

Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Christian Church

A Parish of the Diocese of New England of the Orthodox Church in America

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Sunday, July 16, 2017

The 6th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 5

Commemoration of the Fathers
of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

Commemoration of the Hieromartyr Athenogenes,
Bishop of Heracleopolis (4th c.)

Schedule of Services

- 7/16 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 7/19 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 7/22 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
*Followed by the Monthly Rite
of General Confession*
- 7/23 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 7/26 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 7/29 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 7/30 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 7/31 Monday**
7:00 PM – Parish Council Meeting
- 8/1 Tuesday**
First Day of the Dormition Fast
- 8/2 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 8/5 Saturday**
Eve of the Feast of the Transfiguration
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 8/6 Sunday**
Feast of the Transfiguration
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

*Fr. John will be away from Sunday, August 6,
after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, until
late in the evening on Saturday, August 12,
leading the Annual Diocesan Youth Rally in
Contoocook, New Hampshire*

- 8/9 Wednesday**
NQ Matins (Fr. John at Youth Rally)

What is an Ecumenical Council?

An Ecumenical Council is a council which is recognized as having universal authority in the Church. In other words, the decisions of a council that is formally recognized as “Ecumenical” are decisions that Church sees as binding upon all members of the Church. The word “ecumenical” comes from the Greek word “oikoumene,” which means the “inhabited world,” so an ecumenical council is, therefore, a universal council gathered from throughout the Christian world.

The Orthodox Church accepts seven councils as Ecumenical Councils. In actual practice, these councils were among those councils of the Church’s bishops that were called together by the Emperor of Constantinople, the decisions of which were then enforced by the Emperor as imperial law in the Byzantine (Late Roman) Empire, in which Christianity was by then the state religion. Byzantine Emperors, in fact, called together more than seven such councils of bishops, but of them only seven have been recognized as truly authoritative and trustworthy.

The Orthodox Church recognizes the decrees of the following seven councils as binding on all Orthodox Christian believers—these are the Seven Ecumenical Councils: Nicea I (325), Constantinople I (381), Ephesus (431), Chalcedon (451), Constantinople II (553), Constantinople III (681) and Nicea II (787).

The first two Ecumenical Councils resulted in the agreement upon the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (usually just called the Nicene Creed), which is the Creed that we still use today in the Orthodox Church during every celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The word “Creed,” comes from the Latin word “credo,” which means “I believe,” which is, of course, how the Creed begins. The Creed defines the divinity of the three persons of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Third Council and Fourth Council dealt in greater detail with the Church’s teachings about Jesus Christ, about whom and what He was and is. The Third Council defended the use of the term “Theotokos” (a Greek word meaning “Birthgiver of God”) to refer to Jesus’ mother, the Virgin Mary, so as to defend the teaching of the Church that Jesus Christ is truly the incarnate...

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PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for all victims of disaster, difficulty and senseless violence throughout the world.

+ THOSE WHO HAVE DEPARTED THIS LIFE: *Memory Eternal!*

Newly Departed

Protodeacon Gregory Hatrak d. 7/1/17
Stefanie Yazge—a friend of the Hopko family d. 6/29/17

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Tessie Panchak 7/17/1969
Makar Krivoy 7/17/1975
Anastasia Kovaleski 7/17/1975
Anna Tczap 7/17/1977
Steven Duke 7/17/1982
Alexander Rewak 7/19/1994
Metro Glowa 7/20/1992
Stephen Letish 7/21/1917
Eugene Kymanov 7/21/1927
Audi Khish 7/21/1934
James P. Casey 7/21/1965
Michael O'Hazo 7/21/1973
John Lyga 7/22/1960

THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP

Persons captive and suffering for the Faith

Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John—hostages in Syria

Those who are sick and suffering

Fyodor (Frank) Guba—increasing sufferings from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Dolores Twombly—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment
Karen—Mary Fomenko's niece; unwell and in need of prayers
child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer
child Matthew—son of friends of M. Osuch; genetic disorder with medical complications
child Ava—young daughter of friends of Melanie Osuch; suffering seizures
Alexander—acquaintance of M. Osuch; suffering and in need of God's mercy and help
Michele—very close friend of M. Osuch; troubled and in need of God's mercy and help
Anna Osuch—suffering in ill health
Jadwiga ["Yahd-vee-gah"]—mother of an acquaintance of E. Watras; cancer
Steven Belonick—Cynthia Belonick's father; unwell
Phyllis George—Donna Kriniske's cousin; battling breast cancer
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
Michael "Mischa" Semanitzky—Dn. Paul's uncle; ongoing health issues
Gregory Shesko—long-time laborer in the Diocese of New England; lung cancer
Hope—Fr. John's sister Catherine's sister-in-law; tumor in one of her kidneys
Nicole—acquaintance of Tom and Marie Wood; young mother, overcoming leukemia
child Asa—great-grandson of friend of E. Watras; child with developmental challenges
Barbara—Arlene Osuch's sister; epilepsy with complications
Anatoli—a friend of Tania Bouteneff; diagnosed with colon cancer

Galina—wife of above-mentioned Anatoli
William "Bill" Markovich—recently unwell
Veronika "Nika" Dubnansky—continuing her recovery
Samantha—extremely ill child for whom we have been asked to pray
Eugene—Tania Bouteneff's uncle; battling cancer
Marie Wood—still in recovery from recent ill health, but doing well, praise be
Donna—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease
Deryl—Ann Sovyrda's nephew; kidney disease
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
Lucretia—friend of Jeanne Moore; broken leg
MaryEllen—Louine King's daughter-in-law; declining due to Huntington's Disease
James—Louine King's son; chronic ankle joint issues, perhaps requiring surgery
Justin—Louine King's great-grandson; troubled and in need of our prayers
Zachary—nephew of acquaintances of Nimcheks; recent double lung transplant
George Klachany—our fellow parishioner; still in need of prayers for health
Virginia—Elena Watras' sister; unwell and in need of prayers
Dawn—friend of Joan Markovich; Stage Four lung cancer
Vince—friend of the Oraschewsky Family; colon cancer
child Maver—child of friends of the G. and D. Wegh Family; serious medical condition
Dianna—Jennifer Wegh's mother; suffered an apparent stroke with complications
John Cordone—Thomas Hopko's grandfather-in-law; now in hospice
John Kuzmich—suffering from lung cancer
Louine "Anna" King—suffering from lung cancer
Mary Fomenko—recently unwell; now back home, but still ailing
Vera Bouteneff—Tania Bouteneff's mother; presently unwell
Galina—Svetlana Shorey's sister-in-law; suffering with cancer
Archpriest Vladimir Horoszczak; underwent open heart surgery on June 27
Peter Oraschewsky—hip joint replacement surgery
Barbara Sovyrda—Mark Sovyrda's former wife; health challenges

Shut-ins and those in Nursing Homes

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol
Sonya Petroff—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother; now resident in Connecticut

Mothers and newly born child

Olga and the daughter newly born of her—Olga Fedorczak and her baby
Rachel and the daughter newly born of her—Rachel Kopcha Goulet and her baby
Breanna and the daughter newly born of her—Chezelle Serev's niece and her baby

Those from among us serving in the Armed Forces

Joel Orelup—U.S. Navy, hospital corpsman ("medic") serving with the Marines
Joseph Bellmay—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps

Travelers, those soon to be traveling and those away from us

Douglas Henrick—O. Petroff's great-grandson; in China until spring 2018
Tatyana Bristol—traveling to Russia, May 4 to July 19, visiting family
Maria Oraschewsky—visiting Germany, July 4 to August 28, with her grandson
Peter and Chezelle Serev

Anniversaries

Jayne & Gerard Grasso 7/17

Birthdays

NONE THIS WEEK

[This article "What is an Ecumenical Council?" continues here from page 1 of this bulletin]

...("made flesh") Son and Word of God. The Fourth Council, following up on the work of the Third Council, stressed the fact that Jesus Christ is both fully and perfectly human and fully and perfectly divine, thus possessing two "natures" in union in one person. Thus we say of Jesus Christ that he is one person, fully God and fully Man.

The Fifth Council reaffirmed and confirmed the teachings of the first Four Councils, in a mostly unsuccessful effort to heal the serious and significant splits in the Church that had developed over the five centuries of Christian history to that point.

