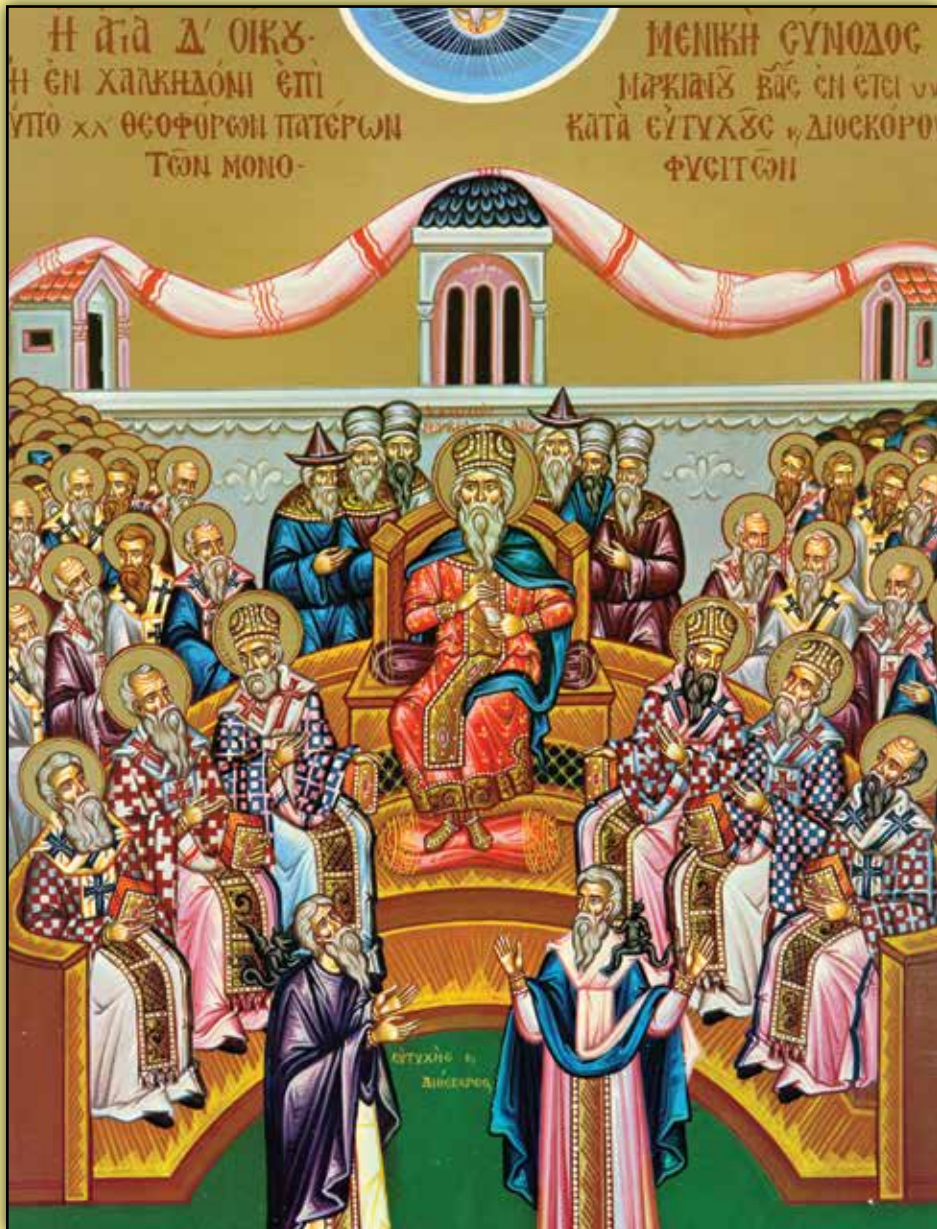


SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS



Icon of the Holy Fathers

July 19, 2026: Fathers of the Six Ecumenical Councils

Epistle: Heb. 12: 7-16

Gospel: Jn. 17: 1-13

This Weekend	4:00 pm + Peter and Dorothy (Howard Smith) 10:30 For Our Parishioners
Mon., July 20	9:00 + Myroslaw & Halyna (Son, Father Nestor)
Tues., July 21	9:00 Intention Available: See Father Nestor
Wed., July 22	9:00 + Joseph & Mary Kazlaski (Paul & Rosemary)
Thurs., July 23	9:00 Intention Available: See Father Nestor
Fri., July 24	9:00 + Andy & Anna Benio (Daughter, Rosemarie)
Sat., July 25	No Morning Divine Liturgy. 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Ron Dubiac (Sister, Marlene Matiskella)
Sun., July 26	10:30 For Our Parishioners; Baptism

FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

“Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their lives, and imitate their faith.”

Today we remember the Fathers of the first six Ecumenical Councils, those pastor-bishops who met in various gatherings from the fourth to the seventh centuries to combat heresies and formulate canons, or rules, to guide the Church in holy living. We honor these Fathers – indeed, we honor all the saints – because they are friends of Christ, because they show us Christ. The Fathers

committed their lives, many of them as martyrs, to teaching clearly and faithfully the word of God. And so, we are called to consider carefully the outcome of their lives and to imitate their faith. We are to follow their examples in never neglecting to do good and to share what we have, for such is the way of the fathers, the way of the saints, and such sacrifices are well pleasing to God.

One of the reasons our Churches are filled with icons is to aid us in this task. In worship we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, a tremendous

company of those who teach us in word and deed the way of Christ. Many of them were mistreated by the world. Like their Lord Christ, they met their end in dishonor, “dying outside the city,” far removed from fame or fortune. For here they had no lasting city, but rather they sought a city which is to come. As a community of faithful we are to remember them, we cling to their relics, we venerate their icons, because we know that they’re not simply dead and gone, buried and forgotten. We know that in Christ they live! Dwelling in the fullness of His presence, they are in a certain

profound sense more alive than we are in our present struggles.

And so we ask their prayers, that our lives may become more deeply rooted in the life and love of Christ, just as theirs are. We remember them this day and every day. In the words of St. John of Damascus, who wrote in the eighth century: “Let us carefully review the life of these men, and let us emulate their faith and love and hope and zeal and way of life, and endurance of sufferings and patience even to (the shedding of) blood, in order that we may be sharers with them in their crowns of glory.” Amen

