

**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...**

*The health and salvation of –*

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	John
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Vivian
Archpriest Eugene	Jung Sook
Priest James	Thomas
Priest John	Randall
Reader Aleksei	Don
Monk Philaret	Norma
Matushka Priscilla	James
Elizabeth • Marie • Marie	
Virginia • Ignatius • Anne	
Thomas • John	
Katherine • Roman	
Clergy & Parishioners of Holy Myrrhbearing Women Church	
Catechumens: Andrew, David, Michael, Sergio, Rachel, Jennifer, and Rebecca	

*The repose and salvation of –*

Edith (September 22)  
Eileen (August 10)

*Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.*

**Orthodoxy 101 – Tuesdays at 6:30 PM through October**

**Next Sunday, October 7 – Church School**

**Saturday, October 13, 5:30 PM – Confessions after Great Vespers**

**Sunday, October 14 – Parish Council**

*A mission parish under the omophorion of His Eminence Benjamin,  
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,  
Orthodox Church in America*



**ST TIKHON ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

**Sunday, September 30, 2018**



**Gregory, Equal of the Apostles and Enlightener of Armenia**



*An arm-shaped reliquary containing bones of St. Gregory at the treasury of Holy Etchmiadzin.*

Sundays at 9:10 AM – Hours & Divine Liturgy, followed by agape potluck

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM – Evening Prayers & Saints of the Day

Saturdays at 5:30 PM – Great Vespers

Other services as announced

Priest Alexander Vallens, *Rector*

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Deacon John Manutes, *Attached*

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

Born in the year 257, Gregory was descended from the line of the Parthian Arsakid emperors. His father, Anak, in striving after the Armenian throne, had murdered the emperor Kursar, in consequence of which all the line of Anak was marked for destruction. As an infant, Gregory was saved by a kinsman, who took him to Caesarea in Cappadocia and raised him in the Christian Faith. At maturity, Gregory married and had two sons, but soon was left a widower. Gregory raised his sons in piety: Orthanes became a priest, and Arostanes accepted monasticism and went off into the wilderness.

To atone for the sin of his father, Gregory became a faithful servant of Kursar's son Tiridates. But after ascending the throne, Tiridates began to demand that Gregory renounce his Christian faith. But the saint's steadfastness embittered Tiridates, and he gave his servant over to cruel tortures: they suspended him upside down with a stone about his neck, for several days they choked him with a stinking smoke, beat and ridiculed him, and forced him to walk in iron sandals inset with nails. During these sufferings Gregory sang Psalms, and 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. Gregory endured them 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, and 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 14 years.

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, 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 idolatry and toward Christ. The people came to believe in Christ, and built 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; he repented, and immediately his face was made whole. 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. St Gregory ordained priests, established schools, founded monasteries, and provided for the good order of the Church.

As St. Gregory grew old and became more involved in solitary life, he continued his pastoral work by preaching and writing homilies, employing a simple language so that people could understand. His favorite spot as a solitary was a site called "the Caves of Mané," located on Mount Sebuhan near Erzinjan, now in eastern Turkey. It is unclear how long St. Gregory lived there, and when exactly he died. After some time, shepherds chanced upon his body and buried him at the spot where they found him, not knowing who he was. During the fifth century, a hermit named Karnig was guided by a vision to the grave of the saint and discovered his relics. Karnig took the body of the saint to the village of Tortan, located to the east of Mount Sebuhan, and buried some of the relics there; the rest were later taken to the Monastery of St. John the Baptist in Pakavan, where St. Gregory had baptized the Armenian people in the Aradzani River. The relics were kept in a box and taken out on important occasions. At some point the skull was transferred to the church of St. Gregory the Armenian in Naples, Italy. Today, relics of St. Gregory may be found at Etchmiadzin Jerusalem, and Antilias. The relic at Etchmiadzin, encased in an arm-shaped reliquary, is used to bless the Holy Chrism once every seven years.

*Also this week:* THE PROTECTION OF OUR MOST-HOLY LADY THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY (October 1); Hieromartyr Cyprian and Virgin Martyr Justina; Bl. Andrew, Fool-for-Christ, at Constantinople (October 2); Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite, Bp. of Athens, and with him Martyrs Rusticus the Presbyter and Eleutherius the Deacon (October 3); Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bp of Athens (October 4); Martyr Charitina of Amisus (October 5); HOLY AND GLORIOUS APOSTLE THOMAS; GLORIFICATION OF ST INNOCENT, METROPOLITAN OF MOSCOW, ENLIGHTENER OF THE ALEUTS, AND APOSTLE TO AMERICA (October 6).

*\* "regular" fasting this week \**

**Epistle:** II Corinthians 9:6-11 (Sunday)

**Gospel:** Luke 6:31-36 (Sunday)

**Troparion – Tone 1 (Resurrection)**

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 mankind!"

**Troparion – Tone 4 (Hieromartyr)**

Today, we the faithful have assembled to sing a hymn /  
Exalting the daystar of the Unsetting Light, /  
The truly heroic pastor, long-suffering shepherd, /  
Model of ascetics and martyrs and the radiant glory of the Church of Armenia. /  
Let us bless with hymns of praise / The divinely inspired Gregory ///  
Who is crowned with a martyr's crown.

**Kontakion – Tone 1 (Resurrection)**

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 (Hieromartyr)**

O faithful, let us extol today with songs and spiritual hymns /  
The glorious hieromartyr Gregory, /  
The shepherd of souls, the vigorous teacher, /  
The bright star and the fighter for truth ///  
Who intercedes now with Christ our God to save our souls.