



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

MAY 24, 2026

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 contact Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com)

For the Sick/Caregiver

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Carmine (5/3) | Lynne (5/17) |
| Marianne (5/3) | Bill (5/17) |
| Michael (5/10) | Betty (5/17) |
| Charlotte (5/10) | Alexandra (5/17) |
| Subdeacon Sergius (5/10) | Father Paul (5/17) |
| Melody (5/10) | Liam (5/17) |
| Kathleen (5/10) | Kelly (5/17) |
| Donna (5/10) | Marco (5/24) |
| Cassidy (5/17) | Bill (5/24) |
| Anthony (5/17) | Margie (5/24) |
| Chuck (5/17) | Nina (5/24) |
| Phyllis (5/17) | Joshua (5/24) |
| Vera (5/17) | |

Deceased

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the Week of May 24

Sunday May 24 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall. Last day of Sunday School.

Saturday May 30 – **EVE OF PENTECOST** 5:00 PM Vespers with Litya followed by Confession and Catechumen Class in the church basement

Sunday May 31 – **PENTECOST** 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy with Pentecostal prayers followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall.

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

May 17 – 101 adults, 27 youth, \$1,877

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School Correction: Today will be the last day of Sunday School instead of next Sunday (Pentecost) when we have Kneeling Vespers after Liturgy. We are ending our year with an Ice Cream Social for the children who have been attending Sunday School this year.

There will be a SVOF Club meeting today during Coffee Hour.

The Schedule for the Memorial Day Pilgrimage at St. Tikhon's Seminary on Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day) is below. Weather permitting, Trudy Ellmore will be attending. If anyone is interested in attending, you may also contact Father Volodymyr.

7:30 AM Hours & early Divine Liturgy – All Saints Church

10:00 AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy – Monastery Church

2:30 PM Healing Service to the Mother of God – All Saints Church

4:30 PM Vespers & Matins, and closing of the Pilgrimage – Monastery Church

****Food vendors will be onsite all day Monday in the Bookstore parking lot.**

Next Saturday, May 30 at 10:00 AM, everyone is invited to join the TACO group in helping to beautify the neighborhood by cleaning up the grounds at Grace Dunn School, which is directly across the street from St. Vladimir's. We will gather in front of the church - please bring gloves. Trash bags will be provided. Thank you!

Next Sunday, May 31, at 8:30 AM before Divine Liturgy, three Catechumens will be baptized and Chrismated into the Orthodox faith:

Jennifer Suarez: Patron Saint - St. Mary of Bethany

Luke Simonian: Patron Saint - St. George, Great Martyr and Trophy-Bearer

Jonathan Camey: Patron Saint - St. Paisios

Everyone is welcome to attend these special services! Congratulations to Jennifer, Luke, and Jonathan!

Pentecost "Fire" Sale at the Parish Bookstore in Daria Hall: Select inventory will be discounted between 10% and 50% starting today through Sunday June 7 (Sunday of All Saints). Visit the bookstore during Coffee Hour to browse marked-down prayer ropes, icons, books, and devotional items. All proceeds support the bookstore.

We are looking for volunteers to help man the bookstore on Sundays on a rotational basis. If you are interested in helping, please see Manny (Nektarios) to sign up. Thank you!

There is a newly designated area in the church basement outside of the restrooms that includes a TV screen projecting the ongoing services in the church, and chairs for sitting. Parents, this is a great place to take your children if they need a break, and you will not miss any of the services.

Leftover containers and plastic bags are in the labeled pink container near the stage in Daria Hall. Please access these items, if needed, instead of going into the kitchen. Thank you!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Mufu Tesfa – May 24

Alla Strauss – May 26

Matushka Iryna Chaikivska – May 30

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. Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services, so if you have arrived late, or are not

finished, you will be provided the key to lock Daria Hall when you leave for church services. If you have any questions, please contact Alla Strauss.

SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads
Donuts / Pastries
Desserts
Fruit
Salad
Tortilla Chips & Salsa
Hummus & Pita
Sugar-free dessert
Oreos / Graham Crackers (they are all non-dairy)

May 24 Patrick Sunseri, Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt
May 31 Jim & Monia Pitra, Svetlana Sosodov
June 7 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Ludwin Lopez
June 14 **FAST** Tesfahune Beyene & Tsion Kebebew, Amleset Gebrekvistas
June 21 **FAST SVOF Club**
June 28 **FAST** Tyler & Anna Cassidy, Zachary & Allison Hepburn
July 5 Peter & Mary Abdallah, Jim Galcik
July 12 Constantine Colombar, Tahara & Germain Ortiz
July 19 **St. Vladimir Feast Day Celebration**
July 26 Inna Lebedeva, Natallia Kukharenka
Aug. 2 **FAST** Viktoryia Baranava, Julie & Benjamin Stell
Aug. 9 **FAST** Nancy Mitsos, Karina Kotelnicki
Aug. 16 **Ladies Altar Society**
Aug. 23 Olga & Jim Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey
Aug. 30 Tony Evans, Jack Chiarkas, Trudy Ellmore
Sept. 6 Alex Godun, Edward & Azalea Logan
Sept. 13 Alex & Rebeca Medina, Juan Garcia
Sept. 20 **ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC**
Sept. 27 Corneliu & Florica Blasa, Stefania Balasa
Oct. 4 Troy Haynes, Luke Simonian, Christine Waite
Oct. 11 Catechumens, Trudy Ellmore
Oct. 18 Amber Edward, Amerigo Amodei, Chris & Tony Villabon
Oct. 25 Joe & Heather Jurik, Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick
Nov. 1 Alexander & Javier Torres, Matthew & Nana Barrett
Nov. 8 Jennifer Suarez, Jonathan Camey, Manuel & Lourdes Montiel
Nov. 15 **FAST** Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun, Josh Dumas
Nov. 22 **FAST** Nebiat Tesfa, Luwam Tesfa
Nov. 29 **FAST** Guy Radcliffe, Melody Stavisky



Have a blessed week!

St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

MAY / JUNE

| SUN | MON | TUES | WEDS | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 24 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy *Coffee Hour hosted by Sunseri & Sekulich / McDevitt families | 25 Memorial Day May God bless all veterans! Thank you for your service! | 26 | 27 <i>Fast Day</i> | 28 | 29 <i>Fast Day</i> | 30 EVE OF PENTECOST 5:00 PM Vespers with Litya followed by Confession and Catechumen class |
| 31 PENTECOST 8:30 AM Baptism & Chrismation - Jennifer Suarez, Jonathan Camey, Luke Simonian 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Pentecost kneeling prayers *Coffee Hour hosted by Pitra & Sosedov families | June 1 <i>Fast free week</i> | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and Catechumen class |
| 7 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy *Coffee Hour hosted by Kilgore & Lopez families | 8 <i>Beginning of Ss Peter & Paul Fast</i> | 9 <i>Fast Day</i> | 10 7:00 PM Parish Council Meeting <i>Fast Day</i> | 11 <i>Fast Day</i> | 12 <i>Fast Day</i> | 13 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and Catechumen class <i>Fast Day</i> |
| 14 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy *Coffee Hour hosted by Beyene/Kebebew & Gebrekvistas families | 15 <i>Fast Day</i> | 16 <i>Fast Day</i> | 17 <i>Fast Day</i> | 18 <i>Fast Day</i> | 19 <i>Fast Day</i> | 20 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and Catechumen class <i>Fast Day</i> |
| 21 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy Father's Day *Coffee Hour hosted by SVOF Club | 22 <i>Fast Day</i> | 23 <i>Fast Day</i> | 24 <i>Fast Day</i> | 25 <i>Fast Day</i> | 26 <i>Fast Day</i> | 27 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and Catechumen class <i>Fast Day</i> |