

On the Divine Liturgy

What is the Creed?

On October 28, 312 AD, for Christians, the seeds of change were sewn when Emperor Constantine defeated Emperor Maxentius at the battle on the Milvian Bridge. The night before the final battle, Emperor Constantine (St. Constantine) had a vision in which God showed him the sign of the cross in the sky and told him "*En touto nika*" (by this sign, you shall conquer). The saint told his soldiers to put the sign on their shields. They did so and the next day they were victorious. This victory gave Constantine total control of the Roman Empire. Interestingly, he did not become a Christian until late in life.

In 325 AD, Constantine called hundreds of bishops, priests and deacons together for the First Ecumenical Council. He instructed all the bishops to debate in front of him who they believed Christ was. There were two factions: one believed that although Jesus was a good man, he was "less than God" and the other group believed that Jesus was "of one essence," or equal with God and the Holy Spirit. It took nearly one month of debate, but in the end, those who believed that Jesus was equal to God and the Holy Spirit won the day and the Nicene Creed, which boldly declared the Christian belief, was written.

To give an idea of the depth of the Orthodox faith; before the doctrine would be codified, the Church would wait until that generation had passed away and then they would have the next generation of church leaders look back and review their work and decide if it was divinely inspired or just a result of the political winds of that time. In the case of the Creed, in 381 AD, (56 years later!) after the first council, the Second Ecumenical Council took place. Among other issues, the leaders also reviewed the Creed. They declared it work that was guided by God, and from that point forth, the Creed became solidified as doctrine in our faith. Since then, for over 1,600 years, this proclamation of faith has been stated out loud by millions of Orthodox faithful.

from Guide to the Divine Liturgy, by Robert Krantz

From the Fathers - On humility

“What is humility, Abba?” the brothers a certain elder. “Humility, my children,” he answered, “is to forgive another immediately if he offends you, without waiting for him to ask your forgiveness.”

“You can find no shorter road to heaven than humility,” another Father said.

“Anyone who praises a man to his face,” a certain elder said, “delivers him up for the devil to do battle against him.”

Please remember in your prayers:

*Priest George, Charles, Marianna, Kristen, Barbara
and all those serving in our Armed Forces*

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



July 1, 2012

4th Sunday of Matthew

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July 1, 2012

4th Sunday of Matthew

Commemoration of: Saints Cosmas & Damian, Holy Unmercenaries

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Efrainestho ta Ourania (Hymn of the Day) Tone 3

Agii Anargyri (Hymn of the Saints) Tone 8

Sainted Unmercenaries and Wonder-workers, regard our infirmities; freely you have received, freely share with us.

Tou Stavrou Sou (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.

Kontakion

Prostasia ton Christianon Tone 2

Champion of Christians not put to shame, advocate before the Maker always steadfast, do not spurn sinners' voices raised in prayer. In your goodness respond to bring help to us who devoutly petition you. Hasten your intercession and urgently make entreaty; for you unfailingly defend, O Theotokos, those who honor you.

Epistle Reading

I Corinthians 12:27-31; 13:1-8

Brethren, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 8:5-13

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

Today A Memorial will be offered for the repose of the soul of Edward Malick (44 years). *May his memory be eternal!*

Please Note: Fr. John will be off-island this week attending the Archdiocese Clergy-Laity Congress. In the event of an **emergency**, he can be reached at 675-1400. For non-emergency matters, a message can be left at the Church Office phone at 521-7220.

WISE AS OWLS

Many of the ancient Greek coins had an owl engraved on them. This was to give expression to the belief held by ancient Greeks that people are to be as wise as owls in the spending of their money. He who is wisest in his spending is he who places God first in his giving.

2012 Greek Festival

Check out the new Festival Website at GreekFestivalHawaii.com. You can sign up to volunteer, read a variety of blogs, and obtain festival information.

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread. *Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.*