

# ✠ St. Gregory's Journal

✠ September, 2015 - Volume XX, Issue 8

---

*St. Gregory the Great Orthodox Church  
1443 Euclid Street, NW, Washington, DC - stgregoryoc.org  
A Western Rite Congregation of the Antiochian Archdiocese*

---

## From a Homily of Saint Andrew of Crete

died AD 740  
Feast Day ~ July 4

**H**ow great is the  
Cross! What  
blessings it holds!  
He who possesses it  
possesses a treasure. More  
noble, more precious than  
anything on earth, in fact

and in name, it is indeed a treasure, for to it and through it and for it all the riches of our salvation were stored away and restored to us!

**I**f there had been no Cross, Christ would not have been crucified. If there had been no Cross, Life would not have been nailed to the tree. If he had not been nailed, the streams of everlasting life would not have welled from his side, blood and water, the cleansing of the world; the record of our sins

*Inside:*

<i>A New Home for St. Gregory's</i> .....	2
<i>St. Cornelius</i> .....	3
<i>Parish News</i> .....	6
<i>The Wise Use of Time</i> .....	7
<i>Love Conquers Evil</i> .....	9
<i>September Calendar</i> .....	11

would not have been cancelled, we would not have gained freedom, we would not have enjoyed the tree of life, paradise would not have been opened. If there had been no Cross, death would not have been trodden under foot, the underworld would not have yielded up its spoils.

**H**ow great the Cross, through which we have received a multitude of blessings, because, against all reckoning, the miracles and sufferings of Christ have been victorious! How precious, the means of God's suffering, and his trophy of victory! On it of his own will he suffered unto death. On it he won his victory, wounding the devil, and conquering death, and shattering the bars of the underworld. The Cross has become the common salvation of the whole world.

## *A New Home for St. Gregory's*

**A**s we near the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our parish (on March 3, 1996), St. Gregory's is embarking on a new chapter in our parish life. We are purchasing a 2.11-acre parcel of land at 13407 Roxbury Road in Silver Spring, Maryland for our new home. There is a small house on the property which can be remodeled and enlarged for our use. We are soliciting the expert advice of site engineers, contractors, architects, and land development lawyers to see how best to make this a suitable place for Orthodox worship. In the meantime, the buyers of our Euclid Street home have agreed to let us continue worshipping there for another six months.

**T**he first phase of the work on the new property will be to create a chapel, to enlarge the parking area, and to make certain that all the legal requirements are met in order to obtain a change of use permit and an occupancy permit.

A second phase of work will include creating an entrance on Randolph Road where we will be more visible and accessible and further enlarging parking areas. We hope that, within five to ten years, we will be able to begin phase three of our plan and build a larger church on another area of the property, using the first chapel as the parish hall.

While we are able to make this purchase with the sale of the Euclid Street property and our current financial resources, we will be obtaining a building loan for all the work that needs to be done. Fund-raising will be a part of this effort.

As we have prayed for God's guidance to find that "good place" where we can worship Him and grow in our faith, we will continue to pray for guidance as we meet new challenges - and joys - in the coming months and years. *O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts.* [Ps. 84:1]

## *St. Cornelius, Pope & Martyr*

### *Feast Day ~ September 16*



The devil has a way of putting people "between a rock and a hard place." That was especially true for St. Cornelius, who was bishop of Rome in the third century.

Cornelius was serving as a priest in Rome during the persecutions of the Emperor Decius, persecutions which had been sporadic until January of 250. Now Decius ordered that all citizens had to make a sacrifice before official commissioners or face a

penalty of death, and when Pope Fabian refused to perform this sacrilege, he was martyred on January 20. Continuing his campaign to eliminate Christianity, the Emperor made it impossible for the church in Rome to gather to elect a successor to their martyred leader. Until that could happen, the senior priests, including Fr. Cornelius, carried on the necessary work of the diocese, which included providing for the basic needs of over 1500 widows and poor people, as we learn from the letters of Cornelius.

