



**ST. GREGORY'S DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK**

Tuesday, November 23

*Post feast of the Entrance-St. Amphilochius, Bishop*

**10:00 A.M. Funeral Service +Andrew Zeedick**

Thursday, November 25

*Final Day of the Entrance of the Theotokos  
Thanksgiving Day*

**9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy**

Friday, November 26

*Venerable Alypius the Stylite*

**7:00 P.M. Moleben for those suffering from Alcohol or Drug Dependence**

Saturday, November 27

*Martyr James the Persian*

**5:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy**

Supplications will be offered for +Patricia Morovich, given by Kathleen Lucci & Family

Sunday, November 28

**Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**9:10 A.M. Third Hour**

**9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy**

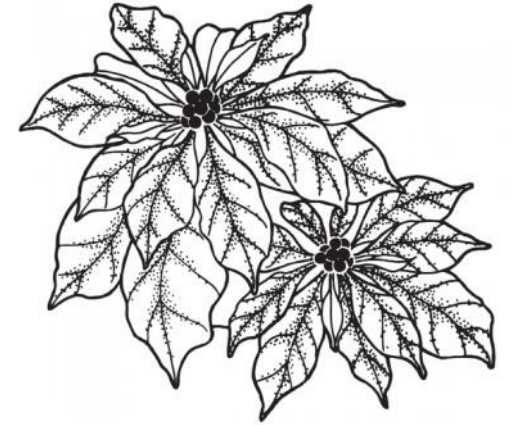
The Epistle Reading will be Ephesians 6:10-17 and the Gospel will be Luke 13:10-17.. Please join us in the Church hall following the Divine Liturgy for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

*"We must begin with thanksgiving for everything. The beginning of joy is to be content with your situation."*

*- St. Ambrose of Optina.*

**Poinsettia for St. Gregory's**

For the upcoming Festal Season of the Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Season, you will have the opportunity this year to honor or remember loved ones by purchasing a poinsettia to be placed in our Holy Church. If you wish to participate, please fill out this form. After you have completed the form, you can either place it in the offering basket or return it to the parish office. Be sure to circle **"memory of"** or **"honor of."** Please **PRINT** your name and the name of the person(s) you are remembering as you wish the names to appear in our parish bulletin. The deadline to place your order is **Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**. The plants may be taken home after the Divine Liturgy on Saturday January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, or Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.



Given in memory of/honor of (print legibly):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 (6½" pot with one plant) \_\_\_\_\_ number of plants

\$23 (8½" pot with three plants) \_\_\_\_\_ number of plants

Make check payable to: St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church



## St. Gregory's Christmas Kielbasa Sale 2021

Make sure to place your order for our delicious St. Gregory's Kielbasa!!!

1. We are selling a 2-pound 10-ounce package (2lb 10oz) for \$17.00.
2. This package will be sealed at the packer and labeled for our Church only
3. The only handling of the package will be from the packer to St. Gregory and then with masks and gloves to you on pick up day

Pick-up at the Church Hall: Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> (9:00 AM to 11:00 AM); Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> (9:00 AM to Noon) and Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> (10:30 AM to Noon)

To place your orders:

Sign-up sheets are available in the Church narthex for placing orders or the kielbasa can be ordered on the St. Gregory home page: [www.stgregoryusc.org](http://www.stgregoryusc.org)

You can also forward your order to our parish office at [stgregoryusc@aol.com](mailto:stgregoryusc@aol.com)

If you have any questions, please contact our parishioner Antonio Wolfe at 412-735-6025 or [awolfeupj@gmail.com](mailto:awolfeupj@gmail.com).

Thank you all for your continued support of this very important fundraiser.

**A Taste of Heaven Cookie Sale is happening again in 2021!!!**

**Pre-Orders ONLY ... Please place your order TODAY!!!**

**Orders will be taken until Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Pickup Times on  
Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>:  
9 am -12 noon**

**Or after the Divine Liturgy on Saturday or Sunday**

Traditional Christmas Cookie Assortment: 3 dozen cookies with nuts for \$20

Traditional Christmas Cookie Assortment: 3 dozen cookies without nuts for \$20

Specialty Cookies: 1 dozen Nut or Apricot Horns (Kolachi) for \$10.00

## Announcements

### Today: Bethany Ministry Meeting

Following the Sunday Divine Liturgy, the meeting of our Bethany Ministry will take place in the Church Library. Be part of this important meeting as we plan visitations during the Advent season.

