

Theotokos, was praying one day before the icon of the All-Pure Virgin before going out to commit a sin. Suddenly, he saw that wounds appeared on the Lord's hands, feet, and side, and blood flowed from them. In horror he exclaimed, "O Lady, who has done this?" The Mother of God replied, "You and other sinners, because of your sins,

crucify My Son anew." Only then did he realize how great was the depth of his sinfulness. For a long time he prayed with tears to the All-Pure Mother of God and the Savior for mercy. Finally, he received the unexpected joy of the forgiveness of his sins.

The "Unexpected Joy" icon is also commemorated on January 25 and May 1.

ORTHODOX PRE-LENTEN RETREAT

Metanoia, Hesychia and Theosis

With Dr. Christopher Veniamin

St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church: 21235 Poplar Way, Brier, WA 98036 Ph: 425-771-1916

February 6, 2015: 6:00pm – Vespers; 7:00pm to 9:00pm – Session 1: Metanoia/Repentance in the Orthodox Church

February 7, 2015: 10:00am to 12:00pm – Session 2: Hesychia as Preparation for the Encounter with God; 12:00pm to 1:30pm – Lunch; 1:30pm to 3:00pm – Session 3: Theosis/Salvation from the writings of St. Silouan the Athonite and Archimandrite Sophrony; 3:00pm – Q & A

Cost: \$20 – includes Saturday meal

LOOKING AHEAD

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| Wednesday, January 28: | 6:00pm Inquirer Class |
| Saturday, January 31: | 6:30pm Vespers |
| Sunday, February 1: | 9:30am Liturgy |
| Web: www.saintspiridon.org Ph: 206.624.5341 Rector: Archpriest Yuri Maev Email: iereiyuri@saintspiridon.org Home: 425.216.3671 | |

JANUARY 25, 2015

ST. SPIRIDON ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

400 Yale Ave., Seattle, WA 98109



WEEKLY PUBLICATION

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 8. St. Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of

Constantinople (389). Sunday of Zacchaeus. St. Moses, Archbishop of Novgorod (1362). Martyrs Felicitas of Rome, and seven sons: Januarius, Felix, Philip, Silvanus, Alexander, Vitalis and Martial (ca. 164). Ven. Publius, Ascetic, of Syria (ca. 380). St. Mares the Singer, of Syria (ca. 430).

ICONS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

THE "ASSUAGE MY SORROW"



had been brought to Moscow by Cossacks in 1640 in the reign of Tsar Michael (1613-1645), and placed in the church of St Nicholas in the Pupishevo district of Moscow.

Once, perhaps after a fire and the rebuilding of the temple, the icon was carelessly put in a bell tower. However, the abundant mercies manifested by the Mother of God would one day bring about a renewed veneration of this holy icon.

The "Assuage my Sorrows" Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos was glorified at Moscow by many miracles in the second half of the eighteenth century, particularly during a plague in 1771. The icon

The Feast of the wonderworking icon on January 25 was established in 1760 to commemorate the healing of a sick woman who had seen the icon in a vision. A voice

instructed her to go to the church of St Nicholas in the Pupishevo district of Moscow where she would find this icon. “Pray before it, and you will receive healing.”

She obeyed and went to Moscow, where she found an icon, darkened by age and dust, in the church’s bell tower. When the sick woman saw the face and inscription she cried out, “It is She!” The woman, who previously had been unable to move her arms and legs, walked out of church on her own after a Molieben was served before the icon on January 25.

The icon was placed in an honored place in the church, and later a chapel was built in its honor. The services and the Akathist in honor of the icon date from this period. Copies of the “Assuage my Sorrows” Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos are to be found in churches of Moscow and other cities. The icon is also commemorated on September 25 and October 9.

THE “UNEXPECTED JOY”



The “Unexpected Joy” Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos, is painted in this way: in a room is an icon of the Mother of God, and beneath it a youth is kneeling at prayer. The tradition about the healing of some youth from a bodily affliction through this holy icon is recorded in the book of St Demetrius of Rostov, The Fleece of Prayer [See Judges 6: 36-40].

The sinful youth, who was nevertheless devoted to the

Tone 8 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day burial
to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to thee!

Tone 1 Troparion *(St Gregory the Theologian)*

The sweet-sounding shepherd’s pipe of thy theology
overpowered the trumpeting of the orators;
for eloquence was also bestowed on thee
as on one searching the depths of the Spirit.
Pray to Christ our God, O Father Gregory,
that our souls may be saved!

Tone 8 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

By rising from the tomb, Thou hast raised the dead and
resurrected Adam.
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,
and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly
Merciful
One!

Tone 3 Kontakion *(St Gregory the Theologian)*

By words of theology thou didst unravel the complex webs of
the orators,
O glorious Gregory,
and didst adorn the Church with the robe of
Orthodoxy woven from on high.
Wearing it, she cries out with us, her children:
“Rejoice, O Father, supreme mind of theology!”