

PASTORAL VISITATIONS

Please inform the Church Office 301-469-7990 (ext 300) of any loved ones who are hospitalized or “shut-ins,” so they may be visited and receive the grace of Holy Communion.

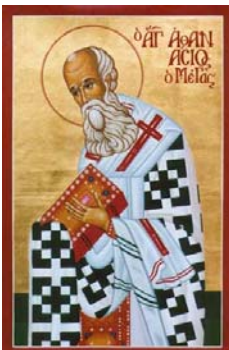
PARISH ACTIVITIES

GREEK SCHOOL FOR PRESCHOOLERS: Space still available for 3-4 year old classes! Morning 2 year old class full. We are trying to gather enough children to create an afternoon 2 year old class to potentially be held Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30pm-2:30pm. If interested please contact Christina Stayeas at cstayeas@yahoo.com or Vasilia Contos at contosgeorge@hotmail.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday School **DATES TO REMEMBER: TODAY**, May 16: Last day of Sunday School Awards Ceremony/Picnic. June 6 Sunday School Teacher Appreciation

>>>>GRADUATION SUNDAY IS NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 23<<<<

Information is needed for the 2010 Graduation Program. High School graduates please send your name, school from which you are graduating, school you will attend and your major. Post Graduate students send your name, school graduating from, degree, and future plans. EMAIL THIS MATERIAL ASAP TO ATHENA KRANIAS: akranias@hotmail.com



ST. ATHANASIUS THE GREAT: THE DEFENDER OF ORTHODOXY AT THE COUNCIL OF NICEA

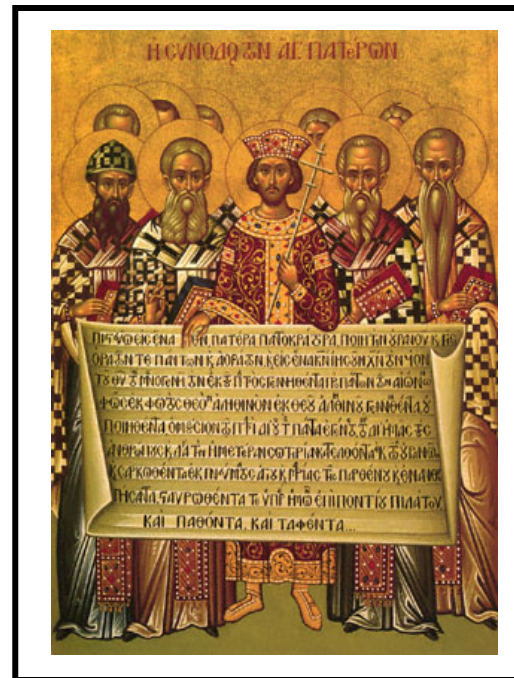
St. Athanasius, the great champion of the Faith was born at Alexandria, about the year 296, of Christian parents. Educated under the eye of Alexander, later Bishop of his native city, he made great progress in learning and virtue. In 313, Alexander succeeded Achillas in the Patriarchal See, and two years later St. Athanasius went to the desert to spend some time in retreat with St. Anthony. In 319, he became a deacon, and even in this capacity he was called upon to take an active part against the rising heresy of Arius, an ambitious priest of the Alexandrian Church who denied the Divinity of Christ. This was to be the life struggle of St. Athanasius.

In 325, he assisted his Bishop at the Council of Nicaea, where his influence began to be felt. Five months later Alexander died. On his death bed he recommended St. Athanasius as his successor. In consequence of this, Athanasius was unanimously elected Patriarch in 326. His refusal to tolerate the Arian heresy was the cause of many trials and persecutions for St. Athanasius. He spent seventeen of the forty-six years of his episcopate in exile. After a life of virtue and suffering, this intrepid champion of the Catholic Faith, the greatest man of his time, died in peace on May 2, 373. He is but a select few in the history of the Church who was given the title “the Great” due to his extraordinary defense of Orthodox doctrine.

ST. GEORGE BULLETIN

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

MAY 16, 2010



Today we commemorate the First of Seven Ecumenical Councils—that of Nicaea in 325 A.D. Apart from the dogmatic issues it addressed, the Council reminds us that Orthodox faith is not a free-for-all or a collection of differing and equal opinions. Orthodox faith is founded on the faith of the Apostles *as it is handed down to us from the Fathers*. It is clear and settled faith. In an age when many suggest religious faith is a matter of personal free choice as to what is believed — the celebration of the Council Fathers reminds us that we believe that which has been handed on. The Council Fathers have given articulation to Orthodoxy for all time, in all places, by all to be believed!

