



# Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Sun, May 31, 2020 - Afterfeast of the Ascension

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council



## Hymns for Afterfeast of The Ascension

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured, that Thou art the Son of God, // the Redeemer of the world!

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God, Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. Through them Thou hast guided us to the true Faith. // O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, // It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for our sake and united earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love

Thee, but remaining with them and crying: // "I am with you, and there is no one against you!"

## Epistle Reading - Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

## Gospel Reading - John 17:1-13

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given

**DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS:** *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting.*

Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

---

### THIS WEEK'S SERVICE SCHEDULE

*(Livestreamed on Facebook)*

**TODAY:** 3rd Hour @ 8:50 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM  
**WED:** 10 AM Bible Study, 7:30 PM Prayer for Protection Against the Coronavirus

### Great & Holy Pentecost

**SAT,** Great Vespers w Lity @ 5:00 PM ; Service of Repentance, Private Confessions

**SUN,** Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM w/ kneeling prayers

**Blessing of the Graves** (weather permitted); Holy Resurrection @ 12:30 PM, Fern Knoll @ 2:30 PM

**MON:** Holy Spirit Monday Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

**NOTE:** Saturday night Great Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy only will be Livestreamed Pentecost Weekend

### NOTE: YOU MUST SIGN UP TO ATTEND PENTECOST WEEKEND SERVICES.

An online sign-up sheet was sent via email. Please fill out the form completely. If you do not have access please email or call Fr. Innocent at the rectory to sign up. Call 570-825-6540 or email at [innocent.neal@gmail.com](mailto:innocent.neal@gmail.com)

---

### PARISH PRAYER LIST

**Living:** Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Valletta Family, Nadine Breisch, Luke Austin, Rosalie Bagenski, Denise Meck, Sonja & Leighann Kay, Stephen & Mary Krill, Anna Hutz Lahr, Madaline, Brian Cawley, Josie Bissett, Lisa Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Johnny Soucek, Rebecca King, Ray Zavada, Barbara Clark, Connie Padrezas, Delores Karas, Antonette Terry, Stephen & Mary Krill, Archpriest Daniel & Matushka Kovalak, Mary DeBenedetto **Departed:** Chad, Frank Emil Timko Maddox, Janice George, Mitred Archpriest Nicholas Timpko, Thomas Podalak, Martin Taylor, Dimitrios L.

---

### Parish Reopening on Holy Pentecost

May 29, 2020

Subject: Parish Reopening on Holy Pentecost

Dear Parish Family,

In the joy of the Feast! I pray all of you are staying healthy and with God's help maintaining your spiritual life with strength and fortitude. This time in our lives has been, and continues to be, a great challenge – for some a monumental struggle – that Our Lord will surely see us through. May God bless all of our efforts to the increase of our faith and greater trust in Him.

After nearly two and half months of distancing from the church we are pleased to be able to offer some very good news! Beginning on the weekend of the Great Feast of Holy Pentecost (June 6-8), Holy Trinity will open its doors to begin a gradual and careful return to normal parish life. With the blessing and encouragement of His Eminence Archbishop Mark, and with our county entering the “yellow” phase for reopening, we have completed a detailed plan to facilitate a limited number of attendees. A copy of this detailed plan will be sent to everyone by email and “snail” mail for your review (and available on our website) so that you know everything that is being done, as well as what you can expect when you arrive. Much is required of each person to make this work, so anyone who attends must read the plan. A few of the major points of what you can expect include:

## Holy Trinity Orthodox Church Weekly Bulletin - May 31, 2020

- Anyone experiencing Coronavirus symptoms can NOT attend. Symptoms will be posted in the vestibule.
- The doors to the church will be open OR opened for you.
- Everyone must use the hand sanitizer via the touch-free dispenser mounted in the vestibule when entering and leaving.
- Everyone who attends will have their temperature checked. Anyone with a temperature over 100 degrees will be asked not to attend.
- Everyone attending must wear a mask. Clergy and choir will not wear masks during the services but will when entering or exiting the building.
- Ushers will guide you to a seat that is at least 6 ft apart from the nearest person or family.
- Faithful in the communion line will be spaced 6 ft apart. Each communicant will approach the chalice after the priest has said his part (Servant of God ...). The communicant will hold his own napkin (Kleenex or paper towel) while the priest administers communion in the traditional manner, etc ...
- No one should congregate inside the building. Proper social distancing should be maintained.

... And there is much more to the plan. Once you have reviewed the complete plan, please let me know if you have any questions.

While we are eager to begin phasing into normal parish life, we understand and respect the individual circumstances of each parishioner and family. At this point, even as the pandemic subsides, not everyone can or should return to church. The steps we are taking do not minimize the seriousness of the pandemic, nor is it a call for everyone to return. It will be the individual responsibility of each person to decide the right path forward for them and their family. There will be no judgement of anyone in this matter. At the same time, there are many in the parish who need, and are ready, for a path forward. Our intention is to provide the path for those people, knowing that over time it will become the right path for the rest. Pray and be at peace with the pace you set for yourself and your family.

On the matter of Holy Communion, all diocesan parishes will continue with the traditional method of delivery,

using the holy spoon. The spoon will be cleansed in the "lifegiving and purifying blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ" between each communicant. This, as many of you have seen online, is a very contentious issue and I will not attempt to address it here. Not all dioceses, even within the OCA, have the same approach or viewpoint on the matter. Because of this, I realize that while some may return to the chalice without hesitation, others, because of a difference in viewpoint, may not. This is OK. If you have any concerns or want to talk through some of the differing viewpoints with me, I am absolutely up for the discussion. There is no shame in this.

Finally, we will be sending a link (or hardcopy to those who do not have internet) to a signup sheet for those who would like to attend services on the weekend of Holy Pentecost. Once we hear back from everyone, we will be able to finalize the plan for next weekend's services. It is possible that not everyone will be able to attend the Sunday Liturgy. Thankfully, we are also having a Monday Liturgy. Between the two everyone should be able to come to one Liturgy or the other. Anyone who wishes to attend must fill out the form (or call Fr. Innocent)! The schedule for next weekend is as follows:

---

**Saturday, June 6th @ 5 PM:** Great Vespers for Pentecost followed by the Service of Repentance and Private Confessions

**Sunday, June 7th @ 8:40 AM:** Hours & Divine Liturgy for Pentecost followed by Kneeling Prayers, and the Blessing of the Graves at both cemeteries (usual schedule)

**Monday, June 8th @ 8:50 AM:** 3rd Hour & Divine Liturgy for Holy Spirit Monday

---

Thank you for your love and patience with me and each other during this time. More to come.

With love in Christ,



Fr. Innocent

---

## Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.

The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, "I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior's words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor's sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In the year 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the

Church: Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), Saint Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos (December 12), and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius [who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (May 2 and January 18)]. He is called "the Great," for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today's Feast, he is referred to as "the thirteenth Apostle."

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, "God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous."

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan's knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. Saint Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word "consubstantial," which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).