### Tuesday: Chant Group Practice

On Tuesday evening, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, starting at 6:30 p.m., we will have our Chant Group rehearsal in the Church Hall. Be part of the ministry of Liturgical singing and join us as we practice together our liturgical chant in preparation for the holiday season.

### Thursday: Thanksgiving Day

On Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, our nation under God will celebrate Thanksgiving Day. This is a day set aside to give thanks to Almighty God for the abundance of blessings we receive. Divine Liturgy for this day will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. Please come to offer a prayer of Thanksgiving on this special day!

### Friday: Moleben for Those Suffering from Alcohol or Drug Dependence

Join us on Friday evening, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. as we will offer a special Moleben-Prayer Service, during which our prayerful supplications will be offered for those suffering from Alcohol or Drug dependence. Be part of this prayerful event as we pray before the icon of the Mother of God known as the "Inexhaustible Cup".

### Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Next Saturday & Sunday, November 27-28, we will honor at St. Gregory's all our couples who are celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup> plus wedding anniversary in 2021. If you wish to participate in this celebration, we ask that you please contact the parish office immediately. As part of this celebration, we will have a special blessing service at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

### Getting Married?

If you are planning on getting married in 2022, you must contact the parish office at least six months prior to your intended wedding date to begin the marriage preparation process. All marriage preparation must be completed no later than six weeks prior to your intended wedding date. Marriage preparation consists of not only meeting with the parish priest and filling out the necessary paperwork, but also participating in the Archeparchial Marriage Preparation Program. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.

### **Our St. Nicholas Party**

The annual parish St. Nicholas party will be held in our Church Hall on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> following the 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, our parish children will come forward to welcome St. Nicholas to our parish (parents may accompany the smaller children). Following the welcome in Church we will continue in our Church Hall with our parish celebration. Sign-up sheets have been placed in the Church vestibule for parishioners to indicate their intention to attend the party. Anyone wishing to contribute a salad, dessert, or traditional Christmas ethnic dish can also indicate this on the sign-up sheet. We are looking forward to filling the hall with happy parishioners.

### **Sacred Relics of the Saints: Treasures of the Church**

St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church presents a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Wednesday evening, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Fr. Carlos Martins, a Vatican-appointed expert on relics will be here with an extraordinary Vatican collection of over 150 relics, some as old as 2,000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Joseph, St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the “Little Flower”), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. There will also be a portion of the Veil of Our Lady and one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world.

Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. Throughout history, many healings have been worked in the presence of relics; and thousands have occurred through this ministry. Do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as prayer ropes/shotki, rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members, which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Please spread the word.

### **Prayers for the Living & Deceased**

In preparation for the year 2022, we ask that if you have any special dates throughout the year on which you would like to have prayers offered for the living or for the blessed repose of your loved ones, you please contact the parish office now to reserve that day.

### **Collection- May God bless you...**

The total for Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, was \$3415.80 (Envelopes: \$2565.00; Online: \$732.80; Loose: \$18.00; Candles: \$40.00; Debt: \$20.00; Cookie Sale: \$40.00).

*During these challenging times we thank you for your kindness and generosity!*



### ***St. Gregory's Parish Advent Project***

During this time of the Nativity Fast-Advent Season we are called to reach out and to see the needs of others. Here in our parish family, we have had over the years the wonderful opportunity to do so, especially during this time of the year when we are on a spiritual journey to Bethlehem to welcome the Newborn King-Christ Our Savior.

This year join us as we reach out to “Jubilee Soup Kitchen”, a wonderful ministry supporting the Hill District and surrounding Pittsburgh community by providing services to assist those whose lives are challenged by poverty, joblessness, or homelessness.

For many years Jubilee Soup Kitchen provides a hot meal every day at noon 365 days a year, bathrooms, showers, personal hygiene items, and seasonally appropriate clothing.

