

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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Department of  
**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

## The First Ecumenical Council

**Today we remember the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, convened at Nicaea in 325. The results of the Council were very important, but so was its personal meaning for those who attended, as Father Alexander Schmemmann described:**

*For the first time, after centuries of semi-subterranean existence, prelates gathered from all parts of the Church, many still with the marks of wounds and mutilations received under [the persecutions of the emperor] Diocletian. The unprecedented magnificence of their reception and the hospitality and kindness of the emperor [Constantine] confirmed their joyous assurance that a new era had begun and that Christ was indeed victorious over the world. Constantine himself was the first to interpret the council in this way.*

*The great accomplishment of the Council was to refute Arianism, a widely-held heresy that threatened to divide the Church. It was a dispute, as the emperor said, that was "more dangerous than war and other conflicts" because it called into question Jesus' ability to be our Savior.*

*The Arians claimed that Jesus was not eternal, not equal to His Father, but a created being. The Church insisted that He had to be the divinely powerful Son of God in order to be able to save us. So, opposing*

*Arianism, the Fathers of the Council at Nicaea proclaimed that Jesus Christ is of the same substance as His Father, and there was never a time when He did not exist. His perfect divinity, therefore, was able to assume perfect humanity, and save all who are human.*



May 20, 2018

7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA

**Holy Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council**

**Afterfeast of the Ascension**

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 26-36  
Gospel: Jn. 17:1-13
- **Panikhida** - in memory of **Mary Fechisin**, offered by Helen & Steven Baron
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

*Schedule of Services*

**SATURDAY, MAY 26 - MEMORIAL SATURDAY**

5:30pm - Panikhida

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

**SUNDAY, MAY 27 - HOLY PENTECOST**

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Vespers with kneeling prayers

## Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Genevieve Bobenko, Michael Bzik, Andrew & Dorothy Fabian, Mary Hadginske, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

*This teaching is squarely Biblical. In one verse of the reading chosen for this day, John 17:5, Jesus prays, "And now, Father, glorify me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made." Father and Son have the same glory, and have had it forever.*

*Despite its clear Biblical basis, there are many who don't accept the Church's teaching, including Unitarians, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Mormons whose work is so generously supported by the devout Marriott family's hotel empire. Even immediately after the decisive declarations of Nicaea, there was conflict. Saint Athanasius was the hero of the Council because he formulated the term "homoousion" (meaning "of one substance" and referring to Christ and His Father.) But Athanasius was hounded ever after by his Arian enemies; they managed to get him condemned and exiled.*

*The truth established at Nicaea remains basic to our faith. But then, as now, truth was accompanied by deceitfulness and the persecution of truth tellers. We must take comfort, as fourth century Orthodox Christians also had to do, in another verse (16:33b) from John's Gospel: "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Dorothy Fabian**, who celebrates her birthday this Thursday. May God grant you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



## Announcements

◆ Archimandrite Sergius and the Brotherhood of **St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA** invite everyone to attend any or all events for the **114<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage** beginning May 25. This year's pilgrimage continues the tradition laid down by St. Tikhon and the Monastery's first Abbot, Fr. Arseny. It will be especially graced, once again, by the presence of the myrrh-streaming Hawaiian Iveron Icon of the Mother of God, as well as by the presence of numerous hierarchs, clergy, faithful, and friends of the Orthodox Church in this land. Come, pilgrims, and walk in the footsteps of the Saints! For more information and schedule of services/events please see flyers at the bulletin board.

◆ **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** program have funded vital ministries in our Diocese for several years. Parishes, youth, seminarians, and clergy have all benefitted through financial assistance, retreats, workshops, programs, and social/educational opportunities that help to nurture and grow the Body of Christ. Thanks to our DDBs, much has been accomplished as is being accomplished to this day. The fruits of their investment in the life of our Diocese are obvious and the source of much joy. As we are in the midst of the journey to Pentecost, perhaps you will consider making a contribution to the 2018 DDB program, and join with many others in this blessed work. For more information about the program please pick up a brochure by the bulletin board ... and, thank you for your generosity!