

**St Ignatios of Antioch  
Melkite Greek Catholic Church  
1003 Merry Street  
Augusta, Georgia 30904  
706 364-6219**



**Sunday of the Pharisee & the Publican  
January 29, 2023**

## Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs



**Feastday – January 30th**

WHERE DO WE FIND THE TRUTHS of our faith? As could be expected, we look first to the Holy Scriptures, the revealed word of God. The Scriptures, however, were not written as dogmatic treatises but as records of God’s intervention in our history. As such they do not necessarily address concerns that arose later among Christians. They must be interpreted in a way that accords with the practices of “*the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of truth*” (1 Tim 3:15).

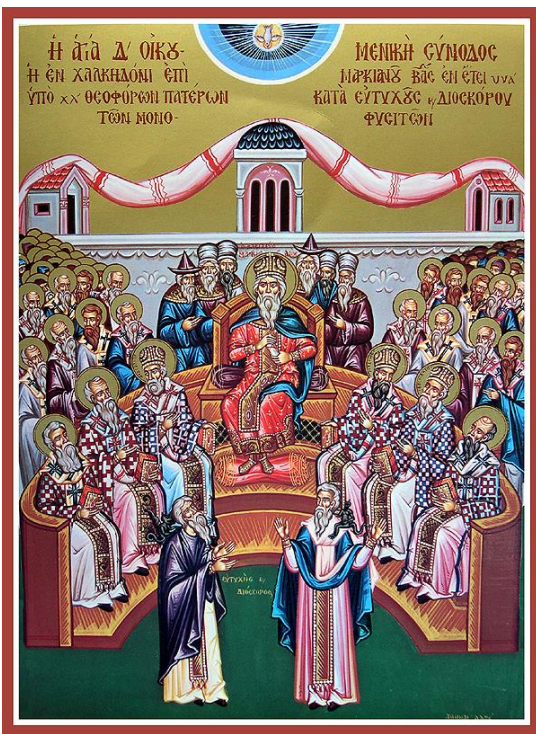
Clarifying the Church’s teachings from the earliest times been the task of its leaders: first the apostles and later their successors, the bishops. While each of them individually has the mission to teach in the name of the Church, the Body of Christ, the determination of correct doctrine has always been a task for its leaders as a group. Thus, the Acts of the Apostles records how, all together, the apostles settled the question of Jewish ritual and dietary requirements (see Acts 15:8-29).



Similar gatherings of bishops, called synods or councils, were held in the early Church as it began to develop structures (dioceses, eparchies). The first ones mentioned in Church annals took place in the mid-second century in Rome and Ephesus. By the end of that century these local decisions were communicated to Churches in other areas. In the third century it became customary for these councils to be held at regular intervals to discuss matters affecting the Churches. When Christianity was officially recognized in the fourth century Roman Empire, the Ecumenical Council (convoking bishops from all over the empire) was introduced. Beginning with Nicaea I, ecumenical councils became “the court of last resort” for settling doctrinal disputes in the early Church.

## Who Taught the Teachers?

The Nicene Creed and the teachings of later councils would definitively express the Church’s teaching on certain subjects, like the incarnation of Christ. But who taught the Council Fathers and helped them express these doctrines in the way that they did? At the Third Ecumenical Council (Ephesus, 381) the bishops sought clarity by consulting the writings of certain noted hierarchs. Extracts from works by Peter I and Athanasius of Alexandria, Cyprian, Ambrose, Gregory Nazianzen, Basil, and Gregory of Nyssa were read as authoritative teachers. The idea that certain writers were *Fathers of the Church* was born.



