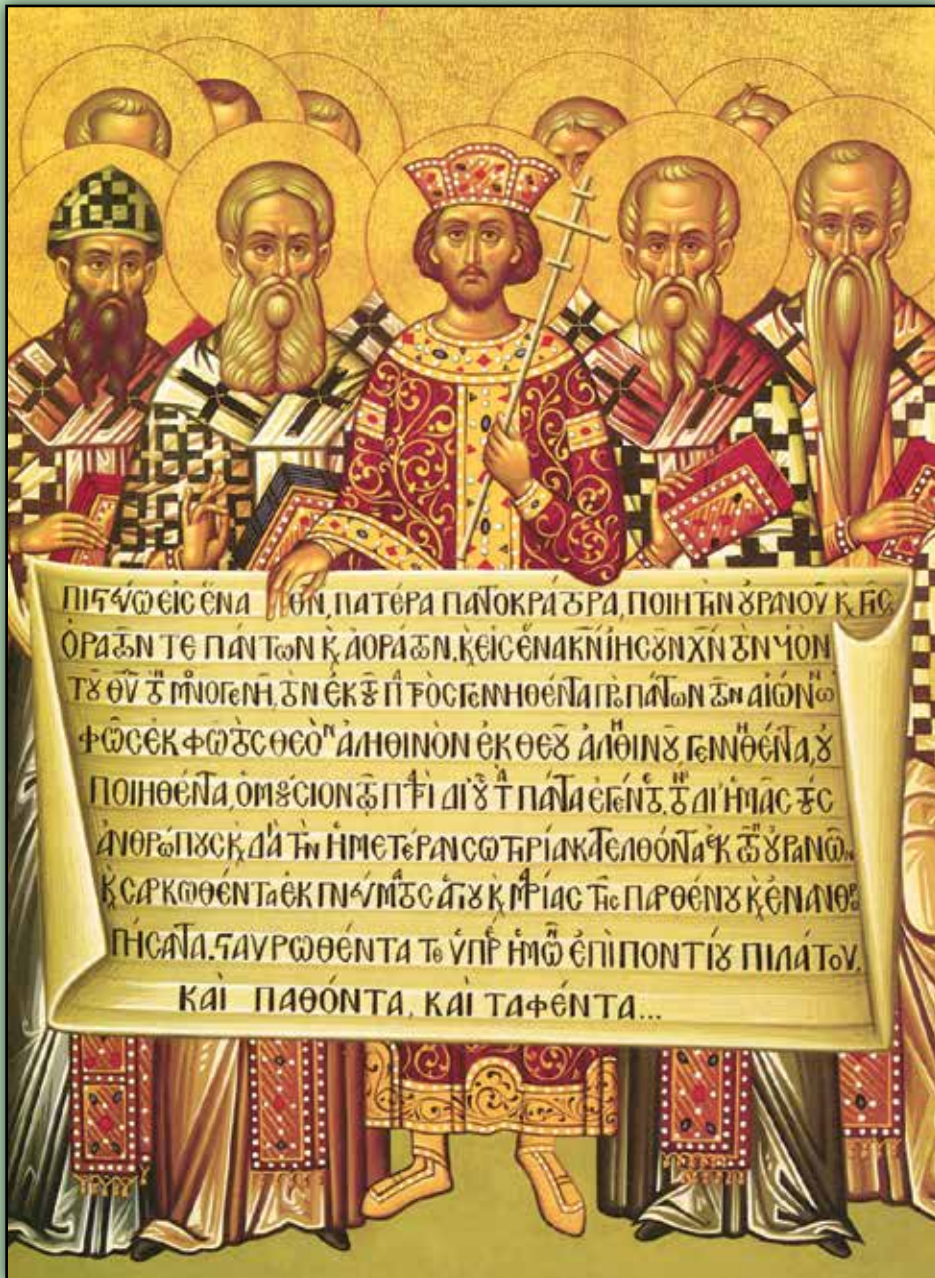


SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST COUNCIL



Icon of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea

| May 16, 2021: Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Epistle: Acts 16: 16-34 | | Gospel: Jn. 9: 1-38 |
| Mon., May 17 | 9:00 | Health of Dr. Wira Rakowsky (Father Nestor) |
| Tues., May 18 | 9:00 | + Gabriel Drakes (Wife & Son) |
| Wed., May 19 | 9:00 | + Nicholas Spryn (Mary Ann Spryn) |
| Thurs. May 20 | 9:00 | + Theresa Tehensky (Nieces & Nephews) |
| | 6:00 pm | Moleben to the Mother of God |
| Fri., May 21 | 9:00 | + Frank Evanitsky (Daughter, Michaelene) |
| Sat., May 22 | No Morning Divine Liturgy | |
| | 2:00 pm | Confessions |
| | 4:00 pm | + Gabriel Drakes (Wife & Son) |
| Sun., May 23 | 10:00 | For Our Parishioners |

First Antiphon

Clap your hands, all you peoples;* sing to God a song of gladness.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, Save us.*

For the most high Lord is awesome;* He is a mighty King over all the earth.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, Save us.*

He subjects many peoples under us, bringing nations below our feet.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, Save us.*

The Lord God ascends with acclamation,* amidst the sound of trumpets.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, Save us.*

.....

