. 2 Anna, Leon, & Simeon Brasowski, Brittani & Alex Brasowski
- Feb. 9 Corneliu & Florica Balasa, Stefania Balasa
- Feb. 16 Karina Kotelnicki, Paul & Patty Denko
- Feb. 23 Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Manny & Lourdes Montiel
- Mar. 2 Tony & Chris Villabon, Cole Johnson
- Mar. 9 **FAST** John Cassar, Christina DiDonato
- Mar. 16 **FAST** Viktoryia Baranava, Tamara Karkusova
- Mar. 23 **FAST** Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell
- Mar. 30 **FAST** Herman & Francine Meyer, Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt
- Apr. 6 **FAST** Christine Waite, Alla Strauss
- Apr. 13 **FAST** Lynne Sheedy & Bill Hazelton, Melody Stavisky
- Apr. 20 **PASCHA – No Coffee Hour**
- Apr. 27 Alan & Mimi Berck, Isaiah Maldonado

*Have a healthy, blessed week!*

# FOCA Club Christmas Bake Sale Fundraiser

Saturday, December 14, 2024

## PRE-ORDER FORM

<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Check below for no nuts</i>	<i>Cost Each</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
	2 doz. Cookies		\$13	
	4 doz. Cookies		\$25	
	Nut Roll		\$8	
	Poppyseed Roll		\$8	
	Lekvar Roll		\$8	

Total Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All cookies will be homemade!

There will be other items for sale at the Bake Sale - we are only taking Pre-Orders for the above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash or check payable to St. Vladimir R Club when picking up your order on Saturday Dec. 14 or Sunday Dec. 15 (during Coffee Hour).

PLEASE TURN IN YOUR PRE-ORDER TO NINA L., FRANCINE, or MIMI by NOVEMBER 17. Thank you for your support!