



SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2012 7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 6. The Three Hundred and Eighteen Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council at Nicæa. Afterfeast of the Ascension. Hieromartyr Therapon, Bishop of Sardis (3rd c.). Translation of the Relics of Ven. Nilus of Stolbensk (1667). St. John the Russian (Confessor), whose relics are on the Island of Euboia (1730). Ven. Ferapónt (Therapon), Abbot of Belozérsk (1426). Translation of the Relics of Ss. Kiprián, Photii (Photius), and Jonah, Metropolitans of Moscow and All Russia (1472). Ven. Therapon, Abbot of Monza (16th c.). Virgin Martyr Theodora and Martyr Didymus the Soldier, of Alexandria (304).

FIRST ANTIPHON

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

For the Lord, the Most High is terrible! A great God over all the earth! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

SECOND ANTIPHON

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! **O Son of God who ascended in glory, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King! **O Son of God who ascended in glory, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Within her citadels God is known when He defends her! **O Son of God who ascended in glory, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

For lo, the kings assembled; they came on together! **O Son of God who ascended in glory, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and wast crucified, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, save us!

THIRD ANTIPHON

Hear this, all peoples! Give ear, all inhabitants of the world!

O Christ our God, Thou hast ascended in glory, 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!

The earth-born and the sons of men, rich and poor together!

O Christ our God, Thou hast ascended in glory, 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!

My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

O Christ our God, Thou hast ascended in glory, 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!

I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle in psalmody.

O Christ our God, Thou hast ascended in glory, 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!

TROPARIA

(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!

(Tone 4) O Christ our God, Thou hast ascended in glory, 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!

(Tone 8) Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God! Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as light on the earth! Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith! O greatly Compassionate One, glory to Thee!

(Tone 4) In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence, so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty, O Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

KONTAKION

(Tone 6) When Thou didst fulfill the Dispensation for our sake, and unite 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 no one will be against you!

The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: 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!

THE READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES

(20:16-18, 28-36) *In those days:* Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves know how I lived among you all the time from the first day that I set foot in Asia. Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Alleluia, Tone 1

v. The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

v. Gather to Me, My venerable ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN (17:1-13)

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify thy Son that the Son may glorify thee, since thou hast given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom thou hast given him. And this is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. I glorified thee on earth, having accomplished the work which thou gavest me to do; and now, Father, glorify thou me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made. “I have manifested thy name to the men whom thou gavest me out of the world; thine they were, and thou gavest them to me, and they have kept thy word. Now they know that everything that thou hast given me is from thee; for I have given them the words which thou gavest me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from thee; and they have believed that thou didst send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom thou hast given me, for they are thine; all mine are thine, and thine are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to thee. Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in thy name, which thou hast given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

IN PLACE OF “WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT...”

O Christ our God, Thou hast ascended in glory, 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!

THE 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 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: St Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), St 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. St 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).

From www.oca.org Feasts and Saints

The Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council are commemorated each year on the seventh Sunday of Pascha. This year, that day is May 27th.

The gathering at which the fathers came together was held in Nicaea (present-day Iznik, Turkey) in the year 325. They were leaders of the Church, many of them bishops, and they were there in response to the summons of the Emperor Constantine. He and they were concerned about a misguided theology that was gaining adherents and creating dissension among believers. Arius, a priest from Alexandria, was teaching that Jesus Christ was a created being rather than the divine Son of God, eternal and without beginning.

Not every invited leader made it to the Council. It was spring, and the rivers in the east were flooded from heavy rains. There was always the threat of robbers on the roads, and many had to come long distances on those roads to reach Nicaea. But in spite of that, men came from many parts of the world: Carthage, France, Milan, Calabria, Spain, Cyprus, Armenia, Rome, Persia, Antioch, Constantinople, Alexandria and the Nile desert. One attendee was Theophilus the Goth, who had traveled from the largely unknown region of the North—somewhere in what is now Russia.

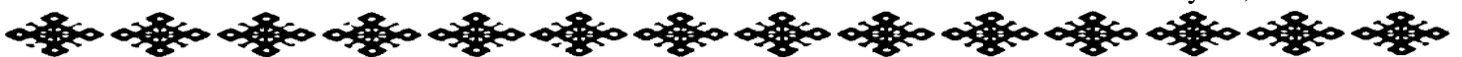
Also present were men who would later become saints, including Nicholas of Myra and Athanasius of Alexandria. It was through their efforts, along with those of other participants who adhered to the Church's teaching, that the Council established what the Creed says about Jesus Christ: He is divine, and He is of the same essence as the Father. He is begotten of the Father, not made or created.

The Emperor presided in splendid royal attire. But some of the men who attended were anything but splendid. Having come to Nicaea to deal with this new internal crisis of false teaching, they still bore the marks of the recent external crisis: the savage persecution of Christians by the state. One commentator has said that they were "the walking wounded, living demonstrations of how cruelly human beings can treat each other." The saintly Paphnutius, for example, hobbled along on legs whose sinews had been cut; he had only one eye, as did other victims of the emperor Diocletian and his torturers. Some men had skin that had been scorched by flames, or permanently scarred by the lashes of whips.

Yet here they were, still ready to serve Christ and the Church by laboring to create a statement that would tell the truth about the relationship of the Son to His Father. For Constantine, the important thing was to restore order and calm in the empire. His letter of invitation to the Council had read in part, "I entreat you that my endeavors may be brought to a prosperous end, and my people be persuaded to embrace peace and concord."

But the "walking wounded" were defending a Kingdom, not some mere earthly empire. Whether with their blood or their words, they would not fail in that defense.

