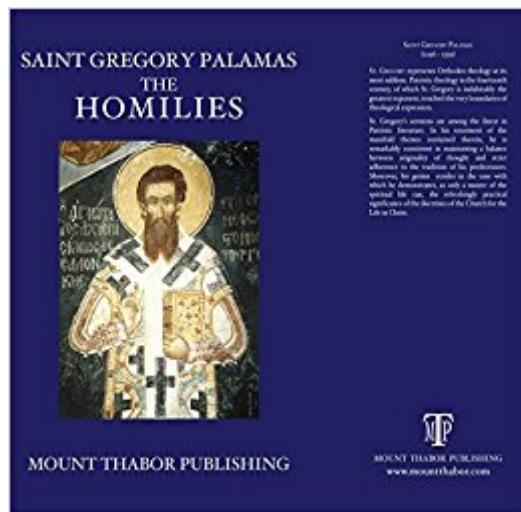


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# Saint Gregory Palamas: The Homilies



## **Synopsis**

This is the 2016 (2nd reprint edition with corrections and a new Index of Names and Subjects) of The Scholar's Edition, designed for priests, theologians and the interested layperson. The first edition of all sixty-three extant sermons by St. Gregory to appear in English translation, presented together with an Introduction to the Homilies, over 1,000 notes and scholia, an index of Scriptural References, an index of Names and Subjects, and an index of Greek Words, designed to transform this remarkable treasury of Patristic wisdom into an invaluable reference resource for the student of theology. This edition completes and supersedes The Homilies of Saint Gregory Palamas.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

A monumental work! Saint Gregory gave to the Church what is surely the most complete synthesis and perfect formulation of the Apostolic tradition of all generations. His theology, in a charismatic and existential way, recapitulates, in its entirety, the spiritual experience of the saints of the Old and New Testaments. The sermons of Saint Gregory Palamas, in spirited and uncomplicated idiom, render his entire life's work accessible to the people of God. In fact, they form the most complete introduction not only to his theology, but to the theology of all the great Fathers of the Church.

--Archimandrite Zacharias, Patriarchal and Stavropegial Monastery of St. John the Baptist, England

14 century saint, ascetic and Metropolitan bishop of Thessalonica (1347-1359). Greatest exponent of Hesychasm. The teaching of St. Gregory and his fellow Hesychasts was based on the

understanding that man, the greatest of all God's creatures, had been called to enter into direct and unmediated communion with God even from this present life. The chief manner by which this is achieved is through the grace of God and noetic prayer, that is, through the Prayer of the Heart, also known as the Jesus Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me. For the Hesychasts, therefore, true theology, real knowledge of God, is given not to those whose minds have been exercised in lofty concepts about God, but to those who, through prayer and ascetic striving in accordance with the commandments of Christ, have been made worthy to behold the vision of Christ in glory, to those who have seen God face to face and share in His very Life.

This is an unbelievable resource for anyone looking to delve into the fathers. St. Gregory Palamas does a wonderful job of articulating the Orthodox faith and understanding in all that he writes. If you're serious about Orthodoxy, this is a must have.

Wonderful collection of homilies from one of the great Church Fathers! St. Gregory Palamas is a must-read for understanding the Eastern Orthodox Faith. I have several texts put out by the publisher Mount Thabor Publishing. I have yet to be disappointed. I also own several texts by the author Christopher Veniamin. Christopher Veniamin is a theologically sound Eastern Orthodox author as well. If you love patristics as I do you just cannot go wrong with this book.

Thank God this was put together. St. Gregory's (full) works are hard to find in English.

This volume is a monumental, magnificent contribution to Christian literature in the English language. Three qualities, in particular, may delight the reader: 1) the smooth, readable prose of the translation of St Gregory's homilies; 2) the rich, detailed, and copious endnotes; and 3) the capacity of the text and the endnotes to carry the reader to whole new levels of encounter with the Holy Scriptures. If I could take only a handful of books to that proverbial desert island, this surely would be one.

There are some books that earn a special place on your desk, next to your bed, on your prayer table, or wherever you keep important books in your house. Saint Gregory Palamas: The Homilies is one of those books. I have been in possession of this book for several months now, and I have had a hard time putting it down, let alone trying to review it. I am going to attempt now, but before I do, I'd like to give some stats on the book. It is a 750 page hardcover, measuring approximately 9" x 6".

