



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL June 16, 2024

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 6

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.

Troparion – Tone 4

Thou didst ascend 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!

Troparion – Tone 8

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!

Kontakion – Tone 8

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.

Kontakion – Tone 6

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!"

Prokeimenon – Tone 4

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!
V. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

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).

The First Ecumenical Council is also commemorated on May 29.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 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: 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 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.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED

Dates are when the name was added to the bulletin; names will remain in four bulletins and then removed. To add the name again, please email Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com.

For the Sick / Caregiver

Kelly (5/26)

Liam (5/26)

Bill (6/2)

Carmine (6/2)

Marianne (6/2)

Subdeacon Serge (6/9)

Melody (6/9)

Michael (6/9)

Charlotte (6/9)

Vera (6/9)

Chris (6/16)

Matushka Mary (6/16)

Father Paul (6/16)

Alexandra (6/16)

Lynne (6/16)

Bill (6/16)

Connie (6/16)

For the Deceased

Albert (6/2)

Awatif (6/2)

Anna (6/16)

John (6/16)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the Week of June 16

Sunday June 16 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Father's Day Coffee Hour in Daria Hall. During Coffee Hour there will be a meeting for those attending the upcoming camping trip.

Saturday June 22 – PENTECOST 5:00 PM Vespers with Litya followed by Confession

Sunday June 23 – PENTECOST 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by kneeling prayers. Then Coffee Hour in Daria Hall.

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

June 9 – 79 adults, 16 youth, \$3,974

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Father's Day to all Fathers, Stepfathers, Godfathers, Grandfathers, Uncles, and men of the parish! Memory Eternal for those who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

There will be a meeting today during Coffee Hour for all of those attending the camping trip next weekend. It is important that participants attend.

NEWSPAPER AND PACKING MATERIALS (no more boxes or hangers) are still needed for the upcoming bazaar on June 22 and June 23. Please bring to Daria Hall as soon as possible. No more donations of items are being accepted - thank you for all of the many items we received!

There will be a FOCA Club meeting next Sunday, June 23 during Coffee Hour. This will be the last FOCA meeting until September.

St. Vladimir Feast Day Information:

Archbishop Michael will be celebrating with us on Saturday July 13 and Sunday July 14.

Vespers will be served on Saturday at 5:00 PM (tentative time), followed by Potluck Supper in Daria Hall.

Hierarchical Liturgy will be served on Sunday at 9:30 AM (tentative time), followed by Banquet in Daria Hall.

Divine Liturgy will be served on Monday (actual Feast Day) July 15 at 9:30 AM.

There are **3 sign-up sheets** on the table in the back of the church across from the candle desk:

Sign-up for Potluck Dinner on Saturday.

Sign-up to attend Sunday Banquet (donations will be accepted at the door). If you do not sign up, please understand that we may not be able to accommodate you – food will be prepared for the number of people who sign up.

Sign-up to donate needed items for the Banquet; all items need to be brought to Daria Hall by Sunday July 7.

Help will be needed setting up and prepping the meal Saturday morning.

Help will be needed in the kitchen early Sunday morning.

Help will be needed serving the meal on Sunday.

Help will be needed cleaning up after the meal.

Please volunteer to help – many hands are needed both days!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Matushka Oksana – June 18

Betaneya Tsegay – June 21

Perry Strauss – June 21

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

COFFEE HOUR

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be

informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. **PLEASE NOTE: Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services.** If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky or Alla Strauss.

SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (non-dairy)

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) **with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event.** The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

June 16 FOCA Club

June 23 Nina Laushell, Lynne Sheedy & Bill Hazelton

June 30 Ludwig & Paula Koerte, Nina Shafran

July 7 Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt, Ramazi Shubitidze

July 14 **ST. VLADIMIR DAY CELEBRATION**

July 21 Chris Kasmer, Herman & Francine Meyer

July 28 Tamara Karkusova, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky

Aug. 4 **FAST** Luwam Tesfa, Nebiat Tesfa

Aug. 11 **FAST** Nancy Mitsos, Darice Keyes
Aug. 18 Ladies Assumption Altar Society
Aug. 25 Alex Godun, Blake & Jessica Kilgore
Sept. 1 Tyler Burger, Awet Tesfa
Sept. 8 Olga & James Bates, Tanya & Walter Tribbey
Sept. 15 James & Monia Pitra, Anne Cheslock
Sept. 22 **ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC – NO COFFEE HOUR**
Sept. 29 Sami Bachir, Nour Ragab
Oct. 6 Virgiliu & Gabriela Plesa, Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav
Oct. 13 **ANNUAL TURKEY SOCIAL – NO COFFEE HOUR**
Oct. 20 Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick, Alan & Mimi Berck
Oct. 27 Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun