



Weekly Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

A Community of the Orthodox Church in America

Witnessing to the Apostolic Faith in Lake County for over 44 Years

Father Andrew Clements, Pastor

Volume 32

2018

Number 20

Sunday	May 20	<i>7th Sunday of Pascha / Tone 6 / Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council</i>
		9:00 am Church School
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour
Saturday	May 26	<i>St Augustine of Canterbury</i>
		5:30 pm Vigil & Litya
Sunday	May 27	<i>8th Sunday of Pascha / Tone 7 / Pentecost</i>
		Readings: Acts 2:1-11 John 7:37-52, :12
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Kneeling Prayers / Send Off Prayer / Joss Brunch

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / May 13

Attendance: (Adults 116, Children 37)	153
Operating	\$2,561.00
OCA Assessments	262.00
Uganda Children	40.00
Charities	88.00
Zoe (Final tally)	1,168.36
Icons	35.00

ALMS DISTRIBUTION

We collected \$2,417 in alms this year. The distribution is as follows: \$1,000 each to St Herman's & St James Soup Kitchen, \$217 to Samaritan House (Homeless Shelter-Ashtabula County) and \$200 to Parish Charities.

CHURCH SCHOOL NOTE

Today is the last day for Church School. Teachers and Graduates will be honored at a special Coffee Hour on Sunday, June 10.

JOSS RECEPTION

A Send Off Brunch will take place next Sunday, May 27 following Liturgy for Bob & Chris Joss. This will be a catered event and we need an exact count of those who will attend. Please sign-up in the Foyer.

NEW PROJECT

We are soliciting bids to convert the back porch to a Storage Facility. If you know of anyone whom you have worked with and trust, please notify Mark Joslin ASAP.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

Eleanor Alexander (Tom's mom), Perry (Capitan), Sb-

dcn Leonard, Kathy (Denise F's sis), Jim (Ruth's dad), John (Adam's nephew), Ted Geletka, (Fr's frnd), Alex Dzura, infant Julian, John Clements, Willie (Elena G's son), Sarah Crivella, Darlene (Mary V's csn), Donald Starr (Scott C's fr-n-lw), Mary Georges (Peter's mom), Nancy, (Ruth B's frnd), Andy Dzura, Tom Bohl (Andy D's frnd), suffering Christians in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Anniversaries: Calin & Nicoleta Lechintan (5/20), Joe & Puline Demansky (5/21), David & Maria Kucmanic (5/26).

Birthdays: Hope Klinar (5/20), Eric Ray (5/21), Christina Lebedev (5/26).

Expecting: Alexandr & Olga, Chad & Meredith, Matt & Michelle, Tom & Miranda, Mitch & Winnie, Jon & Larissa.

Our Seminarian: Brian Crivella & Family.

Newly Illumined: Julian Rosca, Michael Schlafer.

The Lord ascended to heaven to send the Comforter into the world! The heavens prepared His throne, the clouds His royal mount. The angels were amazed, seeing a man exalted. The Father awaits His Co-Everlasting Son. The Holy Spirit commands the angels! Lift up your heads, O you gates! Clap your hands all you nations, for Christ has ascended to where He was before.

— From the Vespers of Ascension —

The Fathers of the 1st 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 the year 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: Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), Saint 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. Saint 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).