



***The Sunday of
the Holy Fathers***

***Troparion of the Resurrection,
Tone 6***

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb. The guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin granting Life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: Glory to Thee!

***Troparion of Ascension,
Tone 4***

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world!

***Troparion of the Sunday of the
Holy Fathers, Tone 4***

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyrs' blood shed throughout the world. She cries out to thee, O Christ God: send down Thy bounties on Thy people. Grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

***Kontakion of Annunciation,
Tone 8***

O Victorious Leader of triumphant hosts! We, your servants delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might set us free from every calamity so that we may sing: Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

June 13th, Tone 6, Jn 17:1-13

The Sunday which follows the Ascension - sixth Sunday after Easter Sunday itself - is called 'Sunday of the Holy Fathers'. It commemorates the bishops who sat at the Council of Nicaea, the first in date of the seven ecumenical councils.

The councils, and, independently of each council considered by itself, the idea of council in itself, have a great importance for the Orthodox Church. But the Council of Nicaea holds a very special place in the history of Christian doctrine: for, in affirming the divinity of Christ, it laid the foundation of all subsequent definitions. The great temptation of 'modern' theology, since the sixteenth century, has been, if not a return to Arianism, at least a sliding towards a 'humanist' conception of the person of Jesus Christ, who is seen as a more or less divinized creature. The Nicene Creed, in proclaiming that our Lord is truly God, equal to the Father, safeguards the integral message of love and of the divine gift: God so loved the world that he gave himself to us, and became man in the person of the unique Son. To change a single iota of the Nicene Creed is to diminish the grandeur and generosity of God's gift, it is to alter the essence of Orthodox Christianity radically.

The commemoration of the Fathers of Nicaea, this Sunday, does not mean that the Church proclaims or honors the personal sanctity of each one of the bishops who took part. Rather, the Church pays homage today to the collective witness that the Assembly of Nicaea bore to Christian truth. The epistle read at the liturgy (Acts 20:16-18,28-36) alludes to the duties of pastoral care, especially to the duty of combating doctrinal deviations: 'Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch . . .'. Thus spake Paul to the elders of the church at Ephesus. The gospel for the liturgy (John 17:1-13), taken from the words spoken by our Lord after the Last Supper, expresses the same pastoral and doctrinal care: 'This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent . . . I have given unto them the words that thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee . . . I pray for them . . .'.

Announcements and Activities

Great Vespers—Saturday, at 5:30 PM.

Divine Liturgy – Sunday, at 10AM

Coffee Hours— This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Olga H. and Larissa, Nina T. is also providing food In Memoriam of Maria S. and with the help of Cristina and Brian D., the family of Maria S. Next week's Coffee Hour will be coffee and cookies, as it is Father's Day.

Rest of Jonathan T—this week we received the sad news that the middle son of Lana T., reposed. As we heard it through the family grapevine, we do not have information as to how and when. Memory Eternal to our beloved "J. T.," a longtime son of our parish. Last we knew, he was living and working in Santa Barbara. We will keep you posted as to any services as we find out more details from the family.

Parish Council— today, after Coffee Hour.

Pray for... Hierarch Nikolai (Soraich)—battling cancer. Samir's friend, **Johnny, who has been improving in the battle to save his sight.** **Brian,** Sunday's brother. **George and Alex,** health problems. **Reposed Darrel,** Kyle's father. **Diane F. recovering from Surgery.** **Erika and Family.** All those who have lost their lives or are suffering as a result of the current Pandemic . **Archimandrite Alexander**— Fr. Lawrence's long-time father confessor, who reposed. **Kerrie Photine**— recent surgery, **Karen and Scott**— battling health issues. **Mitered Archpriest Basil**— a longtime friend of Father's, newly reposed. **Newly reposed Emiliane (Janie G.) and reposed Vadim.** **Our Vladyka Benjamin**— battling on-set parkinsons. **Tsige Roman and Abraham**— I know we are always mindful of Tsige, but please continue to pray for the work and for Ethiopia, torn by civil war, with all the problems that go with a regional terror. **Newly Reposed Maria S.**—who fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, around 11:30 PM. **Reposed Jonathan T**

This Sunday already belongs to the sphere of ideas connected with Pentecost rather than with the Ascension, for the catholic Church believes that the Council of Nicaea, like the other ecumenical councils and the apostles gathered themselves at Jerusalem, taught under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. And the first verse of the epistle for today already orients our thoughts towards Pentecost: 'For he (Paul) hastened, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost'. To be with the apostles at Jerusalem, in spirit, at next Sunday's great feast - is not this what we, too, desire and humbly ask for?

(taken from, *The Year of the Grace of the Lord*, by A Monk of the Eastern Church)

From the Lives of the Saints...

THE HOLY FEMALE MARTYR AQUILINA

Aquilina was born in the Palestinian town of Byblos of honorable Christian parents. At age seven little Aquilina was already completely versed in the true Christian life, and at age ten she was so filled with divine understanding and the grace of the Holy Spirit that she preached Christ to her female companions with great power and zeal. When Diocletian's persecution began, someone accused Aquilina before Volusian, the imperial deputy, who was more like a beast than a man.

Volusian first ordered that Aquilina be flogged and then that a red-hot rod be passed through her ears and brain. To the last moment, the virgin Aquilina freely and openly confessed Christ the Lord, but when her brains and blood began to flow from her head, she fell as though dead. The deputy, thinking Aquilina was indeed dead, ordered her body to be carried outside the city and thrown upon a dung heap for the dogs to consume. But an angel of God appeared to her at night and said to her: "Arise, and be whole!" The virgin arose and was whole, and for a long time she offered up praise of thanksgiving to God, imploring Him not to deprive her of fulfilling the ascetic feat of martyrdom. A voice from heaven was heard: "Go; it shall be unto you as you ask!" And Aquilina set out for the town. The gates of the town opened of their own accord before her, and she entered the palace of the deputy like a spirit and appeared before his bed. The deputy was seized with unspeakable fear, seeing the virgin alive whom he thought was dead. The following day, at his command, the executioners led Aquilina out to behead her. Before her beheading, the virgin Aquilina prayed to God on her knees and gave up her soul. The executioner cut off her lifeless head. Her relics gave healing to many of the sick. Aquilina was twelve years old when she suffered for the Lord. She suffered and was crowned with a martyr's wreath in the year 293 A.D.

SAINT TRIPHYLLIUS, BISHOP OF LEUCOSIA [NICOSIA] IN CYPRUS

Triphyllius was a disciple of St. Spyridon and later his fellow worker on the island of Cyprus. He was a merciful man, pure in thought and chaste throughout his life, "a living fountain of tears," and a great ascetic. He governed Christ's flock well, and when he reposed he received a wreath among the great hierarchs in the heavens. He died peacefully in the year 370 A.D.

From the Prologue of Ochrid

"There do not exist many or few, nor small or great problems. The only problem is the absence of Christ from our lives" (From the life and teachings of Elder Epiphanius Theodoropoulos)