

VENERABLE GREGORY DECAPOLITE

St. Gregory was born in the Isaurian city of Decapolis in the 8th century. From his childhood, he loved the temple of God and church services. He read the Holy Scripture constantly and with reverence.

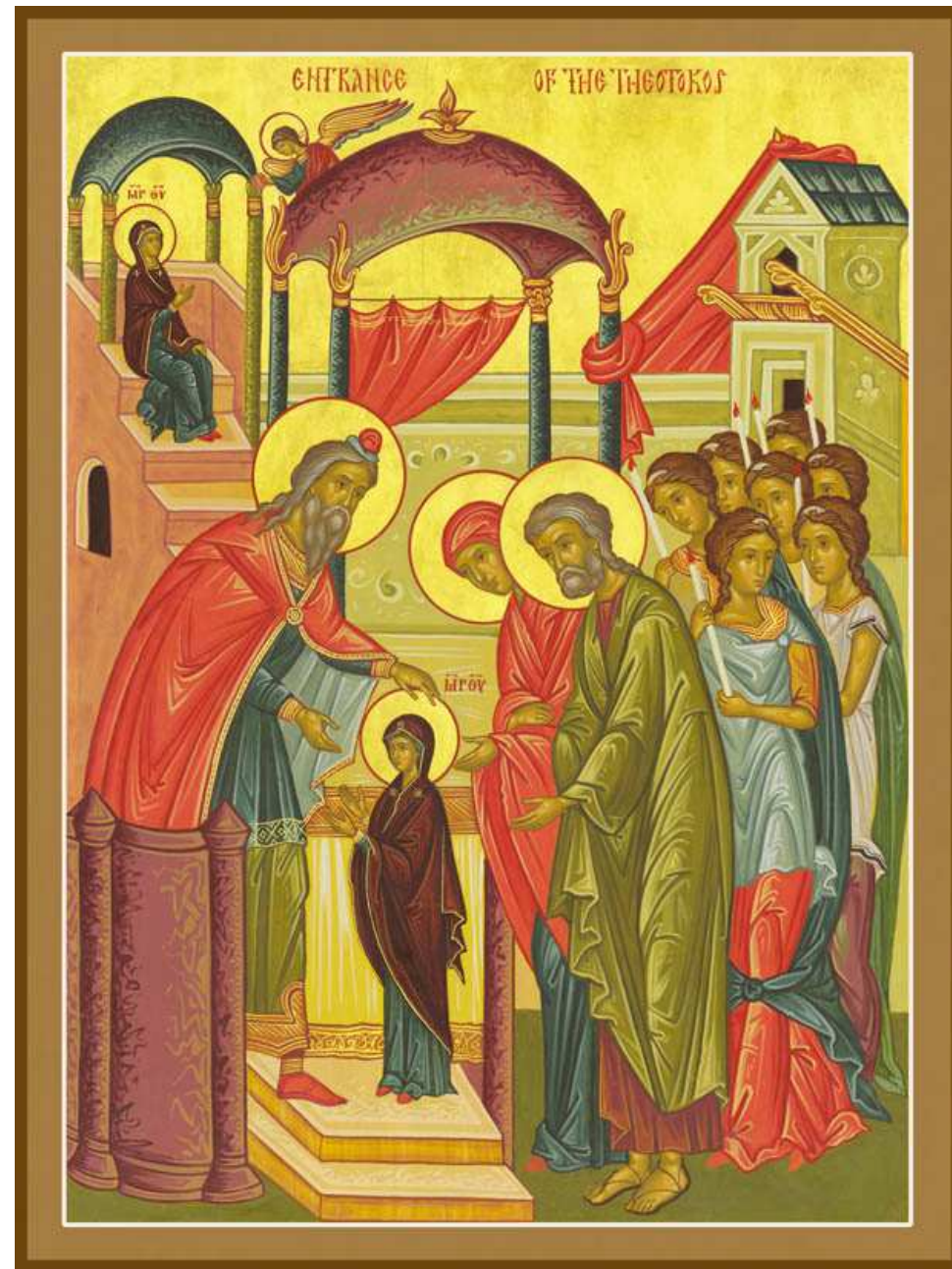
In order to avoid the marriage which his parents had intended for him, he secretly left home. He spent all his life wandering: he was in Constantinople, Rome, Corinth, and he lived as an ascetic on Olympus for a while. St. Gregory preached the Word of God everywhere, denouncing the Iconoclast heresy,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

Through his ascetic effort and prayer, St. 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. St. Gregory had left the monastery of St. Menas near Thessalonica, where he had labored for a long time, and he went again to Constantinople in order to combat the Iconoclast heresy. While there, a grievous illness undermined his strength, and he departed to the Lord in the year 816.

St. 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 St. Gregory and enshrined them in the church where people could venerate them.

When Constantinople fell to the Turks in 1453, the relics were carried to the region of the Danube by a Turkish official. In 1498 Barbu Craiovescu, the Ban of the Romanian Land, 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 this present day.

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THE TRINITARIAN

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Divine Liturgy on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 3 - VOLUME LX

TONE 6

NOVEMBER 20, 2022

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Forefeast of the Entrance into the Temple

Ven. Gregory of Decapolis

*Martyr Dasius of Dorostorum; Martyrs Eustace, Thespesius, and Anatolius of Nicæa;
Hieromartyrs Nerses and Joseph; John, Saverius, Isaac, and Hypatius, Bishops of Persia;
Martyrs Azades the Eunuch, Savonius, Thecla, Anna, and many other men and women who suffered in Persia;
St. Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople;
St. Edmund the Martyr, King of Anglia; Ven. Diodorus, Abbot of Yuregorsk*

“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 IV

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.”

Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY’S EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 2:4-10

TODAY’S GOSPEL: LUKE 12:16-21

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Today, November 20	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers and Litya; Blessing of gifts for ZOE House
Monday, November 21	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
Saturday, November 26	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are very glad you have come to worship the Holy Trinity with us this morning! Please participate in the services at your comfort level. Our greeters will kindly assist you with whatever questions or needs you may have. The communion of Christ’s Body and Blood is reserved for practicing Orthodox Christians. All are invited to come forward at the end of the service to receive the blessed bread. Please stay after the Divine Liturgy for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall so we can get to know you better!

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, November 21	Hebrews 9:1-7	Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28
Tuesday, November 22	I Thessalonians 2:20-3:8	Luke 17:20-25
	I Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 17:26-37
Wednesday, November 23	I Thessalonians 4:1-12	Luke 18:15-17,26-30
Thursday, November 24	I Thessalonians 5:1-8	Luke 18:31-34
Friday, November 25	I Thessalonians 5:9-13,24-28	Luke 19:12-28
(Theotokos)	Hebrews 9:1-7	Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28
Saturday, November 26	II Corinthians 11:1-6	Luke 10:19-21

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER:

20, TODAY 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers and Litya; Blessing of gifts for Zoe House
21, Monday 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
27, Sunday Thanksgiving weekend—no Church School classes

DECEMBER:

4, Sunday St. Nicholas Celebration - Lenten Potluck Brunch
11, Sunday 5:00 p.m. Nativity Concert at St. Paul’s Church

ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION:

We will have our St. Nicholas celebration on Sunday, December 4. There will be a Lenten Potluck Brunch, and possibly a visit from St. Nick himself! Sign up on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

LA COUPOLE OPEN HOUSE:

Come in and browse the selection of unique gifts, Christmas cards and ornaments. All children’s books are 20% off.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Mat. Claudia Virostek for all those named Mary or have Mary as their patron saint on the Holy Day of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary into the Temple.

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are offered by Lois Pilat.

NATIVITY CONCERT:

The annual Nativity Concert with combined choirs of area Orthodox churches will be Sunday, December 11, at 5:00 p.m. Please plan to join us at St. Paul’s Church at 4548 Wallings Rd. in North Royalton for this enjoyable evening. Admission is free and open to all! Free will donations will benefit local Orthodox ministries. Refreshments will be served in the Hellenic Center following the concert.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:

Please remember to donate for flowers that will adorn our church during the Nativity season. There is an envelope in your box that you can use during the upcoming weeks.

COFFEE HOUR:

The refreshments today are hosted by the Stone Soup Table.

ZOE FOR LIFE!

HTOC is collecting items during this Thanksgiving season for Zoe House. The list below is of suggested donations of which Zoe is in particular need. We will bless our “gifts” at Great Vespers this evening for the Feast of the Entrance.

There is a collection box in the Fellowship Hall.

- Clothes—especially size 2T for both boys and girls
- Jackets and snowsuits
- Diapers—size newborn to 5
- Wipes
- Hygiene items—baby wash, shampoo, lotion, diaper rash cream
- Gift cards—especially Target or Walmart (used to purchase car seats)
- Cloth books for infants or board books for babies

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, 11/13/2022	\$ 2727.00
BUILDING FUND	1070.00
CANDLES	101.00
ROOFING FUND	120.00
COFFEE HOUR 11/6/22	95.00



Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Archpastoral Message of the Most Reverend

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

at the beginning of the Nativity Fast 2022

November 15, 2022

Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Venerable Monastics, and Beloved Faithful,

The Nativity Fast, the liturgical season which begins today, invites us to prepare our hearts to welcome our Lord Jesus Christ as we celebrate His birth in the flesh on Christmas Day. During these weeks of preparation we do not live in anticipation of Christmas alone: we are also called to rekindle our anticipation of the glorious return of Christ — when He will return at the end of time — preparing ourselves, with piety and devotion, to remember the Lord's Nativity, to await His glorious return, and to ready ourselves for the day on which the Lord will call us to Himself.

During these special grace-filled weeks of preparation, we are called to leave behind the routine way of our usual daily lives. In the midst of everything that might sidetrack us at this time of the year, we are called to be *mindful* and to *pray*. To be mindful and to be prayerful is the attitude with which we should approach every day. Unfortunately, at this time of the year we are often distracted. The holiday season as observed in society invites us to enter into a spirit of fantasy. The Nativity Fast, however, invites us to attentiveness, to look beyond ourselves, and to open our minds and hearts to the needs of our brothers and sisters who find themselves in so many types of hardship. This is a favorable time to open our hearts, to ask ourselves concrete questions about how and for whom we reach beyond ourselves and the focus our lives.

The second attitude to have in order to best experience this time of awaiting the Lord is that of *prayer*. “Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near,” the Gospel of Luke cautions (Luke 21:28). This special time is about entering more deeply into prayer, turning our thoughts and our hearts to the Lord who is about to come. We await Him in prayer and vigilance. Praying, waiting upon Jesus, opening our hearts to others, being mindful, and not focused upon ourselves.

As we prepare to celebrate the Lord's Nativity, be assured of my prayers and best wishes for you, your families and friends, and all your dear ones.

With love in the One Who comes to save us,

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest