



June 1ST, 2025

7th Sunday of Pascha - Tone 6

Fathers of First Ecumenical Council | Afterfeast of Ascension

Scripture Readings

Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 (Epistle)

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.

John 17:1-13 (Gospel)

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.

Many Years!

anniversaries

- 3rd - Scott & Robin Mikita
- 5th - Jason & Rachel Britton
- 5th - Mylee & Hunter Ratzlaff
- 8th - LD & Lyndi Meier
- 12th - Garth & LeAnn Perry
- 26th - Michael & Debby Hlatki

birthdays

- 1st - Archbishop Benjamin
- 1st - Chad Burnside
- 6th - Dale Drew
- 8th - Evan Dean John Guy
- 9th - Korbyn Meier
- 9th - Helen Sakala
- 15th - Shonda Robinson
- 22nd - Jeb Billmire
- 23rd - Leilah Tunink
- 23rd - Mat. Elaine Lowell
- 23rd - Rainlee Dawson
- 24th - Jenny Dumler
- 25th - Muriel Eurich
- 26th - Tristan Nelson
- 26th - Rachel Britton
- 27th - Gary Glover
- 27th - Moses Sisneros
- 28th - Mylee Ratzlaff
- 30th - Chandler Glover

Service Schedule

- May 29th Holy Ascension 9:00am
— *St. John's Orthodox Church*
- May 31st Divine Liturgy Moved to
Sunday June 1st.
- May 31st Bourg Baptism 4:00pm
— *St. John's Orthodox Church*
- June 1st Divine Liturgy
— *Fr. Constantine Blizzard*
- June 8th Pentecost (Liturgy,
Kneeling Vespers 9:30am)
— *Fr. Stephen Close*

Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

The Church of Christ has commemorated the First Ecumenical Council since ancient times. The Lord promised, "I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). Though the Church faces struggles, it triumphs through Christ. The holy martyrs gave witness to this truth, enduring suffering and death, yet the Cross of Christ overcame the persecutor's sword.

By the fourth century, persecution ceased, but heresies arose. One of the most dangerous was Arianism, introduced by Arius, a priest from Alexandria. Arius denied the divine nature of Christ, claiming He was a created being and not consubstantial with God the Father.

A local Council, presided over by Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria, condemned Arius's teachings. But Arius continued spreading his views, appealing to sympathetic bishops throughout the East. This theological unrest drew the attention of Emperor Constantine, who consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova, a respected Western cleric. Recognizing the threat to the Church's unity, Constantine called the First Ecumenical Council in 325 at Nicea.

A total of 318 bishops from across the Christian world attended, many of whom were confessors bearing physical marks of persecution. Among the participants were Saint Nicholas of Myra, Saint Spyridon of Tremithos, and other revered figures. Accompanying Patriarch Alexander was his deacon, Athanasius, later Patriarch of Alexandria. Known as "the Great," Athanasius would become a central defender of Orthodoxy and is called "the thirteenth Apostle" in liturgical texts.

Emperor Constantine personally presided over the sessions. In his opening speech, he expressed grief that internal Church conflict was more distressing to him than any military battle. Arius, backed by seventeen bishops, refused to repent. However, Athanasius delivered a decisive rebuttal, and the Council formally excommunicated Arius and condemned his heresy.

The Council declined to accept a proposed Arian version of the Symbol of Faith (Creed) and affirmed the Orthodox confession, inserting the term "consubstantial" to declare Christ's unity with the Father. The Nicene Creed clearly proclaimed Christ's divine nature, defending apostolic teaching.

Beyond theological definitions, the Council issued Twelve Canons concerning Church discipline and governance. It also established a uniform rule for determining the date of Holy Pascha: it should not coincide with the Jewish Passover, but be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox (which fell on March 22 in 325).

The First Ecumenical Council remains a foundational moment in Church history and is commemorated again annually on May 29.

Troparion | tone 8

You are most glorious, O Christ our God! You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth! Through them you have guided us to the true faith! O greatly Compassionate One, glory to You!

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 Orthodoxy!

Idiomela | tone 6 (from the Pentecostarion, for the Ascension)

The Lord has ascended into heaven that He might send the Comforter into the world. The heavens prepared His throne, and the clouds His mount. Angels marvel to see a Man high above them. The Father receives Him Whom He holds, co-eternal, in His bosom. The Holy Spirit commands all His Angels: "Lift up your gates, you princes! All you nations, clap your hands: for Christ has gone up to where He was before!"



Prayer List

living

Met. Tikhon, Abp. Benjamin, Archim. Vasily, Fr. Andreas, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Dennis, Meryl, Harold, Tammy, Litsa, Lilliana, Carl, Christina, Lindy, John, Alicia, Patricia, Danny, Jerry, Roberta, Wendy, Judy, Michael, Jill, Beverly, Lily with child, Infant Dominic, Tayla with child, Joseph, Alisha with child, Jackie, Amber with child, Anna with child, Joan, Trisha, Stella, Lee, Carol, Ethan, infant AdaLynn, Nauvlet, Leilah, Austin, Brian, Josh, Mother Magdalena, Kodiak, Miriham, Cheri, infant Gus, April, Madalyn, Cheri, infant Gus, April, Madalyn, McKenzie, MaKiya, Hannah, Haylee, Keith, Samantha, Christina, Jake, Ashton, infant Sophie, Jeanie, Jetlyn, Lauren, Bob, Taylee with child, Georgianna, Clint, Murl, Carolyn, Millie, Earnie, child Charlotte, Cathy, Michael, Abigail and the infant Gwendolyn

Those who are confined: Ethen, Casey, Basil, Mark, Hannah, Theodore

departed

Fr. Thomas (St. John's Pueblo), Milt, Dave, Lonnie, Paul, infant Dorthy, Vladimir, James, Larry, Vontae, Carol

Youth Events

summer youth camp

Youth Camp Scholarships!

The Rose Marie Ladies have generously offered to cover the tuition costs for our parish youth and adult counselors in full. If you have children of age (1st through 12th grades), consider sending them to camp. Registration and payment for youth camp are being collected online, but there's a plan in place to reimburse parents through the Rose Marie Ladies group. Reach out to Becky Fischer if you have concerns about payment logistics or need financial support for your camper!

Visit rmoyc.org to register your camper by June 8, 2025.

Camp Dates: July 7-10, 2025

1st-12th Grade | \$240 per camper

graduations

Bodie Glover - 8th Grade
Evie Stevens - 8th Grade
Nicole Fischer - 12th Grade
Madalyn Schulte - 12th Grade
Stone Stevens - 12th Grade