Third Antiphon

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Savior.

Son of God, exalted in glory, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms.

Son of God, exalted in glory, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

For God is the great Lord and the great king over all the earth.

Son of God, exalted in glory, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

.....
Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.
Son of God, exalted in glory, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

.....

Hymn to the Mother of God

Extol, my soul, the Lord exalted gloriously in the flesh above the heavens. All of us believers, with one accord, * proclaim your greatness as the Mother of God, * for in time you gave birth to the timeless One, * defying words and human understanding.

.....

Communion Verse

Praise the Lord from the heavens; * praise Him in the highest.
Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous ones; * praise from the upright is fitting.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS
OF THE FIRST NICENE COUNCIL**

Three times a year we remember particularly the Holy Fathers who took part in the seven great Ecumenical Councils, which defined the teachings of our faith and regulated much of our Church practice. The Church is *patristic*, based securely on the teachings of the Holy Fathers, who in turn are based on what the Lord Jesus Christ revealed, what the Apostles proclaimed, and what the Church has received. By holding fast to the teachings of the seven great Ecumenical Councils, we maintain the True Faith in the One True God, the True Faith in Jesus Christ. Today we honor the Holy Fathers of

the First Council of Nicea. This Council took place in 325 A.D. The Council defined and proclaimed the Church's teaching that Jesus Christ is fully and absolutely True God and True Man. The Council of Nicea also canonized about two-thirds of the Creed, which today we call the "Nicene Creed," in honor of that Council. The First Council of Constantinople approved the rest. This Sunday recalls the victory of the true faith over its enemies and affirms the importance of the First Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea in 325 A.D.

DO CATHOLICS HAVE TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

Some people are expressing hesitancy about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. There are a variety of reasons for this, including incomplete or incorrect information regarding the vaccines themselves and a lack of trust in the safety of the vaccines.

Some believe that their rapid development and testing, which normally would have taken several years, means that important steps have been missed.

Given the amount of misinformation that exists, especially on social media, we should try to make sure that the guidance we receive regarding whether or not to get vaccinated is correct and up to date.

Regarding issues of trust, public health departments need to be transparent concerning what is known and what is not known about the vaccines. There is strong evidence that the speed of bringing them to market has not affected safety or short-term efficacy. Questions remain regarding long-term consequences simply because there hasn't been enough time to gather that data.

Some people question the morality of using these COVID-19 vaccines because stem cell lines that originated from aborted fetuses decades ago were used, either in testing or possibly in

development. Although the Catholic tradition clearly states that abortion is morally wrong, it also understands that there can be morally significant distance between the original act of abortion decades ago and the act of receiving a vaccine for which these stem cell lines were used in one way or another.

Because of this morally significant distance and the imminent danger that the COVID-19 pandemic poses, both the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Pope Francis agree that it is morally acceptable to use COVID-19 vaccines, stating that under the current circumstances all vaccines recognized as clinically safe and effective can be used in good conscience by Catholics. In a note issued on December 17, 2020, the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith says that vaccination itself is not a moral obligation—"it must be voluntary"—however, "the common good may recommend vaccination, especially to protect the weakest and most exposed."

As a general rule, people should be vaccinated. Vaccines fight against infection and help keep people healthy. This is especially true regarding vaccines that help prevent infectious disease, when getting a vaccine not only

protects your own health but also that of others.

There might be particular health reasons why a specific individual shouldn't be vaccinated. If you believe in conscience that you shouldn't be vaccinated, your moral obligation has not ended. You still need to take your responsibility to others seriously.

In the case of COVID-19, actions such as wearing masks and keeping social distance are examples of what we continue to owe others. As St. Pope John Paul II says in *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* (On Social Concerns), "We are all really responsible for all."

-- <https://uscatholic.org>

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

1. Dress Appropriately.
2. Arrive a few minutes early – take a few minutes to pray and ready yourself for the Celebration of the Divine Liturgy.
3. Observe silence before the Divine Liturgy begins, people are trying to pray.
4. Please join the entire congregation by taking a seat, don't stand next to the confessionals. Also, please feel free to enter into the nave of the Church and not gather in the vestibule. Remember, you are a participant in the Divine Liturgy, not a spectator.
5. Before entering the pew, as a sign of reverence, bless yourself and bow to the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the Tabernacle.
6. Turn off all cell phones or any other electronic device that may disrupt the celebration.
7. Please do not chew gum in Church.
8. Did you fast one hour before receiving Holy Communion? Are you in a state of grace? Don't be afraid to approach the priest when receiving Holy Communion – he can only reach so far.
9. Don't talk to the priest when receiving Holy Communion – he is reciting a prayer.
10. Take a few moments after receiving Holy Communion to express your gratitude in private prayer. What are you saying to God if you leave Church as soon as you receive Holy Communion?
11. Pick up any tissue, cheerios or wrappers that you may have left in the pew.
12. What's the rush? Stay until the royal doors are completely closed. Don't forget to take the bulletin (both pages) home with you!

