

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE
FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



Icon of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
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Next Liturgy: Saturday, June 3rd, at 10am

DIVINE LITURGY - PATRONAGE CHURCH

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday of the Fathers of the 1 st Ecumenical Council 5.21.2023	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	For: +Ursula Kerscher From: Anna Esquela
Pentecost Sunday 5.28.2023	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Divine Liturgy	For: Memorial Day – deceased Veterans
Pentecost Monday 5.29.2023	6:30pm	Divine Liturgy	For: Living and Deceased Members of our Parish

This is **Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council.**

Proprs for today begin on page 196.

Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na viki! Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

CONFESSION: Fr. Serhii is available 20 minutes before or immediately after Divine Liturgy. **1**

2023 BYZANTEEN EPARCHIAL YOUTH RALLY: This year's rally will take place on **Thursday, June 22nd – Sunday, June 25th** at the Carpathian Village in Cresco, PA. We are waiting on more details, but ByzanTeen Rally 2023 participants must be age 13 by November 1, 2023, and not have reached the age of 18 by June 27, 2023. You can find both the rally's Teen and Chaperone Registration forms on the Eparchy's website at eparchyofpassaic.com, click on "Youth and Young Adult Ministries," then "Byzanteens Youth Ministry." If you are interested in attending this rally, please let Fr. Serhii know so he can make sure you receive any updates that he receives. If you are enrolled in ECF, our church will cover the registration fee.

2023 EPARCHIAL ALTAR SERVER CONGRESS: Registration for this year's Altar Server Congress, is now open! It will take place at the Carpathian Village, 802 Snow Hill Road, Cresco, PA, from Sunday, **July 16th - Thursday, July 20th**. Please visit eparchyofpassaic.com, click on "Youth and Young Adult Ministries," then "Altar Server Congress," for camper registration forms and further information. You can also contact Fr. Michael Salnicky at 570-595-3265, if you have any further questions. Please let Fr. Serhii know as soon as possible, if you are interested in attending. If you are enrolled in ECF, our church will cover the registration fee.

WORLD YOUTH DAY (WYD) 2023: The Eparchy of Passaic will be offering generous scholarships to qualified parishioners interested in attending this year's World Youth Day activities in Lisbon, Portugal. Options include attending just WYD **August 1st – 8th**, or chaperoning at an English Summer Camp in Slovakia beginning on July 22nd, followed by a road tour of Europe to WYD. The recommended age for attending this event is 18+. More information and registration forms can be found at www.eparchyofpassaic.com, click on "News & Events," then "World Youth Day." Please let Fr. Serhii know if you are interested in attending.

METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY: Most Rev. William Skurla, Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh, has invited all clergy and faithful to the Assembly of the Byzantine (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsboro, NJ, **November 2-5, 2023**. The theme of this Assembly is *"Living Our Faith, Moving Forward, Appreciating Our Past."* **Registration begins June 15th**. The Assembly cost is \$250 for individuals and \$400 for couples. The Maria Theresa Foundation will underwrite the registration fees of individuals and couples between the ages of 18 and 35. Special rates for hotel accommodations have been arranged at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bridgewater, NJ. For more information, contact the Assembly coordinators, Fr. Ed Cimbala, at 212-677-0516 or Fr. Yuriy Oros at 609-394-5004. The assembly website is byzantineassembly2023.org, and the email is byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com.

MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION: If you would like to have a deceased veteran remembered in a special commemoration next Sunday, May 28th, for Memorial Day, please complete the form, that is included with this bulletin, and either drop it in the collection basket, or mail it to the rectory.

Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each scene, I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods in my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow, or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints.

So, I said to the Lord, “You promised me, Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life, there have only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, you have not been there for me?”

The Lord replied, “The times when you have seen only one set of footprints in the sand, is when I carried you.”

Sunday of Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Today, we remember the First Ecumenical Council and the Church Fathers who gathered at this Council. Why do we need to remember these events of years so long ago? After all, the First Ecumenical Council was held back in 325. It is important for us because this Council defended in the Christian world the main truth of our faith, which is the center of our salvation - the Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days, there were many theologians who expressed their judgments about the Mystery of God, about what the human mind cannot comprehend. But still, the inquisitive mind of man tried to grasp this inaccessible secret, and from human wisdom, a wide variety of contradictory thoughts were often born. One of them shook the entire Christian world at that time. This false teaching was called Arianism, after the name of Arius, an Egyptian presbyter. He proved that even though Christ the Savior is God, he is not the Supreme God, but one of the great beings created by the Supreme God. Arius spread his opinion and this false teaching seemed understandable and accessible to people. And if the holy fathers of that time had not paid attention to the danger of Arianism, the Christian teaching would have been fundamentally distorted.

