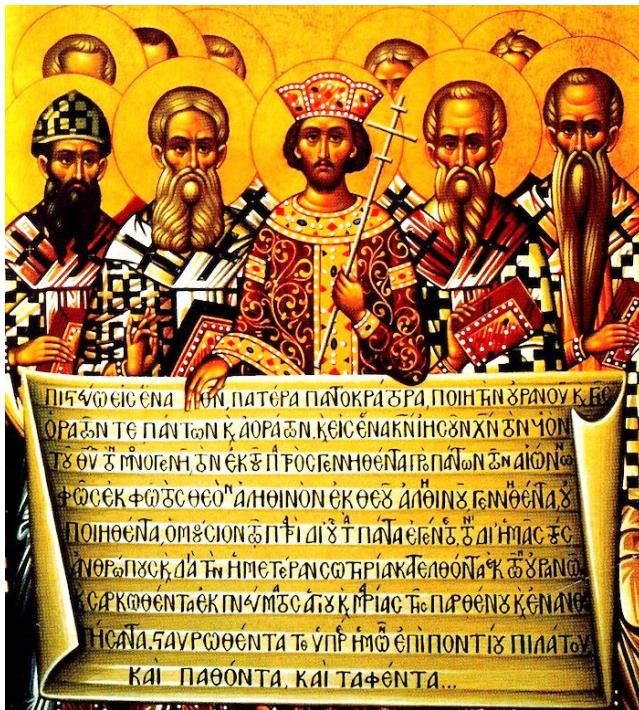




PARISH BULLETIN

HOLY ARCHANGEL MICHAEL'S ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

No. 112/20 May 2018



Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Council

Resurrectional Apolytikion Tone 6

*Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross,
Thou didst open paradise to the thief;
Thou didst turn the sadness of the
ointmentbearing women into joy. And
didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a
warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ,
granting to the world the great mercy.*

Apolytikion of Fathers of the 1st Council, Tone 4

You are greatly glorified, O Christ our God, who established our Fathers as luminaries upon the earth, and through them led us all to the true Faith. O Most compassionate, glory to You.

Seasonal Kontakion, Tone 2

O Christ our God, upon fulfilling Your dispensation for our sake, You ascended in Glory, uniting the earthly with the heavenly. You were never separate but remained inseparable, and cried out to those who love You, "I am with you and no one is against you."

**Prokeimenon. Mode 4.
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

The Gospel According to 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."

Word of the week – Reflection

"Humility must be understood by the definition that I have given to pride: pride is a lie and it is the opposite of God, it is hatred, selfishness, self-closing. Humility is also spiritual realism. I am what God has made me to be. Not more, not less. This is all humility, because it is realism; this is reality. God made me the image of His ineffable glory. Well, brothers and sisters, let us not wait for our death when other people will sing to us "I am the image of your ineffable glory, though I bear the scars of my transgressions." Let us now begin to establish this image of the glory of God in us. This is the Church's ascetic effort. For this reason we confess to the priest in order to renounce our sins. We do not deny them, we assume them. In confession, I assume my sins. When somebody was confessing he said, "Father, I am

ashamed to tell you all this, but this is what I am, there is no way around it." This is humility: it is not about dressing up your sins, it is not about propriety but about being who you truly are.

Then Father Sofronie said, "humility is the quality of divine love that is offered to a loved one, without expecting something in return." In the thought of putting his (Satan) throne above Heaven and being like the Almighty, there was a rejection of the other person, so that the other person was no longer the loved one, but "I am the beloved one, and no one else, and there is no room for anybody else in me." Humility is an opening to all, even to enemies. [...]

For God is love. God does not have love, because He is love. The cross is the culmination of love, a love that does not stop either from torment or from death itself, because it is given to the loved one without any reservation. Christ has kept nothing for Himself. He was thinking of others even when He was lifted on the cross, and He cried out to the Father: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." He was compassionate with our corrupted nature, rather than thinking about His own unspeakable pains."

Fr. Rafail Noica, disciple of Arh.

Sophrony Sakharov from Essex biographer of St Silouan the Monastery, UK. Arh. Sophrony was Athonite and compiler of St Silouan's best known as the disciple and works.



Liturgical Schedule for this week

Monday <i>May, 21</i>	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy Sts. Constantine and Helen
Wednesday <i>May, 23</i>	6:00 pm	Paraklesis
Friday <i>May, 25</i>	6:00 am	Akathist
Saturday <i>May, 26</i>	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Divine Liturgy followed by Memorial Vespers
Sunday <i>May, 27</i>	9:00 am 10:00 am	Matins Divine Liturgy

Announcements:

- **Happy Name Day – Sts. Constantine and Helen:** Charles (Costa) Panu, Costa Penna and Eleni Fatsi.
- **Happy Birthday – Dimitry Mironidis (May 25th)**
- **Vespers for Sts. Constantine and Helen's feast day at Sts. Constantine and Helen church in Webster, Sunday May 20th 6:00pm.**
- **Summer schedule:** starting Memorial Day Weekend, May 27th: Matins 8:30am, Divine Liturgy 9:30am.
- Coffee hour sponsored by **Peter and Genevieve Boilard.**



16 Romanian Avenue, Southbridge, Massachusetts, 01550, P.O. Box 823 (508) 765-5276

www.stmichaelorthodox.com