SAINT GREGORY PALAMAS
Monk, Theologian & Archbishop

February 28, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Saints Cyril and Methodius
Byzantine Catholic Church

2510 Piney Plains Road
Cary, NC 27518-6870
919-239-4877
Rev. Fr. Vasyl Sokolovych
Parochial Administrator
908-404-0777

Sunday
9:00 and 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy
(If unable to attend in person, our Divine Liturgy
is streamed via our Facebook page.)

E-Mail: ss CyrilMethodius@gmail.com
Web Site: ss CyrilMethodius.org
**SUNDAY**  
February 28  
**Tone 6**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**
Heb 10:2-3  
Mk 2:1-12  
8:30 AM Confession  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil (for the Intention of the Parishioners)
Panachida for the 2nd All Souls Saturday (Feb 27)
11:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St Basil

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**Monday**  
March 1

**Eudoxia**  
Venerable - Martyr  
Gen 6:9-22  
Prov 8:1-21  
Third Week of the Great Fast

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**Tuesday**  
March 2

**Theodotus** - Bishop - Martyr  
Gen 7:1-15  
Prov 8:32-9:11

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**Wednesday**  
March 3

**Eutropius and Others**  
Martyrs  
Gen 7:6-9  
Prov 9:12-18

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**Thursday**  
March 4

**Gerasimus Venerable**  
Gen 7:11-8:4  
Prov 10:1-22

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**Friday**  
March 5

**Conon Martyr**  
Gen 8:4-21  
Prov 10:31-11:12

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**Saturday**  
March 6

**Third All Souls Saturday**  
Heb 10:32-38  
Mk 2:14-17  
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Eritrean or Coptic Orthodox Divine Liturgy  
4:00 PM St. Nicholas Mission Divine Liturgy

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**SUNDAY**  
March 7  
**Tone 7**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**  
**VENERATION OF THE CROSS**  
Heb 4:14-5:6  
Mk 8:34-9:1  
8:30 AM Confession  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil (for the Intention of the Parishioners)
Panachida for the Third All Souls Saturday (March 6)
11:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

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**Call the parish office (919-239-4877) to make an appointment or to speak with Fr. Vasyl (908-404-0777).**

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**SSCM CHURCH/HALL SCHEDULE**
The St. Nicholas Mission celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church every Saturday at 4:00 PM.
The Eritrean Orthodox celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.
The Coptic Orthodox celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.

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**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**
Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meets the second Tuesday of every month. If you have any questions or concerns you would like addressed at the next meeting, please contact one of the members: Mike Carpenter, Marie Taylor, Paul Tooley, Lance Morgan, Dan Pope, Lou Gigliotti and Mike Sapsara.
SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
February 28, 2021

If you are new to our area or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. If you do not have a church home, or your church is not a home for you, we warmly invite you to become part of our parish family.

If you wish to register with our parish, please email Michelle Rubush at sscyrilmethodius@gmail.com

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!
GLORY FOREVER!

SLAVONIC: SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU! SLAVA NA VIKI!

Please remember in your prayers:
Jerry and Holly Kingery; Lance Morgan; John Patrick Rose; Rachel Blair; David Hoover; Cameron Shuey; Dale Blair; Bernadette’s parents and aunts: Andrew, Etta, Martha and Yolanda; Father Mark and family; Father Vasyl and family.

Please pray for the repose + of the souls of our faithful departed:
+Elizabeth Macario; +Luke Morgan, +Natalie and John Morgan, +Rev. Fr. Richard Rohrer, +Gloria Shuey

In Blessed Repose, Grant O Lord, Eternal Rest to the Soul of Your Departed Servants and may their Memory be Eternal.

In spite of the pandemic, the maintenance of our church continues and bills still must be paid. Thanks to all who continue to serve our church with their time, talent, and treasure. Thanks to those who have worked on the repairs to the office.

Father Vasyl announced this morning that the Library will be open next Sunday morning March 7 to choose some books to add to your personal collection. There is a great variety of topics. Take as many as you would like, donate, or sell! The Library will be open between Liturgies. Enter in front of the Rectory. Everything must go!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHURCH CLEANING
We need more volunteers so no one is cleaning more than once every three months. Volunteers may do the cleaning anytime during the week when the church is not in use. Please send an email to the church if you are able to participate in this very important ministry for our church. Thank you to our current volunteers!

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<tr>
<td>Feb 28-Mar 5</td>
<td>Kingery</td>
<td>Mar 28-Apr 2</td>
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<td>Mar 7-12</td>
<td>A. Taylor</td>
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<td>Mar 14-19</td>
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In the Gospel of this Sunday, which tells of the healing of a paralyzed man by Jesus, we see that the man's friends could not enter the house through the door and put the sick man at the foot of Jesus because of the large number of people. They were forced to go to the roof of the house and lower the sick man through the opening in front of Jesus. And what prevents us from approaching Jesus in order to receive from him the healing of soul and body?

