

Tertullian, that he had been a disciple of [John the Apostle](#). [Saint Jerome](#) wrote that Polycarp was a disciple of John and that John had ordained him bishop of Smyrna.

With [Clement of Rome](#) and [Ignatius of Antioch](#), Polycarp is regarded as one of three chief [Apostolic Fathers](#). The sole surviving work attributed to his authorship is his [Letter to the Philippians](#); it is first recorded by [Irenaeus of Lyons](#).

This commemoration makes much more sense in keeping with the liturgical theme of spiritual martyrdom (dying to yourself) pervading the penitential season of great lent. This is further attested in the lections for the day where John speaks regarding Jesus being a good shepherd and laying down his life for his sheep (as will any faithful shepherd coming after him) as well as the author of Hebrew's speaking about Jesus "offering himself up" as did his follower Polycarp when he offered himself to be burnt as an offering to God.

MARCH 12 ANNOUNCEMENTS – GREGORY PALAMAS SUNDAY

LADIES GUILD meeting following divine liturgy

Don't forget to check our monthly calendar above the drinking fountain. If an event is not listed, please let Jann Petroff know.

MARCH 5 DONATIONS:

FOR HEALTH OF (FHO): FAMILY – ANGIE PANZOFF

FHO: FAMILY – LAZAR FAMILY

FHO: OUR FAMILY & OUR CHURCH FAMILY – DON & CHERYL TRAVIS

FHO: MY SPIRITUAL VALENTINE ANDREW ROYER –JIM & DELPHINE CONNOR

IN MEMORY OF(IMO): NINA SHUTTER ON HER BIRTHDAY – THE TIMPKO FAMILY

IMO: NUNCA VESSA – HELEN ARNAUT

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 17 – ST. PATRICK'S DAY –WEAR YOUR GREEN!

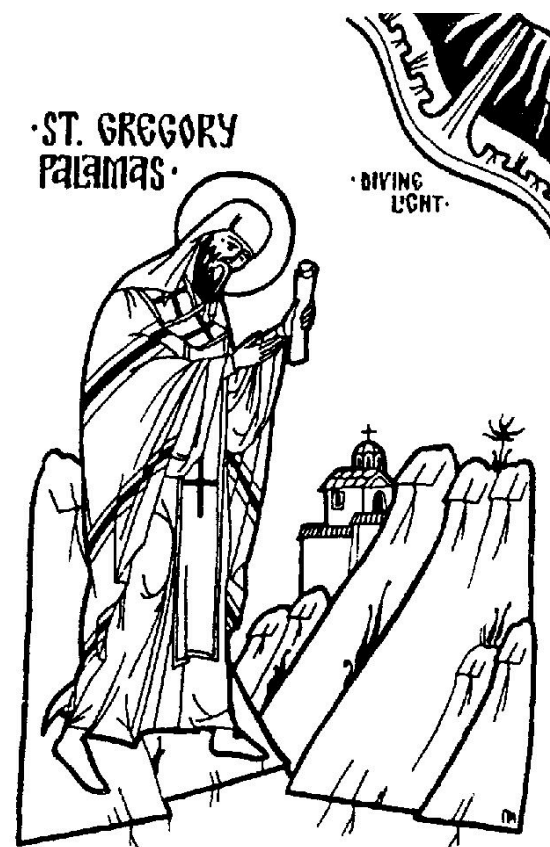
19 – COFFEE HOUR IMO PETER WILSON LAZAR
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

SAINT PAUL ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Rector: Rev. Fr. Robert J. Royer Email-robertjroyer@gmail.com
(810) 919-9485 Website: stpaulorthodoxcathedral.org

March 12, 2017

The Second Sunday of Great Lent:
ST. GREGORY PALAMAS



**TODAY WE WILL CELEBRATE THE DIVINE LITURGY OF
ST. BASIL THE GREAT**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle – Hebrews 1:10-2:3; 7:26-8:2

You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail." But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

(slight pause)

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; Who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, A Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Gospel – Mark 2:1-12; John 10:9-16

And when he returned to Caper'na-um after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the

paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" -- he said to the paralytic -- "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

(slight pause)

I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd.

Liturgical Note on the Second Sunday of Great Lent

Even though the second week of Great Lent has been dedicated to the memory of the Great Hesychast St. Gregory Palamas in the 14th century, until that time this weekend was dedicated to the Apostolic Father and Martyred Bishop Polycarp of Smyrna. **Polycarp** (80 – 167) was a 2nd-century [Christian bishop of Smyrna](#). According to the [Martyrdom of Polycarp](#) he died a [martyr](#), bound and burned at the stake, then stabbed when the fire failed to touch him. Polycarp is regarded as a [saint](#) in the [Roman Catholic](#), [Eastern Orthodox](#), [Oriental Orthodox](#), [Anglican](#), and [Lutheran](#) churches.

It is recorded by [Irenaeus](#), who heard him speak in his youth, and by