APOLYTIKION

You are greatly glorified, O Christ our God, who established our Fathers as luminaries upon the earth, and through them led us all to the true Faith. O Most compassionate, glory to You.

SATURDAY OF SOULS



Saturday, May 22

ORTHROS 8:30 A.M.

**DIVINE LITURGY
9:30 A.M.**

(Prayer sheets at candle stand)

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Rev. Fr. Nicholas Despotides,
Emeritus

EPISTLE Acts 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.

TODAY'S READER: MANOLI ANAGOSTIADIS

GOSPEL John 17: 1-13

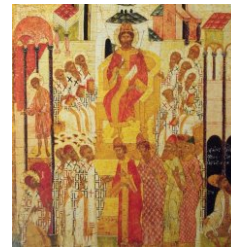
AT THAT TIME Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and 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."

MEMORIALS

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Despina Condoleon (1 Year)** requested by her her sister Virginia Theakos and nephew Patrick (Aspasia) Theros, and ; and for **Konstantinos Stergiou (1 Year)**, **Eleni Stergiou (30 Years)**, and **Georgios Stergiou (44 Years)** requested by Maria and Steve Stathes, Konstantinos Stathes, and Irene and George Tzamaras and family. May their memories be eternal!

40 DAY BLESSING

A 40-Day Blessing will be given today to **Vasileios Evangelos**, son of Alexandra and Mihalis Naum. May God grant his child many years!



LET US HOLD FAST TO THE FAITH WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN...

We live in an age when the certitude of faith is called into question, and when the notion of absolute truth is frequently dismissed. All ideas are relative and all opinions morph into some kind of socially accepted subjective truth. Today, Orthodox Christians here and around the world celebrate quite the opposite. We remember those Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council at Nicea (325 A.D.) who gave expression to Christian revelation in certain and definite terms. They were the first to define precisely *what* we believe and taught that this comes to us from the Apostles. They stood over against Arius and other heretics who expressed Orthodox teaching in popular but erroneous terms. The Symbol of Faith (Nicene Creed) which the Council gave us became the definitive foundation for what we believe—and has been neither added to nor subtracted from by the Holy Orthodox Church. We believe what has been taught to us in Sacred Scripture, and from the hands of the Apostles and the Holy Fathers. This is what we stand for as Orthodox believers. The Truth of our faith is not ambiguous. It is clear. It is certain. It is our absolute value. There are many influences and social forces that call us to compromise, to dilute, to bend our Truth. They tell us that we are old-fashioned, “conservative”, and even out of date. They lure us to change our moral teaching, to “modernize” our Liturgy, to become more appealing to the world. The even try to convince us that “all religions are the same.” *Today's commemoration reminds us to hold fast.* To cling to the Truth

PRAYER LIST: Antonia “Nitsa” Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, Priscilla Preuss, George Virvan, Sylvia Basdekas, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Stephanie Skanderis, Michael Giatzis, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, Theodosia Karmiris, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Maj. Sydney Pennix, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, and 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios

we have been given. To follow ONE voice—the Lord's. To separate ourselves from those influences which seek to diminish our faith, to rob it of its power to save, and to destroy our moral values. Even though the world may think us out of step, we must cling to that hope to which we have been called. In an age of diluted faith and values, the Council Fathers call us to hold fast to the Truth of the Orthodox Faith. Let us remember the words of our Holy Father, St. Mark of Ephesus: “*The can be no compromise in things of the Orthodox Faith.*” O Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, grant that we may have the courage that you did in defending and holding fast to the Truth of the faith that we share. Pray for us to the Lord God, that we may be saved!

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR PENTECOST (NEXT SUNDAY)



Father of light, from whom every good gift comes, send Your Spirit into our lives with the power of a mighty wind, and by the flame of Your wisdom open the horizons of our minds. Loosen our tongues to sing Your praise in words beyond the power of speech, for without Your Spirit man could never raise his voice in words of peace or announce the truth that Jesus is Lord. Make our hearts ready for the celebration of the Spirit's Great Coming, and enkindle His fire in us that we may live our Orthodox Faith with vigor and conviction, ever ready to praise Your Holy Name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.