



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

7th Sunday of Pascha + Sunday of The Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council + Sun, May 28th, 2023



DYMNUS 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

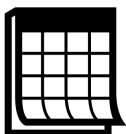
For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, 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

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. 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. If you have questions please let us know!

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 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 Schedule

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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THIS WEEKEND – Fathers of the 1st Council

Saturday, May 27th

5 PM: Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, May 28th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy,
Memorial Day Parastas @ Flag Pole

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THIS WEEK

WED 11 AM – 1:30 PM: Private Prayer in Church
6:30 PM: Akathist to the Mother of God

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NEXT WEEKEND – GREAT FEAST of PENTECOST

Saturday, June 3rd

5 PM: Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, June 4th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy,
Kneeling Vespers

HOLY PENTECOST PARISH POTLUCK

Bring a dish to share!

Monday, June 5th – HOLY SPIRIT MONDAY

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

*“When we talk to our fellow men and
they tell us about their troubles, we
will listen to them carefully if we have
love for them. We will have compassion
for their suffering and pain, for we are
God's creatures; we are a
manifestation of the love of God.”*

— Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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ALL HANDS ON DECK: Changing the colors from white to green: Anyone with a little time after liturgy and a cup of coffee today is invited to help us change out the liturgical covers and glass in the church. Many hands make light work!

FEAST OF HOLY PENTECOST PARISH POTLUCK: In celebration of our Parish Feast Day, Sunday, June 4th, we will have a potluck in place of our normal coffee hour. Please sign-up in the vestibule and bring a dish to share! Note: We had originally planned to have a potluck on Memorial Day Sunday (28th) but felt it better to move it to our parish feast day.

PARISH APPRECIATION PICNIC At the Rectory from the NEAL Family to all Parishioners and Parish Friends - Friday,

June 9th (Fast Free): Fr. Innocent and the Neal Family would like to invite all parishioners and friends of the parish to come to our home from 4 PM – 8 PM on June 9th for food, fun and fellowship. You will eat dinner, spend time with us, play games, fellowship with one another, but you will not bring food or do any work :). You may bring a beverage of your choice if you like – but not required. Please come. If it is a beautiful day we plan to set up tables outside and enjoy the weather. We are so thankful to Our Lord for each one of you that God has put into our lives.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

June Birthdays: Anna Cardoni (6/2), Rose Kennedy (6/2), Marlene Latzman (6/3), Noelle Flis (6/6), Fr. Innocent Neal (6/7), Doreen Cherkis (6/10), Rebecca Willis (6/12), Christopher Polk (6/12), Melanie Flis (6/13), Symeon Clark (6/17), Eric Zbegner (6/18), Stephen Serafin (6/19), Zoryana Duda (6/20), Aimee Austin (6/20), Amy Rubino Welgus (6/23), Peter Welgus Jr. (6/24), Laura Polk (6/28), Gregory Stankiewicz (6/30), Emily Willis (6/30)
Anniversaries: Tom & Joan Austin (6/5), Donna & Jerry Stankiewicz (6/6), David & Deborah Mills (6/16), Leigh & Jodie Storey (6/18)

This Week's Birthday/Anniversaries: Eva King (5/30), Martha Tumavitch (5/30), Anna Cardoni (6/2), Rose Kennedy (6/2), Marlene Latzman (6/3)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

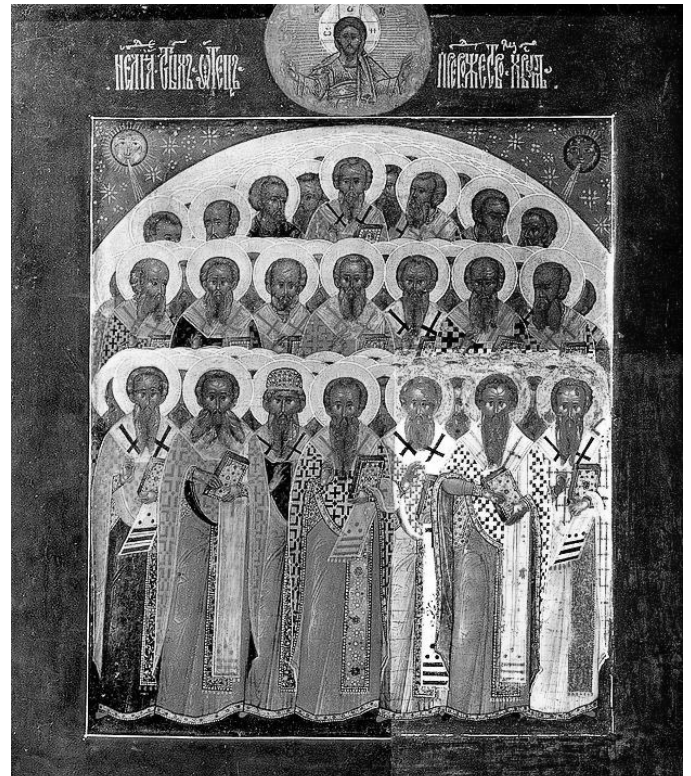
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Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

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.

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Holoviyak Family, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Mary Ann Lepa, Mat. Delores Donlick, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Alan, Cathy & Paul, Tom & Joan Austin, Lilly, David, Elizabeth, George Krill, Lydia, Melanie Bishop, Hannah Selick, Dave Hamilton, David & Delores Voda, Nicole Hapeman **Departed:** Alexander Pritchky, Marilyn Havrilak, John C. Metz, Chad Henderson, All those who have sacrificed their lives for country (Memorial Day)

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).

Life in the World as a Calling

"We often conceive of worldly life as merely a kind of default existence that anyone who is not specially called to monasticism or ordination simply ends up leading. We assume that it is only the monk, nun or priest who has a special call, while the married woman, for instance, has merely been passed by. [...] But we must not allow ourselves to approach it merely in these terms. Instead, every one of us should, indeed must, treat lay life as a calling just the way we think of monasticism and ordination. We must sit down with ourselves and with God in prayer to discern if life in the world really is what we are meant for, and if we discover that it is, we must treat this call with the same seriousness with which we would treat a call to a hermit's life in the desert. We are not lay people simply because we happen not to be monks or priests. We are lay people because God wills that we lead a life seeking our salvation through the world." — Daniel G. Oppewall, *A Layman in the Desert: Monastic Wisdom for a Life in the World*



The Treasury

"... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. + Jesus Christ

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Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840
Last Week's Collection (5/21/23): \$1,440
Election Day Food Sale: \$1,632
Pierogie Project: \$2,705