

May 24, 2020
Sunday of the Fathers of the First Nicean Council



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Christ is Glorified! Exalt Him Forever! ~ Christos Proslavlennyj! Velicajme Jeho vo v'iki!

SUN., MAY 24 8:30 A.M	SUNDAY of the FATHERS of the FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL Divine Liturgy Father Geoff, thanksgiving for our pastor, offered by Prudence Peya
SAT., MAY 30	FIFTH and FINAL ALL-SOULS SATURDAY
SUN., MAY 31 8:30 A.M	PENTECOST SUNDAY Divine Liturgy + Sr. Rose Elizabeth, offered by James Mudron

Next Sunday: We Prepare to Celebrate Pentecost

Next Sunday we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday, which is a celebration of the fulfillment of the promises of God. Pentecost Sunday – the Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit is also known as the Green Sunday. Why? Green is the color of spring and summer, the color of life, and life is an attribute of the Holy Spirit, “the Lord and giver of Life” who animates us all. In commemoration of Pentecost, please **wear green** to celebrate this day!



Freedom Has a Cost

The origin of Memorial day began with remembering the dead in the Civil War - the women of Pennsylvania who decorated Union graves in August of 1864, the women of Virginia who decorated Confederate graves in April of 1865, and the women of Columbus, MS who decorated the graves of both Union and Confederate dead - prompting Horace Greeley's editorial and the subsequent events which called for national observance of such memorials. **This day reminds us of all those who have died in war, hence that freedom has a cost.**



The Church was strengthened into one faith through the preaching of the Apostles and the doctrines of the Fathers. The Church is robed in truth woven of the word of God from above. It teaches truth, and glorifies the great mystery of faith.



Today we celebrate the memory of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council which is annually celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost, following Ascension Thursday. As we witnessed on the Feast of the Ascension, when Christ ascended, He reiterated His promise of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles. The Holy Spirit guided the Church, and this guidance is magnificently made manifest in the history of the Ecumenical Councils, when dogmas were confirmed and heresies were corrected. It was the Holy Spirit who guided the Holy Fathers in the councils and confirmed their pronouncements.

There have been seven Ecumenical Councils, which were convened when there was some heresy that endangered the purity of the true faith. The First Ecumenical council that we celebrate today was held in 325 AD in a small town in Asia Minor called Nicea. According to the historical documents, 318 bishops participated in the council, who are called “holy fathers of Nicea” or just ‘holy 318’. The number 318 has a biblical significance as the bishops are seen like 318 servants of Abraham (Gen 14:14). This First Ecumenical Council produced four important documents: 1. Confession of Faith (Symbol), which Arius and two of his supporters declined to undersign and were thereby excommunicated and exiled to Illyricum. 2. The council decided upon the date of Pascha-Easter and controversies on this issue were settled. 3. Twenty Canons to the question of ecclesiastical discipline. 4. A Synodal letter, which was sent to all sister Churches to explain the proceedings of the council and thereby a call to obey the decisions of the council.

Recognizing the divine Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council as heralds of the Faith after the Holy Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honor, and unto the strengthening of the true Faith.

Epistle Readers – May 24: Louisa Hersh – May 31: Reaghan Cody
Ushers – May 24: R. Dzumba/F. Hersh – May 31: J. Yurosky/ M. Bobanic
Troica Holders – May 24: J. Yurosky – May 31: R. Mudron

Happy Birthday Greetings this Week: May 25: Connie Hersh, May 26: John Poiarkoff
Wedding Anniversaries this Week: May 29: John & Janice Gural

Pray for those sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all those who are in need of our prayers:

HOME – Eileen Batcha, Natalie Jugan-Diaz, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Josephine Maruhnich, Mary Salamon, John Simunick, Bonnie Taylor

Hunter's Care Home (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff
West Hills Health & Rehab Center (951 Brodhead Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108) – Alice Haber, Margaret Klacik
Beaver Meadows (5130 Tuscarawas Rd, Beaver, PA 15009) - Angie Yuhasz

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, David Klacik,
Louisa Hersh**

**E.C.F. coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh
Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff**

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies
Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the church office
Holy Mystery of Anointing Ask prior to surgery or serious illness
Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the church office eight months prior to wedding
Religious Education Classes September through May, following Sunday Divine Liturgy
Pirohi Sales 2nd Friday of each month, Sept. through May
St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club Everyone welcome to participate

Be lifted up! - The ascension of Christ is our elevation. Hope for the body is also invited where the glory of the Head precedes us. Let us exult, dearly beloved, with worthy joy and be glad with a holy thanksgiving. Today we not only are established as possessors of paradise, but we have even penetrated the heights of the heavens in Christ. *(St Leo the Great, Sermon 73)*