The Sixth Council affirmed the true humanity of Jesus Christ by insisting upon the reality of his human will and action: In the one person, Jesus Christ, there are both divine activity and will and human activity and will; just as there are in the one person, Jesus Christ, two natures, human and divine.

The Seventh Council affirmed and declared the correctness of icons as true expressions of the Christian faith against those who saw them as idolatrous. Indeed, icons are not just acceptable, they are necessary, for icons affirm what is taught and affirmed by the previous Six Councils: that human and divine have been made one in Christ.

So, all the Councils have at their heart the same issue—the issue of what is called "Christology," that is, the teachings about Christ: who He is and what He is. In order for us truly to be Christians, we must know these essential teachings so that we might then enter into a proper relationship with Him—our Lord, our God, and our Savior.

News and Notes

Congratulations: Congratulations and prayerful best wishes are extended to Emilia Sereva, daughter of Peter and Chezelle Serev. Emilia recently graduated from Edinburgh University (Scotland) with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Sociology. Many Years!

Monthly General Confession, Saturday, July 22: Our Parish's usual monthly General Confession will take place after the conclusion of the Saturday evening Vigil service on Saturday, July 22. Participation in our Parish's monthly Rite of General Confession is an important, significant and vital part of our preparation for regularly partaking of Holy Communion in our Parish. Holy Communion is a wonderful, but awesome gift. We should always be preparing for the reception of Holy Communion through prayer, fasting, and disciplined Christian living, which includes battling our weaknesses and sins, and seeking always to know, accept and live God's will. We should, of course, confess our sins every day when we spend time in personal prayer, but participation in General Confession is a formal and meaningful effort, as well.

Parish Council Meeting, Monday, July 31: Our Parish Council, which, by custom, only meets once during July and August, will next meet on Monday evening, July 31, beginning at 7:00 PM.

The Dormition Fast begins on August 1st: The Dormition Fast is the two-week-long fast (August 1 - 14) that comes before the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. That Feast is always kept on August 15. It marks the day that the Virgin Mary died and, also, commemorates the fact that, after her blessed repose, the Virgin Mary was received bodily into the Kingdom of Heaven by her son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

LOOKING AHEAD: More about the Feast of the Dormition: Death is always to be mourned, and, yet, the victory over death that we are promised through Jesus Christ is always to be celebrated. So the manner in which we commemorate the Dormition of the Theotokos brings these truths to life. We fast because death is a tragedy to be mourned. Then, after completing the course of the Dormition Fast, we keep festival for it is our conviction that the Theotokos is now living with her Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, in Heaven. In the words of one of the most important liturgical hymns of the Feast of the Dormition, we trust and affirm that after her death the Virgin Mary was "translated to life by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb" (*The Kontakion of the Dormition*). Let us all plan to honor the Virgin Mary, and her central role in the history of our salvation, by keeping the Dormition Fast and celebrating, with great joy, the Feast of the Dormition.

LOOKING AHEAD: Feast of the Transfiguration: An interesting aspect of the Dormition Fast is that another, distinct, great feast of the Church occurs during that two-week period. That feast is the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord. On the Feast of the Transfiguration, which takes place every year on August 6, we commemorate the occasion when Jesus was transfigured in glory before three of his disciples, Peter, James and John. This occasion—which is recounted in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and which is alluded to in the Gospel of John (see John 1:14)—is the moment during his earthly ministry when Our Lord, Jesus Christ, revealed his divine glory to a select few of his disciples. He did this so that later, when they saw Him crucified, they would understand that His suffering was voluntary. This is affirmed strongly in the liturgical hymns of the Feast.

LOOKING AHEAD: Annual Diocesan Youth Rally, August 7-12: Fr. John Hopko, in his continuing role as Director, and Macrina Hopko, in her continuing role as Nurse, will be away at the annual Diocesan Youth Rally from Sunday afternoon, August 6, until Saturday evening, August 12. A number of young people from our parish are planning to participate in this event.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Readings for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is July 16

The Reading from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (Rom. 12:6-14)

Brothers and Sisters: Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Matt. 9:1-8)

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Readings for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is July 23

The Reading from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (Rom. 15:1-7)

Brothers and Sisters: We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Matt. 9:27-35)

At that time, when Jesus was passing by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then Jesus touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity of the people.

