



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL JUNE 1, 2025

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 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 (To add a name, please email daricekeyes@gmail.com)

For the Sick / Caregiver

Michael (5/11)	Kelly (5/18)
Charlotte (5/11)	Alexandra (5/18)
Subdeacon Sergius (5/11)	Father Paul (5/18)
Melody (5/11)	Deborah (5/18)
Lynne (5/11)	Francine (5/18)
Dorothy (5/18)	Desiderio (5/25)
Betty (5/18)	Carmine (6/1)
Liam (5/18)	Marianne (6/1)

For the Deceased

Matushka Mary (5/18)
Bishop Matthias (6/1)
Rev. Justin (6/1)
Kurtis (6/1)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the Week of June 1

Sunday June 1 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Saturday June 7 – **PENTECOST** 5:00 PM Vespers with Litya followed by Confession and Catechumen class in the church basement

Sunday June 8 – **PENTECOST** 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed Vespers with kneeling prayers, then Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

May 25 – 101 adults, 15 youth, \$2,616

If you would like to donate on line, this QR code will take you to the Donation site where you can set up a one-time or recurring donation, or make changes to your existing account. Thank you!



ORTHODOXY 101

Saints of the Church

Did you know that St. Vladimir Orthodox Church was founded in October 1915 by a group of approximately 30 Russian immigrants? Inspired by the Holy Spirit, these believers in Christ decided to organize a local Orthodox parish community focused on ministering to fellow Russians.

As members of the Orthodox Church in America, we understand that many of us come from different ethnic traditions, but we are all called to be one body in Christ. *"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus"* (Galatians 3:28).

However, recognizing our parish's Russian heritage, why are there **Greek Orthodox** saints depicted on the two middle columns in our church?

The Byzantine Saints depicted are Cyril and Methodius and honored with the titles **Equals of the Apostles**, and **Enlighteners of the Slavs**. Cyril and Methodius came from an illustrious and pious family living in the Greek city of Thessalonica. Saint Methodius was the oldest of seven brothers, Saint Constantine [Cyril was his monastic name] was the youngest. At first Saint Methodius was in the military and was governor in one of the **Slavic** principalities dependent on the Byzantine Empire, probably Bulgaria, which made it possible for him to learn the Slavic language. After living there for about ten years, Saint Methodius later received monastic tonsure at one of the monasteries on Mount Olympus (Asia Minor).

The younger brother Constantine distinguished himself by his great aptitude, and he studied with the emperor Michael under the finest teachers in Constantinople. Because of his keen mind and penetrating intellect, Saint Constantine was called "Philosopher" (wise). Upon the completion of his education, Saint Constantine was ordained to the holy priesthood and was appointed curator of the patriarchal library at the church of Hagia Sophia. He soon left the capital and went secretly to a monastery.

Recognized for their intellect, Christian piety and theological excellence, the emperor asked these two saintly brothers to go to Moravia and preach in the Slavic tongue. Saint Constantine prepared for the new task with fasting and prayer. With the help of his brother Saint Methodius, Cyril devised a Slavonic alphabet and translated the books which were necessary for the celebration of the divine services: the Gospel, Epistles, Psalter, and collected services, into the Slavic tongue. This occurred in the year 863.

As a result of their missionary efforts and work of the Holy Spirit, Saints Cyril and Methodius played a pivotal role in the conversion of the Slavs to Christianity in the 9th century and are known as the "Apostles to the Slavs". They are venerated as saints in both the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches.

The icons of Saints Cyril and Methodius typically depict them as missionary figures. St. Cyril (on the right pillar) is usually portrayed in a monastic habit, holding a scroll or book, symbolizing his role in creating the Cyrillic alphabet. St. Methodius (on the left pillar) is often shown in bishop's vestments, representing his later role as bishop and Archbishop of Moravia.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The bathrooms in the church basement are currently under renovation. They will not be available to use for a few weeks, so please use the bathrooms in Daria Hall.

Christ is Risen! The end of our Church School year is today. We will have an Ice Cream Social in the basement of Daria Hall to celebrate a successful year together! *Looking ahead, we pray that more parents will take advantage of the blessing of having a Sunday School and send their children next year. We are also looking for a second teacher for the 7 - 12 year old children.* Please see me if you are interested. We will reconvene in September. Have a wonderful Summer everyone!
Julie Stell

The Ladies Assumption Altar Society will have a meeting today during Coffee Hour. Please plan on attending.

The Ladies Assumption Altar Society will be selling raffle tickets starting next week June 8 and June 15 for a Patriotic Ensemble (4 items, \$30 value). Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Thank you for your support!

Pierogies are for sale in Daria Hall – see a member of the FOCA Club!

Per the Cemetery By-Laws, it is time to remove Easter decorations from the church cemeteries. Please take your articles home with you as there is no trash removal at the cemeteries. Thank you.

Please remember to consider sending your child(ren) to St. Andrew's Camp in Jewell, NY (on Lake Oneida near Syracuse) this summer. They have a wonderful camping program! There is a link to the camp website on the Home page of our website (saintvladimir.org). If you will need financial assistance, please speak with Father Volodymyr.

Check out the Bookstore in Daria Hall - see Manny Montiel with any questions.

If you have an announcement for the bulletin or the church's Facebook page, please send the information by Tuesday evenings to daricekeyes@gmail.com and trellmore@gmail.com. This includes upcoming weddings, baptisms, anniversaries, Orthodox events, etc. Pictures may be included! Thank you.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Tiberiu Milosav – June 1

Eleni Athanatos – June 2

Sofya Geshchanka – June 5

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

COFFEE HOUR

**** If you are unable to accommodate your hosting date, please advise Darice as soon as possible so changes can be made.***

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 Alla Strauss.

SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts - let Alla know ahead of time if you will need desserts so they can be thawed on Saturday

Fruit

Salad

Tortilla Chips & Salsa

Hummus & Pita

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (they are all non-dairy)

If serving pork, please provide an alternative for those who do not eat pork.

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 1 Amber Touch, Alex & Rebeca Medina

June 8 Alex Godun, Virgiliu & Gabriela Plesa

June 15 Sami Bachir, Tyler Burger, FOCA Club

June 22 **FAST** Matthew Anderson, Ramazi & Kahtuna Shubitidze

June 29 Awet Tesfa, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky

July 6 Fiyori Habtesilasse, Lemlem Woldearegay

July 13 **St. Vladimir Feast Day Celebration**

July 20 Helene Hopkins, Mary Ellen Jones
July 27 Ludwin Lopez, Fr. Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana
Aug. 3 **FAST** Trudy Ellmore, Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick
Aug. 10 **FAST** Karina Kotelnicki, Nancy Mitsos
Aug. 17 **Ladies Assumption Altar Society**
Aug. 24 Olga & James Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey
Aug. 31 Amleset Gebrekvistas, Paula & Ludwig Koerte
Sept. 7 Luwam Tesfa, Nebiat Tesfa
Sept. 14 **FAST** Svetlana Sosedov, Natalia Kolomatskaia
Sept. 21 **Annual Church Picnic**
Sept. 28 Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Juan Garcia
Oct. 5 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Nana & Matthew Barrett
Oct. 12 Melissa Braun, Sophie Dumas
Oct. 19 **110th Parish Anniversary**
Oct. 26 Melody Stavisky, Guy Radcliffe
Nov. 2 Peter & Mary Abdallah, Jim Galcik

Have a blessed week!