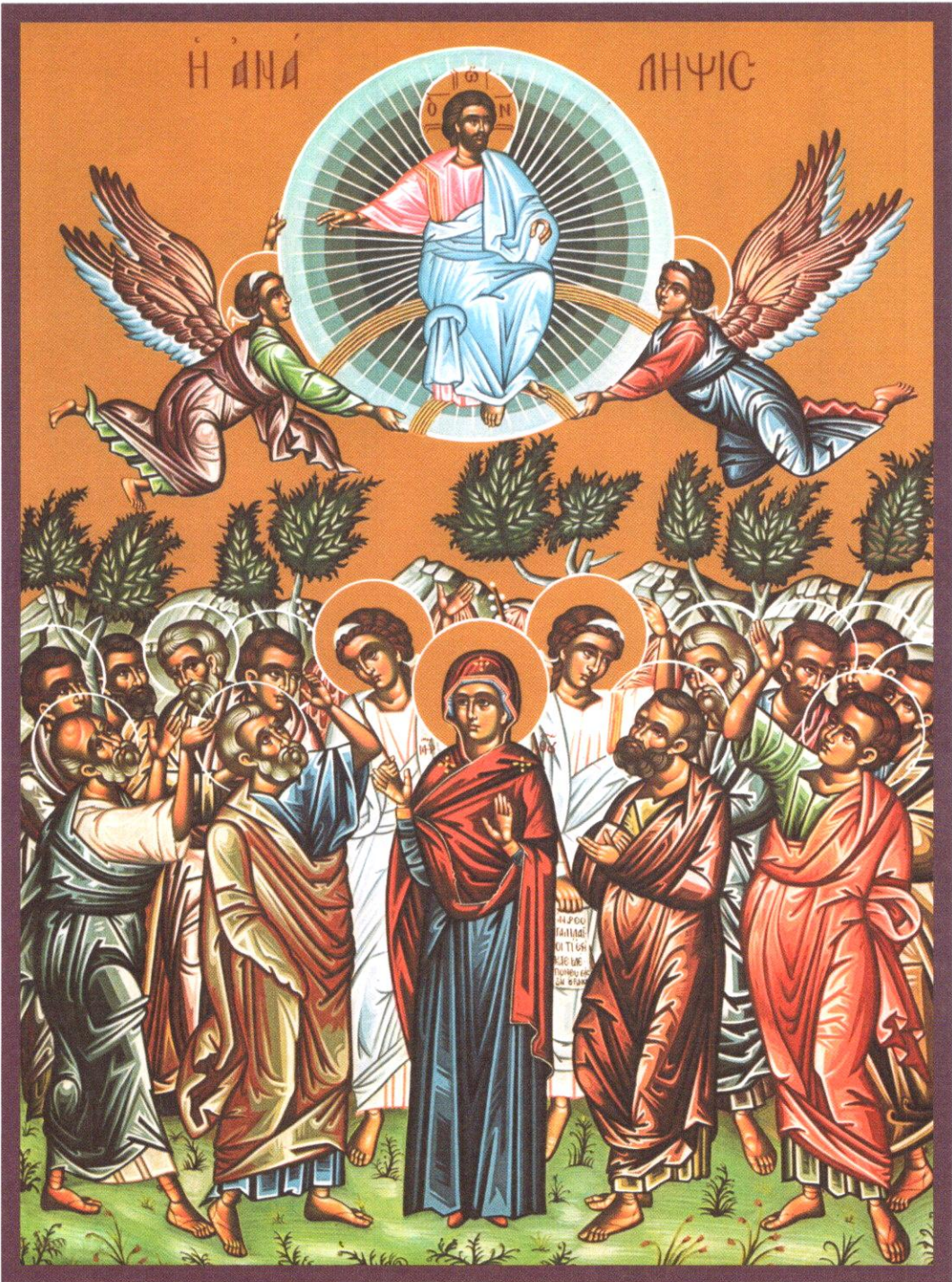


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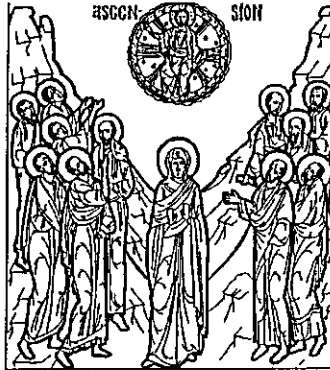


Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

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HOLY MYSTERIES

VISITATIONS OF THE SICK AND INFIRM – If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Father Stephen at the Rectory. Our hospitalization code for Christiana and Wilmington Hospitals is **UKR**.

EMERGENCY CALLS – Please call the Rectory anytime (day or night) in an Emergency!

BAPTISMS – Celebrated by appointment.

CROWNING IN MARRIAGE – Please discuss timing with Father prior to setting a date. At least six months notice is needed. There are three 2-hour courses that must be attended prior to the Wedding.

BULLETIN DEADLINE – The deadline for getting information printed in the Weekly Bulletin is Wednesday.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS – For the Needs of the Parish; 2nd Youth Ministry

June 16, 2024
Volume 60: Number 24
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of June 16 - 23, 2024
Celebrating our 97th year of Service to the Lord

Sunday, June 16 – Sunday of the 1st Council – Father’s Day – Graduate Sunday -
Tone 6

8:30 AM – Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Pankahyda: +Melanie Ervin (8 yrs) +Thomas Ervin (37 yrs) – Patricia
Kozak

Father’s Day Dinner



Tuesday, June 18

7:00 PM – Bible Study

Friday, June 21 – St. Theodore Stratelates

7:00 AM – Divine Liturgy – Veneration of the Relics

Saturday, June 22 – All Souls

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy – Remembering the Departed

Sunday, June 23 – Pentecost Sunday - Tone 7

8:30 AM – Confessions

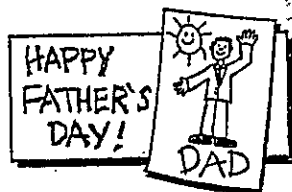
9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Pankahyda: +Betty Hnatow (5 Yr); +Larry Dugan (2 Yr); +Stephen Farrel (5
Yr.); +Anne Tyrawski, (10 Yr); +Philip Krasnpera (61 Yr); +Anna
Krasnopera (40 Yr); +Mary Stychar; +Xenia Hnatow (76 Yr) &
+Konstanty Hnatow (61 Yr) – Michael Tilson and Linda Hnatow

Coffee Hour

12:00 Noon – Pentecost Vespers – Kneeling Prayers



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council – Matins: John 21:1-14; Liturgy: Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36; John 17:1-13

Monday – Acts of the Apostles 21:8-14; John 14:27-15:7

Tuesday - Acts of the Apostles 21:26-32 John 16:2-13

Wednesday - Acts of the Apostles 23:1-11; John 16:15-23

Thursday - Acts of the Apostles 25:13-19; John 16:23-33

Friday - Acts of the Apostles 27:1-44; John 17:18-26

Saturday - Acts of the Apostles 28:1-31; John 21:15-25; Departed: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; John 5:24-30

Pentecost Sunday- Matins: John 20:19-23; Liturgy: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11; John 7:37-52; 8:12

FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Our Church today honors the sacred memory of the 318 great Holy Fathers who gathered together in the city of Nicea for the First Ecumenical Council, in the year 325.

One of the important things they did was to set forth in precise language the Orthodox Christian belief in Christ, the Son of God. The reason: Arius began teaching that Christ was created by God the Father, and that there was a time when He was not, and therefore He was inferior to God the Father.

Athanasius the Great, then a Deacon, spoke out against his teaching saying in substance what was adopted and proclaimed by this Synod, in the second article of the Nicene Creed, that is, that Christ is the Only-begotten Son of God, and of the same essence with the Father.

