



Sunday Bulletin May 20, 2018 *Greek Orthodox Church of the* *Annunciation*

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Proistamenos

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### **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 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. 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."

*Message from Fr. Michael....*

Dearly Beloved Faithful:

Pentecost Sunday is May 27, 2018. You are invited to attend Divine Services for the Saturday of Souls, May 26, 2018 at Riverhurst Cemetery (weather permitting). Please join us. Welcome to this very special Holy Day! You are also invited to attend the Divine Liturgy for Pentecost Sunday on May 27, 2018 to be held here at our blessed Church of the Annunciation. This will be immediately followed with Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost. On that Sunday, please remain in the pews, on that day, to receive the descent of the Holy Spirit upon you. This a very important event and blessing: God shants His grace, His Mercy, His Healing, His Forgiveness, and His Love upon us! Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit on that day. Before our Lord's Holy Ascension, He reminded us that He would not leave us, the faithful, as orphans. The Lord stated that He would send the Holy Spirit. The Lord stated, "But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything and remind you of everything that I told you" (John 14:26). He also stated, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (John 14:18).

Fifty days after Pascha, the apostles gathered together and noise like rushing wind came from Heaven and tongues of fire descended upon each apostle. The Holy Apostles became filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak with other tongues. They each heard them in their own language. They were amazed! St. Chrysostom once said, concerning this event, "the rabbit is transformed into a lion, the midget into a giant, at the descent of the Holy Spirit." Prior to the great event of Pentecost, the Church had numbered only 120 souls. However, quickly the Church grew and found her ranks to 3,000 as we read: "So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). Unfortunately, some doubted the news of this blessed event. The disciples were drunk with the Holy Spirit of God. However, this kind of drunkenness was not from imbibing alcohol. This kind is that where the Holy Spirit fills the soul of the individual for the purpose of rendering praises to the Lord. We should all strive to have drunkenness with the Holy Spirit. This enables us to endure the chaos and materialism of the world. It strengthens us to live in the world, without being of the world. This special drunkenness with the Holy Spirit gives us the Grace to live in God's word, protecting us from the soberness of evil. It is indeed unfortunate that we cannot understand these things perfectly, for the reason that we have never been drunk with the Holy Spirit of God. May the Holy Spirit of the Triune God guide our lives, as He did with the Holy Apostles.

May this upcoming special weekend serve as our Holy Pentecost where flaming tongues of the Spirit rest upon each and everyone of us. Let us be filled with the Grace of our Lord. Let us be reborn in faith and spirit!!! Prayerfully, in the spirit of those whom the Comforter as descended upon, With every blessing, I remain,

In His service,

+Fr. Michael

## Fathers of the 1st Council



The heresiarch Arius was a Libyan by race and a protopresbyter of the Church of Alexandria. In 315, he began to blaspheme against the Son and Word of God, saying that He is not true God, consubstantial with the Father, but is rather a work and creation, alien to the essence and glory of the Father, and that there was a time when He was not. This frightful blasphemy shook the faithful of Alexandria. Alexander, his Archbishop, after trying in vain to correct him through admonitions, cut him off from communion and finally in a local council deposed him in the year 321. Yet neither did the blasphemer wish to be corrected, nor did he cease sowing the deadly tares of his heretical

teachings; but writing to the bishops of other cities, Arius and his followers requested that his doctrine be examined, and if it were unsound, that the correct teaching be declared to him. By this means, his heresy became universally known and won many supporters, so that the whole Church was soon in an uproar. Therefore, moved by divine zeal, the first Christian Sovereign, Saint Constantine the Great, the equal to the Apostles, summoned the renowned First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was there that the shepherds and teachers of the Church of Christ gathered from all regions in the year 325. All of them, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God, and they composed the holy Symbol of Faith up to the seventh article (since the remainder, beginning with "And in the Holy Spirit," was completed by the Second Ecumenical Council). Thus they anathematized the impious Arius of evil belief and those of like mind with him, and cut them off as rotten members from the whole body of the faithful. Therefore, recognizing the divine Fathers as heralds of the Faith after the divine Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honour, and unto the strengthening of the true Faith.

