

SS Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

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Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas/Martyr Pholothea of Athens

Sunday March 4, 2018

Hebs. 1:10-14, 2:1:3, Mark 2:1-12

Tropars and Kondaks Tone 6 and p. 181

Welcome! We welcome to our church this morning all visitors, guests, relatives, and friends of Saints Peter and Paul Church. We pray your visit with us is spiritually rewarding, holy and life-giving. Visit often!

Wednesday – 6:00 PM Moleban to the Cross with Bible Study and discussion afterward.

Friday – 6:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - St Peter and Paul in Urey

Saturday 9:00 AM All Soul Saturday Liturgy

A representative of the company that sells our bell system will be coming to the church on Monday, March 5 at 11:00 AM. He will demonstrate a new system to replace our system that is 34 years old and in need of repair.

“If from one burning lamp someone lights another, then another from that one, and so on in succession, he has light continuously. In the same way, through the Apostles ordaining their successors, and these successors ordaining others, and so on, the grace of the Holy Spirit is handed down through all generations and enlightens all who obey their shepherds and teachers.”
+ St. Gregory Palamas,

Second Sunday of Lent. These days, the 2nd Sunday of Lent and the week following are dedicated to the **Commemoration of St. Gregory Palamas**, whose understanding of how we participate in the life of God was declared by the Church to be correct doctrine. The Church celebrates Gregory’s doctrine as a “Second Sunday of Orthodoxy” because it is considered to be so important. There is an earlier theme of this week, however, and they can still be found in the prayers and hymns for this Second Sunday and the week that follows:

St. Polycarp of Smyrna. St. Polycarp is an important saint and martyr from the early days of the Church, at the end of the days of the Apostles (in fact, he knew St. John the Apostle – see his life below). His feast is on February 23 (March 8) and so it almost always falls during Lent. Since he was considered to be so important, the Church wanted to celebrate his feast day properly, which cannot be done during the Lenten weekdays, since there is no Divine Liturgy. Furthermore, St. Polycarp offers the great example of Faith in Jesus Christ, even to the point of death, and so gives us an excellent example what it means to be *faithful*. So, St. Polycarp’s feast was moved and fixed to the 2nd Sunday of Lent, when it could be celebrated.

“... Adam chose the treason of the serpent, the originator of evil, in preference to God’s commandment and counsel, and broke the decreed fast. Instead of eternal life he received death and instead of the place of unsullied joy he received this sinful place full of passions and misfortunes, or rather, he was sentenced to Hades and nether darkness. Our nature would have stayed in the infernal regions below the lurking places of the serpent who initially beguiled it, had not Christ come. He started off by fasting (cf. Mk. 1:13) and in the end abolished the serpent’s tyranny, set us free and brought us back to life.”
— St. Gregory Palamas, The Homilies Vol. II

Annual Women’s retreat at Christ the Savior Seminary – Saturday March 10th. Please see the flier downstairs.

Please see the Lenten Retreat information posted downstairs. Our region is Saturday March 17th from 9 AM to 5 PM. Bishop Gregory is the presenter. Registration forms are also downstairs.

Reminder! 1st Annual Diocesan Senior’s Retreat! Our Diocese is pleased to offer its first annual Seniors’ Retreat this year from April 23-25 at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA. All our Seniors, age 65 and older are welcome to join Bishop Gregory at the Camp for 3 days of fellowship and prayer.

3/16- SS Peter and Paul in Homer City

3/23 – St. John’s in Dixonville

Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org> Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>
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