Within this tome are 63 homilies, which range in length anywhere from five to thirteen pages. At the end of the homilies, there are over 100 pages of notes on the homilies, including Scripture references, original Greek wording, and explanations of passages in the homilies. Finally, there are three indices - 1. Index of Scriptural References, 2. Index of Names and Subjects, and 3. Index of Greek Words. The editor and translator is Dr. Christopher Veniamin, who is a disciple of Archimandrite Sophrony of Sakharov, which is awesome in and of itself. When reading through a collection of this magnitude by such a great Church Father you have to read through it slowly and carefully, because if you try and read too quickly you will miss a ton of beauty. I found even reading slowly that I still had to go back and re-read even slower because the depth which St. Gregory Palamas dives can be overwhelming sometimes. I appreciate the way Dr. Veniamin organized this book, which is in the order the Sundays or Feast Days appear in the Church Calendar. It gives the book a nice flow to it. Unfortunately, not all of Saint Gregory Palamas' homilies were saved, so you will find that not every Sunday or major Feast Day is covered in this book. However, when the homilies in this book come on successive Sundays (like Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent), you feel your knowledge increase exponentially. It is impossible to pick the "best" passage in a book of this nature, because each of his homilies are edifying for the soul. If I had to pick the homilies I enjoyed the most, they would be the ones on Mary, particularly her Dormition and her Entrance into the Holy of Holies. In the West, we refer to Mary's Dormition as her Immaculate Conception, and her Entrance into the Holy of Holies is a GREATLY neglected Feast Day that I think 99% of Roman Catholics don't even know about. In his homily on the Dormition, St. Gregory Palamas explains how Mary's death was life-giving and the day itself should be remembered as joyful. He also recounts the tradition of all the Apostles being gathered to her funeral, despite them being spread throughout the world. There is also great explanation given to the fact that both her body and soul were taken to Heaven. Catholics believe that too, so this is a great point of agreement for Catholics and Orthodox that could be a good start toward unity. This book is a treasure to be not only valued and held in high regard, but also read (repeatedly), pored over, and studied. It is also clearly a book that was a labor of love for Dr. Veniamin. I already find myself visiting this book, almost on a daily basis, and I know I will continue to study it and reference it even more, particularly on the Sundays that coincide with the homilies inside. This book is worth every penny and then some. If you are a serious student of Patristics, you need this book in your library.

When a work of this magnitude is completed, the impact is difficult to measure. The place of St. Gregory Palamas in the history of the Church is central, and the availability of a full translation of his

homilies in English provides a service to the Church and the academic world that will have far reaching effects. This single volume publication provides not only an accurate and accessible translation of St. Gregory's writings, but also offers a very useful set of indexes of biblical references, Greek terms, and English names and subjects. Even more, this volume contains within it extensive notes by a theologian who possesses the skill, understanding, and training to expound on the thought of St. Gregory. As a result, these notes provide a road map that are able to guide the reader through the thought of one of the great theologians of Christian history. As anyone who is familiar with St. Gregory's writings, readers will find a wide range of topics discussed in his homilies including but not limited to marriage, monasticism, fasting, prayer, almsgiving, salvation, grace, and doctrinal issues. St. Gregory's homilies provide a simultaneous accessibility and depth that is unrivaled. Scholars and laypersons alike will find numerous pearls in the writings of St. Gregory. Finally, the importance of presentation is too often overlooked in the publishing process. In this particular work, such was not the case. The reader will be very pleased to see that the same care that went into the translation and editing was also extended to the formatting, quality of paper selected, and binding. In sum, the reader will be acquiring a volume that is pleasing to the eye, easy to handle, and will guide all those with open minds and open hearts into an ever-deepening understanding of the Christian life.

This beautifully produced volume is a treasure that a wide variety of readers will benefit from. St. Gregory's important and inspiring homilies can be turned to again and again, and in this monumental volume one has the great advantage of the indices, notes, and scriptural references: e.g., if you want to read St. Gregory on the topic of peace, there are 10 entries listed, and 16 for eternal life. With this volume it is easy to use these homilies for thematic study for personal enrichment and for serious study. With so many sermons for the gospel lessons for Sundays and Feast Days, this work will also be a treasure for preachers, those leading Bible Studies, and any one wishing to have a deeper understanding of Holy Scripture.

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