

Sunday of St. Gregory of Palamas

2nd Sunday
of Lent

Children

St. Gregory of Palamas was a special man whom we remember on the second Sunday of Lent. He loved God very much and helped people understand that Jesus is the “Light of the World.”

The priest will read a story from the Gospel on Sunday about Jesus healing a sick man. This man could not walk. All he could do was lay on a mat all day. Four of his friends carried him on his mat to a place where Jesus was speaking to a group of people. There was such a large crowd that they could not get close to Jesus. The man’s friends took apart the roof where Jesus was. They lowered the sick man into the room right in front of Jesus!

Jesus was so glad to see how much faith they had. Jesus told the sick man that his sins were forgiven. He told the sick man to stand up, pick up his mat and go home. How could this man get up and walk home? Jesus can do anything! Jesus healed the man and the man walked. We are happy that we know Jesus and that He forgives our sins, too.

Adults

Each of the Sundays of Great Lent has its own special themes. These can be seen as historical and spiritual. This Sunday's theme is that men can become divine (theosis) through the grace of God in the Holy Spirit.

Historical theme

It was St. Gregory who bore witness that by prayer and fasting human beings can become participants of the Uncreated light of God's divine glory *even in this life*. After his glorification in 1368, a second commemoration of St. Gregory Palamas was appointed for this Second Sunday of Great Lent as a second Triumph of Orthodoxy. It celebrates the condemnation of St. Gregory's enemies and the vindication of his teachings by the Church.

This Sunday was originally dedicated to St. Polycarp of Smyrna (Feb 23).

Spiritual theme

The spiritual theme adds to the First Sunday of Great Lent's theme, faith. In addition to faith, one needs effort. The scripture readings are Hebrews 1:10-2:3 and Mark 2:1-12. The epistle says to give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away... how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? The Gospel lesson has the image of effort and desire in the paralytic who is brought to Christ through the roof.

SAINT
GREGO
RY

PALA
MA
S

