**SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023**

**SUNDAY OF FATHERS OF 4TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**

**EPHESIANS 6:10-18**

The children of 4th Ecumenical Council are our spiritual ancestors and role models. We are called to follow their example in our lives. Today, let us consider the importance of the Church's teachings on the importance of prayer and warfare against evil. Let us pray for the understanding of the Council fathers and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we discern our roles in the Church today.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:**

This morning's Gospel Reading is from Saint Matthew Chapter 6:1-18. The Lord said to the disciples, "Be not wise in your own conceits. For the kingdom of heaven is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For whatsoever things are done in secret, shall be brought to light; and whatsoever things are done in shame, shall be made manifest. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Today's Sunday Gospel Reading is significant because it reminds us of the importance of living a life of virtue and holiness. Let us strive to live up to Jesus' words and be an example of righteousness and peace in our daily lives.

**HIEROMARTYR ATHENOGENES**

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:**

This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Titus Chapter 3 Verses 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 Tychicos 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. 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 greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith.

**PASTORAL LETTER:**

To the beloved people of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church:

Greetings and peace be upon you. As we celebrate this week, let us remember the teachings of the Church Fathers who have passed on their wisdom to us through their writings and teachings. Let us strive to live a life of virtue and holiness, following in the footsteps of those who have come before us.

**STEWARDSHIP:**

We invite you to prayerfully consider sharing the resources given to you by God by filling out our Stewardship card and pledge for 2023 today! Cards are available at the pangari and information wall. "All things are possible to the one who believes in Christ." Mark 9:23

**PAVING PROJECT UPDATE:**

It is a great time to honor your Family for years with a 576 square inch paver inscribed in our Central Courtyard, which include up to 75 Characters inscribed in 3 lines. Your family will join the other 150 families with inscribed pavers currently in the courtyard. You will receive a Tax Deduction and your donation will benefit our Annunciation Cathedral Building Program. There are 3 flexible donation options. Please pick up a brochure at the "Pangari", or contact Jim Vorrises, Chair, at 650-464-1616 jim.vorrises@annunciation.org
“The Church shall be a home for Orthodox Christians from every ethnic and national background. It shall be a house of prayer for all humankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified.”