Saint Gregory the Wonderworker, was born in the city of Neocaesarea. After his elementary education, Saint Gregory and his brother Gregory went to Beirut to study law. Truth was revealed to him only in the Holy Gospel, and the young man became a Christian. In order to continue his studies, Saint Gregory went to Alexandria, known at that time as a center for pagan and Christian learning. Eager to acquire knowledge, Gregory went to the Alexandrian Catechetical School, where the presbyter Origen taught. Saint Gregory became a pupil of Origen. Saint Gregory studied for eight years with Origen, who baptized him. After returning to Neocaesarea, the Saint fled from worldly affairs, into which influential townsmen persistently sought to push him. He went into the desert, where by fasting and prayer he attained great spiritual heights, as well as the gifts of clairvoyance and prophecy. Saint Gregory loved his life in the wilderness and wanted to remain in solitude until the end of his days, but the Lord willed otherwise.

Learning of Saint Gregory's ascetical life, Bishop Phaidemos decided to make him Bishop of Neocaesarea. This episode in the life of Saint Gregory was recorded by Saint Gregory of Nyssa. During this time, the heresy of Sabellius and Paul of Samosata began to spread. They taught falsely concerning the Holy Trinity. Saint Gregory prayed imploring God and His most pure Mother to reveal the truth to him. The Theotokos appeared to him and with her was the Apostle John the Theologian. By the command of the Mother of God, the Apostle John taught the Saint the correct way to speak of the Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Saint Gregory wrote down all that Saint John revealed to him.

The Saint's sermons were direct, lively and fruitful. He taught and worked miracles in the name of Christ: he healed the sick, helped the needy, and settled disputes and complaints. Saint Gregory returned to Neocaesarea after the end of the persecution. With his blessing, Church Feasts were established in honor of the martyrs who had suffered for Christ. By the holiness of his life, his effective preaching, his miracles, and inspired guidance of his flock, the Saint increased the number of converts to Christ. When Saint Gregory first came to his See, there were only seventeen Christians in Neocaesarea. At the time of his repose, only seventeen pagans were left in the city.

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

2220 Reeves Road NE Warren, OH 44483 www.stjohnswarren.org

Friend of the Bridegroom: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)



Sunday, November 17th, 2024

Sunday, Nov 17th 21st Sunday after PNTCST/Tone 4. St. Gregory the Wonderworker 9:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by coffee hour

Wednesday, Nov 20th Forefeast of the Entry Into the Temple of the Theotokos 5:00 pm AA Meeting

6:00 pm Great Vespers with Litya / Prosphora Baking

Thursday, Nov 21st The Entry of the Most-Holy Theotokos into the Temple 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Friday, Nov 22nd Apostles Philemon & Archippus, Martyr Apphia & Disciple Onesimus 6:00 pm Akathist to the Theotokos followed by Catechumen Class

Saturday, Nov 23rd Repose of Rt. Blv. Great Prince Alexander Nevsky

5:00 pm Great Vespers Followed by Confessions

Sunday, Nov 24th 22nd Sunday after PNTCST/Tone 5 Great Martyr Catherine 9:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by coffee hour

Attendance/Stewardship November 10th

Attendance: 69 Adults and 23 children 92 Total Weekly Stewardship Offerings: \$3,721.50 Weekly Candle Offerings: \$255.00 Charity of the Month (Inspiring Minds): \$125 YTD Other Receipts (Coffee Hour, Hall, Cemetery, Sausage) \$8227

YTD Budget Inflows: \$155,352.43 YTD Budget Outflows \$169,622.29 YTD Surplus/deficit -\$14,269.86

Prayer Corner

Fr. Dcn. John Tutoki Sbdcn Joseph (Clyde)

Sbdcn George Kaschack Sarah Crivella Patty DiGiacobbe Sarah Crivella James Livermore

David Campbell Barb

Daniel Cassandra, Patrick, Elizabeth, Patrick

James Sr. & Karen Livermore Kevin Renee & Anna Benjamin

Vera, Natalie & Chase (Jennifer's grandaughter)

Laura & Roy Greg, Clara, Jeanie

Donna & Shawn

Jeff Tsipis

Kathy Soltis

Catherine Wood

Azouria

Jennifer

Aiden Bowles

Susan Wood

The Faculty, Teachers, and Students of Holy Trinity Orthodox Academy

The Suffering Christians in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East

Newly Illumined: Thomas Sacca, Kelly, Carter, Emma, & Bennett Worley & Kayla, Alexander & Cesar Ventura

Newly Departed: Anna Mae Stehnach (11/6)

Catechumens: Lucian & Lilianna Vasil, Kayla, Donald, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Robert, Timothy, Melissa, Ian, Christohpher, & William Cunningham, Matthew Rose, Nicky Lewis, Alexander Mackey & Tristan & Colleen Beil

Birthdays: Annelisse Georgevich & Rachel Memorich (17th) Jason Rozycki & Amelia Tarchick (20th) & Belinda Lazor (22nd)

Candle Commemorations

Theotokos For Alyssa

Altar For the Health of the Bobosh Family

Christ For the Memory of the Miller, Fedash & Cuckovich families

Announcements

Special Parish Meeting Sunday December 1st

There will be a special parish meeting immediately following the Divine Liturgy on December 1st to briefly discuss and vote on approving \$5198.92 for replacing our light fixtures in the classrooms, office, social hall and kitchen of the parish with ones like in the hallway. A quorum will be needed to approve the expenditure and the meeting will be brief, so please plan to stick around!

Prosphora Baking

Ron & Nina Harvey will be baking Prosphora at the parish on Wednesday at 6:00pm. Anyone interested in learning or helping is invited to attend! Ideally this ministry will grow and be done by families that take turns making the holy Prosphora, which is blessed and becomes the Eucarist and Antidoron. Please see Ron, Nina, or Fr. Brian if you have questions.

Youth Ministry Training in Florida

There will be youth ministry training in Florida from February 5th-8th and our parish would like to send one or two people to attend. If you are interested, please see the flier and Michael Stan for more details!

Mission & Outreach now Saint John's Parish Development Forum + Meeting

The MIssion & Outreach team has decided to rename itself to the Saint John's Parish Development Forum. Although mission & outreach is still key, it is only one part of serving our broader community and developing and growing our parish. The next meeting will be on *December 11th at 6pm*. All are strongly encouraged to attend! If you have questions, please see Fr. Brian, Mat. Deborah, Michael Stan, or Garrett Cogar.

Angel Gift List for Children Services

Unwrapped presents should be returned to the church by Sunday Dec 8. Please include the name tag with the gifts. Please sign your name to the list on the candle stand with the corresponding gift tag number. Gifts should be placed in a bag and *not wrapped*! See Carol Bobosh with any questions.