St. Athanasius, St. Nicholas, and other great fathers of the Church of that time, defending the truth against Arianism, defended the most precious thing for us - that without which the Christian faith cannot exist - the Divinity of Jesus Christ.

In the life of St. Anthony the Great, a case is described, how once the Arians came to him to argue about the faith, but he did not want to argue, but ran away from them, saying that their words are like poisonous snakes.

Saint Thaddeus, Archbishop of Tver, said, "Let us glorify the memory of the fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, and not so much with words of praise, but with faithfulness to the wills of our parents in life ... The Fathers of the Council did not see the truth from themselves, but wove it in the Creed from words of the Divine Scriptures. Shouldn't we therefore always keep the Nicene Faith as a testament of life, an unchangeable pledge of salvation?"

The Ecumenical Council of Nicaea is called a God-wise preacher of the divine glory of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial and indivisible, and in particular, the glory of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Man of God." This apostolic faith, - teaches St. John Chrysostom, blocked the mouths of heretics, and like an unshakable wall, repelled all their tricks."

In order that all Christians might know the true doctrine of the faith with certainty, it was clearly and concisely set forth in the first seven articles of the Creed. At the same Council, it was decided to celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first spring full moon, it was also decided that priests, if married, should remain so, and many other rules were also established.

On this day, when we celebrate the memory of the holy fathers, the words of the Savior Jesus Christ from His high priestly prayer are read in the Church. This prayer gives us a clear idea that the Lord Himself, and no one else, came into the world: "And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3). "...Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one" (John 17:11).

The only ones, like us! This is what Jesus Christ says - man and God-man, mortal and immortal, addressing the Heavenly Father, with whom He is one. This is the unity of the Father and the Son. Everything that the Holy Church reveals to us, everything that is in the Holy Scriptures - all these great mysteries concern our lives. Therefore, let's try to understand them, let's try to understand them with our mind and heart in order to be stable and unshakable in our faith.

Christ invites us even today to be together and together in community. The Church becomes the mystical Body of Christ thanks to its unity. In the Church, we learn to be close to each other, to forgive each other, to learn from each other, to live the life of a community, not to separate ourselves from the community at prayer, but to pray together, with one mouth, so that the heart is also one.

Dear believers! Together with the Holy Fathers, let us joyfully confess our faith, glorifying "the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit - the Trinity, One and Indivisible," and at the same time, continue the mission of Jesus Christ on earth, being His missionaries and His co-workers in the vineyard.

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GOD WITH US +ONLINE+: The next free virtual program entitled, "*The Pauline World, Understanding the Apostolic Church,*" presented by Rev. Daniel Dozier, will take place in a two-part series **Wednesday, May 24th and May 31st, from 8-9:30pm**. Join us as we embark on a journey into the world in which St. Paul lived, worked, was converted to Christ, and then spent his life preaching the Gospel. Rev. Daniel will give us insights into the people to whom St. Paul was preaching, and the current events and political arena which surrounded him, to gain important context for more fully understanding his numerous epistles in Scripture and the Apostolic Church as a whole. For more information and to register for this program, visit godwithusonline.org.

GCU ANNUAL HELPING HANDS DAY AT MT. ST. MACRINA, UNIONTOWN, PA: To assist the Sisters of St. Basil, they are looking for volunteers to work both inside and outdoors on **Saturday, June 3rd**, from 9:30am – 2pm. You can bring your own garden tools, if you would like. Lunch will be served. Please visit www.gcuusa.com, click on "Events," and then "Helping Hands Day at Mt. St. Macrina," to register. If you can't volunteer, but would still like to help, you can make a donation to help purchase supplies and flowers for the event at the above noted website. The GCU will be matching total donations made by Tuesday, May 30th, up to \$2,000. Please consider helping out this great cause! You do not have to be a GCU member to volunteer or make a donation.