The Synod condemned Arianism and formulated the first seven articles of the Creed which is recited at every Divine Liturgy.

Other decisions that came about at the 1st Ecumenical Council were: it established the method of calculating the celebration of Pascha. And it also abolished the idea of forced celibacy on the clergy of any degree, a decision which was kept up to the 7th century, when celibacy was forced on the Bishops. The Synod also issued 20 Canons referring to administration, discipline, government and to the life of the Church in general.



I'll Always be There for You!

Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen, **Chicken Soup for the Soul.**

It's a fascinating story that comes out of the 1989 earthquake which almost flattened Armenia. This deadly tremor killed over 30,000 people in less than four minutes. In the midst of all the confusion of the earthquake, a father rushed to his son's school. When he arrived there he discovered the building was flat as a pancake.

Standing there looking at what was left of the school, the father remembered a promise he made to his son, "No matter what, I'll always be there for you!" Tears began to fill his eyes. It looked like a hopeless situation, but he could not take his mind off his promise.

Remembering that his son's classroom was in the back right corner of the building, the father rushed there and started digging through the rubble. As he was digging other grieving parents arrived, clutching their hearts, saying: "My son! "My daughter!" They tried to pull him off of what was left of the school saying: "It's too late!" "They're dead!" "You can't help!" "Go home!" Even a police officer and a fire-fighter told him he should go home. To everyone who tried to stop him he said, "Are you going to help me now?" They did not answer him and he continued digging for his son stone by stone.

He needed to know for himself: "Is my boy alive or is he dead?" This man dug for eight hours and then twelve and then twenty-four and then thirty-six. Finally in the thirty-eighth hour, as he pulled back a boulder, he heard his son's voice. He screamed his son's name, "ARMAND!" and a voice answered him,

"Dad?" It's me Dad!" Then the boy added these priceless words, "I told the other kids not to worry. I told 'em that if you were alive, you'd save me and when you saved me, they'd be saved. You promised that, Dad. 'No matter what,' you said, 'I'll always be there for you!' And here you are Dad. You kept your promise!"

The Ascension of Jesus and Our Spiritual Life

After the Resurrection, Jesus did not come back to live among us as before. He now returned to the glory He had with the Father. This is especially evident in the Gospel of John, where Jesus tells His disciples before His arrest, "I came from the Father and have come into the world. Now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father" (John 16:28). "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to Your Son, so that Your Son may glorify You" (John 17:1). Jesus is truly and physically risen,. But He did not return to life in this world as did Lazarus, the son of the widow of Nain and the daughter of Jairus.

Each of the Gospel writers expresses this mystery in a different way. In Matthew, Jesus' last words are "All power in heaven and earth has been given to me... I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus did not return to live among us, but He is with us in power and Spirit. In the Gospel of John, the first action of the risen Jesus when He appears to His disciples is to give them the gift of the Holy Spirit (John 20:19-23). In the Gospel of Mark, "the Lord Jesus, after He spoke to them (the disciples) was taken into heaven and took His seat at the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19).. Jesus is alone the true high priest, whose role is to mediate between God and His people and to bring salvation. Those who function as priests on earth only do so in the power of the Holy Spirit, the gift of Jesus to His Church. The Epistle to the Hebrews echoes what Mark says, "we have such a high priest who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the majesty in heaven, a minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle that the Lord, not man, set up" (Hebrews 8:1-2). St. Luke alone tells us that Jesus ascended on the 40th day (Acts of the Apostles 1:3), and describes the Ascension as Jesus being "taken up" (Luke 24:51) and "lifted up", disappearing into a cloud (Acts of the Apostles 1:9). As He was taken up, He was blessing His followers, a priestly action that He now performs from the right hand of the heavenly Father.

