

THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULLETIN . . . VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

LENT 40 DAYS A TIME FOR REFLECTION

THIS IS THE FAITH OF THE APOSTLES

In 843 A.D., the Council of Constantinople decreed that the first Sunday of Great Lent should annually be celebrated as the SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. The purpose of this yearly commemoration is to draw attention to the triumph of the church over the iconoclasts, who attempted to eliminate the use and veneration of sacred images in all public and private worship.

In recent years, it has become a tradition for Orthodox of all national and ethnic backgrounds to come together in prayer at special Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers. While attention is still given to the original intent prescribed for this day by means of moving processions with holy icons, it's scope has widened in significance. Today, we also pause to give thanks to God for our precious Orthodox Faith, which has carefully preserved the theological, doctrinal and liturgical integrity of the "One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic church."

On the cover of today's Church Bulletin, the 12 apostles are shown holding a church, a reminder to us that Christ entrusted His faithful followers with the enormous task of establishing and preserving His Church. With Jesus Christ being the 'Chief Cornerstone,' the Apostles laid the foundation for the Church. Their total commitment to doing the work Christ assigned them to do enabled this divine institution to rapidly grow in size and in impact on the world.

It is fitting, therefore, that the 12 Apostles are remembered on this Sunday of Orthodoxy, for the truths that they carried to all nations are still proclaimed by their successors today. Indeed, THIS IS THE FAITH OF THE APOSTLES!