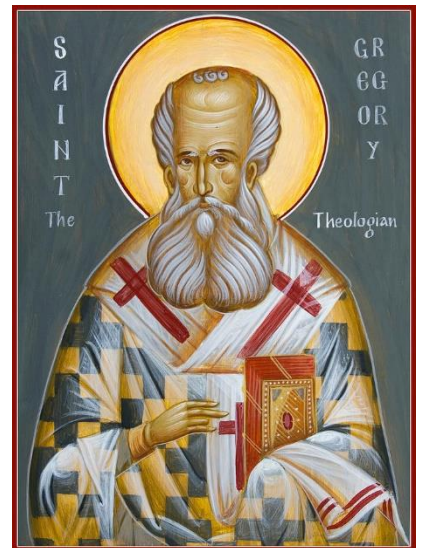
By the time of the Fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon, 451) it was common for the Churches to see some Fathers as ecumenical teachers and hierarchs, whose writings should be revered after the Scriptures and any authoritative council doctrines. Thus at the Fifth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople II, 553) the assembled bishops affirmed, “Hold fast to the decrees of the four councils, and in every way follow the holy Fathers, Athanasius, Hilary, Basil, Gregory the Theologian, Gregory of Nyssa, Theophilus, John Chrysostom of Constantinople, Cyril, Augustine, Proclus, Leo and their writings on the true faith” (Session 1).

The writings of these Fathers are not considered infallible, but the Church sees the consensus that emerges from their teaching as reliable interpretations of the Scriptures for the life of the Church.

## The Three Holy Hierarchs

The Cappadocians were particularly instrumental in the defeat of Arianism in the Christian East. While this doctrine, that the Son was like the Father but not of the same essence, had been formally rejected at the First Council of Nicaea in 325, it became even more popular in the years that followed. Several emperors were partial to it as it seemed to be acceptable to a broader number of their Christian subjects. While Arianism survived in many places until the seventh century, it was all but eliminated in Cappadocia (Asia Minor) because of the influence of these Fathers.

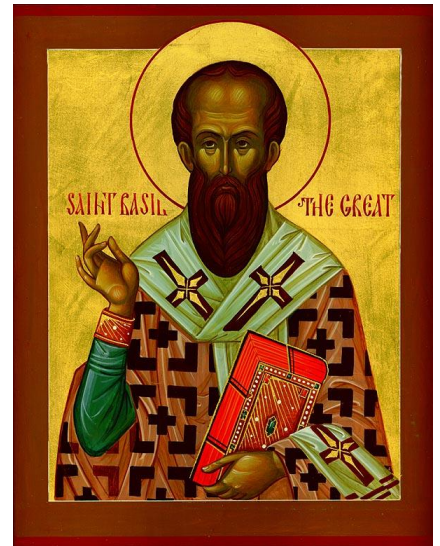
The writings of these Fathers contributed significantly to the development of Byzantine theology and liturgy in the centuries that followed. Due largely to his treatises on the Trinity, St Gregory was accorded the title “Theologian” at the Council of Chalcedon (451). Only two others have been given that distinction in the East: the first being St John the Apostle and the third St Simeon the New Theologian.



St John Chrysostom (c.347-407), originally from Antioch, had been called to Constantinople in 397 to be its archbishop. This Father was popular with the poor but castigated the wealthy – including Empress Eudoxia – for their extravagant lifestyles. He had little interest in or sympathy for the kind of politics inherent in being bishop of the imperial capital. Within five years his enemies had begun a successful campaign against him and he was exiled to the Caucasus where he died on September 14, 404 in what is today Abkhazia. The next year his remains were brought back to Constantinople and buried with honor, an event we remember on January 27.



As Archbishop of Caesarea, St Basil had devoted his energies to ordering the Liturgy. His Liturgy would become the usual rite of Constantinople. When St John Chrysostom became Archbishop of Constantinople he too provided an order for the Liturgy. Over the next few centuries their arrangements would spread throughout the Greek-speaking Churches and in the Slavic world. We still use their prayers in the Byzantine Churches and remembered these Fathers at every Liturgy today.



