



Sunday Bulletin May 28, 2023 *Greek Orthodox Church of the* *Annunciation*

4121 O'Hara Drive Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: (607) 797-0824 Fax: (607) 797-0824
<http://www.annunciationvestal.ny.goarch.org>

**Rev. Dr. Michael Bahlatzis, Presiding Priest-
Proistamenos**

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### **Epistle Reading**

**Prokeimenon. Fourth Mode. Daniel 3.26,27.**

**Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.**

**Verse: For you are just in all you have done.**

**The reading is from 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, 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."

***Message from Fr. Michael....***

Dearly Beloved Faithful in the Lord:

In today's gospel reading of Saint John, we heard Christ's prayer. This prayer was often called the high Priestly prayer, as it contains the basic elements of prayer a priest offers to God when a sacrifice is about to be made. It contained glorification intercession on behalf of others, remembrance of God's works, and the declaration of the offering itself. Today is the 7th Sunday of Pascha, a day of remembering the fathers of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea which convened in 325 A.D. At this Council, the heresy of Arianism was condemned. The Arianism heresy taught that the Son of God was created by the Father and that there was a time when the Son of God did not exist. In the Gospel reading of today, the reference made to "the hour has come" signifies that Christ is Lord over all time. Our Lord willed to be placed on the Cross for our salvation. In fact, "glorify" refers to the redemption of all creation that was accomplished through the Cross and the Resurrection of our Lord. This was the purpose for which Christ was sent into the world. The Cross, a symbol of death, is glorified in the church as "life-giving" and the "weapon of peace." And the high Priestly prayer of our Lord, in today's gospel reading, Christ first prayed for himself and then He prayed for the apostles.

We now prepare ourselves to receive the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit, who art everywhere and fills all things as we await the great Pentecost Sunday which comes upon us next Sunday. This past Thursday, we prayed on the feast of the Ascension of our Lord, following the apodosis of Pascha. The Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council convened, in like manner, as the Apostles convened on Holy Pentecost, we too gather and congregate in church every Sunday to receive the Holy Spirit. Subsequently, we feel the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in our lives through this spiritual strength that we receive. In God's Divine Light, I remain

Yours in His service,

+Fr. Michael

# **Saints and Feasts Commemorated**

## **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.

## **Hieromartyr Eutychius, Bishop of Melitene**

All information concerning this Martyr has been lost, except that he presented himself before the tyrants, mocked the idols, suffered many unspeakable torments, and was finally drowned in the sea.

## **Nikitas, Bishop of Chalcedon**

**FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS**...that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Angelo Romas Persa Nizamis, Mitry Ganim, Ted Simon, and Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon. 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.

### **ATTENTION ALL YOUTH WORKERS**

Whether it be teaching our youth to Greek dance or conducting Sunday School or Greek lessons or working with our Youth of our Parish IN ANY CAPACITY, The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit have mandated that everyone working with the Youth must complete a background check and online Youth Safety training through Sterling. Please contact the Metropolis of Detroit and speak with the Metropolis Youth Director about details at (248) 823-2411. Please go on the [YouthSafetyPlatform.goarch.org](https://youthsafetyplatform.goarch.org) website and register.

### **Memorial Day Trisagion Service at Riverhurst Cemetery**

Monday, May 29, 2023 at 10:00 am. All are invited!

### **SATURDAY OF SOULS**

June 3, 2023 - Divine Liturgy at 10:15 am Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Binghamton. It is the Patronal feast day weekend of the Holy Trinity Church. Please join us!

### **Wisdom of the Fathers**

For there is One God, and One Mediator between God and Man, the Man Christ Jesus. For He still pleads even now as Man for my salvation.

### **St. Gregory the Theologian**

4th Theological Oration, 4th Century

*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.*