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Sunday, June 1st, 2014

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

Χριστος Ανεστη (Christ is Risen!)

REACHING HIGHER PLATEAUS

About 400 years before Christ a gifted Greek named Timanthes took instructions in art from a well-known tutor. After several years the budding young painter created an exquisite picture. When he was commended for his accomplishment, he became so enraptured with what he had produced that he sat day after day just gazing at the portrait. He mistakenly believed he would never be able to advance beyond that point.

One morning when he went to admire his work again, he discovered that his teacher had blotted it out. Angry, and in tears, Timanthes ran to him and asked why he had destroyed his cherished possession. The wise man replied, "I did it for your own good. That painting was retarding your progress. While it was an excellent piece of art, it was not perfect— even though it appeared that way to you. Start again and see if you can do even better!"

The student took his advice and produced his greatest masterpiece called "Sacrifice of Iphigenia," which is regarded as one of the finest paintings of all antiquity.

Our Master in Heaven never wants us to be content with our accomplishments, no matter how able or perfect they appear to us... He would have us reach even higher plateaus of service and holiness. St. Paul recognized this. That is why he said, "Not that I... am already perfect; but I press on..." Philippians 3:12

HOLY COMMUNION REMINDER— Please follow Ushers Instructions

We welcome those visiting with us today and ask that only Baptized/Chrismated Orthodox Christians who are properly prepared through prayer, fasting and Holy Confession to come forward to receive Holy Communion. Women are kindly asked to remove their lipstick prior to receiving Holy Communion. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to receive the blessed bread from the Priest at the end of the Divine Liturgy and to join us for fellowship in our hall. We ask that everyone please dress appropriately for church. **Visitors: we ask that you fill out a yellow welcome card & give it to an usher.**

COMING UP...

- ♦ HOLY PENTECOST:
**Sun. June 8th
Orthos 9AM
Div. Lit. 10AM**
Service of
Kneeling
Prayers
- ♦ Holy Trinity:
**Mon. June 9th
Liturgy at Holy
Trinity of Port
Charlotte**
- ♦ Circle of
Friends: Thurs.
June 12th
6PM MOVIE
NIGHT
- ♦ Father's Day:
Sun. June 15th
- ♦ Apostles Fast
Begins: Mon.
June 16th
- ♦ VBS: Mon.
June 16th—
Thurs. June
19th 8:30AM-
12:30PM
- ♦ VBS: Thurs.
June 19th
5:45PM-8PM
FAMILY NIGHT

EPISTLE READING

Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36

IN THOSE DAYS, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesos and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.' " And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel of John 17:1-13

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come;

glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made.

"I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

SAINTS COMMEMORATED

TODAY, SUN. JUNE 1ST

•Pyrros the Hieromartyr

•Fathers of the 1st Council

•Justin the Philosopher & Martyr and his Companions

Entrance Hymn

Come Let Us Worship/Δεῦτε Προσκυνήσωμεν (Page 16)

Resurrectional Apolytikion

The Angelic Powers were before Thy tomb,

Ἀγγελικαὶ Δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνήμᾳ σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν (page 45)

Apolytikion for the Fathers

Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God. You established the holy Fathers upon the earth as beacons, and through them You have guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly merciful One, glory be to You.

Ἵπερδεδοξασμένος εἶ, Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ὁ φωστῆρας ἐπὶ γῆς τοὺς Πατέρας ἡμῶν θεμελιώσας, καὶ δι' αὐτῶν πρὸς τὴν ἀληθινὴν πίστιν, πάντας ἡμᾶς ὁδηγήσας· πολυεύσπλαγχνε, δόξα σοι.

Τῆς Δευτέρας Συνόδου·

Ascension Festal Apolytikion

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, after You filled the Disciples with joy, by promising to send them the Holy Spirit, and You blessed them and established their faith, that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

Ἀνελήφθης ἐν δόξῃ, Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, χαροποιήσας τοὺς Μαθητάς, τῇ ἐπαγγελίᾳ τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος· βεβαιωθέντων αὐτῶν διὰ τῆς εὐλογίας, ὅτι σὺ εἶ ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ λυτρωτῆς τοῦ κόσμου.

Annunciation Hymn

Today is the crown of our salvation, and the manifestation

of the mystery from the ages. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces the good tidings of grace. Therefore let us cry out with him unto the Mother of God: hail to thee who are full of grace; the Lord is with thee. Σήμερον της σωτηρίας ημῶν τό Κεφάλαιον, και του ἀπ' αἰῶνος Μυστηρίου η φανέρωσις, ο Υἱός τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱός τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, και Γαβριήλ τὴν χαρὶν ευαγγελίζεται, Διὸ σύν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν, Χαίρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ο Κύριος μετα σοῦ.

Kontakion

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, and united things on earth with the things in heaven, You were taken up thither in glory, O Christ our God, going not away from any place, but continuing inseparable, and to them that love You crying out: "I am with you, and there is, therefore, none against you."