Because St. Luke says that the Ascension took place on the 40th day, this day is now kept by the Church on the 40th day of Pascha to celebrate the glorification of Jesus, our Lord and God. Just as the life of the human Jesus was transformed by glory, so also the lives of those who believe in Him are transformed by the Resurrection. Before the Resurrection, Jesus had a mission to the people of Israel. When a Canaanite woman – a foreigner to the Jews – asked Christ to cure her daughter, he replied, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 15:24). After the Resurrection, our Lord tells His followers, "Go...and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19) St. Paul was to comment, about 25 years later, "All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with

Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:27-28). The Gospel of the risen Christ is for all human people, without distinction of race, gender or status.

The great feasts of the Church year recall the mighty deeds God has done on our behalf. For these deeds we return to Him glory and praise. However, the feasts are not only a historical commemoration of what happened in the past, but tells us also about our life of the Spirit today. By the love Christ showed on the Cross and by His third day Resurrection. The faithful who believe in His are also transformed by love and are filled with life. This happens in the mystery of Baptism, ("you are clothed with Christ") which is renewed every time that we receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Communion. On the feast of the Ascension, therefore, we sing, "Ascending in glory today from the Mount of Olives, through Your great love, You lifted up our fallen nature and enthroned it with the Father on high...Therefore, serve Him in justice and holiness."

The spiritual life is not a private and lonely journey. The kingdom of God will be the restoration of paradise. It will come about only when we will be able to treat everyone equally, without distinction of race or ethnicity or status or gender. God has created every human being and loves every person equally. He wishes all to come to salvation, and if we are to find Him in our own lives, and if we are to be united with Him, then we too must be at the service of our neighbor. We must see in every person a fellow traveler on the road to unity with God. Our Lord has told us that we serve Him when we show kindness to each other, for "whatever you do for one of these least brothers of Mine, you do it for Me" (Matthew 25:40).

PASTOR'S CORNER

The Meaning of Love

I was moved while reading the book, **Beginning to Pray** by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom. He talks about love and the way we have come to misuse the word: "So often when we say 'I love you' we say it with a huge 'I' and a small 'you'. We use love as a conjunction instead of it being a verb implying action. It's no good just gazing out into open space hoping to see the Lord; instead we have to look closely at our neighbor, someone whom God has willed into existence, someone whom God has died for. Everyone we meet has a right to exist, because he has value in himself, and we are not used to this. The acceptance of otherness is a danger to us, it threatens us. To recognize the other's right to be himself might mean recognizing his right to kill me. But if we set a limit to his right to exist, it's no right at all. Love is difficult. Christ was crucified because He taught a kind of love

which is a terror for men, a love which demands total surrender: it spells death."
(Page 12)

Do we understand the real meaning of "love"? Today we are bombarded by so much advertising that speaks to us of being "in love" with our car; being "in love" with our pets; being "in love" with our I-phone. We see the hard sell of items that are "sexy" and "beautiful" to remind us that we are supposed to be in love with them. How many times we have heard a male friend when seeing a beautiful woman or a female friend when seeing a handsome man that they are in love?

Unfortunately today the meaning of "love" and "infatuation" have become so blurred that they are indistinguishable. In one of her columns, Ann Landers once wrote the following: "Infatuation is instant desire. It is one set of glands calling to another. Love is friendship that has caught fire. It takes root and grows – one day at a time. Infatuation is marked by a feeling of insecurity. You are excited and eager but not genuinely happy. There are nagging doubts, unanswered questions, little bits and pieces about your beloved that you would just as soon not examine too closely. It might spoil the dream. Love is quiet understanding and the mature acceptance of imperfection. It is real. It gives you strength and grows beyond you – to bolster your beloved. You are warmed by its presence, even when he or she is away. Miles do not separate you. You want him or her nearer. But near or far you know he or she is returning to you and you can wait. Infatuation says: "We must get married right away. I can't risk losing him or her." Love says: "Be patient. Don't panic. Plan your future with confidence." Infatuation has an element of sexual excitement. If you are honest, you will admit it is difficult to be in another's company unless you are sure it will end in intimacy. Love is the maturation of friendship. You must be friends before you can be lovers. Infatuation lacks confidence. When he or she is away, you wonder if he or she is cheating. Sometimes you even check. Love means trust. You are calm, secure and unthreatened. He or she feels that trust and it makes him or her even more trustworthy. Infatuation might lead you to do things you will regret later, but love never will. Love is an upper. It makes you look up. It makes you think up. It makes you a better person than you were before."

