

July 16, 2023

Holy Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council

Hieromartyr Athenogenes, bishop of Herakleopolis, and his ten disciples

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 5)

Byzantine Tone 5

Basil Kazan
(1915 - 2001)

Let us be - liev - ers praise and wor - ship the
Word, co - e - ter - nal with the Fa - ther and the
Spir - it, born of the Vir - gin for
our sal - va - tion, for he took plea - sure in as -
- cend - ing the cross in the flesh, to
suf - fer death and to raise the dead by his
glo - ri - ous re - sur - rec - tion.

Troparion for the Fathers (Tone 8)

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.

Troparion for St. Raphael of Brooklyn (Tone 3)

Rejoice, O Father Raphael, Adornment of the holy Church! Thou art Champion of the True Faith, Seeker of the lost, Consolation of the oppressed, Father to orphans and Friend of the poor, Peacemaker and good Shepherd, Joy of all the Orthodox, Son of Antioch, Boast of America. Intercede with Christ God for us and for all who honor thee.

Kontakion for Ordinary Sundays (Tone 2)

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

Prokeimenon

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.
For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Epistle

Titus 3:8-15

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Holy Gospel

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."

Holy Bread: Kh Meleah Palke

Commemorations(Living): Fr Michael, Pr Vicki, Katherine, John, Corgie, Karen, Maher, Fabiola, Christopher, Steven, Jonathan, Jaime, Justin, George, Joa n, Fr Tom, Kh Meleah, Stephen, Sagi, Sky, Carol, Natalia, Alexander, Anthony, Jim, Laura, Michael, Joel, Lisa, Danny, Asa, Cody, Max, Levi, Courtney, Nina, Kenneth, Alex, Christina, Beth, John, Dominick, Yina, Michael, Debra, Lauren, Rashid, Hala, Irina, Fr. Vladimir Paul, all Orthodox missionaries, the suffering believers everywhere.

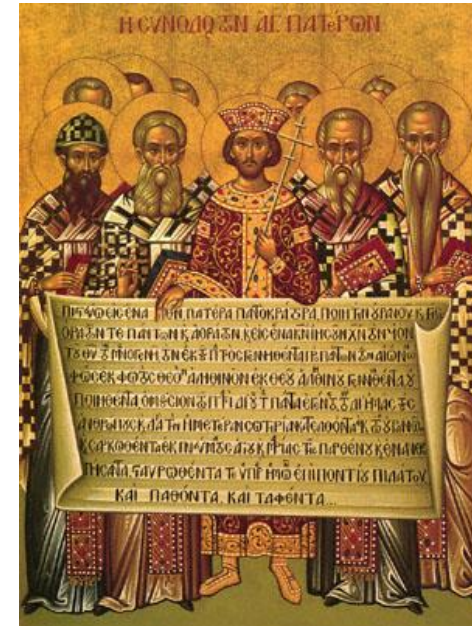
Departed:

Know Your Faith. The prophet **Nehemiah** was the cupbearer for Artaxerxes, king of **Persia**. He asked permission of the king to journey to **Jerusalem** for what purpose? **To rebuild the walls of the city.** The tabernacle of the Old Covenant was divided into two sections: 1) **the Holy Place** and 2) **the Holy of Holies**. The high priest entered the **Holy of Holies** once a year, on the **Day of Atonement** (Yom Kippur) and sprinkled the blood of a spotless lamb on the top of the **mercy seat**. What happened to the curtain that separated the two areas of the tabernacle? **It was torn in two.** When did this happen? **The death of Christ on the cross.** The worship of the Old Covenant was an image of what reality? **The continuous worship in heaven.** “If you confess with your **mouth** that Jesus is **Lord**, and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be **saved.**” The verses spoken before the reading of the Epistle are known as the **prokeimenon**. What king brought Abraham gifts of bread and wine? **Melchizedek**. What book of the NT refers to this king? **Hebrews.**

The Fourth Ecumenical Council was concerned, once again, with the nature of Jesus Christ. The teaching arose that Christ's human nature (less perfect) dissolved itself in His divine nature (more perfect): like a cube of sugar in a pot of water. Thus, in reality, Christ had only one nature--the Divine. Hence, the term: Monophysites ("mono", one and "physis", "nature".) Monophysitism overemphasized the divine nature of Christ, at the expense of the human. The Council condemned Monophysitism and proclaimed that Christ has two complete natures: the divine and the human, as defined by previous Councils. These two natures function without confusion, are not divided nor separated (against Nestorius), and at no time did they undergo any change (against Eutyches). This Orthodox teaching resulted in the severing of the Oriental Orthodox from the Orthodox Church. The Oriental Orthodox accepted the first three ecumenical councils but rejected the fourth and following councils. We pray that one day they will come to a common understanding and confession with the Orthodox Church.

Bible Study on Zoom will resume after Labor Day. Please feel free to suggest possible topics to Fr. Tom.

Fr Tom will be out of the area the following two weeks. We are blessed to have Fr Michael celebrate Divine Liturgy the next two Sundays. Fr Tom will attend the Archdiocese Convention in Phoenix for a several days during the week of July 23-30. Please keep Stephen and him in your prayers as they drive the 2200 mile journey.



St. Raphael of Brooklyn Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

Metropolitan Saba, Primate

Bishop Thomas, Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM

Meeting at Compton Village
14401 Compton Village Dr.
Centreville, Virginia 20121

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