

Saint Eustathius, Archbishop of Antioch

Saint Eustathius, Archbishop of Antioch (323-331) was born in Side, Pamphylia in 324. He was Bishop of Beroea (modern Aleppo), and enjoyed the love and esteem of the people, and at the request of his flock he was elevated by the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council (325) to the See of Antioch.

Saint Eustathius was a learned theologian, and was also distinguished by his broad knowledge in secular sciences. When the heresy of Arius began to spread in the East (Arianism denied the consubstantiality of the Son of God with the Father), Saint Eustathius struggled zealously for the purity of the Orthodox Faith through his words and his writings.

The First Ecumenical Council was convened in the year 325 by the holy God-crowned Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337). The first to preside over this Council was Saint Eustathius. The Council condemned the heretical teachings of Arius and incorporated the Orthodox confession into the Symbol of Faith (the Nicene Creed).

But the mad Arius, as Saint Eustathius called him, refused to renounce his errors. He and those who shared his opinion were excommunicated from the Church by the Council. Among the bishops who signed the Nicene Symbol of Faith were some who sympathized with the heresy of Arius, but signed the Acts of the Council through fear of excommunication.

After the Council, his enemies plotted against Saint Eustathius. With great cunning they gained his consent to convene a local Council at Antioch. Having bribed a certain profligate woman, they persuaded her to appear at the Council with an infant at her breast, and falsely declare that Saint Eustathius was the father of the infant.

The Arians declared Saint Eustathius deposed, violating the Apostolic Rule that accusations against the clergy must be substantiated by two witnesses. Without a trial he was sent off into exile in Thrace. But the lie was soon unmasked: the woman repented after falling grievously ill. She summoned the clergy, and in the presence of many people, she confessed her sin.

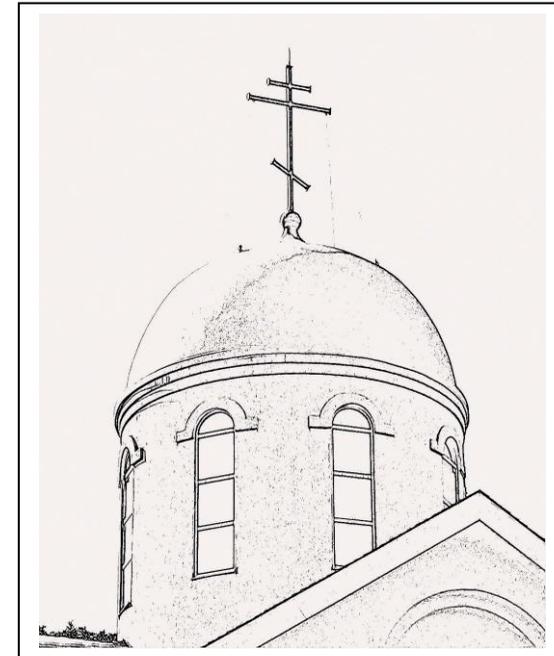
Saint Constantine the Great died around this time, and his son Constantius (337-361), who shared the heretical views of Arius and favored the Arian bishops, succeeded his father on the throne. Even in exile, Saint Eustathius struggled for Orthodoxy with the same zeal. He died in exile, in the city of Philippi or Trajanopolis, in the year 337.

Convened in the year 381 at Constantinople, the Second Ecumenical Council confirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith, which Saint Eustathius had so vigorously defended. The Arian heresy was once again anathematized.

In the year 482 the relics of Saint Eustathius were reverently transferred from Philippi to Antioch, to the great joy of the people of Antioch, who had not ceased to honor and love their patriarch.

Saint Eustathius was esteemed by the great hierarchs of the fourth century: Basil the Great, John Chrysostom, Athanasius of Alexandria, Epiphanius of Cyprus, Anastasius of Sinai, and Jerome of Stridonia. The renowned church historian Bishop Theodoret of Cyrrhus calls Saint Eustathius a pillar of the Church and a man of piety, of equal stature with Saint Athanasius of Alexandria and the other bishops at the forefront of the struggle for Orthodoxy.

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Rev. Fr. Alexander Smida, *Attached Priest*

Rev. Fr. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Tara Paxton, *Senior Warden*

Reader Matthew Hascha, *Choir Director*

February 21, 2021
SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE
Beginning of the Lenten Triodion

Tone 4. Saint Makarios of Glinsk Hermitage (19th c.). Ven. Timothy of Symbola in Bithynia (9th c.). St. Eustathius (Eustace), Archbishop of Antioch (377). St. George, Bishop of Amastris on the Black Sea (802-811). "KOZEL'SHCHANSKAYA" Icon of the Mother of God (1881).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today @ 9am Divine Liturgy

Saturday @ 6pm Great Vespers

Sunday @ 9am Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32



*Sunday of the Publican
and the Pharisee*

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news and directives by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.orthodoxbrick.org.

Special Prayers

We pray for all our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, June Farkouh, Rdr. John Economou, Margaret Makara, Tom Kopec, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Dorothy Studier, and Pauline Barnowsky.**

The Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program is an essential vehicle for funding the activities and programs of our diocese. Please consider participating in the program. Brochures are located by the bulletin board in the parish hall or at the diocesan website at www.nynjoca.org.

MANY YEARS

Birthdays this week:

Wednesday – June Farkouh

Thursday – Alan Diaz

**Please pray for
vocations to the Holy
Priesthood!**

Annunciations

TODAY – We are continuing a modified and controlled **Coffee Hour** ministry. The Parish Hall is set up to accommodate social distancing. Masks are required when traveling around the hall, but not when sitting and partaking of the refreshments. The hall will be sanitized after the Coffee Hour.

TODAY – There is **no Church School** today. The young parishioners will meet next Sunday for their Church School session.

TODAY – Our parish will participate in an online **OCMC Zoom event**. Everyone is encouraged to participate and learn about the Orthodox Christian Missions Center and how we can help this ministry that brings an Orthodox mission to the world. Please see the information below and register for the event.

WEDNESDAY – The **Inquirer group** will meet to discuss the essentials of the Orthodox Faith at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Those who cannot participate in person are welcome to join the discussion via Zoom. A link will be sent out to all parishioners.

NEXT SUNDAY – **Group 2** is invited to attend Divine Liturgy.

Grocery Gift Cards are available for purchase. Please contact Matushka Mary by email (matmaryb@gmail.com) or by phone at (848) 333-7075 to make arrangements.

Stewardship Donations may be brought to the church or mailed to the church address: 360 Van Zile Road, Brick, NJ 08724. On-line donations are possible by visiting our website for a link. Many thanks for continuing to support your parish in these challenging times.



OCMC
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER
PRESENTS

PRAY GIVE GO VIRTUAL BENEFIT

Sunday, February 21, 2021 | 7PM EST

Join us for New Jersey's first ever OCMC virtual event! Be part of the movement that began with Christ's last command to His disciples to "make disciples of all nations" and continues with YOU!

Come hear from Dan Christopoulos, OCMC's first missionary, and new Development Director. He will share his experience on how a life in Christ brings us closer together.

Questions? Contact events@ocmc.org