We have forgotten the Christian definition of love. Love is commitment. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did not say that to be His follower we should love one another some of the time or most of the time. Our Lord's words are: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12). Love is commitment! Love is sacrifice! Love is a response! Jesus says: "If you

love Me, keep my commandments. (John 14:15) "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me." (John 14:21) Love is real!

Saint Paul in his **First Letter to the Corinthians** (Chapter 13) presents us with the best definition of love. He writes: "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

FATHER'S DAY, IT'S HISTORY, AND ITS MEANING FOR TODAY.

As compared with other holidays, Father's Day is a relative newcomer on the calendar. The first known celebration was initiated by Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Wash. Her father was a courageous, selfless, and loving man who raised five children after the death of his wife. Sonora's father was born in June, so she chose a June day, June 19, 1910, to celebrate the first Father's Day.

Apparently it was an idea whose time had come because other communities, then other states, picked up on the celebration and held their own Father's Days. In 1926, a National Father's Day Committee was formed in New York City. Father's Day was an unofficial observance held annually until Congress gave it national recognition in 1956. In 1972, President Richard Nixon established an annual national observance to be held the third Sunday of June each year.

Dr. George A. Parks, co-founder of the Seattle Men's Wisdom Council, says our fathers will forever live inside us as our first image of men and masculinity. Our inner relationship with our fathers will persist for the rest of our lives. It will

influence our sense of identity, our intimate relationships, and all our relationships with men, especially those in positions of power and authority. When we honor our fathers, says Dr. Parks, we can more deeply honor ourselves. So the act of honoring our fathers may be as important for us as it is for them.

Sometimes true bonding with one's father doesn't occur until very late in his life. That means a great deal of time and love goes inexperienced. Don't wait, honor your father and show your love this year on Father's Day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to John Billon, 6/16; Alexander Czernik, 6/17; Jacob Dylan Duncan, 6/17; Janilyn Pinkowicz, 6/18; Valeria Podoguts, 6/20; Lidiya Otamas, 6/21, Roman Otamas, Sophia Nazarenko, 6/22. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy & blessed years!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

(Please find a substitute if you cannot make a given week)

June 16 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow

June 23 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

June 30 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

July 7 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta

July 14 - Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta

MEETINGS FEEDING THE HUNGRY -

PARISH BOARD – Tuesday, July 9 @ 6:30 PM

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of June 17 - Thomas and Lynn Sulpizi

Week of June 24 - Nancy Hlwiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus

Week of July 1 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of July 8 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly

Week of July 15 - Mark & Laura Andreas

Week of July 22 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of July 29 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration

DONATIONS (CREDIT CARDS) ACCEPTED – for those who are interested, we can accept donations to the Church through credit cards. See Mark Andreas for details.

WINE TASTING - \$35/person, \$60/ couple – Saturday, June 29 from 5-8 PM – More Later

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

June 16 - Sandy Cramer

June 23 - Sonya Patronik

June 30 - David and Eve Lazaration

July 7 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur

We need more Greeters!! If you would like to volunteer, please see Father Stephen

TENTATIVE CALENDER OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 29 – Wine Tasting Event 5PM – 8PM

Sunday, June 16 – Father’s Day Dinner

Monday, July 1 – Apostles’ Fast

Sunday, July 14 – Patronal Dinner

Saturday, July 20 – Hall Rented

Saturday, August 3 – UOL Flea Market

Saturday, November 2 – Fall Bazaar

Tuesday, November 26 – Community Thanksgiving Service – Atonement Methodist

SCHEDULING FOR THE PARISH – Please remember that all events, work parties, use of the hall must be cleared through the calendar kept by Father Stephen so that dueling events can be avoided.