In March of the next year, when the emperor was taken out of the city to fight the Goths, the Christians of Rome felt safe enough to attempt an election, and Cornelius was chosen to be the next Pope. It was an honor not sought after: his life would now be in greater danger as the most prominent Christian in the city, and his responsibility for all those who were living in such anxious and fearful times would weigh heavily. But Cornelius bowed to the will of the people and the Holy Spirit.

As if the trials of this age were not enough for the bishop, he now faced an adversary from another direction. Another priest of Rome, Novatian, who had been a Stoic philosopher before becoming a Christian, created a stir by announcing that he was the rightly elected Pope and proceeded to denounce Cornelius and the policies he was beginning to establish. Novatian was an extremely eloquent and persuasive speaker and he gathered a small following around him.

One of the matters of contention between Pope Cornelius and Novatian was the treatment of those Christians who had apostatized during the persecution. Novatian was a "hard-liner", who insisted that, not only could those Christians never be re-admitted to the Church, but that clergy could also not pronounce the Church's absolution for those who had confessed to serious crimes, such as murder. He taught that sincere repentance and a period of penance were not enough and that these sinners had to be excommunicated for the remainder of their lives.



Pope Cornelius took a much more pastoral stance. Remembering that Christ had forgiven St. Peter when he denied that he even knew his Lord, this successor to St. Peter knew that God, in his mercy, wanted all to repent and return to the Church. On this issue, as well as that of his proper election to the papacy, Cornelius was supported by most of the other bishops of the Church, particularly those in Africa, led by St. Cyprian of Carthage. Novatian was eventually excommunicated and he later formed his own church.

When Decius was killed in battle and Gallus became the new Emperor, persecutions quickly resumed. Pope Cornelius was exiled from Rome, during which time he corresponded with other bishops, writing in the colloquial Latin used in the marketplace, an indication that he was not a classically educated person from a wealthy family. Some sources say that when he died in June of 253 it was from the difficulties of his exile but other sources say that he was beheaded. Whatever the precise cause of his death, St. Cornelius is numbered among the martyrs of the Church.

The question of how those who apostatize should be treated continued to plague the Church during further persecutions, but the pastoral approach of St. Cornelius eventually became the policy of the whole Church.

During his brief period of only two years as Pope of Rome, St. Cornelius was threatened from two directions, with the devil working through the Emperor Decius and the heretic Novatian. But St. Cornelius never lost sight of his holy calling. He remained steadfast to the end, surely hearing our Lord say to him, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." *Holy Cornelius, pray for us!*

## *News of the Parish and Beyond*

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross will be observed on Sunday, September 13. This is in accordance with the Archdiocesan practice of recent years when a major feast day occurs on Monday. The liturgical day is from sundown to sundown and Sunday evening liturgies are not allowed. So parishes for whom a Monday morning Liturgy is not practical are allowed to celebrate the feast on the day before. We will celebrate the feast of St. Michael on Monday evening, September 28, at 7:30, with Vespers at 7PM and pot-luck supper following.

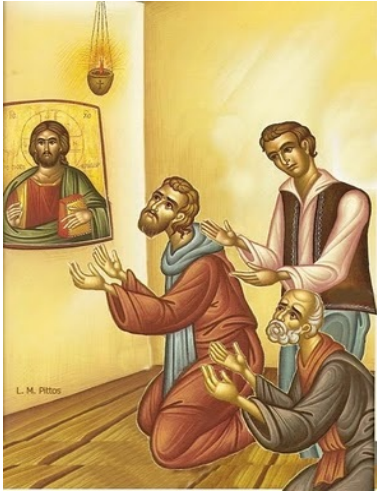
The fall Ember days - Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday following Holy Cross Day - are days set aside for fasting and prayer especially for the Church, the ordained ministry, and all who serve in the Church.

