

REMINDER

THE ANNUAL SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JUNE 12, FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY. ALL STEWARDS IN GOOD STANDING MAY PARTICIPATE. PLEASE JOIN THE COMMUNITY FOR THIS IMPORTANT MEETING.

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

Our study of the Gospel of St. John continues on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Join us for this important reflection on the last canonical Gospel written.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

The Holy Metropolis of New Jersey will sponsor the 2011 CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD at the Linwood MacDonald YMCA Camp and Conference Center in Branchville, New Jersey. The three sessions are July 10-16 (JOY session); July 17-23 (GOYA session #1); and July 24-30 (GOYA session #2). For more information and to obtain a registration packet, contact the Metropolis Youth Office at 908-301-0500, or go online to www.nj.goarch.org

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS

All are invited to join us on Tuesday, June 7th at 7:30 p.m. at the new Stella's Restaurant on Traville Gateway in Rockville as we celebrate the end of a successful year for our Chapter as well as welcoming our new Board members. Total cost per dinner is \$30. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Mary Papadopulos at marypapa10@gmail.com or 301-530-1215.

CHURCH SCHOOL AT ST. MARK'S

Saint Mark Orthodox Church on River Road in Bethesda, is holding a Vacation Church School from July 18 through 22 at the Church. The program is for ages 3 to those entering 6th grade in the Fall. Enrollment is limited to the first 50 students. The subject will be *The Saints of North America*, and there will be lunch, games, music and crafts. For more information or to obtain a registration form, contact Ann Prentice at 703-865-3036, or by email at prentice@comcast.net

In response to continued inquiries regarding church financials, the Church is publishing year-to-date operating income and expenses in the Sunday bulletin. We are no longer providing weekly operating income and expenses because of the great fluctuations from week to week of these numbers caused by the timing of processing and posting church income. The year-to-date operating numbers provided of course include the weekly numbers and normalize the effects of timing, making them less subject to fluctuation. God bless you and thank you for your support.

January 1 through May 31, 2011

Income \$611,013.79*
Expenses \$512,904.18**

* - Includes any income from Stewardship, Candles, Trays, General Donations, Facility Rentals, Spring Festival, and Harbor School Rent.

** - Includes expenses incurred (funds disbursed) for Administrative Items, Candles, Facility Rentals, Spring Festival, Archdiocese Stewardship, For those Who Serve, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment, Liturgical, Maintenance, Mortgage Interest, Program Expenses, Taxes & Insurance, and Utilities.

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

ST. DOROTHEOS THE MARTYR

JUNE 5, 2011



Today we commemorate the First of Seven Ecumenical Councils—that of Nicea 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.

KONTAKION

O Christ our God, upon fulfilling Your dispensation for our sake, You ascended in Glory, uniting the earthly with the heavenly. You were never separate but remained inseparable, and cried out to those who love You, "I am with you and no one is against you."

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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.

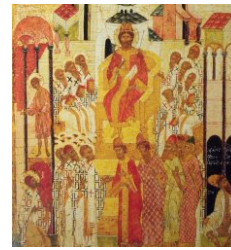
TODAY'S READER: GEORGE COMINOS

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."



PRAYER LIST: Sandi Treer, Constantina Speris, Spiro Gianniotis, Ralph Vallone, Christopher Bacas, Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, George Virvan, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Alexis Ross, Joseph Papadakis, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Stephanie Skanderis, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, Milton Kayafas, Maureen Shriver, Tiffany Keiker, Mary O'Hara, William Coulopoulos, Matina Mantis, Anna Wakefield, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios, Private Louis Tiches, EG Robert Stock, and Lance Corporal Brett Hughes, and Lt. Cmdr. Michael Starsiak



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, . 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 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.

MEMORIALS

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Telemahos (Ted) Lainas (1 Year)**, requested by his brother Gus (Pauline) Lainas.; and for **Evangelos Drimis (6 Months)**, requested by his sister Irene Konstantopoulos (George) and Michael and Melanie, his niece and nephew. May their memory be eternal!