NOTES

Coffee with a little Stewardship

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Menu

**March 5, 2017**

**The Sunday of Orthodoxy**

The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first Sunday of Great Lent. The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent. Ever since, this Sunday has been commemorated as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy." The Seventh Ecumenical Council dealt predominantly with the controversy regarding icons and their place in Orthodox worship. It was convened in Nicaea in 787 by Empress Irene at the request of Tarasios, Patriarch of Constantinople. The Council was attended by 367 bishops. Almost a century before this, the iconoclastic controversy had once more shaken the foundations of both Church and State in the Byzantine Empire. Excessive religious respect and the ascribed miracles to icons by some members of society, approached the point of worship (due only to God) and idolatry. This instigated excesses at the other extreme by which icons were completely taken out of the liturgical life of the Church by the Iconoclasts. The Iconophiles, on the other-hand, believed that icons served to preserve the doctrinal teachings of the Church; they considered icons to be man's dynamic way of expressing the divine through art and beauty.

***Stewardship – Care for our children***

*A portion of your time should be dedicated to the Church. As you plan your daily, weekly and monthly family calendar, your Church should be included as well.*

* *Special projects with the children*
* *Community events where children can participate*
* *Working with the less fortunate*
* *Almsgiving related to time*

**Stewardship Introduction**

This week’s take aways…

What examples do we set as parents? Excessiveness or moderation? Exaltation (getting ahead at all costs) or humility (getting ahead in God’s eyes)? Consider areas that you can focus on and change.

Do the children have an understaning of Stewardship? Is there an expectation that they give of their Time, Talents and Treasures? Spend a few hours on a weekend to determine where the children want to volunteer their time.

Is Stewardship part of your family’s life? Do you actively participate in Church life with them? Are they being raised as “good and faithful stewards?”