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR MAY 22ND AND 23RD

Because this year's Food Truck Festival has expanded in size, additional volunteers are needed. Anyone interested, please attend a meeting on Sun-

day, May 16th, 2:00 in the Parish Hall at 207 River Street. This is an opportunity to help your Parish and have fun at the same time.

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVALS ARE BACK

This year, we will be hosting three Food Truck Festivals, the first of which is Saturday, May 22nd and Sunday, May 23rd from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm. (Then July 17/18 and Sept. 11/12.) The Festivals will be bigger and better than last year's. The first one will have nine food trucks: Grumpy Crab (featuring seafood and Father's favorite cheesesteaks), R&R Potato Pancakes, 2Wayz/OnePassion (tex-mex), Roseanna's Pizza, FonDippity (specialty topped French fries), BellaRose (pieroghi, halupky, halushky, wimpies, pulled pork) Murts Diner Truck (old fashioned diner food), Murts Desserts (homemade cupcakes), and Lou's Funnel Cakes. We will, also, have

BINGO, several craft vendors, a raffle, and games of chance for kids (duck pond, knock cans down, bean bag into clown's mouth, and wind-up mouse race.) Free balloons for kids. Masks and social distancing will be required. Please join us for this fun fundraiser for our Parish, and, please pass the word around to friends and neighbors.

SPECIAL REQUEST: We are in need of pop-up tents for the Food Truck Festivals. Anyone able to loan one for the two-day event, please call: Jule @ (570) 357-6171, Michaelene @ (570) 209-2026, or, MaryAnn @ (570) 313-1989. We promise to take good care of them.

FLEA MARKET & HOMEMADE FOOD SALE

Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, North River & West Chestnut Streets, Wilkes-Barre will hold a Flea Market & Homemade Food Sale, Saturday, May 22, 2021

from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm and Sunday, May 23, 2021 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Tables for the sale are \$10. Call (570) 829-3051 to reserve your table by Thursday, May 20th. Come out and

sell your Spring Cleaning Treasures, or Browse our vendors' selection of theirs. Find a bargain and enjoy

some good food from Baba's Kitchen. Chances will be sold for our Variety Basket Raffle.

Mark Your Calendars

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, last year we were forced to cancel the Memorial Services at our Cemetery. As conditions are improving, we will resume having the Memorial Services at our Cemetery.

THE MEMORIAL SERVICES AT OUR CEMETERY WILL TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR ON

SUNDAY, MAY 30TH. BEGINNING AT 10:00 AM. THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE DIVINE LITURGY ON THAT SUNDAY. Following the Divine Liturgy, a Panachyda Service will be held to pray for all those buried at our Cemetery, after which, individual graves will be blessed.

PRE-RUMMAGE SALE SET UP FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Come and volunteer for a few hours. We will be unpacking boxes and bins for the pre-rummage sale set up. On Monday, May 17, and Tuesday, May 18th, and the following week, Monday, May 24, and Tuesday, May 25th.

All days starting at 9:30 a.m. to Noon only, at St. Cyril's School Gym. All are welcome to volunteer, after 10 years, you know what is involved. It is the beginning of another fundraiser Rummage Sale for the church. Any questions, call Lauren at cell 646-241-9443 or 570-383-0319. During this time, your donations will be accepted. Evening hours will be available in a few weeks.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team #1: Jerry Sereditch, Michaelene for the month of May 2021 is Team Davis, and Gloria Jablonski.

Sunday Collection for May 8 & 9, 2021: \$

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451 Fax: 570-489-6918

Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com

E-Mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net



Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Knowledge of the True God Nurtures Us to Eternal Life

Are we saying that knowledge is eternal life? Are we saying that to know the one true and living God will suffice to give us complete security for the future without need of anything else? Then how is “faith apart from works dead?” When we speak of faith, we mean the true knowledge of God and nothing else, since knowledge comes by faith. The prophet Isaiah tells us this: “If you do not believe, neither shall you understand.” But he is not talking about a knowledge that consists in barren speculations, which is entirely worthless. For one of the holy disciples said, “You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder.” What then shall we say to this? How is it that Christ speaks the truth when He says that eternal life is the knowledge of God the Father, the one true God, and with Him of the Son? I think, indeed, we must answer that the saying of the Savior is completely true. For this knowledge is life, laboring as it were in birth of the whole meaning of the mystery and

granting to us participation in the mystery of the Eucharist, whereby we are joined to the living and life-giving Word. And for this reason, I think, Paul says that the Gentiles are made fellow members of the body and fellow partakers of Christ, inasmuch as they partake in His Blessed Body and Blood. And our members may in this sense be conceived of as being members of Christ. This knowledge, then, which also brings to us the Eucharist by the Spirit, is life. For it dwells in our hearts, reshaping those who receive it into son-ship with Him and molding them into incorruption and piety toward God through life, according to the Gospel. Our Lord Jesus Christ, then, knowing that the knowledge of the one true God brings to us and promotes our union with the blessings of which we have spoken, says that it is eternal life. It is the mother and nurse of eternal life, being in its power and nature pregnant with those things that cause life and lead to life.

St. Cyril of Alexandria