

**7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 6. Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Afterfeast of Ascension.** St. Niketas, Bishop of Chalcedon (9th c.). St. Ignatii (Ignatius) the Wonderworker, Bishop of Rostov (1288). St. Eutychius, Bishop of Melitene (1st c.). Martyr Heliconis of Thessalonica (244). Hieromartyr Helladius, Bishop in the East (6th-7th c.). St. Germanus (Germaine, Herman), Bishop of Paris (576).

**Acts 20:16-18, 28-36**

**John 17:1-13**

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.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova, 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.

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.

-- From [www.oca.org/saints/lives](http://www.oca.org/saints/lives)

## SCHEDULE

<b>Sunday, May 28</b> .....	9:30am Third Hour
<i>Fathers of 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council</i>	9:45am General Confession
	10:00am Divine Liturgy
<b>Saturday, June 3</b> .....	5:30pm Panikhida
<i>Memorial Saturday</i>	6:00pm Great Vespers with Litiya
<b>Sunday, June 4</b> .....	9:30am Third Hour
<i>Holy Pentecost</i>	9:45am St. John Forerunner Prayers
	10:00am Divine Liturgy
	11:30am Kneeling Prayers

**THANK YOU** to Austin Guarisco for hosting Coffee Hour last Sunday. God grant him Many Years!

**FATHER’S DAY COMMEMORATIONS** – Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex to request prayers for your living and departed loved ones.



**PICNIC SIDES NEEDED** for our Church Picnic on **June 4<sup>th</sup>**: baked beans, potato salad, pasta salad, fruit, and desserts. If you can contribute, please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

**FREE BOOKS** - The Care Committee has purchased a certain number of copies of Money and Salvation by Dr. Andrew

Geleris (SVS Press). Anyone who would like a FREE copy of the book can see Amal Morcos (973-714-0510).



**WINE TASTING EVENT –  
Friday, June 9, 2023**

This is a fun night for a great cause, and there are a few tickets still remaining. If interested, please contact

Suzette ([suzseremin@aol.com](mailto:suzseremin@aol.com)) or Marissa ([marissahedge@gmail.com](mailto:marissahedge@gmail.com)). Also, we still need some donations of wine bottles valued at \$25 or more for the Cork Pull. For table seating please submit the names of your guests to Suzette.

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**Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council**

**Troparion — Tone 8**

*Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God! Thou 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**

*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 Orthodoxy!*

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*“People carry on foolish conversations as soon as they move away from Your presence, My Wisdom. Those without faith speak about works, and those without works speak of faith. Each disparages what he does not have, and what he does have he proclaims throughout the marketplace. And so I teach those around me who are carrying on the debate: whoever has true faith in the Living God prefers to remain silent. And whoever performs a true work of God prefers to remain silent. Deep is the tranquility of the soul of the man of faith, deeper than the tranquility at the bottom of the sea. For God’s Wisdom is born and resides in deep tranquility.”*

-- +Saint Nikolai Velimirovich

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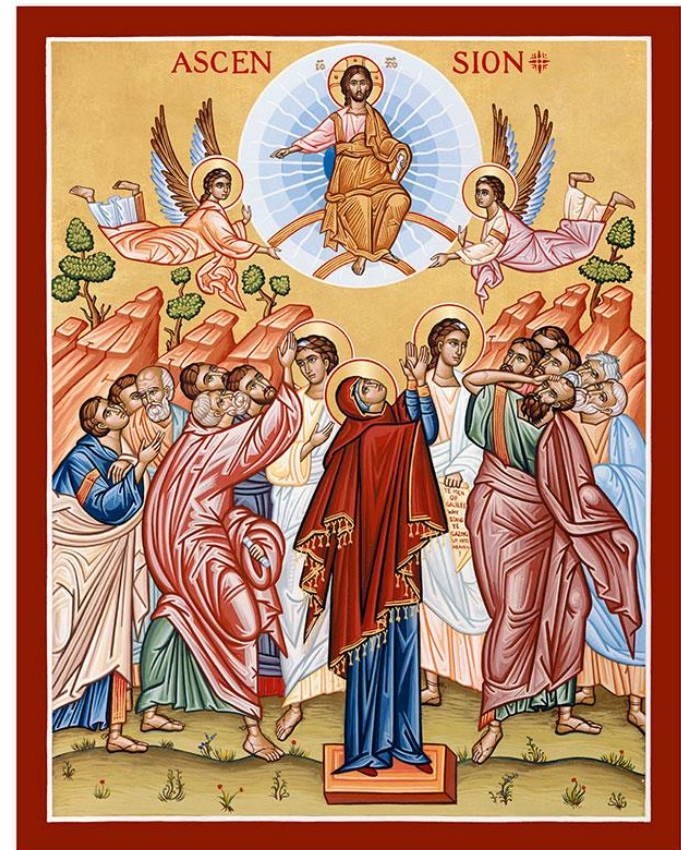
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Mitred Archpriest George Hasenecz, Attached

Carol Wetmore, Choir Director



*Afterfeast of the Ascension*

May 28, 2023