### **Who Is the Greatest?**

When the Lord's apostles disagreed over which of them was the greatest, He diffused their squabble by setting a child in the place of honor. Something similar happened in the case of these "January Fathers."

In the eleventh century monks and teachers in the imperial capital, Constantinople, were rowing about which of these Fathers was the greatest. Their partisans cited the various contributions of each Father to the theology, liturgy and monastic tradition of the Church. As the issue became more widely known, ordinary believers began taking sides as well. Some called themselves "Basilians," others referred to themselves as "Johnites" and still others as "Gregorians."

The question was finally resolved in 1084 with the establishment of a common feast for all three saints: the Synaxis of the Three Ecumenical Teachers and Holy Hierarchs. According to the Synaxarion, each of the saints appeared, first each separately and then all three together, to John Mavropos, a learned author and poet who served as the Metropolitan of Euchaïta (today's Avkat).

The saints reportedly told Metropolitan John, "We three are one, as you see, close to God and nothing can separate us or make us contend... There is no first or second among us... Arise, therefore, and tell those who are quarrelling not to be divided into parties over us because in life and death we had no desire other than to bring peace and unity to everyone." In response the metropolitan undertook the task of reconciling the conflicting groups.

As a symbol and expression of their unity, the saints also urged Metropolitan John to establish a common feast for all three. He established the feast on January 30 and composed a single service for all three. The metropolitan chose January as the most suitable month for this commemoration, because all three Fathers are celebrated in that month.

## **St John of Euchaita**

A native of Paphlagonia in Asia Minor, John had become a respected scholar and teacher in the capital and a member of the circle of intellectuals patronized by the Emperor, Constantine IX Monomakhos. In 1050, after two years as speaker of the court, he fell out of favor with the emperor and was sent to Euchaita, some 265 miles from the capital, as its metropolitan, what we might call a “lateral promotion.”

The metropolitan called it an “honorable exile” and sought to be recalled to the capital. At some point, he was apparently permitted to retire to the Agia Petra Monastery in Constantinople, sometime in the 1070s.

His collected works include numerous poems, essays, letters and homilies. His most beloved poem is the devotional canon to “the Most Sweet Jesus,” found in many popular Byzantine prayerbooks. He is also thought by some to have composed the small paraklitic canon to the Theotokos sung during the Dormition Fast in Byzantine Churches.

### **The Poetry of This Feast**

In addition to the canons and hymns of Metropolitan John, the Church service for this feast also includes works by Neilos Xanthopoulos and Patriarch Germanos of Constantinople.

### **From the Service of the Feast**

As is meet, let us glorify John and Basil, with Gregory: the three heralds of the great Trinity, the instruments of grace, the harps of the Spirit and right famous clarions of proclamation, awesome and clearly resonant, who thunder forth from the heights and declare to the ends of the earth the glory of God. (*first sticheron of vespers, by John of Euchaita*)

As is meet, today let us praise together those spiritual initiates of the mysteries, the noetic clarions of God, the divine reflections: Basil the Great, the divine Gregory of fiery inspiration, and John, truly goldenmouthed, who pour forth upon us golden streams of doctrines. “Hail, trinity of Hierarchs!” (*first apostichon by Nilos Xanthopoulos*).

Rejoice, O trinity of Hierarchs, great bulwark of the Church, pillars of piety, confirmation of the faithful and downfall of heretics, who shepherded the people of Christ with divine teachings and nurtured them with diverse virtues – O manifest

preachers of grace, who set forth laws for the fullness of Christ's Church! O guides to the highest and gates of paradise, entreat Christ that He send down great mercy upon our souls! (*first sticheron at the Ainos by Nilos Xanthopoulos*)



## Sunday Collections

Attendance	Date	Collection
26	December 4, 2022	20.00
---	December 11, 2022	---
21	December 18, 2022	2,132.00
24	December 25, 2022	349.00
20	January 1, 2023	1,277.00
27	January 8, 2023	340.00
23	January 15, 2023	6,690.00
12	January 22, 2023	11.00

