**Sunday, July 14, 2024**

**Sunday of the Holy Fathers of Fourth Ecumenical Council**

Apostle Aquila of the Seventy;

Joseph the Confessor, archbishop of Thessalonica

**Tone 2 Eothinon 3**

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO**

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

**APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS IN TONE EIGHT**

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

**APOLYTIKION OF ST. NICHOLAS IN TONE FOUR**

Thy works of justice did show thee to thy congregation a canon of faith, the likeness of humility, a teacher of abstinence, O Father, Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore by humility thou didst achieve exaltation, and by meekness, riches. Intercede, therefore, with Christ to save our souls.

**KONTAKION FOR ORDINARY SUNDAYS IN TONE TWO**

O Undisputed Intercessor of Christians, the Mediatrix who is unrejected by the Creator: Turn not away from the voice of our petitions, although we be sinners. Come to us in time, with aid as we cry unto thee in faith, for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who didst ever intercede for those who honor thee.

*Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O ye righteous.*

*Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven!*

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Titus. (3:8-15)**

Titus, my son, faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire you to affirm confidently, that those who have believed in God may be thoughtful of how to preside in honorable occupations. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, and genealogies, and contentions, and controversies about the Law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man who is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject, knowing that such a one is subverted, and sins, being self-condemned. When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicós, give diligence to come to me to Nicopolis; for I have determined to winter there. Set forward Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that they may be lacking in nothing. And let our people also learn how to preside in honorable occupations, so as to help in cases of urgent need, that they should not be unfruitful. All who are with me salute you. Salute those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (5:14-19)**

The Lord said to His Disciples: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

BIG REMINDER

Check the Volunteer Opportunities Section Under the Support tab on the website. Hope Center and the Canteen Run are both excellent ways to be of Service. Also if you are interested in purchasing disposable diapers for Living Alternatives we want to suggest you consider EveryLife.com. This is a pro-life company run by people committed to the Pro-Life cause. Did you know that many of the major manufacturers of diapers actually give donations to Planned Parenthood and other promoters of abortion

Unless we look at a person and see the beauty there is in this person, we can contribute nothing to him. One does not help a person by discerning what is wrong, what is ugly, what is distorted. Christ looked at everyone he met, at the prostitute, at the thief, and saw the beauty hidden there. Perhaps it was distorted, perhaps damaged, but it was beauty none the less, and what He did was to call out this beauty*. Metropolitan Anthony Bloom*

The Church is a hospital, and not a courtroom, for souls. She does not condemn on behalf of sins, but grants remission of sins. ***St. John Chrysostom***

They said of Abba Macarius the Great, he became, as it is written, a god upon the Earth, because, just as God protects the world, so Abba Macarius would cover the faults which he saw, as though he did not see them; and those which he heard, as though he did not hear them. ***Sayings of the Desert Fathers***

Those who do not know must be taught, not punished. We do not hit the blind. We lead them by the hand. ***St. Dionysius***

**St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church, 1807 N Federal**

**217-979-7301 or** **vrevjames@gmail.com** **or** [www.stnicholasurbana.org](http://www.stnicholasurbana.org/)

**Saturday Great Vespers, 5:00 pm**

**Divine Liturgy Sunday at 10:00 am preceded by Matins at 9:00 am**

**First Hour Prayers 6:00am most Tuesdays**

**Daily Vespers most Wednesdays 6:00pm**

**Father James Ellison**, **Deacon Makarios Kelley**

Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest, Archimandrite Jeremy Davis

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, **Metropolitan SABA**

**Sunday, July 14, 2024**

**Sunday of the Holy Fathers of Fourth Ecumenical Council**

In the year 451 in the city of Chalcedon, in the very church dedicated to her memory, where the glorified relics of the holy Great Martyr Euphemia rested, the sessions of the Fourth Ecumenical Council took place. The Council was convened for determining the precise dogmatic formulae of the Orthodox Church concerning the nature of the God-Man Jesus Christ. This was necessary because of the widespread heresy of the Monophysites [“mono-physis” meaning “one nature”], who opposed the Orthodox teaching of the two natures in Jesus Christ, the Divine and the Human natures (in one Divine Person). The Monophysites falsely affirmed that in Christ was only one nature, the Divine [i.e. that Jesus is God but not man, by nature], causing discord and unrest within the Church. At the Council were present 630 representatives from all the local Christian Churches. On the Orthodox side Anatolius, Patriarch of Constantinople (July 3), Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem (July 2), and representatives of Saint Leo, Pope of Rome (February 18) participated in the conciliar deliberations. The Monophysites were present in large numbers, headed by Dioscorus, the Patriarch of Alexandria, and the Constantinople archimandrite Eutychius.

After prolonged discussions the two sides could not come to a decisive agreement. The holy Patriarch Anatolius of Constantinople proposed that the Council submit the decision of the Church dispute to the Holy Spirit, through His undoubted bearer Saint Euphemia the All-Praised, whose wonderworking relics had been discovered during the Council’s discussions. The Orthodox hierarchs and their opponents wrote down their confessions of faith on separate scrolls and sealed them with their seals. They opened the tomb of the holy Great Martyr Euphemia and placed both scrolls upon her bosom. Then, in the presence of the emperor Marcian (450-457), the participants of the Council sealed the tomb, putting on it the imperial seal and setting a guard to watch over it for three days. During these days both sides imposed upon themselves strict fast and made intense prayer. After three days the patriarch and the emperor in the presence of the Council opened the tomb with its relics: the scroll with the Orthodox confession was held by Saint Euphemia in her right hand, and the scroll of the heretics lay at her feet. Saint Euphemia, as though alive, raised her hand and gave the scroll to the patriarch. After this miracle many of the hesitant accepted the Orthodox confession, while those remaining obstinant in the heresy were consigned to the Council’s condemnation and excommunication.