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

June 16 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

June 23 - Linda Hnatow

June 30 – Andrew Duncan

July 7 – Thomas Scholtz

July 14 - Andrew Duncan

July 21 - Thomas Sulpizi

July 28 - Jean Roeth

We need more Readers, if you would like to volunteer, please see Father Stephen

FEEDING THE HUNGRY – Our next session of preparing food for the Homeless is on Sunday, July 14 (our Patronal Feast Day) to be delivered on Monday, July 15. We will need everyone’s help after the Patronal Dinner.

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Daniel, Archimandrite Raphael, Father George Bazylevsky, Father Vasyl Dovhan, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Andrew Molewski, Father John Nakonechney, Father James Norton, Father Gerald Ozlanski, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Father Michael Zaparyniuk, Matushka Andrejuk, Matushka Laura Odell, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Pani Matka Oksanna Bazylevsky, Pain Matka Marianne Ozlanski, Matka Annette Zaparyniuk, , Alicia, Nerry, Mykola, Brennan, Henry, Deborah, Galina, Dolores, Julian, Madison, Maria, Marie, Matt, Michele, Mykola, Penelope, Rita, Ryan, Jonathan Angelo, Randy Allen, Carolyn Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Stephania Bacha, Joyce Belles, Neil Belles, Joyce Bendoakas, Ethel Bernhard, Yaroslav Bilinsky, Irene Billon, James Bolton, Maria Borowenski, Betty Bosland, Becky Bosley, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, Thomas Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Kathy Chalfont, Erik Colazo, Alex Czernik, Michael Dalaski, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, Paula Daubert, William Dewhurst, Peter DiVirgilio, James Dudrick, Kathleen Dugan, Margaret Durell, Mary Eagleton, Maria Economou, Mary Eagleton, Rose Eldridge, Thomas Fagan, Archantula Fanjoy, Mary Farrell, James Garrett, Lisa Gee, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovnirov, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Richard Haslam, Rick Hastings, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Alicia Hlywak, John Hlywak, John Hnatow, Daniel Holoviak, Jennifer Huertes, Joette Jago, Stephen Johnson, Linda Josepinson, Michael Kapelus, Walter Katolik, Diane Keyser, Wendy Klinedinst, Judith Kocinski, Lorissa Kozakova, Ludmyla Krawchenko, Mykola Krawchenko, Sue Kreisa-Christian, Marlene Kuhar, Ron Lazaration, Karen Livick, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Jeremy Madea, Andrew Makolynyk, Jean Marano, Frederick McCarthy, Beth McKirachan, Fred McKirachan, Stephen McNulty, Ronald Michel, Mary Ann Michalcewicz, Michelle Michalcewiz, Lisa Miller, Matthew Miller, Mary Elizabeth Moran, Barry Morris, Elsie Moroz, Karen Needham, Julie Neff, Ann Nester, Laurie Newman, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Anthony Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry, Janilyn Bernice Pinkowicz, Daphne Pantelopulos, George Pantelopulos, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Jeff Rozwadowski, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, David Scharba, Isaac Schmidt, Joella Seale, Clay Seman, John Serth, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Georgie Smolyar, Alexandra Sparco, Natalia Stanford, Rich Steinman, Joseph Stevens, Noel Strobino, Charles Joseph Sweeney, Evelyn Synczyszyn, Michael Synczyszyn, Pavlo Tabak, Nicholas Taylor, Sue Taylor, Elenora Thomas, Lydia Thomas, Michael Tilson, Brysen Tomei, Dominic Tomei, Mark Tomei, Violet Tomei, Aria Tonner, Mariel Trimble, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Peter Weremedic, Laura Worley, Jack Ziegler & James Zook.

