

✠ St. Gregory's Journal ✠

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St. Gregory the Great Orthodox Church
A Western Rite Congregation of the Antiochian Archdiocese
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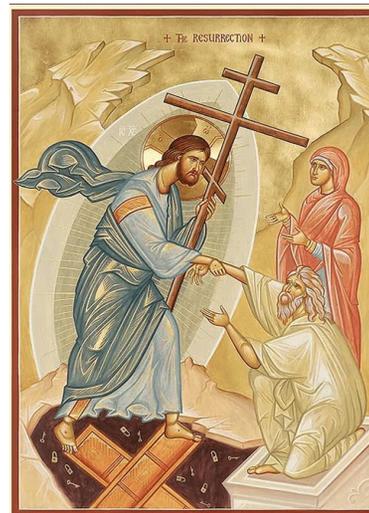
From a Homily of St. Gregory of Nyssa d. 394

The kingdom of life has come and the empire of death has been destroyed. A new form of birth has arrived and with it another life, another way of living, a change has come over our nature. What manner of birth is this? It is not of blood, nor of the will of man, nor of the will of the flesh, but of God.

How can this be? Listen and I shall explain it briefly. This child is conceived by faith and come to light through the rebirth of baptism. The Church nurses her and suckles her with doctrines and precepts to live by; her food is the bread of heaven. Heavenly citizenship is the perfection she grows too, her marriage is her familiarity with wisdom, her children are hope, her home the kingdom, her inheritance and wealth are

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the delights of paradise, and her end is not death but that blessed and eternal life prepared for those who are worthy.

This is the day the Lord has made - a day far other than those made at the creation of the world which are measured by the passage of time. This day is the beginning of another creation, for on this day God made a new heaven and a new earth as the prophet says. What heaven? The firmament of the faith we have in

Christ. What earth? The good heart which is like earth, that drinks the rain that descends on it and brings forth varied fruit.

In this creation the sun is a pure life; the stars are virtues; the air is candid behavior; the sea is the depth and the riches of wisdom and knowledge. Grass and seeds are the divine teaching and sound doctrine which are picked and eaten by the people of the pasture, that is by God's flock. The trees bearing fruit are the observance of the commandments.

On this day the true man is created according to the image and likeness of God. This surely is the world that begins with the words, *This is the day the Lord has made* [Ps. 118:24]. This is surely a day unlike any other day, as the prophet says, and a night unlike any other night.

But we have not yet explained the most astonishing fact of all in this grace: it destroys the sorrows of death and brings forth the first-born of the dead.

Iascend, he says, to my Father and to your Father, my God and your God. O wonderful and excellent news! Though he is the

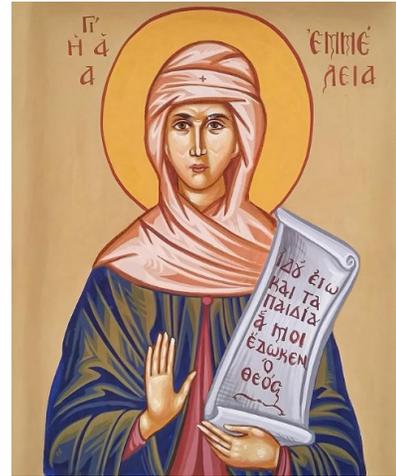
Only-begotten and became like us for our sake in order to make us his brothers, he now takes back his manhood to his true Father in order to take back with him all his kin.

St. Emmeleia *Feast Day ~ May 30*

Many families pass characteristics, traits, even talents down through the generations: the shape of the nose, a tendency to strict or lenient behavior, musical or athletic ability. There are some families, however, which have passed holiness down through their family genealogical tree. A particular Neocaesarean family stands out as one which, for many generations, produced heroes of the faith.

It may have begun with grandmother, St. Macrina (the Elder), who lived in the late third and early fourth centuries. It is believed that she studied the Christian faith under St. Gregory the Wonder-worker, bishop of Neocesarea, and that she instilled her faith in her children. She and her husband also lived out their faith by fleeing to the forests near the shores of the Black Sea during the persecutions of Galerius and Diocletian. They gave up their home rather than deny Christ and remained in exile for seven years.

Daughter-in-law Emmelia, the daughter of a martyr, carried on the strong Christian tradition already established in this family. With her husband, St. Basil (the Elder) she had ten children, five of whom are counted among the saints of the Church. Her example of prayer and devotion to Our Lord through the services of the Church led them to lives of piety and service. Her son St. Basil (the Great), became bishop of Caesarea at an important time in the fight against the heresy of Arianism; her son, St. Gregory became bishop of Nyssa and participated in the First Council of Constantinople in 381; her son St. Peter became bishop of Sebaste after living as an ascetic; St. Theosebia, her daughter,



was a deaconess who spent her life serving and caring for the poor; and St. Macrina (the Younger), her eldest daughter, founded a monastery with her then-widowed mother where they lived out the remainder of their lives in prayer and fasting. St. Emmeleia fell asleep in the Lord on May 30 in the year 375, having ensured that her family would remain in the fold of the Christian Church.

