

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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### Sunday, May 20, 2018 | Seventh Sunday of Pascha

Tone 6 – Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Afterfeast of the Ascension

Martyr Thalelaeus at Egae in Cilicia (ca.284)

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

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### Weekly Schedule

- Today: Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy!  
Topic: Icons, Iconography, and Iconostas. Its history and the stories displayed on them.
- Monday: Saint Constantine and his mother Saint Helen
- Saturday: May 26 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!
- Sunday: May 27 – 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: May 27 – 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 & guests** 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

As many of you are aware of by now, the church has a structural issue on the north side (street side) of the building where the iconostas is located. With all the rain in the area over the past week, water has seeped into the church from the roof between the outside brick wall and the drywall/sheetrock. This has caused the water to run along either a support beam or, more likely, the duct work for the heating unit which runs under the altar steps in front of the iconostas. As a result of this happening: 1) the carpet area in the church in front of the icons of Saint Olga and Saint Nicholas are wet, along with the whole carpet area where the choir currently stands; 2) this same water is also dripping down into the church basement on the carpets in front of the metal pantry cabinet next to the coffer station and up on the stage area near that same coffee station; and finally, 3) this water is also dripping down in the storage room where the church stores its floral arrangements and colored votive vigil glasses on a full wall shelving unit.

During the week, a few parishioners journeyed up to the bell tower to observe if there was any debris on the roof or if the downspout was clogged in the area in question. Due to the wet and windy conditions that day, no one physically went out onto the roof or crawled their way down to the edge of the roof. However, from the view from inside the cupola, the roof was absolutely clean and it appeared nothing was blocking the opening of the downspout. Unfortunately, they were unable to determine if the drain itself is clogged or if there is a crack in the landing area at the bottom of the roof. This can only be determine by actually going up on the roof and physically inspecting that specific area where it's believed the water is coming into the church.

This is not the first time a water issue has occurred in this area. As you can observe, the paint on the walls has been slowly peeling away over the years and there has been debris on the carpets in this area in the past. This section of the wall needs to be fixed and repaired, but that can only happen once the source of how the water is entering the building and to have that issue addressed and corrected.

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Please be mindful that when you discard a styrofoam cup, a plastic bottle, or an aluminum can which still has liquid in it, the liquid eventually end up at the bottom of the trash or recycling bag. When these bags are taken outside for pick up, the liquid leaks from the bag onto the carpets in the church basement. Please, before throwing out any of these containers, empty the liquid out first in the bathroom sinks. Thank you for your understanding!

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Marc, Patricia, Catherine, and All Mothers offered by M/M K Kavalkovich  
John and Victoria Drimak offered by Sandra Hourahan

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Irene Kavcsak, Emelie Albrecht, Mary Spack offered by Nina Patterson  
Anna Rabik offered by her son Joseph Rabik  
Anna Kapusnik offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Helen Gerasimoff, Marion Kaval offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Emelie Albrecht offered by Melanie Albrecht  
Anne Ashmore, Helen Gerasimoff, Bridget Salamone, Anna Kapusnik offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich & Family

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino (retired); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Remember the 10 victims and the 10 additional injured in the senseless atrocity against humanity at the Santa Fe High School (located in south-east Houston, Texas) tragedy on Friday.

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

## Announcements (cont.)

### **Coffee Hour / Cleaning and Epistle / Hours Reading Schedule.**

We now have an established full rotating schedule for the Coffee Hour & Cleaning, and the Hours & Epistle Readings. The Reading schedule sheets will be posted quarterly on the bulletin board in the church basement. The Coffee Hour/Cleaning schedule is in a binder located on the display case.

**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 (2016-18)
- 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 7 to May 13</u>	<u>May Month-to-date</u>
Attendance:	43	38 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,586.00	\$ 4,537.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,972.85	\$ 3,540.20
Net Surplus/ <b>(Deficit)</b> :	\$ 613.15	\$ 996.80

*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 Divine 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 Divine 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 Divine Liturgy.

**Today - Church Life Discussion class after Divine Liturgy and Fellowship Hour. (The 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month)**

The Topic – Icons, Iconography, and Iconostas. It's history and the stories displayed on them. *NOTE the change in date due to Pentecost next Sunday!*

**Annual Pentecost (Pascha) Dinner – Sunday, MAY 27 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!

**The 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage to St Tikhon's Monastery**

The Annual Pilgrimage to St Tikhon's Monastery is scheduled for May 25 through May 28, 2018 (Pentecost Weekend). Once again, Pilgrims will be especially graced by the presence of the Myrrhstreaming Hawaiian Iveron Icon of the Mother of God and by the participation and presence of numerous hierarchs, clergy, faithful, and friends from the Orthodox Church in America and other Orthodox jurisdictions from America and beyond.

Pilgrimage information and schedule for the weekend events are posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule area.

**Spring General Parish Meeting - Sunday, June 3, 2018 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #2 of 3.**

According to Article IV, Section 2, Subsection A. of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Annual and General Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the amvon on three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the Meeting. Discussions will include events since the Annual Parish Meeting. The meeting should take about an hour but should not exceed past 90 minutes.

**Cleaning Teams:** Today (May 20): Saint John of Kronstadt (Lena, Paul & William Filanowski, and Matt Andrews).  
Next Week (May 27): Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre (John Spack, Justine Spack and Julia Fagbo).



## Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council [May 20<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).