May 27, 2012



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH & BLESSINGS OF

Health & Blessings on their Names Day Nina Papa, Bakousidis Family.....	Lena Bakousidis
Special Intention	Peter & Jo
Health & God's Blessings on John & Gloria Zelenko's 20 th Anniversary, May 23	Angelo & Christine
Deacon Anthony, David, Anna, Reggie, Bosa, Allen, Deborah, Elaine, Mary, Christine, Walter, John & Gloria, Jeanette, Michael, Alex, Ted, Fr. David, Gladys, My family & friends	J. Tome
Health & Blessings Lena Bakousidis, Phillip Constantine Bakousidis.....	Lean Bakousidis
Health & God's Blessings on Chris & Krista Panoff's 9 th Anniversary May 25	Mom & Dad
Special Intention	J. Tome

ETERNAL LIGHT AT ALTAR

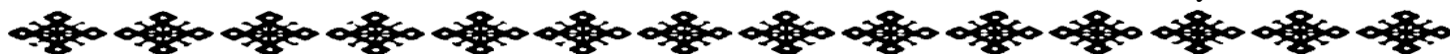
Health & Blessings Nadja & Sean Berneche.....	Lucy Hogg
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CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE

Blessed Repose Kosta & Eleni Nedanis, Kotsi Nedanis, Kosta Papalazarou	Lena Bakousidis
Lewis Elieff-Memory Eternal.....	Evanka & Family

ETERNAL LIGHT

Blessed Repose John Bibilikow-Memory Eternal.....	Helen, Christine, Jerry, Josh & Jenn
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas. Please join us in the parish hall for coffee hour.

There will be a 1 year Parastas for the repose of +Theodora Papalazarou following the veneration of the cross. Coffee & pastries are being donated today in +Theodora's memory by her family.

MEMORY ETERNAL St. Nicholas would like to extend our deepest sympathy and gratitude to the family of Capt. Jesse Ozbat (USA), Tim Seeley's cousin who was killed in Afghanistan on May 20. May God grant Jesse a Blessed Repose and rest among the saints.

GRAVE BLESSING at St. Nicholas Cemetery today at 3 pm.

CONGRATULATIONS Gerry and Lena Bakousidis announce the engagement of their son Phillip to Kassandra Overley of Saginaw, MI. Congratulations Phillip and Kassandra.

CHANGING OF ALTAR CLOTHS & CANDLES from white to green for Pentecost on Wednesday, May 30 at 10 am. Please come, lend a hand, and enjoy the fellowship.

OFFICE HOURS FOR THIS WEEK the parish office will be closed on Monday. The office will closing at 1:00 pm on Tuesday and will be open on Thursday, May 31. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

ST. CATHERINE'S LEAGUE DINNER OUT will be on Wednesday, June 6 at 5:30 pm at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth. To make your reservations please see Roseanne Bagale or Rosemary Vuckovich. ALL ladies of the parish are welcome!

MACEDONIAN OPEN will be held on Monday, June 18, 2012 at the Flint Elks Club. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A GOLFER TO BE INVOLVED. Monetary donations will gladly be accepted. Donations for door prizes is another way to be involved. The Macedonian Open committee is looking for sign sponsors whether it is a company, individuals or families. If you sponsored one for the festival previously, please sponsor one for the Macedonian Open because we are taking a one year hiatus from the festival. This is a great opportunity to support OUR PARISH (proceeds from the Open will benefit St. Nicholas). Dinner Only tickets are also available to **anyone** that would like to join us for dinner at a cost of \$40 per person. For more information please contact; Chris Nedanis cned77@gmail.com, Linda Branoff branoff721@aol.com 810-232-1916, George Branoff 810-214-1714, Angelo Panoff angelo.panoff@wellsfargo.com 810-232-4868

RUMMAGE SALE there will be NO spring rummage sale. You may bring your donations in for the fall rummage sale during office hours, before and after Saturday Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy. Please place your donations in the back classroom. If you need assistance please ask. The fall rummage sale will be held on September, 13 and 14. Set-up will be on September, 12 at 10am.

Schedule of services and events for the week of May 27, 2012

Sunday, May 27

3:00 pm St. Nicholas Cemetery grave blessings

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day

Office Closed

Tuesday, May 29

The parish office will be closing at 1pm

Wednesday, May 30

Venerable Isaac

9:00 am

Divine Liturgy

10:00 am

Changing of candles & altar cloths

Thursday, May 31

Office Open

Friday, June 1

6:00 pm

Vespers for Memorial Saturday followed by Trisagion for the departed

Saturday, June 2

4:30 pm

Vespers followed by Confessions

Sunday, June 3

Holy Pentecost

9:30 am

Third Hour

10:00 am

Divine Liturgy

12:30 pm

Vespers with Kneeling Prayers

Sunday Offerings for May 20, 2012

<i>Weekly Income</i>	
<i>Weekly Offering Envelope</i>	\$ 840.00
<i>Children's Offering</i>	\$ 3.00
<i>Cemetery Maintenance</i>	\$ 0.00
<i>Charity Envelope</i>	\$ 0.00
<i>Diocesan Support</i>	\$ 0.00
<i>OCA Envelope Missions</i>	\$ 0.00
<i>Candle Fund</i>	\$ 153.25
<i>Kitchen/Coffee</i>	\$ 0.00
<i>Seminarian Fund</i>	\$ 0.00
<i>Loose Offering</i>	\$ 27.00
<i>Kiosk</i>	\$ 0.00
<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 1,030.25
<i>Avg. Weekly Budget</i>	\$3,798.56
<i>+/- Budget</i>	- \$2,768.00

<i>Income to date</i>	\$76,702.98
<i>Expense to date</i>	\$69,906.81
<i>+/- to date</i>	\$6,796.17

102 People were in attendance on
Sunday May 20, 2012.