In the Mother of God Chapel we are collecting the following items:

Cold Weather Clothing: Jackets, Hats, Gloves, and Scarves

Supplies: Men's Underwear any size (New), Ladies Bras & Underwear any size (New), Both Men's and Ladies T-Shirts, White or Black Crew Socks, Bars of Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Razors, Shaving Cream, Shampoo, Conditioner, Lotion, Deodorant, and Body Wash

Ongoing Needs for the Soup Kitchen: Gloves (Disposable), Wax Paper (bakery small square sheets), Dawn Dish Soap, Hand Soap in (Plastic Bottle), Paper Napkins, Bathroom Tissue, Paper Towels, Heavy Duty Paper Plates (No Foam Plates), Kleenex Tissue, Garbage can liners (55 gallon heavy duty and 30 gallon), Dishcloths, Aluminum foil (Heavy Wide Roll), Clear Plastic Wrap, Forks & Spoons (No Knives), Styrofoam containers (Sealable Dinner Portion Size), Plastic Containers, Plastic Grocery Bags (New or Used)

*Yes, it is that time of the year again for family and friends, but not everyone is so lucky...together let us reach out to Jubilee Soup Kitchen. We will be collecting items in the Mother of God Chapel until Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions with regards to this Advent outreach ministry, please contact the parish office.*



### **QR Code for St. Gregory Tithe.ly Donations**



We have expanded the ways you can donate to St. Gregory's. Please explore the many simple and secure ways your donation can reach us. Starting this week, the bulletin will now include a QR code for easy scanning to the Tithe.ly app for donations. This idea was offered by our parishioner Emily Kiss, and we thank her for her suggestion!!

The QR code will take you to our donation portal. Your engagement, support and prayers are very much appreciated. It

is only because of your generosity that we can offer the worship opportunities we have here at St. Gregory's. Thank you!

#### ***St. Gregory's Prayer List***

***Kindly remember in your prayers our parishioners and friends who struggle with sickness, pain, hardship, or any special need: Charles Dunlap, Theresa Lokes, and Rosemary Tomko.***

*If you would like to add your name or the name of a loved one to this list, please contact the parish office via phone or email. In the Church vestibule, you are invited to add the names of the sick and any other intentions you would like to be remembered in our Prayer Intention book.*

#### **Saint Nicholas Charity Event**

**Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

**A Byzantine Catholic Seminary Benefit**

***Moleben Service: 3:00 P.M followed by Dinner at St. John Cathedral Center  
210 Greentree Road, Munhall, PA***

***Tickets: \$45 per adult and \$20 per child (ages 12 and under)***

***For more information please see Mike Pillar (412-508-6587) or call the Parish Office***

***\*\*\*Deadline to order tickets is Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>\*\*\****

### **On the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple**

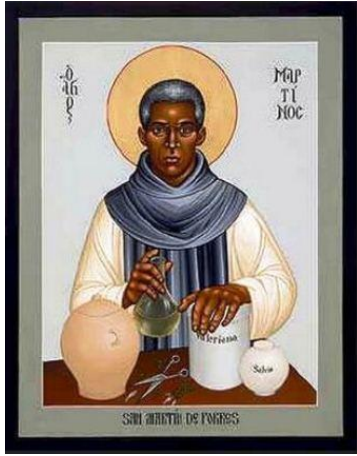
Today we celebrate the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple. The background story to this event is pretty important.

The righteous Joachim and Anna were devout Jews who loved God very much. They lived on only a third of their income, tithing and giving away the rest. Yet they had no child. They promised God that they would give their child back to Him, if He would grant them one, and He blessed them with the gift of their daughter Mary.



When Mary was three years old, her aged parents, Joachim and Anna took her on a three day journey to present her in the Temple in Jerusalem to fulfill their promise to dedicate her to the Lord's work. The Virgin was clad in royal garments and she was accompanied by a grand procession of her kinsmen each carrying a lighted candle. There were 15 steps leading up to the Temple. Her parents stood her on the first step, then Mary ran to the top. She was received by St. Zacharias, the father of St. John the Forerunner, as he was the High Priest at that time. He took her by the hand and led her into, not only the Holy Place, but into the Holy of Holies. This was the place that only the High Priest was to enter, only on the Day of Atonement. The only explanation is that he was moved by the Spirit of God. Joachim and Anna offered sacrifices to God, received the priest's blessing and returned home. Mary lived in the Temple for nine years. Her parents visited her often until they reposed. She wanted to remain in the Temple all of her days and never marry. The law had no provision for this. It was unheard of for a girl to vow perpetual virginity. So she was betrothed to Joseph. Joseph was an older man whose wife had died leaving him with small children to care for. He needed someone to help him care for the children and she needed someone to protect her in a society that had no place for a single woman. This allowed her to remain a virgin after she left the Temple at age twelve.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple signifies her total dedication to God and her readiness for her future vocation as the Mother of the Incarnate Lord. This is a feast of anticipation. As honor is shown to Mary, the faithful are called to look forward to the Incarnation of Christ, celebrated in a little more than a month by the Feast of the Nativity on December 25<sup>th</sup>.



