



The Most Reverend Archbishop DAVID  
Chancery & Office of the Archbishop

www.doaoca.org

## Second Sunday of Great Lent, St Gregory Palamas

Most Rev. David, Archbishop of Sitka and Alaska

"You should secretly give from what you have to those in need, so that you receive from God, Who sees in secret, a hundred times more, as well as life eternal in the age to come (cf. Mt. 6:4; Mk. 10:30)." ~ *St. Gregory Palamas*

This second Sunday of Great Lent, we commemorate one of the greatest saints of the second millennia, Saint Gregory Palamas. Originally, the Second Sunday of Great Lent was dedicated to Saint Polycarp of Smyrna, but after the Glorification of Saint Gregory, it was given over to him as a second "Triumph of Orthodoxy".

It was St. Gregory who taught that God was only knowable in His Energies, and not in his Essence. The example he used was the Light of the Holy Transfiguration of Christ on Tabor. A created energy of God we can see. His defense of true Orthodox Theology against the Calabrian Monk, Barlaam, was a triumph equal to the victories of the Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils over the Heretics of the previous millennial.

Understanding the essence and energies of God is equal to dispute over the truth of the two natures of Christ, or the One Essence of the Holy Trinity. Throughout the history of the Orthodox Church, it has been the well trained Theologians that kept the Church on the path of the Truth of God over error and kept her free from stain and chaos.

That is why today we continue to send young men and women to our seminaries. They receive the Faith once given to the Saints and offer it back to the Faithful in service to others. There is always a need to defend our Faith in this age of extreme doubt and challenge from those who do not know or understand the Truth of Orthodoxy.

This Second Sunday of Lent has been declared in our Diocese of Alaska as "Seminary Sunday". Therefore, today let every Parish in the Diocese of Alaska think on our many graduates and students who pass through our seminary every year. Let us continue to support the only seminary specifically designed for this diocese. Please consider a generous donation in support of Saint Herman Seminary on this Sunday of the Second Triumph of Orthodoxy.

Your servant of Servants,

  
David, Archbishop of Sitka and Alaska