Ascension Thursday at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Wilmington, Delaware

Pani Dobrodyka Elizabeth Hutnick

Ascension Thursday was very special this year as His Eminence, Metropolitan Antony travelled with Deacon Pavlo Vysotskyi and the Seminarians to celebrate the Festal Liturgy. He was greeted in the back of the Church by our Parish Sisterhood President Kathy Duncan who presented him with a beautiful bouquet of flowers which was created by Sandra Cramer. Linda Hnatow, Parish Trustee, both baked and greeted His Eminence with a beautiful korovai and salt. Father Stephen Hutnick, Pastor, greeted Vladyko with the Hand Cross and Holy Water, expressing the joy and expectation of his arrival to the Parish. He assured the Metropolitan of our continued prayers of the Parish Faithful and asked that he continue to pray for the Parish.

There was another reason that this Liturgy was very special. Our Seminarians not only served at the altar, but also sang in place of the Parish Choir. The Seminary Choir, under the direction of Marian Meleshko, was comprised of Subdeacon Andrii Akulenko and Seminarians Bohdan Bodnar and Marian Koval. Their angelic voices filled the Parishioners with joy.

Concelebrating at the altar with His Eminence were Father Stephen, Protopresbyter Emmanuel Pratsinakis and Deacon Pavlo. Serving at the Altar were Subdeacons Mykola Stefanyk, Yurii Izhyk, Mark Jaskolka, (St. Nicholas Parish, Dover, DE) and our own altar server, Matthew Andreas.

After the Holy Gospel, His Eminence preached an unforgettable Sermon. The story of the Resurrection and the Ascension in Luke's Gospel were woven together. The problem with Christians today is that they do not understand the power of the Resurrection. It is here that we receive a new life – a life which is filled with the power of God. Instead of living the life of an Orthodox Christian and through our dedication to this life approach the life of God (deification), we are burdened with the cares of life, in the here and now. We never realize that the power of the Resurrection is ours as a gift from God that can never be taken away. Christ is with us every second of our life and though He has Ascended, He has not abandoned us. The power of the Resurrection is ours if we seek Him with all of our hearts.

At the end of Liturgy, Father Stephen asked the people to keep our Hierarchs, Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel together with all the clergy in their prayers. He also asked that we remember our Seminarians who one day, God

willing, will be ordained to the Priesthood. One of them may be the Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul.

After the Divine Liturgy, a luncheon was prepared sponsored by our Parish Sisterhood. Special thanks again to President Kathy Duncan, Chairperson, and Sandy Cramer for the beautiful preparation of the food and hall. Special thanks also to all those who helped in the serving and clean up for the event.

After spending the afternoon with the Parishioners, it was time for the Metropolitan and the Seminarians to return to South Bound Brook. We look forward to the next time we will all be together.

THE CREED AND SCRIPTURE

Did you ever wonder why we as orthodox Christians state that the Creed (Nicean - Constantinopolitan) is from Scripture. Here is an excerpt from a book entitled "The Scriptural Divine Liturgy" which is in preparation by Raymond J. Mastroberte.