## St. Martin de Porres

*“Everything, even sweeping, scraping vegetables, weeding a garden and waiting on the sick could be a prayer, if it were offered to God.”*

St. Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1579. Martin was the illegitimate son to a Spanish gentleman and a freed slave from Panama, of African or possibly Native American descent. At a young age, Martin’s father abandoned him, his mother, and his younger sister, leaving Martin to grow up in deep poverty. After spending just two years in primary school, Martin was placed with a barber/surgeon where he would learn to cut hair and the medical arts.

As Martin grew older, he experienced a great deal of ridicule for being of mixed-race. In Peru, by law, all descendants of African or Indians were not allowed to become full members of religious orders. Martin, who spent long hours in prayer, found his only way into the community he longed for was to ask the Dominicans of Holy Rosary Priory in Lima to accept him as a volunteer who performed the most menial tasks in the monastery. In return, he would be allowed to wear the habit and live within the religious community. When Martin was 15, he asked for admission into the Dominican Convent of the Rosary in Lima and was received as a servant boy and eventually was moved up to the church officer in charge of distributing money to deserving poor.

During his time in the Convent, Martin took on his old trades of barbering and healing. He also worked in the kitchen, did laundry, and cleaned. After eight more years with the Holy Rosary, Martin was granted the privilege to take his vows as a member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic by the prior Juan de Lorenzana who decided to disregard the law restricting Martin based on race.

However, not all the members in the Holy Rosary were as open-minded as Lorenzana; Martin was called horrible names and mocked for being illegitimate and descending from slaves. Martin grew to become a Dominican lay brother in 1603 at the age of 24. Ten years later, after he had been presented with the religious habit of a lay brother, Martin was assigned to the infirmary where he would remain in charge until his death. He became known for encompassing the virtues need to care for the sick carefully and patiently, even in the most difficult situations.

Martin was praised for his unconditional care of all people, regardless of race or wealth. He took care of everyone from the Spanish nobles to the African slaves. Martin didn’t care if the person was diseased or dirty, he would welcome them into his own home. Martin’s life reflected his great love for God and all of God’s gifts. It is said he had many extraordinary abilities, including aerial flights, bilocation, instant cures, miraculous knowledge, spiritual knowledge, and an excellent relationship with animals. Martin also founded an orphanage for abandoned children and slaves and is known for raising dowry for young girls in short amounts of time.

During an epidemic in Lima, many of the friars in the Convent of the Rosary became very ill. Locked away in a distant section of the convent, they were kept away from the professed. However, on more than one occasion, Martin passed through the locked doors to care for the sick. However, he became disciplined for not following the rules of the Convent, but after replying, “Forgive my error, and please instruct me, for I did not know that the precept of obedience took precedence over that of charity,” he was given full liberty to follow his heart in mercy.

In January of 1639, when Martin was 60 years old, he became very ill with chills, fevers and tremors causing him agonizing pain. He would experience almost a year full of illness until he passed away on November 3, 1639. By the time he died, he was widely known and accepted. Talks of his miracles in medicine and caring for the sick were everywhere. After his death, the miracles received when he was invoked in such greatness that when he was exhumed 25 years later, his body exhaled a splendid fragrance, and he was still intact.

St. Martin de Porres was beatified by Pope Gregory XVI on October 29, 1837 and canonized by Pope St. John XXIII on May 6, 1962. He has become the patron saint of people of mixed race, innkeepers, barbers, public health workers and more. His feast day is November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## ***Thanksgiving Prayer***

Father in Heaven, Creator of all and source of all goodness and love, please look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude in this time of giving thanks. Thank you for all the graces and blessings. You have bestowed upon us, spiritual and temporal: our faith and religious heritage. Our food and shelter, our health, the loves we have for one another, our family and friends. Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity, please grant us continued graces and blessing throughout the coming year. Amen.

