

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd, Lansing, NY 14882

HolyApostlesLansing.org

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MAY 28, 2017

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 6. Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Afterfeast of Ascension. St. Nicetas, Bishop of Chalcedon (9th c.). St. Ignatii (Ignatius), Bishop and Wonderworker of Rostov (1288). St. Eutychius, Bishop of Melitene (1st c.). Martyr Heliconis of Thessalonica (244). Hieromartyr Helladius, Bishop in the East (6th-7th c.). St. Germanus (Germaine, Herman), Bishop of Paris (576).

EPISTLE: Acts 20:16–18; 28–36: Paul warns of false teachers.

GOSPELS: John 17:1–13: Jesus prays for His disciples.

COFFEE HOUR: This week: Casey Next week: Johnson

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our students graduating from Cornell! We pray that you will continue to serve the Lord and His Church wherever He may lead you from here. Congratulations also to Ivan on graduating from the St. Tikhon's diaconal program.

PENTECOST: Next Sunday is the Great Feast of Pentecost. This Sunday and its week-long afterfeast conclude the period of the *Pentecostarion*, the festive time which began with Pascha. Following coffee hour, we will hold the service of “kneeling vespers,” with special prayers for the day, and re-introduce kneeling to our prayers after the Paschal festivities.

UPCOMING BAPTISM: Oscar Johnson will be baptized next Sunday, June 4, at 9 AM. Liturgy will begin after the conclusion of the baptism. Please plan to attend and welcome the new member of Christ's “rational flock.”

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD: Abp. Michael will be at our church August 19 & 20. Our parish will also be hosting the deanery picnic this weekend. Please plan to be here.

HOLY FIRE: We have received a flame lit from the Holy Fire which miraculously appears in Jerusalem on Pascha. You are welcome to light a suitable candle from it to take home and keep a flame burning at your home as well. Thanks to Vlad & Marina for making the trip to Rochester to bring us the fire.

KNOW YOUR FAITH: The next “Know Your Faith” series will be discussing Serge Verhovskoy's *The Light of the World*. (Not to be confused with Fr. Alexander Schmemmann's *For the Life of the*

World, the subject of a recent “Know Your Faith” series.) This book focuses on the Orthodox understanding of Christ, who He is, and what He calls us to be and do. It's enriching and challenging for people at any level of theological knowledge. We will be meeting on Tuesday evenings, beginning this Tuesday, May 31, at the Cup O Jo Café. Please let Fr. Joel know if you are interested.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISER: On Saturday, July 8, we'll be holding a chicken barbecue fundraiser. We'll need volunteers in the morning and early afternoon; please see Bill if you're able to help.

GRADUATION CELEBRATION: All the members of the parish are invited to a graduation party for John Schuler, at 1:30 PM today, in Myers Park Pavillion C.

WELCOME VISITORS! We warmly welcome all of our visitors! Please know that we are glad to have you here praying with us, and we invite you to stay after the service to enjoy a meal and meet everyone in our community.

PRAYER SCROLL

LIVING:

Apr Timothy H
Apr Herman S
Apr Sergius K
Apr Thomas E
Apr Stephen M
Apr John R
Apr Patrick C
Pr Adam S & Angie
Mother Raphaela
Mother Christophora
Mat Joanna B
Mat Katya
Mat Mary G
Kh Lynn
Mat Rebekah
Pani Amy
Joshua
Brittany
Gretchen
Marianne
Terrence
Helen
Judy
Mary & Susan
John & Carmine

Nathan
Leah
Helen
Lindsey
Elizabeth
Mary
Joe A
Daniel
Andrew & family
Carol
Elizabeth
David
Shirley
Christina
Jim & Kim
Rachel
Constantine & Maria
Gaetan
Christine
Samuel
Lisa
Lyudmila
Nickolay
Anetta
Zachary
Helena

Natasha, Lena, Vera,
Sergei
Caleb
Danielle
Larry, Mark, Katie
Ann
Dorothy
Ronald
Sheryl & Lacey
Alexander, Angela,
Anton
Peter
Gregory & Ann
Raymond
Vincent
Photini
Robert
Steven, Stephanie,
and family
Diana
Elizabeth
John
Felicia
Tom
Martha

Children: Anthony,
Mia, Isabel, Bear,
Victoria, Iva Bell,
Panagiotis, Ada,
Grace, Elias, Jack
Seminarians: Rdrs
Robert & Ivan
Birthdays: Janet,
Eileen, Greg J
Anniversaries:
Namesdays:

REPOSED:

Apr John U
Priest Matthew
Priest John
Apr Alexander
Dn Mark
Rdr Gregory
Daniel
Ada
Lillian
Joseph
Marie
Joseph
Laura

Martha
Stanley
Taissia
Steluța
Theophan
Lynda
Florence
James
James R
Vasily
Mordecai
Alexandr
Ron
John
Eleanor
Harold
Alfred
Edward
Michael
Mat Julianna
Mario
Newly Reposed:
Robert, James, Pr
Ronald, Pr William,
Wilhelmina

BY THE NUMBERS: Last Collection: \$1201.00. Building Fund: \$0.00.
Weekly Budget: \$1150. MTD: \$4277.00. Monthly Budget: \$4600

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Confessions are heard before and after Vespers or by appointment.