## Divine Liturgy Intentions: For the Living:

Bishop Francois, Fr. Eugene Mitchell, Fr. James Graham, David Mangelsdorf, Brian Frank, Maria Barklage, Nookid Graham, Ali de la Vega, Jan Munn, A Special Parish Intention, Medical Personnel and First Responders

## For the Dead:

## Announcements

We are live-streaming on our Facebook page at the following days & times:

Friday 6:00 PM Weekday Vespers

Saturday - 6:00PM Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00AM Orthros & 10:00AM Divine Liturgy

**FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION** (Hypapanty) falls this week on Feb. 2nd. Great Vespers will be celebrated on Wednesday evening, February 11st at 7pm. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Thursday evening, the 2nd at 7pm.

**NEXT WEEK** Fr. Michael will be out of town attending the annual Clergy Conference in San Antonio.

**HOUSE BLESSINGS!** With the Feast of Theophany and the blessing of Holy Water we now begin the season of blessing homes between now and the start of Great Lent. Let Father Michael when you'd like him to come and bless your house.



**PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND TOWN** – Most Holy Trinity parish will be hosting a Men's Holy Hour every Friday morning from 6-7am. There will also be a coffee hour and reflection time afterwards – Men from all parishes are invited to attend for whatever portion of the time they are available. For the Ladies – St. Joseph's will be hosting a Women's Holy Hour on the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

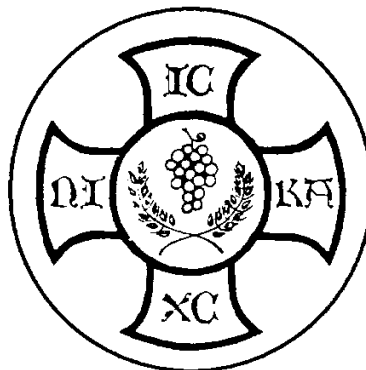
**A Dating Retreat and Study Series for single Catholics!** NCSC is hosting a **FREE online Dating Retreat with guest speaker Fr. Robert Spitzer (January 27 & 28)**. Over 400 single Catholics from around the world have already signed up and we're expecting 500+. Don't miss the opportunity to meet other like-minded singles and go deeper in your faith!

Starting the week of February 6th, NCSC will also be hosting a **6-week study series - "Relationship Ready: A Single Catholic's Roadmap to Marriage"** that will cover topics such as the **meaning of love, communication, conflict resolution, male/female complementarity** and much more. To sign up for these programs, visit [NationalCatholicSingles.com](http://NationalCatholicSingles.com).

**Connect with like-minded single Catholics**

<p>At the</p> <p><i>the Dating Retreat</i></p> <p>Find what you're looking for</p> <p>January 27 &amp; 28</p>	<p>Join us for</p> <p><i>Relationship Ready:</i></p> <p>The Single Catholic's Roadmap to Marriage</p> <p>Starting the week of <b>February 6th</b></p>
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**NationalCatholicSingles.com**



# Winter Wonderland Dance

Saturday, February 4th

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benefit Pregnant  
Choices

Where? Parish Hall at St Mary  
on the Hill

When?

6:45-7:30- Shag Dance Lesson

7:30-10- Dance

\*Lesson WILL BE Shag Dance\*



## THE SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN

The Fourth Sunday  
Before Great Lent

# Resurrectional Troparion

(Tone 1)



Af-ter the stone was sealed by the Jews, and while the



sol - diers were wat - ching Your spot - less bo - dy,



You rose, O Sa-vior on the third day, be-stow-ing



life to the world. There - fore, the hea-ven-ly po-wers



cried out to You O Gi - ver of Life: Glo-ry to Your



Re-sur-rec-tion O Christ, glo - ry to Your King-dom,



glo - ry to Your E-co - no - my O You who a-



- lone are the Lo-ver of man-kind.