## Father Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow

Our holy and wonderworking Father Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow, was born in Moscow in 1292, and consecrated bishop in 1350. Chosen as Metropolitan in 1354, he was ordained by Ecumenical Patriarch Philotheus. He founded several monasteries, including the first women's convent in the city of Moscow. From the Greek he translated and wrote out the Holy Gospel. For the good of the Church and his country he twice journeyed to the Horde and did much to propitiate the Khan and ease the burden of the Tartar yoke; he also healed Taidula, the Khan's wife. His relics are laid to rest in the Chudov Monastery in Moscow, which he founded on land granted him by the Khan and his wife in thanksgiving. Today is the feast of the translation of his holy relics, which took place in 1485, and again in 1686.

**FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS...**that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Lilly Kashou, Issam Kashou, Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon, and Presbytera Magdalena Michalopoulos. Please notify Fr. Michael if you have anyone else who should be included for special prayers. May they be under the grace and tender watch of our Lord.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND: We will have SATURDAY OF SOULS DIVINE LITURGY at 10 am Saturday, MAY 26, 2018 at RIVERHURST CEMETERY (weather permitting, if it rains or threatens to rain, services will be held at our Annunciation Church). Please bring your list of names of the departed souls and lawn chairs to sit on. Names of the departed will be commemorated at the Memorial service at the conclusion of the Liturgy.

PLEASE REMEMBER, IN THE ORTHODOX FAITH, SATURDAY IS ALWAYS THE DAY DESIGNATED TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THE DEPARTED SOULS. MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY IS AN AMERICAN HOLIDAY DESIGNED TO REMEMBER OUR BELOVED DEPARTED VETERANS, ESPECIALLY THE ONES WHO DIED IN THE SERVICE OF OUR GREAT NATION. SINCE OUR ORTHODOX SATURDAY OF SOULS FALLS ON THIS UPCOMING MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, SERVICES WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY AT THE CEMETERY (AS INDICATED ABOVE) AND THERE WILL BE NO SERVICES ON MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY AT THE CEMETERY. IF NAMES ARE PROVIDED, OUR DEPARTED VETERANS WILL BE COMMEMORATED DURING SATURDAY'S DIVINE LITURGY AND MEMORIAL SERVICES. See you there!!!!

There will be a mandatory Grecian Festival meeting on Monday, May 21 at 6:00 PM at the church hall. Personnel responsible for key posts, Kitchen, Grill, Bar, Pastries, Greek dancing, Ads, Raffle Tickets, Baskets, and Registers must attend to cover all needs so we have another success this year. In case of a conflict please inform us that you have everything under control and you are all set. Volunteers please commit to help and sign up in the sheets placed on the table entering the church. Any questions please contact Kostas Papatomas at (607) 205-0304, Nick Pappas or George Koutsaris. Let's strive again this year to make it happen.

Cashiers needed for the Festival: If anyone would like to volunteer to work a cash register station at the festival this year please contact Pamela Yacalis at (607) 348-5782. Thank you!

Whether you are an Orthodox Christian, or this is your first visit to an Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us. Although Holy Communion is reserved for baptized and chrismated (confirmed) Orthodox Christians, all are invited to receive the "ANTIDORON" (blessed bread) which is not a sacrament, but is a reminder of the "agape feast" that followed worship in the early Church. After the Divine Liturgy this morning, please join us in the Church Hall for fellowship and refreshments. We hope that you will return often to worship with us, to grow in Christ and in our Orthodox Faith. For any spiritual, religious, or sacramental matters, please contact Fr. Michael (607) 795-1474. For any building, facility or church property issues, please contact the Parish Council President or a member of the council. **Deadline for suggestions for the bulletin is 12:00 noon on Thursday.**