

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE  
FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



*Icon of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council*

## May 21, 2023: Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Epistle: Acts 20: 16-18 & 28-38

Gospel: Jn. 17: 1-13

<b>Mon., May 22</b>	9:00	+ Fr. Ihor Bloshchynskyy
	6:00	Moleben to the Mother of God
<b>Tues., May 23</b>	9:00	+ Romaine Strony (Howard Smith)
<b>Wed., May 24</b>	9:00	+ Dolores Kuzmick (Gloria Jablonski)
<b>Thurs., May 25</b>	9:00	+ Nancy Trygar (Howard Smith)
<b>Fri. May 26</b>	9:00	+ Michael Comerford (Jule Harris)
<b>Sat., May 27</b>	<b>No Morning Liturgy</b>	
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	For Our Parishioners
<b>Sun., May 28</b>	10:30	Church: + For Those Buried in Our Cemetery
	12:30	Cemetery: Panachyda & Blessing of Graves

### 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 You Know How the Apostles Died?**

This will serve as a reminder that our personal and business sufferings are minor... compared to the intense persecution and cold cruelty the Apostles and disciples of Jesus Christ faced in those times because of their undying Faith.

**ST. MATTHEW** suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia, killed by a sword wound.

**ST. MARK** died in Alexandria, Egypt, after being dragged by horses through the streets until he was dead.

**ST. LUKE** was hanged in Greece as a result of his tremendous preaching to the lost.

**ST. JOHN** faced martyrdom when he was boiled in huge basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution in Rome. However, he was miraculously delivered from death. John was then

sentenced to the mines on the prison island of Patmos. He wrote his prophetic "Book of Revelation" on Patmos. The apostle John was later freed and returned to serve as Bishop of Edessa in modern Turkey. He died as an old man, the only apostle to die peacefully.

**ST. PETER** was crucified upside down on a cross. According to church tradition it was because he told his tormentors that he felt unworthy to die in the same way that Jesus Christ had died.

**ST. JAMES** "The Leader" of the church in Jerusalem, he was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. When they discovered that he survived the fall, his enemies beat James to

death with a fuller's club. This was the same pinnacle where Satan had taken Jesus during "The Temptation."

**ST. JAMES THE GREAT** son of Zebedee. James was a fisherman by trade when Jesus called him to a lifetime of ministry. As a strong leader of the church, James was ultimately beheaded at Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James watched amazed as James defended his faith at his trial. Later, the officer walked beside James to the place of execution. Overcome by conviction, he declared his new faith to the judge and knelt beside James to accept beheading as a Christian.

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW** also known as Nathaniel, he was a missionary to Asia. He witnessed for our Lord in present day Turkey. Bartholomew was martyred for his preaching in Armenia where he was flayed to death by a whip.

**ST. ANDREW** was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Patras, Greece. After being whipped severely by seven soldiers, they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony. His

followers reported that, when he was led toward the cross, Andrew saluted it in these words: "I have long desired and expected this happy hour. The cross has been consecrated by the body of Christ hanging on it." He continued to preach to his tormentors for two days until he expired.

**ST. THOMAS** was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the church in the sub-continent.

**ST. JUDE** was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

**ST. MATTHIAS**, the apostle chosen to replace the traitor Judas Iscariot, was stoned and then beheaded.

**ST. PAUL** was tortured and then beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero at Rome in A.D. 67. Paul endured a lengthy imprisonment, which allowed him to write his many epistles to the churches he had formed throughout the Roman Empire. These letters, which taught many of the foundational doctrines of Christianity, form a large portion of the New Testament.

## MAY DEVOTIONS

The month of May is devoted to our heavenly Mother, Mary. A Moleben

service will be offered on Mondays in May, at 6:00 pm. Come to church, join

us in honoring her, who God first honored, by choosing her to be the Mother of His Son.

## **MEMORIAL SERVICES AT OUR CEMETERY**

We will be having Memorial Services at our Cemetery on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting, The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated in our Church at 10:30 am for intention of all those buried in our Cemetery. At 12:30

pm, a Panachyda Service will be held at the monument (at the Cemetery) to pray for all those buried at our Cemetery, after which, individual graves will be blessed.

## **A THOUGHT FOR THE SUMMER ON CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

Do we apply the same standards of faithfulness to our Church activities that we expect in other areas of life? If your car starts one out of three times, do you think it's faithful? If the paper boy skips the Monday and Thursday editions, aren't they missed? If you fail to come to work four or five times a month — does your employer call you faithful? If your refrigerator quits for a day now and then, do you excuse

it by saying, "Oh, it works most of the time." If you miss two out of twelve mortgage payments a year, does the bank say, "Well, ten out of twelve isn't bad?" PUNCH LINE: If you fail to worship God in Church, one, two or more Sundays a month, can you be called faithful? If we expect faithfulness from other people and things... does not God expect the same — and more — from us, His people?

## **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!

## OUR FUNDRAISERS

The FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL is this weekend from noon to 7 pm. Also, this weekend we have the FLEA FAIR CLEARANCE from 9 am to 4 pm. We've made a lot of

progress in the gym. Items have been consolidated on the tables and the unopened boxes have been sorted and readied for sale. Stop by and support our Parish!

## COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of May 2023 is Team #1:

Jerry Sereditch, Michaelene Davis, and Gloria Jablonski.

**Sunday Collection for May 13 & 14, 2023: \$**

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *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*

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