All these obstacles can be divided into three groups:

First of all, the crowd of thoughts does not allow us to approach Jesus. Before a person does something, before something happens in reality, he thinks about it. It all starts with a thought that is born in a person's heart. Jesus made this clear, "For out of the heart of man proceedeth evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery, covetousness, deceit, shamelessness, jealousy, slander, rebellion, foolishness" (Mk 7:21, 22).

Our spiritual struggle really revolves around the thoughts that settle in our hearts. Saint Evagrius of Pontus, a fourth-century monk, taught, "I try not only not to do badly, but also not to think badly." Trying to solve life's affairs with the help of his own mind and thoughts, a person begins to have a dialogue with himself. All of this is a sign of faith in their abilities and strength, and a lack of faith, hope, and trust in God.

Crowds of all kinds of thoughts prevent us from entering the house of our heart, hearing the voice of God in it, and putting our aching soul before Jesus. How to get through such a crowd, how to overcome it? Note that the Gospel text makes no mention of the four trying to squeeze through the crowd. They chose another way to solve their problem; i.e., they went around the crowd and lowered the patient from above, through a hole in the ceiling. When a crowd of thoughts comes upon us during prayer, the Church Fathers counsel us to go around them, return to prayer, meditate on God's Word on this subject, which will enable us to return to Jesus and experience His healing grace.

The second group of obstacles on the way to Jesus is a crowd of various life worries, worries that consume all our free time and practically deprive us of the opportunity to linger, reflect on our lives, learn more about our soul, and appreciate our relationship with God. Constant preoccupation with earthly affairs and the needs of the body creates a lack of personal perseverance in the struggle against sins, determination and courage on the way to Christ.

The third group of obstacles is being attached more to people than to God. In trying to solve various matters of life, people often turn for help and for advice from other people, rather than to God. And this happens again because of weak love and trust in God, hope in Him. Sometimes even our neighbors can be an obstacle to God. You can be so fascinated by your own piety that you don't even notice the paralyzed in your community. You don't see their needs.

However difficult obstacles may be in our way to Jesus, God's love and our faith are stronger than they are, and with their help we will be able to successfully overcome these obstacles and draw closer to Jesus so that He may heal and strengthen us by His grace. For as the Scripture says, "Nothing is impossible for God" (Luke 1:37).

One day a young girl approached the priest in the hospital corridor, embarrassed, and asked, "Are you a priest?" "Yes," he replied. "Did my brother receive the Holy Mysteries before he died?" "Yes," said the priest again, "thank God," she said, "I have been begging the Blessed Virgin Mary for his conversion for seven years. Today I am happy!"

So today, when we know the malice of sin and the misery it brings, let us ask, what does our own conscience tell us? If we feel something, it is a sign that we are getting better, we are going to Jesus.

Therefore, in this Great Lent, let us look for a way to come closer to Jesus and say, like that prodigal son: "Father, I have sinned against Heaven and against You, and am no longer worthy to be called Your Son, but accept me as Your least servant." Amen.

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**A FACE MASK COVERING MOUTH AND NOSE MUST BE WORN DURING DIVINE LITURGY, WHICH SHOULD BE REMOVED BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION**

Parishioners who are considered “high risk,” and more vulnerable to the virus should consider not attending Liturgy in the church and continue to participate via Facebook.

- Parishioners are dispensed from attending Divine Liturgy on Sunday and Holy Days.
- Please bring your own mask as the church has a limited number available.
- Social distancing (six feet) of people not living in the same household should be followed. A family living together can sit in the same area.
Please refrain from physical contact.

Please sanitize hands when entering and leaving church.

There will be no Agape meal in the hall after Liturgy; please do not bring food.

Please maintain social distancing after Liturgy and continue to wear a mask while on church property.

A collection basket is under the Tetrapod for your weekly donation. You may also mail in your donation or donate online via our website or Tithely.

As you approach Fr. Vasyl for communion, please state your name.

THE HALL IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Our Eparchy will be hosting monthly Byzantine Gatherings. Mark your calendars for each date. Gatherings will begin at 6:00 PM. Email contact: FrDeaconTom@gmail.com

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<tr>
<td>--Last Judgment (Matthew 25:31-46)</td>
<td>Gen. 5:15-6:2</td>
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**LENT THE GREAT AND HOLY FORTY DAYS**

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<tr>
<td>Vespasian of Rous</td>
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<td>Mt. 9:17-31</td>
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**EASTER**

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"We do not fast on Sunday as a sign that our faith has been corrected through the resurrection of Christ. We do not fast until Pentecost because we observe the seven days after Easter seven-fold, seven times seven in holy-sense, and Sunday makes fifty." — St. Clement of Alexandria (115-70) On the Divine Liturgy.