



Weekly Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

A Community of the Orthodox Church in America

Witnessing to the Apostolic Faith in Lake County for over 45 Years

Father Andrew Clements, Pastor

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Sunday	Jun 5	<i>7th Sunday of Pascha / Tone 6 / Frs of the 1st Ecumenical Council</i> 9:30 am Divine Liturgy / Kingsbury Baptism / Reception
Saturday	Jun 11	<i>Righteous Martha & Mary</i> 5:30 pm Great Vespers & Litya
Sunday	Jun 12	<i>8th Sunday of Pascha / Tone 7 / Pentecost — The descent of the Holy Spirit</i> Readings: Acts 2:1-11 John 7:37-52;8:12 9:30 am Divine Liturgy / Kneeling Prayers / Church School Picnic

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / June 5

Attendance	113
Operating	\$4,237.00
OCA Assessments	106.00
Maintenance	125.00
Charities	135.00
Uganda	120.00
Sale of Old Steam Tale	60.00
Icons	130.00

SPECIAL WELCOME

We welcome Seraphina Kingsbury who received Holy Illumination this morning. May the Lord plant her firmly in His Vineyard and bless and keep her for Many Years!

PENTECOST PICNIC

Next Sunday, June 12 will be our Pentecost Picnic honoring our Graduates, Church School students and staff. A Sign-Up will be circulated at the Reception tomorrow. If you will not be there tomorrow, please email Fr Andrew with what you will bring and how many children will attend. Finally, if you have a graduate from HS or College, please email their names so we can pray for them. Also, they should be ready to share their future plans with the parish.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep Fr Andrew in your prayers as he travels this Thursday to Chicago for the Bishop's Council.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

Perry (Capitan), Julian, John Clements, Sarah Crivella, Joella (LuAnn D's dghtr), Francis James (Anna D's frnd), Paris Santone (Debbie C's nephew), Kristin &

Cameron Robinson, Dave Renda, Ron Moore (Collins's dad), Colton (Maryann S's frnd, Joe Blackburn, Anna Como (Renda frnds), Nick Covelli, Victims and suffering ones in Texas, suffering Christians in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Anniversaries: Tom & Heidi Darrah (6/9).

Birthdays: Shawn Cunningham, Chris Alusheff, Nina Chongris, Beth Visnick (6/1), John Clements (6/2), James Oberhausen (6/6), Alex Visnick (6/7), Emilia Rausch (6/10), Anastasia Kisha, Collin Moore, Ashley DiMattia (6/11).

Newborns: Maria (Patrick & Katherine), Brianna (Ray & Andrea).

Newly Illumined: Seraphina.

Newly Departed: Matushka Genevieve Glagolev (5/23), Tim Price (5/15), Joseph Quinlivan (Lisa B's dad, 5/4).

You were begotten from the morning star, from the Father, without a mother, before all ages, but Arius would not glorify You as God, O Lord. In impudent ignorance he called You a creature, storing up for himself eternal fire, yet the Council of Nicea proclaimed You as Son of God, co-enthroned with the Father and the Spirit!

— Vespers Hymn for the Fathers —

The Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.

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 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).

The First Ecumenical Council is also commemorated on May 29.