



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610

(609) 393-1234 website: <http://saintvladimir.org/>

Hieromartyr Gregory the Bishop of Greater Armenia, Equal of the Apostles and Enlightener of Armenia September 30, 2018

Troparion – Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest of mankind!”

Troparion – Tone 4

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, thou didst become a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood.// Hieromartyr Gregory, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

Kontakion – Tone 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:// “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Kontakion – Tone 2

Today, let us, the faithful, praise with songs and hymns the admirable hierarch Gregory as an initiate in the sacred mysteries. He was a contender for the truth, a vigilant pastor and teacher, a light for the whole world,// interceding with Christ that our souls may be saved.

Prokeimenon – Tone 1

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee!

v: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just!

Hieromartyr Gregory the Bishop of Greater Armenia, Equal of the Apostles and Enlightener of Armenia

The Hieromartyr Gregory, Enlightener of Greater Armenia, was born in the year 257. He was descended from the line of the Parthian Arsakid emperors. The father of Saint Gregory, Anak, in striving after the Armenian throne, had murdered his kinsman, the emperor Kursar, in consequence of which all the line of Anak was marked for destruction.

A certain kinsman saved Gregory: he carried off the infant from Armenia to Caesarea in Cappadocia and raised him in the Christian Faith. At maturity, Gregory married, had two sons, but soon was left a widower. Gregory raised his sons in piety. One of them -- Orthanes, afterwards became a priest, and the other -- Arostanes, accepted monasticism and went off into the wilderness.

In order to atone for the sin of his father, who had murdered the father of Tiridates, Gregory entered into the service of the latter and was a faithful servant to him. Tiridates loved Gregory like a friend, but he was intolerant of the Christian confession of faith. After ascending the Armenian throne, he began to demand that Saint Gregory renounce the Christian Faith.

The steadfastness of the saint embittered Tiridates, and he gave his faithful servant over to cruel tortures: they suspended the sufferer head downwards with a stone about his neck, for several days they choked him with a stinking smoke, they beat and ridiculed him, and forced him to walk in iron sandals inset with nails.

At the time of these sufferings Saint Gregory sang Psalms. In prison the Lord healed all his wounds. When Gregory again stood before the emperor cheerful and unharmed, he was astonished and gave orders to repeat the torments. Saint Gregory endured them, not wavering, with all his former determination and bearing. They then poured hot tin over him and threw him into a pit filled with vipers. The Lord, however, saved His chosen one: the snakes did him no harm.

Some pious women fed him with bread, secretly lowering it into the pit. A holy angel, appeared to the martyr, strengthening and encouraging him. Saint Gregory remained in the pit for fourteen years. During this time the emperor Tiridates executed the holy virgin Saint Rhipsime, the aged abbess Gaiana and another 35 virgins from one of the monasteries of Asia Minor. As punishment for this horrible deed, the king's face became disfigured.

Saint Gregory was released from the pit, and buried the relics of the holy virgins with honor. Then he began to preach to the people, urging them to turn away from the darkness of idolatry and toward Christ. The people came to believe in Christ, and wished to build a large church. When it was completed, Saint Gregory had the relics of the holy nuns brought into it. Then he brought King Tiridates there before the bodies of the saints whom he had slain. He repented, and immediately his face was made whole once more.

Soon all of Armenia was converted to Christ. The temples of the idols were destroyed, and churches for the worship of the true God were built. Saint Gregory ordained priests, established schools, founded monasteries, and provided for the good order of the Church.

Saint Gregory went into the wilderness, where he departed to the Lord. His son Aristanes was made a bishop in Cappadocia, and was one of the 318 holy Fathers at the Council of Nicea.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

But this I say: "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Service Schedule for the week of September 30

Today – 9:00 AM Sunday School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Today – Vespers with Litya, PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS – after Coffee Hour (approx. 1:00 PM)

Monday October 1 – 9:30 Divine Liturgy PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS

Wednesday October 3 – 7:00 PM Bible Study classes begin in the church basement

Saturday October 6 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday October 7 – 9:00 AM Sunday School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Weekly Giving

September 16 – 53 adults, 20 youth, \$1,759

Parish Announcements

Bible Study classes will begin this Wednesday, October 3, at 7:00 PM in the church basement. All are welcome to attend!

Pierogies will be made this Friday evening October 5 and Saturday morning October 6 as follows: Friday starting 9:00 AM – chop and sauté onions, peel and boil potatoes; at 4:00 PM help will be needed to mash the potatoes and make the filling balls for Saturday. Saturday we will start at 8:30 AM. Many hands are needed, especially Saturday. If you can help on Friday please call Nadja Nowicki at 609-695-2252.

Despite the rainy weather, we had a very nice parish picnic last Sunday. Almost 100 adults and children were in attendance! Thank you to everyone who helped before, during, and after, and for all of the food donations. We look forward to next year's picnic and hopefully better cooperation from Mother Nature!

FUNDRAISING:

If you order from Amazon on line, there is a way to help support St. Vladimir Church! Instead of going to amazon.com, go to smile.amazon.com – the site works exactly the same as amazon.com, however, you can select to support St. Vladimir Orthodox Church and we will receive 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases! There are a few St (no period after St) Vladimir Orthodox Churches so make sure you select the one in Trenton – it should be at the top of the list. Funds will be remitted directly to the church from Amazon. Thank you for your support! There are flyers on the table in the back of the church.