HOLY, GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIJAH

Commemorated on July 20

The Holy Prophet Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elijah: “When Elijah was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames.” The name Elijah (the Lord’s strength) given to the infant

defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.

During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced

by the impious king Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to Sarephta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elijah, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the

widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elijah told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God.

The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elijah built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water.

When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: "Truly, the Lord is God!" Then the Prophet Elijah had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth.

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elijah fled into the Kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elijah traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave.

The Lord told him that the next day Elijah would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed

the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in "a gentle breeze" (3 Kings 19: 12). He revealed to the prophet, that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal.

Later, the Lord commanded Elijah to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elijah was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elijah's mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit.

According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elijah will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.

In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.

CEMETERY MONUMENTS

Just a reminder that families are responsible for maintaining their monu-

ments at the Cemetery. There are some monuments that are ready to fall over

and are a hazard. If they fall, someone could be injured. Please make ar-

rangements for any necessary repairs to be made.

A REMINDER FOR VACATION SEASON

It is that wonderful time of year once again — Vacation Time! A season for rest and relaxation, when we temporarily step away from our daily routines to recharge. Whether we stay at home or venture out to visit friends, explore new destinations, or embark on exciting adventures, vacations offer a much-needed break for the soul. During these moments, it's easy to let our usual obligations slip from our minds.

However, there is one reality we cannot escape: bills and financial responsibilities never seem to take a vacation. This includes the operational costs of our Church, which, paradoxically, often increase during the summer months. Whether it's the upkeep of church facilities or utility

bills, these vital needs continue to require support, even as we are away enjoying time with loved ones.

