

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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### **Sunday, May 28, 2017 | Seventh Sunday of Pascha**

Tone 6 – Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council  
Afterfeast of the Ascension  
Saint Nicetas, Bishop of Chalcedon (9<sup>th</sup> c.)

### **V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector**

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### **Weekly Schedule**

This Weekend: May 28 and 29 – Memorial Day Pilgrimage at Saint Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA.

Today: Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.  
Topic: History of the Divine Liturgy

Monday: May 29 – Memorial Day!  
Please remember those Veterans who sacrificed their lives for this great country we live in.

Saturday: June 3 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: June 4 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha! **Holy Pentecost!**  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
Vespers with Kneeling Service immediately after Liturgy  
*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: June 4 – Annual Pentecostal Dinner with Pascha food after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

## **Texts for the Liturgical Service**

### **Troparion (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.

### **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 – Holy 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 4 – Holy 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 8 – 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!

### **Epistle Reading: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36**

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, 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.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)



- v. The Lord, the God of gods, speaketh and summoneth the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Gather to Me, My venerable ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: John 17:1-13**

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.

**Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:**

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who has ascended from earth to heaven! / We magnify thee, O Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gavest birth in time to the Timeless One.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!  
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

*(Instead of "We have seen the True Light," we sing the Troparion of Ascension (on page 2))*

**Announcements**

**A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guest** who worshiped with us today and who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

## Announcements

The parish is asking if there is anyone who knows someone who has an extra “working” refrigerator that they are looking to dispose of that our church can use. Currently, our refrigerator is operational, but the freezer unit for some odd reason keeps turning itself on and off. This causes water to leak inside the refrigerator thereby causing a major puddle of water to accumulate on the bottom glass shelf and at the bottom of the refrigerator. It’s now gotten to the point where the water needs to be wiped up on a weekly basis. If you know of anyone, please inform a member of the parish council. Thank You!

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### MEMORIAL DAY ORIGIN

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Over two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it’s difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day.

Regardless of the exact date or location of its origins, one thing is clear – Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11. “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,” he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn’t the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war).

It is now observed in almost every state on the last Monday in May with Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 – 363). This helped ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays, though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead.



**GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS!!!**





**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

The Rabik Family offered by Nancy Rabik  
Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Emilie Albrecht  
Ronald Andrew and Ellen Kavakovich offered by M/M Albert Kavalkovich  
Barbara and Norman Andrews offered by M/M Albert Kavalkovich  
Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Emily Gerasimoff

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

Helen Riley offered by Renzetti Family  
Helen Riley offered by M/M Herbert  
Helen Riley offered by Nina Patterson  
Helen Riley offered by M/M LeRoy  
Helen Riley offered by Emily Gerasimoff

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:** Helen Riley (*newly departed*); Julia Makara (*newly departed*); Dave Albrecht Sr (on his recovery & rehabilitation); Emelie Albrecht (on her recovery & rehabilitation); Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino; Father John Bohush and the parishioners of Saint Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church in Philadelphia; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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On Monday, May 15, our beloved sister in Christ, the handmaiden of God, **Helen Riley**, fell asleep in the Lord. Helen was a loving mother, sister, and aunt along with being a dedicated parishioner. She will be remembered for all of the help she offered to her parish, anywhere from spending her time cleaning the church to offering her cooking talents with helping prepare food for any dinner event.

May her Memory be Eternal!      Věchnaya Pamyat!

**Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!**

## Announcements (cont.)

**Sign up sheets for Coffee Hour, Cleaning and Epistle & Hours Reading.** Sign up sheets for the above items are posted on the bulletin board in the church basement. Please be considerate and volunteer to assist with some of the parish responsibilities. Your time is very much appreciated!

**Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon.** In addition to our general collection, the parish takes a special collection each week to fund certain parish projects. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. The special collections are as follows:

- First Sunday of every month – Kitchen Fund Project
- Second Sunday of every month – Icon Fund (2016-17)
- Third Sunday of every month - Restoration/Maintenance Fund
- Fourth Sunday of every month – Charity Giving

**Note:** if there is a Fifth Sunday during a month, the special collection is earmarked for the Kitchen Fund Project, unless otherwise noted and stated by the Parish Council.

### Cash Flow Activity (May)

	<u>Week of May 15 to May 22</u>	<u>May Month-to-date</u>
Attendance:	38	38 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,468.00	\$ 4,989.00
Funds Out:	\$ 2,019.05	\$ 4,977.09
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 551.05)	\$ 11.91

Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!

**Shop Rite Gift Cards:** If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see David Pellack to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card is an additional fundraising project that helps support the church at no additional expense to the purchaser.



## Calendar of Events

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Liturgy.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – Church Life Discussion Class after Liturgy.

**Sunday, May 28 - Church Life Discussion after the Divine Liturgy and Fellowship hour in the church.** The Topic – History of the Divine Liturgy. Please note the Church Life Discussion on the History of the Divine Liturgy is held on the **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday** of each month.

**Annual Pentecost (Pascha) Dinner – Sunday, June 4 after Vespers in the church basement.**  
The parish will hold its annual Pentecost Dinner with Pascha food. If you wish to bring or donate Pascha food, beverages, or kitchen supplies, please see Catherine Kavalkovich to discuss what items the parish will need for our dinner. The dinner will be a free will offering and any monetary donations towards the dinner are always appreciated! Thank You!

**Sunday, June 11 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month)!** All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-ups from the previous meeting; Hall status rental update; prioritize additional work that needs to be done over at the Hall now that the tenants have officially moved into the Hall; and any additional action(s) that need to be taken as a result of deliberations that occurred during the Spring General Parish Meeting.

**Bible Study – Tuesday, June 13 at 6:30pm in the church basement.**  
The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and continue reading and discussing the Book of Leviticus.

**Thursday, June 29 – Services for the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul!**

The Service schedule for this Feast Day has not been finalized as of the printing of this bulletin. Once the time and date has been determined, it will be announced in church and reported in all of the parish social media outlets (i.e. website, Facebook, and in this bulletin). No determination yet whether there will be Vespers Liturgy the night before (June 28) or Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day itself.



## Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council [May 28<sup>th</sup>]

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).