

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

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



Sunday, November 17th, 2024

Saint Gregory, Wonderworker of Neocaesarea

Fr. Brian Crivella, Rector.....330-372-3895 / BrianCrivella@gmail.com

Dn. John Tutoki, Hall Coordinator 330-720-3541

Nina, Prayer List Coordinator.....treasurerstjohnsorthodoxchurch@gmail.com

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 / Prospora 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