Fr. Nicholas and Kh. Rebecca will be away August 31-September 11 on a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary trip to Germany and France. Fr. Raphael will be officiating at the services and will be available for any pastoral emergencies during this time.

On Saturday, September 19, Orthodox Christians will converge on the National Mall for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Monumental Missions Walk to raise funds for missions. The Walk will begin at 9AM on the lawn behind the Jefferson Memorial, will go around the Tidal Basin, and end at 12noon. At each monument along the route, guides will discuss the spiritual significance of the landmark and provide insight into the role that religion has played in the history of this country. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-monumental-missions-walk-registration-17020607094> to register to participate. If you cannot go on the walk but would like to make a donation, contact Eleni Porter at [beporter1@verizon.net](mailto:beporter1@verizon.net) or 703-913-9629. All proceeds from this walk will be divided between OCMC and local ministries.

# The Wise use of Time

*From the writings of St. Ignatius Brianchaninov*



The holy apostle Paul, warning us not to spend time in vain, lawfully instructs us to use each minute of our life wisely: “See then”, he says, “that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” In talking about “redeeming the time” the apostle makes us aware that time is used to purchase true blessings, just as money is used to acquire of that we need for physical life, and that, consequently, the proper use of time is very similar to

the use of money in good hands. A wise master does not spend foolishly, totals up his assets properly, and assigns a special purpose to each sum of money. We should handle time in a like manner: assign hours and minutes for one or another good purpose; redeem each day by doing good deeds for ourselves or others; each year pass as many steps on the way to spiritual perfection as there are days in a year, and not waste a single hour needlessly, doing nothing, and least of all in using it for sinful deeds.

The day usually begins with our awakening from sleep. How should we look upon the moment of awakening? Just as we would look upon the moment of being born into the world or upon resurrection from the dead, because there is a great similarity between awakening from sleep and being born. When we are asleep, it is as though we do not exist. When we wake up from sleep, it is as though we are being born anew, we are coming alive, we are being resurrected.

The time immediately following sleep should, first of all, be spent in prayer. Each morning brings us the pious joy of glorifying God for the Creator’s having allowed us yet again to see his world, so beautifully designed for us. In beginning the day we are beginning a new life, and in life there are so many grounds for temptation and sin that a weak person absolutely cannot do without the help of God, which is acquired only through prayer. And secondly, time should be spent in reading the word of God. It is the book of life, it contains everything we need to know, to do, to hope for. In the words of St. John Chrysostom, it is God’s letter or epistle to mankind. Whoever does not nourish his soul with this celestial gift - starves his soul.

Afterwards comes the time for activity, time for work. Everyone has his own duties, his own affairs, his own job, his own diverse needs. But whatever they may be, there is one cardinal rule for all of them. “Be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.” i.e. at the beginning of each deed ask yourself whether or not it conforms to the will of God.

How should we spend the time of leisure or rest? In fulfilling the following words of the apostle’s instruction, “Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” That is, if you like to read in your free time - read that which reveals to you the wisdom of God. Do you like to go out in society? Do so, but keep to pious discussion, wise conversation, good counsels and discourses. Do you like singing and music? Do sing, but particularly those songs which contain the outpourings of pure and lofty souls. Worldly songs can sometimes corrupt the soul by glorifying passions, vices, and human folly.

In other words, do what you always do, but in reverse: exchange the sensual for the spiritual, the body for the soul, the secular for the religious.

## *Love Conquers Evil*

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians of Rome: *Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.* [Rom. 12:21] how much the Christian martyrs of Rome endured in those hard years at the hands of the unbelieving pagans! Slander, persecution, insults, floggings, various tortures to make them deny Christ, and finally death. The great Apostle counseled them in his epistle how they should behave toward their persecutors.

