

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, June 9, 2019 | Seventh Sunday of Pascha

Tone 6 – Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Afterfeast of the Ascension

St Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria (444)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: ~~Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement
Sunday school room. [POSTPONED UNTIL JULY!!]~~

Tuesday: June 11 – Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement.
The class will continue reading the Books of Samuel.

Saturday: June 15 – Blessing of Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery beginning at 12
noon! *(Weather Permitting!!!)*

Saturday: June 15 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: June 16 - 8th 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 16 – 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 8 – 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 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!

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

SAVE THE DATE – Sunday, July 14, 2019 – Archbishop MARK Visitation

His Eminence, Archbishop MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania will be visiting our parish and serving in a full pontifical Divine Liturgy.

His visit is in coordination with the ordination of the Reader Michael McCartney to the Holy Diaconate AND the ordination of the Reader Daniel Kenneth Kavalkovich to SubDeacon. AXIOS!

Church Life Discussion Class is now on Summer Recess!

However, the Church Life Discussion Class will resume on Sunday, September 22, 2019. We will remain with the topic: Don't Be Tone Deaf! Understanding the Arrangements and Beauty of the Eight Tones during all Liturgical Services.

This past year was a challenge to hold the Discussion Class on a regular monthly basis due to cancellations and rescheduling for one reason or another. Therefore, Father Mark will reintroduce the class from the beginning so that everyone attending is on the same page.

The remaining Fall Sundays in 2019 the class will be held are: October 27, November 24, and December 22. Please keep these dates in your reminder calendar if you wish on attending these discussion classes. Thank You!

Parish Restoration Project:

Please visit the parish website and click on the Restoration Project section to read a brief note on the additional work needed to restore the parish. If you are interested in volunteering some of your time, at your convenience, and providing the talents God has given you, please contact anyone on the Parish Council or the Property Committee to schedule a date, time, and task. Thank

AMAZON SMILE!

When ordering online on Amazon.com, please make sure to click on Amazon Smile and select our church - Assumption of the Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church - to have a small percentage of your purchases (0.5%) to be contributed to our church. For more information on the Amazon purchase process, please speak with any member of the parish council. Thank You!

Wool Donations:

The Parish is now accepting either actual donations of wool or monetary donations to purchase wool to knit blankets and hats. Please see Dr. Janine McCartney for more details on this project!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

For Health and for Good Luck to All Parishioners offered by Joseph Rabik
Family offered by Nina Patterson
Mr Paul Searles offered by the Pellack Family
Family and Friends offered by the Pellack Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Richard Coan offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 6/2/19:

Two Small Votive Crosses – Memory of Paul Kavcsak, Irene Kavcsak, Michael Kavcsak, Julia Kavcsak, Stephen Spack, Mary Spack, Arthur Patterson, Grace Patterson offered by Nina Patterson

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Please remember in your prayers:

Lucas Andrews (**Baptized – May 11**); Christopher and Allison Andrews; Grace Corba; Catherine Kavalkovich; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Father Mark Koczak (bad back); Matushka Jan Koczak (recovery after knee surgery); Sheba Patton; Margaret Pellack; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

Remember the 12 victims and the many injured in the senseless atrocity against humanity at the city public works department in the Virginia Beach Municipal Centre in Virginia Beach, VA this past Friday.

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Cookbook Sale:

The parish cookout, *At Our Table*, is for sale in the church basement and also on Amazon.com website. Please speak with Dr. Janine McCartney for more information on the parish cookbooks.

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 – Youth Fund (*reactivated July 2018*)
- 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/June)

	<u>Week of May 27 to June 2</u>	<u>May Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	35	36 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 4,841.69	\$ 7,235.02
Funds Out:	\$ 3,023.37	\$ 5,481.82
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) :	\$ 1,818.32	\$ 1,753.20

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

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

Today – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2nd Sunday of the month). All property committee members are asked to attend this important meeting. Discussions will include the work to repair the roof and wall as a result of the water damage, and the aftermath feedback from the Spring General Parish Meeting from last Sunday, June 2.

Bible Study – Tuesday, June 11 at 6:30pm in the church basement.
The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and will continue the readings and discussing the section in the Bible – The Books of **Samuel**.

Saturday, June 15 – Blessing of the Graves at Mount Moriah – 12 Noon!
[Rescheduled from Saint Thomas Sunday due to Inclement Weather]
If the weather cooperates with us, we'll have our annual Blessing of the Graves on this day. Please dress appropriately for that day's weather conditions.

Annual Pentecost (Pascha) Dinner – Sunday, JUNE 16 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 **TODAY** 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!

Saturday, June 22 – Spring Outdoor Clean-UP – 10AM to 2PM
[The main areas of focus will be cleaning up the backyard area over at the 2111 home, the yard area behind the garage, and the area behind the Church Hall.
[Rain Date: Saturday, June 29 after Divine Liturgy (Saints Peter & Paul Feast Day)]

Saturday, June 29 – Divine Liturgy beginning at 9:00AM
Feast of Holy Apostles Peter and Paul

Parish Council (Quarterly) Meeting – Sunday, June 30 – after Divine Liturgy in church basement Sunday school room!

Cleaning Teams: Today (June 9): Saint Alexander Hotovitzky
(Brett McKenna, Tanya Krawchuk, Pete Witiak).
Next Week (June 16): Saint Bridet of Ireland
(Catherine & Albert Kavalkovich, Simon Herbert).



Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council [June 9th]

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).