SPRING HELPING HANDS DAY AT HOLY ANNUNCIATION MONASTERY, SUGARLOAF, PA: On **Saturday, June 17th**, there will be a church service at 8am, followed by helping with whatever work is needed at the Monastery. The Monastery's address is 403 West County Road, Sugarloaf, PA 18249. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869 or agnesr@ptd.net. Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated!

CHILDREN'S CORNER

The Lord's Prayer

T A R D S Y D K H D
 E E O E R I I X A K
 V T M O H N M E L R
 I E L P G T R S L E
 L G J D T B A X O W
 B Q O O Y A V F W O
 R M Q L Q I T M E P
 E V I G R O F I D Q
 X A X W I L L K O G
 D L J G F H B A J N

FATHER
 HALLOWED
 KINGDOM
 WILL

DAILY BREAD
 FORGIVE
 SINS
 TEMPTATION

EVIL
 GLORY
 POWER

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OUR DAILY BREAD CASSEROLE DONATIONS: We are in need of someone to organize future casserole collection dates. If you would like to assist with this task, please contact Mike Skovran at michaelskovran@aol.com. Also, if you are a high school student, you can earn 2.0 service hours for making a casserole. Mike Skovran or Fr. Serhii can sign off for these volunteer hours. Let's keep this service project going!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER: The people of Ukraine, that peace may be soon be restored to their land, our parishioners, the founders of our parish, our benefactors, those who are sick, and those who cannot make it to church. Also, Fr. Serhii, and his family, Marge Dulina, Mike Skovran, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Nancy Erdek, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Anne Gupman, Anna Martin, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Georgianna Kostak, Sandra Suseck, Howard Guba, our first responders, and all military service men and women throughout the world.

*May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician and Healer of souls and bodies,
 grant them peace and good health for many blessed years!*

STEWARDSHIP: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733> – the link is also on our website)

Patronage Church (May 7, 2023):

Offertory: \$1,720.00
 Tithe.ly: \$175.00
 Byzantine Seminary: \$25.00
 Ascension: \$60.00
 St. Peter and Paul: \$25.00
 Donation in Memory of Lisa Guba: \$250.00

Hagerstown Mission (May 6, 2023):

Offertory: \$269.00
 Tithe.ly: \$19.00

Patronage Church (May 14, 2023):

Offertory: \$430.00
 Tithe.ly: \$225.00
 Seminary: \$25.00
 Ascension: \$5.00

Hagerstown Mission (May 14, 2023):

Tithe.ly: \$19.00

5th ALL SOULS: Please join us this Friday, May 26th, at 6:30pm, as we celebrate our last **All Souls** before Pentecost. We will have Divine Liturgy, followed by a Panachida, (prayers for the deceased), with the reading of the Hramoty (names of our departed loved ones). We hope everyone can join us!

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH: We welcome all new visitors, to our parish family, and are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and hope you will become an active part of our parish community. If you would like to be added to our parish email list, send us an email at patronage.church@gmail.com.

“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples” (Isaiah 56:7).

Love One Another

"I give you a new commandment," said Jesus, "love one another." ... He showed the newness of His command and how far the love He enjoined surpassed the old conception of mutual love by going on immediately to add: "Love one another as I have loved you." To understand the full force of these words, we have to consider how Christ loved us. Then it will be easy to see what is new and different in the commandment we are now given.

Do you not see what is new in Christ's love for us? The law commanded people to love their brothers and sisters as they love themselves, but our Lord Jesus Christ loved us more than Himself. He who was one in nature with God the Father and His equal would not have descended to our lowly estate, nor endured in His flesh such a bitter death for us, nor submitted to the blows given Him by His enemies, to the shame, the derision, and all the other sufferings that could not possibly be enumerated. Nor, being rich, would He have become poor, had He not loved us far

more than Himself. It was indeed something new for love to go as far as that!

Christ commands us to love as He did, putting neither reputation, nor wealth, nor anything whatever before love of our brothers and sisters. If need be we must even be prepared to face death for our neighbor's salvation as did our Savior's blessed disciples and those who followed in their footsteps. To them the salvation of others mattered more than their own lives, and they were ready to do anything or to suffer anything to save souls that were perishing.

The Savior urged us to practice this love that transcends the law as the foundation of true devotion to God. He knew that only in this way could we become pleasing in God's eyes, and that it was by seeking the beauty of the love implanted in us by Himself that we should attain to the highest blessings.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com**