The Holy Fathers of the Church knew by experience the great power hidden in love, and how the weapon of love crushes the assault of evil. *Evil can by no means conquer evil*, writes Abba Poemen, *but if someone mistreats you, treat him well, so that by your goodness you destroy his wickedness.* And St. Barsanuphius the Great, being asked about this, replied: *Evil does not conquer evil.*

Do not be overcome by the evil of others, O man. He who mistreats you must be repaid by kindness. Do not allow anger to overcome you so that you seek revenge. Have great patience in temptations: raise your hands and heart to God and pray for your enemies. Beg God to enlighten them so that they will return to the knowledge of God. Did someone steal your property? Do not rush to plunder his possessions or to prosecute him, but pray for him with love. Did he strike you? Remember that the Lord commanded us to turn the left cheek also when they strike us on the right. Evil is neutralized by goodness. If you try to conquer the evil of others with your own evil, you nourish and strengthen it even more. But if you do good to the one who injured you and make excuses for him, when he learns about it he will be ashamed of his evil behavior, and will repent and ask forgiveness. Great is the power of love; it is the greatest characteristic of God.

*Reprinted from The Illustrated Sayings of the Holy Fathers by Monk John Vranos*

**St. Gregory Orthodox Church**  
c/o 9415 Wire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20901  
*Address Correction Requested*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2015</h1>						<i>Sunday Services: Matins at 9AM, Sung Mass at 9:30AM</i>
		<b>1</b> St. Giles, Ab, 708; Twelve Holy Brothers, Mm, c. 303	<b>2</b> St. Stephen of Hungary, KC, 1038	<b>3</b> Consecration of St. Gregory the Great, 590	<b>4</b> St. Gorazde of Prague, BM, 1942	<b>5</b>  <i>Vespers at 6pm</i>
<b>6</b> Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  <b>G</b>	<b>7</b> St. Cloud, C, 560; St. Sergius I, PC, 701  <i>(Labor Day)</i>	<b>8</b> Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	<b>9</b> St. Gorgonius, M, 304	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Ss. Protus & Hyacinth, Mm, c. 257; St. Paphnu- tius, BC, 4th c.	<b>12</b>  <i>Vespers at 6pm</i>
<b>13</b> Exaltation of the Holy Cross (trans.), comm. Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  <b>R</b>	<b>14</b> (Exaltation of the Holy Cross)	<b>15</b> St. Nicomedes, M, 4th c.	<b>16</b> Ember Wed- nesday; Ss. Cornelius, PM, 254 & Cyprian, BM 258; St. Ninian, BC, 5 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>17</b> St. Lambert, BM, 705	<b>18</b> Ember Friday	<b>19</b> Ember Satur- day; St. Theo- dore of Canterbury, BC, 690; Ss. Januarius & comp., Mm <i>Vespers at 6pm</i>
<b>20</b> Sixteenth Sun- day after Pen- tecost; Ss. Eustace & comp., Mm, c. 118  <b>G</b>	<b>21</b> St. Matthew, Evangelist & Apostle, 1st c.	<b>22</b> St. Maurice & Comp., Mm, 3rd c.; St. Lioba of Mainz, V, 781	<b>23</b> St. Thecla of Iconium, VM, 1st c.; St. Linus, PM, c. 80	<b>24</b> Conception St. John Baptist; SS. Juvenaly, 1796 & Peter the Aleut, 1815, MM	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Ss. Cyprian, BM & Justina, VM, c. 303  <i>Vespers at 6pm</i>
<b>27</b> Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost; Ss. Cosmas & Damian, Mm, c. 303  <b>G</b>	<b>28</b> St. Wenceslas, M, 938  <i>Mass at 7:30pm W</i>	<b>29</b> Dedication of St. Michael the Archangel	<b>30</b> St. Jerome PrCD, 420; St. Gregory the Illumin- ator, BC, c. 323			

*Confessions are heard after Vespers, during the  
Psalms at Matins, and by appointment.*

*Coffee Hour follows Mass.  
Sunday School is during Coffee Hour.*