



***The Fathers of the 1st  
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 of the Ascension  
of the Lord, 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!

***Kontakion for Annun-  
tiation, 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**

***The Seventh Sunday of the Pentecostarion ,  
June 16th, Tone 6; Jn.12:1-18***

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 . . . '.

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... SAINT TIKHON, BISHOP OF  
AMATHUS***

Saint Tikhon was a miracle-worker. Following the death of Blessed Mnemonius, Tikhon was unanimously elected bishop and consecrated by the re-

## **Announcements and Activities**

**Great Vespers Saturday**– 5:30 PM.

**Divine Liturgy**– Sunday, at 10AM.

**Coffee Hour**– This week's Coffee Hour is cookies and coffee, as it is Fathers Day. Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Kyle and Erika and Virginia and Gan.

**Parish Council**– met last week. Our treasurer presented another deficit budget for May. Your treasurer noticed to the parish council that offerings are above normal (year-to-date), but pledges are significantly off (year-to-date). Of course we hope that the second part of 2024 will bring a better financial picture-given our planned fundraising and the fact that people sometimes pay their pledge quarterly. If you are suffering hardship, don't hesitate to speak with Sunday about your 2023/4 pledge to the church.

**Church School/Adult Ed.**—is now on summer hiatus. We mentioned Church School director Elise Russell's appeal to our parish for needed teachers. More later about a preliminary meeting that she has scheduled in July to gear up and prepare for the coming year's classes.

**July 27 BBQ Fundraiser**– Please distribute the flyers to your family and friends. There is a convenient qr code through which they can place their orders.

**Pray for...** Sarah, the daughter of Fr. Lawrence's godfather, health issues. **Youseff and Jimmy**– who are ill. **Archpriest Lawrence**, from Canada, progressive eye disease. **Priscilla and Departed, George.** **Luci F. bad knee.** **Newly- Departed Marylyn; ill, Diane, ill, Colin. John Truman**—lightheadedness and a recent fall. , Tom and Amy, who lost their son. **Nicholas, the father of a friend.** **Rose Marie**– Rachel's mother, cancer. **Barbara H.**—recovering from a fall. **Claude (Moses)**- in need of housing. **Eleni**—aftermath of a stroke. **Sharon. Baby Archie. Phil**– covid. **Reposed Makhoul. Marius and Lucia. (aka Darrell and Laura Beth) health issues. Todd,** cancer, Anna, his wife. **Micha. Lilly,** mother of Jason, **Ron, reposed**– request from Nina and Don;

owned Epiphanius for the Diocese of Amathus. His purity of life and zeal for Orthodoxy recommended him for this office. There were still pagans on Cyprus at that time. With apostolic zeal St. Tikhon undertook to convert the unbelievers into believers, and he had great success in this. After lengthy labor in the vineyard of the Lord, Tikhon took up habitation in blessed eternity in about the year 425 A.D. He is called a miracle-worker because of the many miracles he worked during his life. Tikhon's father was a baker. When his father left him alone in the bakery, he would distribute bread free of charge to the poor. His father once reproached him for this. Tikhon prayed to God and their granary was so filled with wheat that the door could not be opened without difficulty. Again, at another time, he planted withered branches of a vine and the vine became green and in due time brought forth fruit.

### **THE HOLY MARTYRS TIGRIUS AND EUTROPIUS**

Tigrius and Eutropius were among the clergy of St. John Chrysostom. When evil men banished Chrysostom from Constantinople, the cathedral church [Hagia Sophia] was set on fire and the flames that rose from it fell upon the houses of the persecutors of this beacon of the Church. The people saw the finger of God in this, but the enemies of Chrysostom attributed this fire to his adherents. Many of those who were accused suffered bitterly because of it, among them the presbyter Tigrius and the reader Eutropius. Optatius, the mayor of the city, an unbaptized Greek, began with particular malice to pursue Chrysostom's followers. Tigrius, in his youth, had been the slave of a wealthy man and had been castrated by him. Having been freed from slavery, he dedicated himself completely to the service of the Church, and in this service he shone as a bright ray. Optatius subjected this "meek, humble, charitable and hospitable" man to great tortures and then banished him into exile to Mesopotamia, where he died in prison. Eutropius, chaste from birth, pure, blameless and kind, was beaten with oxen whips and rods and finally hanged. When Christians took his body to bury it, sweet angelic singing was heard in the air.

### **REFLECTION**

In enumerating the miracles of the Christian Faith, we must never forget the countless and great miracles of change of heart and disposition in people truly converted to the Faith. How many are the raging criminals that this Faith has tamed! How many bloodthirsty robbers has the Faith transformed into innocent lambs! How many debauched ones has the Faith turned into chaste ones! How many persecutors has the Faith turned into defenders of the Faith! How many selfish, avaricious men has the Faith taught compassion! How many fearful ones has the Faith directed on the road to extreme self-sacrifice! Metropolitan Philaret writes thus about Russian Prince Vladimir: "A lover of all pleasures who could not have loved them more, the pagan Vladimir became in Christianity a model of chaste married life. He dismissed all his wives and concubines and lived with one wife, the devout Anna. An evil, vindictive and bloodthirsty fratricide in paganism, Vladimir was in Christianity the most compassionate friend of the poor. The poor always had access to him, and he distributed both money and food with a generous hand." More than that: "The sick are unable to come to my palace," he said, and he commanded that meat, fish, bread, yeast and honey be carted about the streets. The Gospel words *Blessed are the merciful* (St. Matthew 5:7) penetrated into the depth of his heart and became his rule of life.

(taken from the Prologue of Ochrid, compiled and written by St. Nikolai V.)

*"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)*