Sunday, May 21: 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

Monday, May 22: Rector's Sabbath

Tuesday, May 23: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer with Akathist

Wednesday, May 24: 8:30 AM Matins

Thursday, May 25: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer with Akathist

Friday, May 26: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

Saturday, May 27: 9 AM Memorial Liturgy

6 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, May 28: 9AM Baptism, Divine Liturgy, Social hour, and Kneeling Vespers

PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that Thou wouldst renew us and this parish by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with love and longing for Thee. Grant that we would seek not our own will, but to do Thy will in all things and to be willing to lay down our lives out of love for Thee and for our neighbor. Draw thirsty souls to this place and remove their spiritual blindness, granting them through Thy grace to see the beauty of Thy Holy Glory in this place. Fill this community with new life, spiritual vigor, and an insatiable desire to live godly and holy lives. Forgive us all of our sins as we fall down before Thee. Bring us all to a greater repentance and to an amendment of our lives as we look to Thee, the only merciful and loving Lord, Who calls all to salvation. We beg Thee, our merciful Lord, hear us, grant all of these petitions and all of our requests unto salvation: we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

FROM THE PENTECOSTARION

Let us listen to the Church of God as she cries out with lofty proclamation: Whoever is thirsty let him come to me and drink; the bowl that I carry is the bowl of truth; the drink in it I have mixed with the word of truth, pouring in not the water of contradiction but that of confession; the new Israel as he drinks from it sees God who declares: See, see, it is I; I have not changed; I am God first and last, and beside me there is no other at all. Those who partake from here shall be filled and praise the great mystery of true religion.

Glory to God for all things!

HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH LANSING, NEW YORK



SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2017
AFTERFEAST OF ASCENSION
FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL
COUNCIL

“BETWEEN ASCENSION AND PENTECOST”

by Archpriest Thaddaeus Hardenbrook

Why, after five consecutive Sundays focusing on Christ and His miracles, do we suddenly switch to the First Ecumenical Council, an event that took place three hundred years after the subjects of the previous Sundays?

Up until the Feast of Ascension, each Sunday after Pascha focuses on Christ in the midst of humanity, tangibly and physically present. We see Him walking the earth, teaching, touching, listening; bound, beaten, crucified, entombed; resurrected, scarred, and even eating.

But now, Christ has ascended! And for the first time since His Nativity, Christ is not visible to human eyes or tangible to human hands. With the Ascension of Christ, the Church wisely turns our attention from seeing and touching Christ to the higher calling of believing in Him. Our experience is transferred from the body of Christ as visible Man to His continued mystical presence on the Earth as His Body, the Church.

Christ now heals and saves all men everywhere by way of the Church, as experienced and defended by the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. This council was held in Nicaea in the year AD 325. At the time, controversy caused by the heretical teachings of Arius prompted Emperor Constantine to arrange this first council in order to restore unity in the Church and establish a common creed. Over six hundred representatives were present at the council, three hundred of whom were bishops. Notable figures at the council included St. Athanasius and St. Ephrem (both deacons at the time), and St. Nicholas of Myra.

There are many “Christian” expressions in the world today, but only the Church of the Ecumenical Councils has maintained the teachings of Christ, as delivered to the Apostles, unchanged. The Church of the Holy Fathers is the Body of Christ; the Church of the Holy Fathers is Christ in the form in which He chose to make Himself present in this world from the time of His Ascension into Heaven until His awesome Second Coming.

This recognition of the Church as Christ present in the world falls between Ascension and Pentecost as a reminder that the Church holds not only the correct understanding of Christ but also His own power of healing and salvation, as preserved and invigorated by the descent of the Holy Spirit. In His Resurrection, Christ made possible the return of man to his pre-fallen state and his progress beyond this into union with God. Being membered to His Body the Church is the most powerful step in that return, and by the Grace of the Holy Spirit, the Church does not fail in its purpose despite the constant failings of the men within it.

We Orthodox do not find salvation by figuring out, mastering, dissecting, or analyzing Christian life. Study is very important, but submission is essential – submission of our earthly minds to the mind of the Church and, therein, to the mind of God. When we submit to what has been delivered to us by the Church—who received it from the Fathers, who received it from the Apostles, who received it from Christ, who ascended into Heaven and sent the Holy Spirit, who ensures the permanence of right belief—we are submitting to the same healing and salvation at the hands of Christ as did the paralytic, the Samaritan woman, and the man born blind.

By submission to the teachings of the Church, and by nurturing the seed of the grace of the Holy Spirit planted in us at baptism, we have the potential to be transformed into Christlikeness, to become “little Christs,” as experienced by the Apostles and saints. The task of nurturing this seed of holiness is not an easy one. The seed longs to grow vigorously, but its portion of fertile soil in our hearts may be very small. Yet with submission to the teaching of the Church, in actual, consistent, daily practice, the seed begins to grow. For this submission to the mind of the Church is the first fruit of faith—real faith. In practicing faith, we experience the first rays of divine light that nurture the seed of the Holy Spirit within us and preserve what the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council so faithfully delivered to us that we may be saved.

Christ is Ascended!



O Lord, when, in your loving kindness, you had fulfilled the mystery hidden from the ages and from generations, you came with your Disciples to the mount of Olives, having with you her who gave birth to you, the Maker and Creator of all things; for it was necessary that she, who had suffered so greatly as a mother at your passion, should also be filled with joy beyond measure at the glory of your flesh. We too, Master, sharing in the joy of your ascent to heaven glorify your great mercy which has come to pass for us.

–from the Pentecostarion

WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 28

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 hast ascended 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 didst 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 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!

Alleluia, Tone 1

v: The Lord, the God of gods, speaketh and summoneth 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 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...

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).