



Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

June 5th , Tone 6, Jn.17:1-13

Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

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 for Annunciation, Tone 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery! the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.

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!

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 5:30PM

Divine Liturgy— Sunday, at 10AM.

Parish Council—will meet next Sunday, after Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour.

Mortgage Drive— Last year we met our pledge goal of 20K and church matching funds of 20K. Our goal was to do the mortgage reduction for 2 consecutive years and see if we can't retire the mortgage in 2023. Let's throw the Mortgage Reduction Red Thermometer on the wall in the Hall over the top and be able to say that this facility is totally in possession of God and His people. More about this as we move along. We will conclude this particular drive in September.

Church School/Adult Ed.— is on Summer break and will resume in the Fall..

Coffee Hours— This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Svetlana C. in memory of her newly reposed bother, Victor. Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Brandon, Leanna, Sean and April.

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. 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. Our Vladyka Benjamin—battling on-set parkinsons. Tsigie Roman and Abraham— I know we are always mindful of Tsigie, 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. Reposed Jonathan T. George and Alesis, Brother and Daughter of Peter and Irene S. Matushka Ioanna R. reposed. Matushka Priscilla, ill. Anya J— a longtime friend of the parish who is ill. Stephen F.— battling back pain. John F.— battling cancer. Archpriest Anthony — battling cancer. Julie— sister of Kathy M., battling health problems. Rhoda's requests for Douglas and Kayana. Reposed Constance — the mother of Andrew F. Will— reposed, Michael T.'s brother-inlaw. Reposed Vadim. Christian— undergoing some medical testing. The reposed— Novice Nonna, Robbie— cancer. Raphael, cancer. Child Aidan— seizures. Child Henry. Robbie the cousin of Brian R., who reposed after a battle with cancer. Louis Joseph M., is now home and, thank God, ready to come to church again. Victor T. reposed on Holy Saturday. Christine-reposed on Holy Saturday. Holli— Reposed. Reposed Dn. George. Jobie, cancer

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 Grace of the Lord*, by a Monk of the Eastern Church)

From the Lives of the Saints... THE PRIESTLY-MARTYR DOROTHEUS, BISHOP OF TYRE

Dorotheus was Bishop of Tyre from the time of Diocletian to the time of Julian the Apostate, under whom he was tortured and suffered for the Orthodox Faith. He lived on earth for one hundred seven years and, pleasing God, took up his habitation in life eternal in the year 361 A.D. Dorotheus was a very educated man and wrote many instructive works in Greek and Latin. Especially well known is his Greek-Latin Syntagma.

THE VENERABLE THEODORE THE HERMIT

Theodore was a miracle-worker. Purifying his spirit through a long life of asceticism in the wilderness of Jordan, Theodore received from God the gift of working miracles. Traveling by boat to Constantinople, it happened that the boat wandered off course and they ran out of drinking water. All the travelers on the boat were at the point of death from thirst. Theodore raised his hands to heaven, prayed to God and traced the sign of the Cross over the sea water. After that, he told the boatmen to draw water from the sea and drink. When they drank it, the water was sweet. When they all began to bow down before Theodore, he beseeched them not to thank him but to thank the Lord God, Who had worked this miracle because of His love for mankind. Theodore died peacefully in the year 583 A.D.

THE VENERABLE ANOUB

Anoub was one of the great Egyptian monks. He suffered much for the True Faith. Prior to his death, three aged hermits visited him and he, "a discernor of the thoughts of man," revealed all the secrets of their hearts to them. Anoub died peacefully in the second half of the fifth century.

Taken from the Prologue of Ochrid, Compiled and Written, asdfasdf

"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)