The Department of Home-schooling for our Antiochian Archdiocese is named for St. Emmeleia, the perfect example of a mother who taught her children to love God and serve Him in his Church.

May St. Emmeleia intercede for all mothers and their children that they may remain steadfast in the faith and pass on this faithfulness to another generation. *St. Emmeleia, pray for us.*

Parish News

Many thanks to all who contributed to the beauty of our Holy Week and Easter services - those who served at the altar, who sang in the choir, who read lessons, who arranged flowers, who cooked... all worked together to make our offerings in celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We continue our celebration of the Resurrection for almost all the month of May, and there are several other important occasions this month. We commemorate the anniversary of the dedication of our church building by Bishop JOHN on May 21, 2017, on the Sunday within the octave, May 25 this year. The

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provers for that feast remind us that this temple is the house of God and the gate of heaven. The Paschal season nears its end with the celebration of the Ascension of our Lord, which we observe on the Eve, May 28. Mass will be at 7pm, with Vespers at 6:30, and a pot-luck supper following.

Our collection of baby items for the Orthodox Christians for Life National Baby Shower have been donated to the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center to help mothers in need. Thanks to all who contributed!

On Victory Over the Last Enemy

by St. Nikolai of Ochrid

The first enemy of man is the devil; the second, sin; and the third, death. The Lord Jesus conquered these three enemies of the human race. By His humiliation, He conquered the proud devil; by His death, He conquered sin and, by His Resurrection, He conquered death. Conquering all our enemies, He invites us to partake in His glorious victory. Not that we should ourselves conquer, but that we should creep in under the wing of His victory. His strength alone conquers; His weapons alone slay. We are without strength and without weapons, and our enemies are fearsome. But with Him we can conquer those more powerful than ourselves. At what price does He offer us His victory? At a low price, my brethren, at a very low price, does he offer us this most costly victory. That we humble ourselves and obey the will of God... that we die to self; die to our bodily desires and passions... To live for Him and not for ourselves; to enthrone Him in our hearts.

Orisen Lord, illumine us, strengthen us and heal us by Thy victory! With thanksgiving, we ascribe glory and praise to Thee for ever. Amen.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2025</h1>						<i>Sunday services: Matins at 9am Sung Mass at 9:30</i>
				1 Ss. Philip & James, Apostles, 1 st C	2 St. Athanasius, BCD, 373	3 Finding of the Holy Cross <i>Vespers at 6pm</i>
4 Second Sunday after Easter; St. Monica, Ma, 387 <i>W</i>	5	6 St. John before the Latin Gate	7	8 Apparition of St. Michael, 492	9 St. Gregory Nazianzus, BCD, 390	10 Ss. Gordian, 362 & Epimachus, 250, Mm <i>Vespers at 6pm</i>
11 Third Sunday after Easter <i>W</i>	12 St. Epiphanius of Salamis, BC, c. 403	13	14	15 St. Pachomius, Ab, 348	16 St. Brendan the Navigator, Ab, 577	17 <i>Vespers at 6pm</i>
18 Fourth Sunday after Easter; St. Venantius, M, 250; St. Theodotus & comp., Mm, c. 303 <i>W</i>	19 St. Dunstan, BC, 988; St. Pudentiana, V, 2 nd C	20	21 Dedication of St. Gregory's; St. Constantine, C, 337	22 St. Romanus of Subiaco, Ab, 560	23 St. Julia, VM, 439	24 St. Vincent of Lerins, C, 450 <i>Vespers at 6pm</i>
25 Sunday in the Octave of Dedication; Fifth Sunday after Easter; St. Urban, PM, 230 <i>W</i>	26 Rogation Monday; St. Augustine of Canterbury, BC, 605 <i>(Memorial Day)</i>	27 St. Bede, CD, 735; St. John I, PM, 526; Rogation Tuesday	28 Vigil of the Ascension; St. Germanus of Paris, BC, 576 <i>Mass at 7pm</i> <i>W</i>	29 Ascension Day	30 of the Octave of Ascension; St. Felix I, PM, 274 <i>(resume fasting)</i>	31 of the Octave of Ascension; St. Petronilla, VM, c. 100 <i>Vespers at 6pm</i>