I believe in (Romans 10:8-10; 1 John 4:15); ONE God (Deuteonomy 6:4; Ephesians 4:6); Father (Matthew 6:9); Almighty (Exodus 6:3); Creator of Heaven and Earth (Genesis 1:1); and of all things visible and invisible (Colossians 1:15-16); and in ONE Lord, Jesus Christ (Acts 11:17); Son of God (Matthew 14:33; 16:16); Only-Begotten (John 1:18; 3:16); Begotten of the Father before all ages (John 1:2); Light from Light (Psalm 27:1; John 8:12; Matthew 17:2,5); True God from True God (John 17:1-5); Begotten, not made (John 1:18); of one essence with the Father (John 10:30); through Whom all things were made (Hebrews 1:1-2); Who for us men and for our salvation (1 Timothy 2:4-5); came down from heaven (John 6:33,35); and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:35); and became man (John 1:14); And He was crucified for us (Mark 15:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3); under Pontius Pilate (John 19:6); suffered (Mark 8:31); and was buried (Luke 23:53; 1 Corinthians 15:4); And on the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures (Luke 24:11; 1 Corinthians 15:4); and ascended into heaven (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:10); and sits at the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19; Acts 7:55); and He shall come again with glory (Matthew 24:27); to judge the living and the dead (Acts 10:42; 2 Timothy 4:1); Whose kingdom will have no end (2 Peter 1:11); And in the Holy Spirit (John 14:26); Lord (Acts 5:3-4); Giver of Life (Genesis 1:2); Who proceeds from the Father (John 15:26); Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified (Matthew 3:16-17); Who spoke through the Prophets (1 Samuel 19:20; Ezechial 11:5,13); In one, (Matthew 16:18); holy (1 Peter 2:5,9); catholic (Mark 16:15); and Apostolic Church (Acts 2:42; Ephesians 2:19-22); I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins (Ephesians 4:5); I look for the resurrection of the dead (John 11:24; 1Corinthinas 15:12-49; Hebrews 6:2; Revelation 20:5); and the life in the age to come (Mark 10:29-30); AMEN. (Psalm 106:48)

FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



Today we commemorate the 318 Bishops who attended the first Ecumenical Council at Nicea in the year 325. This Council defined the timeless truth that Jesus Christ is both God and man. This Council is most important because it affirmed the divinity of Christ and laid the foundation of all subsequent definitions.

The gathering of the Council was occasioned by a major controversy. Arius (280-336), an archpriest of Alexandria, taught that Son was not equal to the Father. In his teaching, Arius stated that the Son was not of the same essence with the Father nor was He infinite nor eternal. He was a creature; a most perfect creature - the most perfect creature that God had created, but He was not God. Therefore, Mary, His mother, could not be

called the Mother of God.

Athanasius, Archbishop of Alexandria, opposed this heresy. He eloquently exposed the truth that Jesus, the Word of God, was indeed God in reality, and that through the Incarnation, He became a real man. "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:4).

This controversy raged throughout the Roman Empire throwing it into a state of turmoil. Emperor Constantine decided to submit the matter to the judgment of the Universal Church, and so he called the First Ecumenical Council that convened in Nicea. Christianity stands or fails by this definition of the Council, that Jesus Christ is really God and is truly man. His humanity was not merely an appearance, but as truly human as we are, only without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

It was at this Council that the celebrated Nicene Creed was drawn up: "We believe in one God, Father, Almighty, Creator of all things visible and invisible, and in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down, was incarnate, was made man. . ."

Other decisions reached at this Council: It established the method of calculating the celebration of Pascha - the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after the vernal equinox which falls after the celebration of Passover.

“YOU ASCEND WITHOUT ABANDONING US . . .”

After Christ's Resurrection, it is documented by the Scriptures that He appeared to His Apostles on numerous occasions, preparing them for the great challenge that awaited them: spreading His Gospel throughout the world. On the 40th day after His triumphant victory over death, our Saviour climbed the Mount of Olives with His beloved followers and gave them their final instructions: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Jesus then blessed them and ascended into the sky before their very eyes!

St. John Chrysostom writes of the significance of this event in one of his famous homilies. "Today the human race is completely reconciled with God. Today, we, too, become heirs to the kingdom of heaven, even though we are not even worthy to live on earth."

Yes, the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord makes thoughts of heaven very real for all of us. Our life on earth is merely a "preface" to the "book" of eternal life. Each day of our life here should find us observing all that Christ has commanded us to do! In His own words, the Lord returned to His heavenly home "to prepare a place for us." One of the verses from the Vespers for this glorious Feast clearly tells us the underlying reason for Christ's departure from our midst: "The Lord ascended into Heaven so that He could send the Comforter into the world." By doing this, His promise is fulfilled throughout eternity: Lo, I am with you always.