Τὴν ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν πληρώσας οἰκονομίαν, καὶ τὰ ἐπὶ γῆς ἐνώσας τοῖς οὐρανίοις, ἀνελήφθης ἐν δόξῃ, Χριστε ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, οὐδαμόθεν χωριζόμενος, ἀλλὰ μένων ἀδιάστατος, καὶ βοῶν τοῖς ἀγαπῶσί σε· Ἐγὼ εἶμι μεθ' ὑμῶν, καὶ οὐδεὶς καθ' ὑμῶν.

Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in you, O full of grace/Επί σοί χαίρει (Page 85)

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord/Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον (Page 36)

The Defenders of our Faith: The Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

The Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council met primarily because of their desire to protect the church against heresy. This led to the drafting of the Nicene Creed. In the early years of the fourth century, Arius, a presbyter of Alexandria in Egypt, in the interest of the doctrine of the unity of God, propounded the view that Jesus Christ, the Son, was only a creature, an intermediary between God and man. He maintained that the Son was not eternal and that He was created not from the substance of God, but ἐκ οὐκ ὄντων (from nothing), and therefore was not ὁμοούσιος (the same essence) with the Father. He admitted that the Son existed before any other creature, and that it was by Him God created the world. He thus denied Jesus Christ's full and essential deity.

It is to be constantly remembered that these speculations were the business of the theologians. They neither expressed nor affected to express the *mind* of the Church. The great body of the people drew their faith, then, as now, immediately from the Scriptures, Tradition, and from the services of the sanctuary. They were baptized in the name

of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. They addressed themselves to the Father as the creator of heaven and earth, and as their reconciled God and Father, and to Jesus Christ as their Redeemer, and to the Holy Spirit as their sanctifier and comforter. They loved, worshipped, and trusted the One as they did the others. This was the religious belief of the Church, which remained undisturbed by the speculations and controversies of the theologians, in their attempts to vindicate and explain the common faith. This state of confusion was, however, a great evil, and in order to bring the Church to an agreement as to the manner in which this fundamental doctrine of Christianity should be stated, the Emperor Constantine summoned the First Ecumenical Council, to meet at Nicea in A. D. 325.

This council drew up a creed that expressly condemned Arianism as heretical, and asserted that Jesus Christ was "of one essence with the Father." Even this official declaration by the Council of Nicaea did not end the Arian controversy, which continued for another half century or so. But in 381 the Second Ecumenical Council, held at Constantinople, reaffirmed the Nicene position with respect to the essential deity of Jesus Christ, and at the same time added that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, was equally divine with the Father and the Son.



FLAGS & FOOD in FELLOWSHIP

On SUNDAY June 8th we celebrate Pentecost. With that, we want you to share/bring an ethnic dish for a Community Potluck following Liturgy. A dish to feed at least 10 people. Bring a flag of your countries heritage, big or small to the hall with your dish. Sign up in the fellowship hall TODAY ON THE BIG SIGN.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are 6 months into 2014. Please pray and offer your time and talent sheet. Submit your pledge card or ask an usher for a new one. Our goal is \$200,000 for 2014! A follow-up letter went out to be sure everyone pledges.

MEMORIAL

Today we offer a 40 day Memorial for the servant of God, Niki Fagerlie mother of Cleo Current. The Current Family will be sponsoring coffee hour with a light luncheon in Niki Fagerlie's honor following Divine Liturgy.

826-8991 OR AN LPS REPRESENTATIVE FOR YOUR \$25 DONATION TOWARDS A TICKET PURCHASE TODAY. WINNER TO BE ANNOUNCED IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY, JUNE 15TH. WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) \$30 A CHILD—fill out a form TODAY!

GAMES, MUSIC, BIBLE STORIES CRAFTS & MUCH, MUCH MORE! "Building Your Faith" is this years theme. Dates are June 16th– June 19th. Forms due by **TODAY** June 1st.

BELOW ARE SOME GENTLE REMINDERS ABOUT CHURCH ETIQUETTE & TRADITION

We should offer Christ our "Sunday best," every single day of the week, both in conduct and dress. This is our Lords house 24/7 and the respect we show should never change from one day to the next. We should always dress neatly and modestly, not only on Sundays. Shoulders and chest areas should be covered, and discretion used concerning skirt lengths, appropriately fitting clothes, excessive make-up and jewelry.

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

Coffee Hours hostesses for the month of JUNE are Ginny and Barbara. Please lend a hand in helping these ladies.

Along with fasting before church (from both food and improper speech), gum is a no-no during services, and in fact, gum should not be used several hours after receiving Holy Communion. Although toddlers and infants may need to drink, eating is to be discouraged.

DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$2K CASH OR \$2K TRAVEL CERTIFICATE FROM A LOCAL TRAVEL AGENCY. PLEASE SEE JOAN SIMON at 201-

Please blot lip-stick before venerating Icons and receiving Holy Communion.

Praying for You



We offer prayers for health and the needs for the servants of God for Al Hunter, Ted Bonstedt, Susan Christodoulou, Helen Rogers, Dimitra Vasilakos, Theodore Lizas, John Kontinos, Louis Eftim & Stella Demosthenis. Please notify the office if there is someone that needs to be added to the prayer list. 239-481-2099

Our Church passes 2 offering trays. The 1st goes towards our Operating Budget, the 2nd tray will continue for the NEW Education Building Fund until paid in Full.