



ST. MARY'S HOLY DORMITION † ORTHODOX CHURCH

MAY 24TH, 2026 | 7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA | TONE 6

HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ACTS 20:16–18, 28–36 | EPISTLE (44)

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, serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. 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 (56)

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

- 25TH – Bill & Colleen Hendrix
- 27TH – Josh & Lacie Leithead
- 29TH – Matt & Libbie Dawson

BIRTHDAYS

- 24TH – Rachel Stevens
- 27TH – Harry Mikita
- 28TH – Tori Jackson
- 29TH – Kaleb Ritter
- 30TH – Brock Burnside

CALENDAR

MAY 23RD – ORDINATION OF DN. TIKHON KRUEGER

Hours & Liturgy, 9:10 am — St. Tikhon's Monastery

Presided by Met. Tikhon & Bp. Vasily • Live stream: youtube.com/@StTikhonsMonastery

MAY 23RD – SATURDAY

Great Vespers, 6:30 pm

MAY 24TH – HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am

- coffee hour to follow in hall -

MAY 24TH – CHURCH SCHOOL END OF YEAR PARTY

1:00 pm — Main Event, 1180 Interquest Pkwy, Colorado Springs

MAY 25TH – MEMORIAL DAY

Panikhida, 9:45 am; VFW Ceremony, 10:30 am @ St. Tikhon's

MAY 27TH – WEDNESDAY

Moleben, 6:30 pm • Adult Study, 7:00 pm

MAY 30TH – SATURDAY

Great Vespers, 6:30 pm

MAY 31ST – HOLY PENTECOST

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am

- coffee hour to follow in hall -

ST. MARY'S HOLY DORMITION † ORTHODOX CHURCH

THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Every year on the Sunday before Pentecost, the Church pauses to honor the 318 bishops who gathered at Nicea in 325 AD. They came from across the Roman world in response to the teaching of a priest named Arius, who argued that the Son of God was a created being, subordinate to the Father and not truly divine. It was a compelling and simple idea. It was also, the Church determined, profoundly wrong.

The Council fathers drew their line in a single Greek word: homoousios, meaning "of one essence" with the Father. The Son is not like the Father, not similar, not a lesser image. He is the same substance, eternally begotten, not made. That precision mattered enormously. If Christ is not truly God, then the Incarnation is a pretense, and there is no real bridge between humanity and the divine. The entire logic of salvation depends on Christ being what the Creed declares Him to be.

What the Church celebrates today is not merely a doctrinal decision from antiquity. It is the ongoing fidelity of the Holy Spirit guiding the community of believers into all truth, as Christ promised. The Fathers at Nicea were not infallible men — they were sinners, scholars, bishops who sometimes quarreled and sometimes erred. But gathered in council, praying and debating in the name of Christ, they found words adequate to the truth. The Nicene Creed we still recite at every Liturgy is their gift to us: a fixed point, a common confession, a protection against the many clever ways error can dress itself in theological language.

Christ is Risen!

TROPARIA & KONTAKIA — DIVINE LITURGY

TROPARION | TONE 6 (RESURRECTION)

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 (ASCENSION)

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 (FATHERS)

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 (FATHERS)

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 (ASCENSION)

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!"

PRAYER LIST

LIVING:

Met. Tikhon, Abp. Benjamin, Bp. Vasily, Fr. Andreas, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Zechariah, Fr. Dennis, Fr. Silouan, Mother Cassiana, Fr. Ambrose, Dcn. Herman & Family, Fr. Tikhon & Family

Mka. Lindsey, Victoria, Charlie, Anita, Chad, Jan, Harold, Libbie, Toni Dell, Tyler, David, Victor, Kyla, Tony, Diane, Muriel, Gerhard, Meryl, Tammy, Litsa, Lilliana, Carl, Christina, Lindy, John, Alicia, Patricia, Danny, Jerry, Roberta, Wendy, Judy, Jill, Beverly, Joseph, Jackie Joan, Trisha, Lee, Ethan, Nauvlet, Austin, Brian, Josh, Mother Magdalena, Kodiak, Miriham, Cheri, April, Madalyn, Makenzie, MaKiya, Hannah, Haylee, Keith, Samantha, Christina, Jake, Jetlyn, Lauren, Bob, Georgianna, Clint, Murl, Millie, Charlotte, Cathy, Samuel, Ebelin, Carlos, Victoria Pasko-Tipton, Trevor, Rahab.

DEPARTED: Betty, Melvin, Sam, Art, Blaine

THOSE WHO ARE CONFINED: Basil, Hannah, Theodore

INFANTS: Infant Lawrence, Infant Dominic, Infant AdaLynn, Infant Gus, Infant Stephen, Infant Ezekiel

COMMEMORATIONS

7th Sunday of Pascha — Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council; Afterfeast of the Ascension; Venerable Simeon Stylites the Younger of Wonderful Mountain; Venerable Niketas the Stylite, Wonderworker of Pereyaslav; Martyr Meletius Stratelates and his 1,218 soldiers; Saint Vincent of Lerins

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church School End of Year Party — today at 1:00 pm, Main Event, 1180 Interquest Pkwy, Colorado Springs.

Memorial Day Panikhida at St. Tikhon's, 9:45 am Monday, May 25, followed by VFW ceremony at 10:30 am.

RMOYC registration is open for July 6–9 at Buckhorn Camp, Bellvue, CO. Details at rmoyc.org.

Orthodox LIFE School, June 14–20, Monastery of St. John, Manton CA. Ages 18–35. Apply: monasteryofstjohn.org/retreats/

Free summer food boxes for youth 18 and under, June–July. Calhan/Peyton/Ellicott area. Register: KidsEat.org