

SUNDAY BULLETIN

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SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL (May 31st, 2020)



GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR BELOVED!!!

Liturgical Readings:

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 20:16-18, 28-36

IN THOSE DAYS, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, 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 Ephesus 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.

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.

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE SIX:

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!

ASCENSION TROPARION - TONE FOUR:

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!

TROPARION TO THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL - TONE EIGHT:

You are most glorious, O Christ our God! You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth! Through them You have guided us to the true faith! O greatly Compassionate One, glory to You!

GLORY... KONTAKION TO THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL - TONE EIGHT:

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one faith for the Church. Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology; it defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

NOW AND EVER... ASCENSION KONTAKION - TONE SIX:

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake, and unite earth to heaven: Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love Thee, but remaining with them and crying: I am with you and no one will be against you!

Homily by Fr Rodney Torbic

Every year on the Sunday following the Feast of the Ascension, the present Gospel is read. Attentive listeners hear the Lord Jesus Christ speak about eternal life.

Eternal life involves knowing God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church gives each person the constant opportunities to learn about God and eternal life.

Choosing to learn about God throughout life and to seek eternal life requires conscious choice and strong faith. Perils to the soul must be avoided constantly as evil arises during daily life.

Love of God involves keeping the heart, mind and soul clearly focused. The Kingdom of God awaits those faithful to the Lord. The hunger of the soul is nourished and satisfied in the Lord.

Attending the Divine services of the Church, an active life of prayer and learning from the Holy Gospel requires dedicated commitment from the time of Holy Baptism until departure from this life.

God's Holy Church affords the instruction necessary for growth in Christ throughout life. The Lord Jesus Christ provides forgiveness, love and mercy when the believer wants to begin life anew.

Believers will depart from the life in Christ and commit sins throughout life. Fervency for Jesus Christ will wane at times. Hope always exists in Christ and repentance is always possible when the mind and heart are willing.

The Church is currently celebrating the Lord Jesus Christ's Ascension. Each day the Lord's Jesus Christ's return is anticipated. His glorious Second Coming and the Final Judgment have a place in the believer's consciousness.

In the remaining days of earthly life, believers are challenged to be enduringly faithful to Christ. Sin is to be firmly rejected. Joy in Jesus Christ is to be pursued with diligence.

The full commitment to Christ was made at Holy Baptism. The commitment to Christ is renewed with each recitation of The Creed. The heart, mind and soul are renewed in Christ at each Divine Liturgy.

This is a period of continued joy in God's Holy Church. Life in God's Holy Church is a fountain of blessings for the faithful. Christ is always present to lead, to nourish, to love and forgive.

Worldly life can seem threatening, tumultuous and foreboding at times. Christ offers constant hope and peace. Christ offers protection and renewal. God's Holy Church is always the welcoming home and refuge for believers.

Saints, martyrs and faithful believers through the centuries have offered examples of the enduring value of living in Christ. Wise believers heed the teachings of God's Holy Church and the witnesses for Christ through the centuries.

The liturgical year is progressing. Soon the Church will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. Pascha, the Feasts of Ascension and Pentecost come in succession. Life in the Church is immeasurably enriched during these festal celebrations.

Believers choose the degree they will invest in the life in Christ. The Lord said: "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." (Mt. 6:20)

Daily life is a challenge in every century. Believers need not yield to fear or uncertainty. The Lord Jesus Christ spoke reassuringly these words: "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Mt.28:20)

Let us thank the Lord God for His constant presence and the prevailing hope for renewal in life at all times. May our love for the Lord be abundant and our faith remain strong and fervent.

DONATIONS RECEIVED ON MAY 24TH

Due to this pandemic, not only have we modified the schedule for services but we have suspended all fund raising activities including fish fries until further notice. The fish fries have provided great financial support to our church treasury over the years and this loss of income plus not having a weekly collection puts a strain on the finances. Even though we may not be attending services, we continue to incur operating expenses that need to be paid. ***WE ARE ASKING YOU TO PLEASE CONTINUE WITH YOUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS BY MAILING THEM TO THE CHURCH. YOUR COOPERATION WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!***

Offering \$835.00; Candles \$50.00; Parastos \$25.00

Anniversary Donation for \$100 from Dianna Dunnington

Building Fund Donations: \$50 from Tom & Ann Luy in memory of Mark Stokrp

BELL TOWER FUND - Total to date \$45,339.14/\$ 32,500.00

\$100 from Helen Carol Batchlor in memory of Michael & Helen Sewak

\$100 from Dianna Dunnington in memory of Milka Tumbas

WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE LARGE CANDLES (\$25)
THANK YOU!

BOOK OF THE MONTH JUNE
"Liturgy and Life" - Fr Alexander Schmemmann

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY at 7:45 PM - Evening Prayer through the Conference call (339) 207-6529

TODAY (May 31st) - Divine Liturgy and Pomen for +Fr Radovan Bigovic and +Mark Stokrp

WEDNESDAY (Jun 3rd) - Holy Equal-to-the Apostles Emperor Constantine and Helen

10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY (Jun 6th) - Memorial Saturday

7:00 AM - Divine Liturgy

8:30 AM - Old St. Nicholas Cemetery (Graves blessing)

9:00 AM - St. Nicholas Cemetery at Benshoff Hill Rd (Beginning at the top)

11:00 AM - Grandview Cemetery

6:00 PM - Great Vespers (Live streamed)

SUNDAY (Jun 7th) - Pentecost - Trinity Sunday

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Readings: Epistle (Acts 20, 16-18; 28-36); Gospel (Jn. 17, 1-13)

Dear ones,

Please, keep in your hearted prayers our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ

- who suffer of cancer: Jenifer, Linda, Sandy (Simko)
- who pray the God for the restoration of health: Irine (Martinovich), Grace (Vuckovich), Ranka (Banda), Edward (Gartell), George (Momcilovic)