

Venerable Gregory Decapolite (Nov 20)

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.

(Text & Image from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2022/11/20/103340-venerable-gregory-decapolite>)



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

Metropolitan ANTONIOS,
Patriarchal Vicar



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor
215-954-9286



Father James Thayer
215-692-0890

November 20, 2022

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

COMMEMORATIONS:

THE FOREFEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE
THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE
GREGORY THE RIGHTEOUS OF DECAPOLIS
PROCLUS, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE
WONDERWORKER SOZOMEN OF CYPRUS

Tone 6 - Eothinon 1

Orthros Gospel: St. Matthew 28:16-20

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 12:16-21

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 6 - When Mary stood at thy grave, looking for thy sacred Body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led'st hades captive and wast not tempted thereby; thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world. O thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to thee!

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE ENTRANCE - Tone 4 - By blossoming forth the only Ever-virgin as fruit, * today holy Anna doth betroth us all unto joy, instead of our former grief; * on this day she doth fulfill her vows to the Most High, * leading her with joy into the Lord's holy temple, * who truly is the temple and pure Mother of God the Word.

TODAY: *Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission 9am*

ORTHROS & Confessions 8:45 a.m.

Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.

Sunday School & Teens

Choir Rehearsal 12:45pm

Parish Council

Vespers & Artoklasia 2pm

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. Please contact them directly or call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

| | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| | This Week: | Next Week (Nov 27): |
| PROSPHORA BREAD: | Sdn Justin | John Child |
| ALTAR CANDLES: | The Sidorochavs <small>Anna's Birthday – Many Years!</small> | ---- |
| USHERS: | Dan M. & Tom A. | Steve K. & Rdr Nick |
| ALTAR BOYS: | “Archangel Gabriel” | “Archangel Michael” |
| CLEANING TEAM: | Serge, Alex, Sarah Kaminsky | Nathan, Rebecca & Teens |
| COFFEE HOUR TEAM: | Sh. Hannah; Tatiana; Gabe | Myriam; Conor; Jekels/Teens |

Mark Your Calendar:

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 11, 12:30 p.m.

Christmas Choir Concert

Sunday, December 18, 1:30 p.m.

Feast of Christmas/Nativity

Saturday, Dec 24–Sunday, Dec 25

Divine Liturgy 9 a.m.

Vespers 10:30 a.m.

Festal Orthros 10:30 p.m.

Festal Liturgy 12 a.m.

Vespers 12 p.m.

Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil –

New Years

Saturday, Dec 31

Vespers & Artoklasia 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan 1

Divine Liturgy & New Years Prayers

Theophany

Thursday, Jan 5

Royal Hours 10 a.m.

Vesperal Liturgy 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan 6

Orthros 9am & Divine Liturgy 10am

Great Blessing of Waters

HOME BLESSINGS:

Reach out to Fr. Noah or Fr. James directly to schedule.

Pray For:

| Living | Departed |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine | (November Parish) |
| Kh. Joyce | Diptychs |
| Linda | +Joseph |
| Tadessa | +Peter |
| Nicole | +Ellen |
| Raymond | +Evelyn |
| Patrick | +Ksenia |
| Doris | +William |
| John | +Elizabeth |
| John | |
| James | |
| James | |
| Lasha B | |
| Otari B | |
| Tatiana | |
| Helen | |
| Wadieh | |
| Anesia | |
| Mary | |
| Mary | |
| Priest Thomas, Bill, Jesse, Nathan, Hannah & all Missionaries | <u>Catechumens</u> |
| New & Expectant Mothers & their children | Christian |
| For the people of our land, and their repentance, healing & unity | Christina |
| The 12 Baskets Full team asks for prayers for our homeless Philly friends – George, Bill, Jim, Jalil, Mark, Joel, Eric | Peter, Sarah, Alina, William, & Elsa |
| | Kate |
| | Joseph & Alana |
| | Ryan |
| | Zachary, Brandy, & Otto |
| | Nora, Gavinn, Lorelei, & Bethany |
| | Joanne |
| | Denis |
| | Nicholas, Rachel, Luka, Leo |
| | David, Helen, Elianna |
| | Michael |
| | Evan |
| | Lucretia |

NOVEMBER OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Turkeys & Hams

CHALLENGE FOR 2022:

“You are the Light of the World”

40 Days of Growth in Stewardship continues!

Theme: “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”

--Please Submit Your 2023 Pledge!--

This Week:

Nativity Fast continues!! (Nov 15-Dec 24)

- Mon, Nov 21:** Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos
Orthros 9am & Divine Liturgy 10am
Fish/Wine/Oil Potluck to follow
Advent Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, Nov 22:** 6th Hour, 12 noon
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1 p.m.
- Wed, Nov 23:** Office closed
Compline & Patristic Reading 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs, Nov 24:** Thanksgiving
Divine Liturgy 9 a.m.
- Friday, Nov 25:** Office closed
Advent Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.
- Sat, Nov 26:** Catechism & Inquirer Class 5 p.m.
Youth Choir practice 5:30 p.m.
Great VESPERS 6:30 p.m.
Confessions 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov 27:** ORTHROS & Confessions 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour

Today (11/20), we are welcoming

Elizabeth Blaine,

who is an Agricultural Missionary in Mexico!

ATTENDANCE: Vespers Nov 12: 87 Divine services on Nov 13: 228
OFFERINGS 11/13: Candles, \$224. Collections, \$1,670.72. Youth, \$1.
Book Shelf Ministry, \$242. Building Fund, \$297.52. Camping, \$50.
Mission Chapel, \$100. Mortgage Reduction, \$125. Pastoral Discretion, \$195.53. Stewardship, \$7,070.52. Total received: \$9,976.29.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!