So, as you pack your bags, finalize travel plans, or settle into your summer routine, please keep your Church in mind. Ensuring that your Sunday Collection envelopes are mailed in while you're away is an easy and thoughtful way to maintain your contributions to the Church's mission. This simple act allows you to fully enjoy your vacation, knowing you have supported the work that continues to uplift our community.

Thank you for remembering your Church during this busy season, and may your summer be filled with joy, relaxation, and renewal!

WHY COOK WEDNESDAY DINNER

Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church will hold the 3rd and last of their "Why Cook Wednesday Dinners" for the Summer with a Ukrainian Festival Food, Take-Out Dinner on Wednesday, August 12th. Order from a menu of festival

foods including: a Holubtsi Dinner with 2 piggies, 3 pyrohy and green beans for \$12.00, a Kovbasa Dinner with Kielbasa & Sauerkraut, Hard Roll and 3 Pyrohy for \$10.00, Pagash - 3 Cuts for \$6.00 or a whole tray of 12 for \$22.00, Pyrohy - 6 for \$6.00 or

a dozen frozen for \$10, Cabbage and Noodles for \$4.00 a pint, and Piggie 6-Packs for \$18.00. Desserts available at our bake sale. Pick-Ups from 4:00 to 7:00 pm in their school hall on the corner of North River and West Chestnut Streets, near the General Hospital Parkade in Wilkes-Barre.

Take-Out Only and Pre-Orders are strongly encouraged. Place your order by calling the School Hall Kitchen (570) 829-3051. Tickets will also be sold for a Basket Raffle. Remember... When Baba Cooks, Everybody's Happy!"

SUPPORTING ST. CYRIL'S PARISH FINANCIALLY IN 2026 AND IN THE FUTURE!

Just a reminder, all those who have no envelopes, to get and use them regularly. Those who pay ONLY their annual dues, but do not have and do not use envelopes, are not truly supporting the Parish financially as they should. Long gone are the days, when \$1.00 in the Church envelope per week, (\$52.00 per year) was adequate. Times have changed, and we know there are Parishioners on limited income. But for the others, this is 2026 and for the welfare of our

church, you need to cooperate in this respect so that we will be able to proceed with necessary repairs and expenses without any assessments. The average collection per week is approximately \$2,000.00 or \$104,000.00 per year. We do have big expenses: gas, water, electricity, insurance, labor etc.... the cost of everything in the home has risen; so therefore the Church is no exception. This is our Church that we are all so proud of, and we need your additional support, financially.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of July 2026 is Team

#3: Cheryl Matuszewski, Carol Zadarosni, and Jeanne Cucura.

Sunday Collection for June 27 & 28, 2026: \$

Sincere thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity.

SS. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451

Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com

E-Mail: olyphant@ukrcatholic.org

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Authority of the Council – Authority of the Church

The authority of the Councils is based also on their ecclesiological grounding. A council is not an independent, autonomous body, additional, coming from outside, acting unilaterally. It is not the product of accidental circumstances in history and imposed afterwards. It is closely, or rather organically, related with the very essence of the Church. This body of Christ is a living organism, destined to grow, to face difficulties during this process, to be implanted in other regions of the world needing inculturation and a certain adaptation.

Such embodiment and multifaceted ministry creates problems, tensions, even divisions and in spite of the good will of the local

bishop and pastors, the convocation of as a major assembly is considered as a natural instrument, salutary and indispensable.

The official voice of the catholicity and the koinonia of all the other sister churches, in harmony and guided by the Spirit, would only provide the new assessments, possible remedies and solutions. The functioning of such a council was such that the opinions and requests at issue found expression from the very womb of the Church. Once the decision was made, the people had a part in receiving it and publicizing it (Acts 15:22) as is seen in the first assembly of Jerusalem.

Metropolitan Emilianos