# Kondakion of the Sunday of the Pharisee & the Publican

*(Tone 3)*



Let us shun the boast - ful words of the Pha - ri -

- see, and learn from the Pub - li - can hu - mi - li -

- ty with sigh - ing; let us cry out to our Sav - ior: have mer -

- cy on us, You who a-lone are Mer-ci - ful.

## Prokimenon

**Reader:** Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them: let all round about him bring gifts to the awesome Lord!

**All:** Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them: let all round about him bring gifts to the awesome Lord!

**Reader:** God is renowned in Judah; in Israel, great is his name.

**All:** Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them: let all round about him bring gifts to the awesome Lord!

**Reader:** Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them:

**All:** Let all round about him bring gifts to the awesome Lord!

### Readings for the Week:

Monday:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:20-2:9	Mark 13:9-13
Tuesday:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:9-22	Mark 13:14-23
Wed:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:1-17	Mark 13:24-31
Thursday:	1 <sup>st</sup> John 1:8-2:6	Mark 13:31-14:2
Friday:	1 <sup>st</sup> John 2:7-17	Mark 14:3-9
Saturday:	1 <sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:11-16	Luke 20:45-21:4

<b>Jan. 29:</b> Transfer of the Remains of the Holy Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer
<b>Jan. 30:</b> Hieromartyr Hippolytus of Rome; the Three Holy Hierarchs, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom
<b>Jan. 31:</b> Holy Unmercenary Physicians Cyrus and John
<b>Feb. 1:</b> Preparation for the Feast of the Encounter; Holy Martyr Tryphon
<b>Feb. 2: Feast of the Encounter of our Lord</b>
<b>Feb. 3:</b> 2nd Day of the Feast of the Encounter; Simeon the Just and the Prophetess Anna
<b>Feb. 4:</b> 3rd Day of the Feast of the Encounter; Holy Father Isidore of Pelusium
<b>Feb. 5:</b> 4th Day of the Feast of the Encounter; Holy Woman Martyr Agatha

## Word Search

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Afflictions

Antioch

Behavior

Dishonest

Exalted

Faith

Fast

Heaven

Humbled

Iconium

Imposters

Justified

Love

Lystra

Merciful

Parable

Patience

Persecutions

Pharisee

Pray

Publican

Robbers

Sinner

Temple

Timothy

Tithes



# **Parish Information:**

**Rt. Rev. Michael Skrocki, JCD**  
**Pastor**

**[abounamike@aol.com](mailto:abounamike@aol.com)**

## **Knights of Columbus** **JFK Council**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7pm.

Odd-numbered months at St. Ignatios

Even-numbered months here at Most Holy Trinity

## **4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Odd-numbered months at Most Holy Trinity

Even-numbered months here at St. Ignatios

## **Publicans Prayer Group**

Postponed until Further Notice

## **New Parishioners:**

Please register with Fr. Michael.

## **Mystery of Holy Confession**

Please contact Fr. Michael to set up a convenient time.

## **Mystery of Christian Initiation**

Expectant parents should notify Fr. Michael prior to the birth of the child. Adult converts should contact Fr. Michael so arrangements may be made for any necessary instruction and sacraments.

## **Mystery of Holy Crowning**

Those planning to marry should notify the Fr. Michael  
at least six months prior to the desired Wedding date.

## **Mystery of Holy Anointing**

Please notify Fr. Michael when you or a family member is in need of anointing.

To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers of the Eparchy of Newton,  
please call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-800-479-5910.

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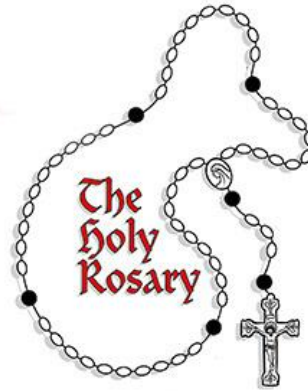
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