

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, July 17, 2016 | 4th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 – Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

Royal Passionbearers Tsar Nicholas, Tsaritsa Alexandra, Tsarevich Aleksy & Grand
Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria, & Anastasia

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Parish President – Matthew Andrews

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Weekly Schedule

Today: St Michael's Russian Orthodox Church Parish Picnic after Divine Liturgy – 335 Fairmount Ave – Philadelphia, PA. Phone 215.627.6148

Today: Reader's Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church school room.

Wednesday: July 20 – Holy Glorious Prophet Elijah

Saturday: July 23 - Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: July 24 – Holy Martyrs Boris and Gleb

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 8 – Fathers of the First Six Councils)

Thou art most glorious, 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 3)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Fathers of the First Six Councils)

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 piety.

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
v. Clap your hands, all ye people! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Epistle Reading: Romans 6:18-23

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 3)

v. In Thee, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame.

Alleluia (3x's)

v. Be Thou a God of protection of me, a house of refuge in order to save me.

Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 8:5-13

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it. When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

"Be the first to arrive at church for services and the last to leave, especially for the Divine Liturgy."

St Symeon the Studite (also called Symeon the Pious; +1021)

Announcements

A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guest who worshiped with us today and who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

[...continued from last page...Fathers of the First Six Councils...]

The Church venerates the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils because Christ has established them as “lights upon the earth,” guiding us to the true Faith. “Adorned with the robe of truth,” the doctrine of the Fathers, based upon the preaching of the Apostles, has established one faith for the Church. The Ecumenical Councils, are the highest authority in the Church. Such Councils, guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and accepted by the Church, are infallible.

The Orthodox Church’s conciliar definitions of dogma have the highest authority, and such definitions always begin with the Apostolic formula: “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...” (Acts 15: 28).

The Ecumenical Councils were always convened for a specific reason: to combat false opinions and heresies, and to clarify the Orthodox Church’s teaching. But the Holy Spirit has thus seen fit, that the dogmas, the truths of faith, immutable in their content and scope, constantly and consequently are revealed by the conciliar mind of the Church, and are given precision by the holy Fathers within theological concepts and terms in exactly such measure as is needed by the Church itself for its economy of salvation. The Church, in expounding its dogmas, is dealing with the concerns of a given historical moment, “not revealing everything in haste and thoughtlessly, nor indeed, ultimately hiding something” (St Gregory the Theologian).

A brief summary of the dogmatic theology of the First Six Ecumenical Councils is formulated and contained in the First Canon of the Council of Trullo (also known as Quinisext), held in the year 692. The 318 Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council are spoken of in this Canon I of Trullo as having: “with unanimity of faith revealed and declared to us the consubstantiality of the three Persons of the Divine nature and, ... instructing the faithful to adore the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with one worship, they cast down and dispelled the false teaching about different degrees of Divinity.”

The 150 Holy Fathers of the Second Ecumenical Council left their mark on the theology of the Church concerning the Holy Spirit, “repudiating the teaching of Macedonius, as one who wished to divide the inseparable Unity, so that there might be no perfect mystery of our hope.”

The 200 God-bearing Fathers of the Third Ecumenical Council expounded the teaching that “Christ, the Incarnate Son of God is One.” They also confessed that “she who bore Him without seed was the spotless Ever-Virgin, glorifying her as truly the Mother of God.

The 630 Holy Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council decreed that “the One Christ, the Son of God... must be glorified in two natures.”

The 165 God-bearing Holy Fathers of the Fifth Ecumenical Council “in synod anathematized and repudiated Theodore of Mopsuestia (the teacher of Nestorius), and Origen, and Didymus, and Evagrius, renovators of the Hellenic teaching about the transmigration of souls and the transmutation of bodies and the impieties they raised against the resurrection of the dead.”

The 170 Holy Fathers of the Sixth Ecumenical Council “taught that we ought to confess two natural volitions, or two wills [trans. note: one divine, and the other human], and two natural operations (energies) in Him Who was incarnate for our salvation, Jesus Christ, our true God.”

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family and parishioners offered by Nina Patterson

Mary Pellack offered by the Pellack Family

Mary McKinney offered by Joseph Rabik

Mary Herbert offered by Albrecht Family

Family and friends offered by Grace Corba

Ronald Andrew Kavalkovich, Debra Kavalkovich, Allison Andrews, Sharon Orr offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

Danielle, Collin, Jimmy, Ronald, Catherine, Albert, Allison, Kenneth (birthday) offered by Anastasia Kavalkovich

Ronald, Catherine, Albert, Kenneth (birthday), AnaMay, Sharon, and for a save trip for the Kavalkovich Family next week offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich and Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Andrew & Susan Mohnach offered by Pellack Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Dolores Helms (Fr. Mark's Mother); Ronald Kavalkovich (on his recovery from surgery this week); Julia Makara; Sharon Orr; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; Father Vincent Saverino; Father John Bohush and the parishioners of Saint Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church in Philadelphia; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

Please remember those who perished and the injured in the senseless and brutal attack that have occurred this week in Nice, France!

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Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!

Announcements (cont.)

Sign up sheets for Coffee Hour, Cleaning and Epistle & Hours Reading. Sign up sheets for the above items are posted on the bulletin board in the church basement. Please be considerate and volunteer to assist with some of the parish responsibilities. Your time is very much appreciated!

Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon. In addition to our general collection, the parish takes a special collection each week to fund certain parish projects. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. The special collections are as follows:

- First Sunday of every month – Kitchen Fund Project
- Second Sunday of every month – Icon Fund (2016)
- Third Sunday of every month - Restoration/Maintenance Fund
- Fourth Sunday of every month – Charity Giving

Note: if there is a Fifth Sunday during a month, the special collection is earmarked for the Kitchen Fund Project, unless otherwise noted and stated by the Parish Council.

Cash Flow Activity (July)

	<u>Week of July 4 to July 10</u>	<u>July Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	35	37 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,237.00	\$ 2,581.00
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,149.15
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,237.00	(\$ 1,568.15)

Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!

Shop Rite Gift Cards: If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see David Pellack to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card is an additional fundraising project that helps support the church at no additional expense to the purchaser.

Calendar of Events

TODAY – Reader’s Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! All Readers are asked to attend the meeting. Father Mark, and those knowledgeable with the readings, will offer additional instructions and information regarding the readings for both the Hours and the Epistle.

TODAY - St Michael’s Russian Orthodox Church will be having a summer parish picnic on after their Divine Liturgy. Father Vincent Saverino has extended an invitation to our parish to join them for their picnic. The parish is located at 335 Fairmount Ave (corner of 4th Street and Fairmount Avenue) here in Philadelphia, PA 19123. For more information, please contact the parish at the Church Phone: 215-627-6148

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians (FOCA) of the Central PA Chapter is sponsoring a Family Picnic at Knobel’s Grove Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA on Sunday, July 17 following Divine Liturgy. All families are Invited! Free Parking and Admission! Pay as you go on rides! At 6pm in Pavilion K, Hamburgers and Hot Dogs with sides and soda will be served. Cost is \$5 per person, children under 6 are free. Please RSVP Greg Ressetar (Christ Our Savior Church – Harrisburg, PA) by **July 10** (that’s Today!!!) by calling Greg at 717.439.0527 or emailing him at ressetar@yahoo.com

St Tikhon Monastery Summer Events:

St Anna’s Day Sunday July 24 at 2pm with Akathist and anointing in honor of the Miraculous Icon of St Anna that resides at the Monastery.

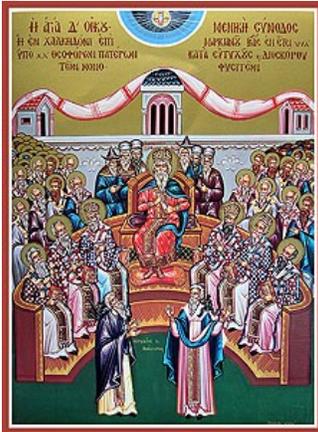
Patronal Feast Day of St Tikhon of Zadonsk on Sat Aug 13 @ 9am with Met Tikhon & Monastery Brotherhood celebrating Divine Liturgy and a festive meal.

Saturday, August 6 – The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ (the Second of the three “Feast of the Savior” in August) - Divine Liturgy for this Feast Day TBD!

Father Mark will announce within the next two weeks when services for this Feast Day will occur. On this day, the church blesses baskets of fruits (and vegetables)

Bible Study – Tuesday, August 9 at 6:30pm in the church basement.

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and continue reading and discussing the Book of Genesis.



Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils [July 17th]

The Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils.

In the Ninth Article of the Nicea-Constantinople Symbol of Faith proclaimed by the holy Fathers of the First and Second Ecumenical Councils, we confess our faith in “One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.” By virtue of the catholic nature of the Church, an Ecumenical Council is the Church’s supreme authority, and possesses the competence to resolve major questions of church life.

An Ecumenical Council is comprised of archpastors and pastors of the Church, and representatives of all the local Churches, from every land of the “oikumene” (i.e. from all the whole inhabited world).

The Orthodox Church acknowledges Seven Holy Ecumenical Councils:

The First Ecumenical Council (Nicea I) (May 29, and also on seventh Sunday after Pascha) was convened in the year 325 against the heresy of Arius, in the city of Nicea in Bithynia under StConstantine the Great, Equal of the Apostles.

The Second Ecumenical Council (Constantinople I) (May 22) was convened in the year 381 against the heresy of Macedonias, by the emperor Theodosius the Great.

The Third Ecumenical Council (Ephesus) (September 9) was convened in the year 431 against the heresy of Nestorius, in the city of Ephesus by the emperor Theodosius the Younger.

The Fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon) (July 16) was convened in the year 451, against the Monophysite heresy, in the city of Chalcedon under the emperor Marcian.

The Fifth Ecumenical Council (Constnatinople II) (July 25) “Concerning the Three Chapters,” was convened in the year 553, under the emperor Justinian the Great.

The Sixth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople III) (January 23) met during the years 680-681, to fight the Monothelite heresy, under the emperor Constantine Pogonatos.

The fact that the Seventh Ecumenical Council (Nicea II) is not commemorated today testifies to the antiquity of today’s celebration. The Seventh Council, commemorated on the Sunday nearest to October 11, was convened at Nicea in the year 787 against the Iconoclast heresy, under the emperor Constantine and his mother Irene.