

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

170 Lexington Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey, 07055
www.stjohnspassaic.org

REV. FR. IGOR KSENIUK, Rector

973-473-1928 (Phone/Fax)
646-387-5494 (cell)
fr.igorksn@gmail.com

Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

The First Ecumenical Council

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 has 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 that 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.

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, Mary Ann Dolak, Dorothy Fabian, Barbara Kary, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

This teaching is squarely Biblical. In 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 **Sofia Kseniuk**, who celebrates her birthday this Wednesday; and **Kerri Czech**, this Thursday. May God grant both of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ **Save the date:** on **Monday, June 24**, our parish patron saint, John the Baptist, is commemorated on the feast day of his nativity. **His Eminence, Archbishop Michael** will lead us in celebration of the Divine Liturgy on that day. He will also present the Gold Cross to Fr. Igor, which he was awarded at the last meeting of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America. Reading of Hours will begin at 9:10am. We will greet our Vladika at 9:30am. Please try your best to attend and not to miss this service. After the Liturgy, there will be a luncheon at Mario's Restaurant in Clifton. There is a sign-up list in the candle room, so if you are planning to attend the luncheon, please write your name on that list today. We need to know the number of people (adults and children) attending, since the seating is limited.

Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to the Paschal Divine Liturgy this morning. It is our joy to have you with us today. If this is your first visit to our parish, we welcome you and invite you to return as often as you are able.

While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross, receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and for fellowship in our Church Hall after the service.



June 9, 2019

7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Holy Fathers of the 1st 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 **Steven Baron**, offered by Peter & Ruth Glita.
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 - MEMORIAL SATURDAY

5:30pm - Panikhida
6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

SUNDAY, JUNE 16 - HOLY PENTECOST

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