



SAINT
GREGORY
THE
ILLUMINATOR

THE PERSON WHO
BROUGHT THE LIGHT
OF CHRISTIANITY TO
THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE

~::~ THE ILLUMINATOR OF THE ARMENIANS ~::~

The history of Christianity in Armenia can be traced back to Apostolic times. Holy Tradition tells us that the Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew first preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ there. The man largely credited with establishing the Church in this pagan nation, however, is depicted on today's cover: **ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR**. Gregory was born into a noble family, but received his formal education far from the palaces of Armenia. He studied in Caesarea in the region of Cappadocia, where he embraced Christianity.

After the death of his wife, Gregory returned to Armenia with his two sons. While serving in the government of the pagan King Tiridates, Gregory actively served Christ as well, winning scores of converts for his Savior. Upon discovering the missionary labors of Gregory, the enraged king had him thrown into a deep pit, filled with poisonous reptiles. Miraculously, Gregory was protected by God in this deadly environment for 14 years! Realizing the wickedness of his ways, King Tiridates released Gregory. The repentant ruler was baptized by his former prisoner and arranged for him to return to Caesarea to be consecrated as "Bishop of Armenia."

Upon returning to his homeland, St. Gregory, with the assistance of the king, set about the task of converting the entire country to Christianity. Through his untiring efforts, Armenia became the first nation to proclaim the Christian faith as the official religion of the people. After enlightening an entire land about Jesus Christ, St. Gregory died in 332 A.D.

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ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

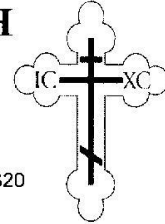
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Fr. Sergious Gerken, Parish Priest

Warden Barbara Aldunate, Co-Warden Joel Miller, Treasurer Linda Labosky

Please Visit: **[www: straphaelchurch.org](http://www.straphaelchurch.org)** Church: 352-201-1320

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SUNDAY, OCT. 3, 2021 - 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 6.
Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite, Bishop of Athens.

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK	<i>Please join us after Divine Liturgy for a Coffee Fellowship in Myrrhbearers Hall Confessions - Ask Fr. Sergious for a time</i>	DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS
Sat: Great Vespers 4:00 PM		Mon: Galatians 4:28-5:10, Luke 6:24-30
Sun: Reading of The Hours 9:45 AM		Tue: Galatians 5:11-21, Luke 6:37-45
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM		Wed: Proverbs 3; 8; 10, Solomon 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9, John 10:1-16, Hebrews 7:26-8:2, Galatians 6:2-10, Luke 6:46-7:1
Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM		Thu: Ephesians 1:1-9, Luke 7:17-30
		Fri: Ephesians 1:7-17, Luke 31-35
		Sat: Solomon 3:1-9; 4:7-15; 5:15-6:3, John 10:1-16, Hebrews 7:26-8:2, 1 Corinthians 10:23-28, Luke 5:27-32

+EPISTLE+ (2 Corinthians 4:6-15) Brethren: For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

+GOSPEL+ (Luke 6:31-38) 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.

***Today is Charity Sunday -
St. Tikhon Seminary Married Student Housing Aid***

***Choir Practice Sunday at 9 AM.
Monday Choir Practice will resume on October 11th at 2:30.***

Practice Christianity every day with each person you meet and each word you say. Christ spoke saying: But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

St. Mat. 15:18 Readings: St. Mat. 15:16-20. St. Mark 7:18-23, St. James 3:5-12, Prov. 18:2-29:20R

THE GIFTS -SEPT.26

Attendance 38

Regular Offerings 810
Candles 96

*We sincerely thank and bless
Charles and Lou Ellen Davis for
their ongoing generous donations.*

VIGIL CANDLES - SEPT. 26

Dolores Lichatz – Health of James,
Linda. Memory of Tatiana.

Nancy Kintey - Health of Bill, Julianna &
Fam., Andrew & Fam., Mary Ann H.,
Patricia, Joel, Judy, Patty, Mona,
Olga, Pat & Nick.