

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

170 Lexington Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey, 07055
www.stjohnspassaic.org

REV. FR. IGOR KSENIUK, Rector

973-473-1928 (Phone/Fax)
646-387-5494 (cell)
fr.igorksn@gmail.com

Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

The Walking Wounded at Nicea

The Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council are commemorated each year on the seventh Sunday of Pascha.

The gathering at which the fathers came together was held in Nicaea (present-day Iznik, Turkey) in the year 325. They were leaders of the Church, many of them bishops, and they were there in response to the summons of the Emperor Constantine. He and they were concerned about a misguided theology that was gaining adherents and creating dissension among believers. Arius, a priest from Alexandria, was teaching that Jesus Christ was a created being rather than the divine Son of God, eternal and without beginning.

Not every invited leader made it to the Council. It was spring, and the rivers in the east were flooded from heavy rains. There was always the threat of robbers on the roads, and many had to come long distances on those roads to reach Nicaea. But in spite of that, men came from many parts of the world: Carthage, France, Milan, Calabria, Spain, Cyprus, Armenia, Rome, Persia, Antioch, Constantinople, Alexandria and the Nile desert. One attendee was Theophilus the Goth, who had traveled from the largely unknown region of the North—somewhere in what is now Russia.

Also present were men who would later become saints, including Nicholas of Myra and Athanasius of Alexandria. It was through their efforts, along with those of other participants who adhered to the Church's teaching, that the Council established what the Creed says about Jesus Christ: He is divine, and He is of the same essence as the Father. He is begotten of the Father, not made or created.

The Emperor presided in splendid royal attire. But some of the

Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Genevieve Bobenko, Michael Bzik, Mary Fehisin, Andrew Fabian, Mary Hadginske, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

men who attended were anything but splendid. Having come to Nicaea to deal with this new internal crisis of false teaching, they still bore the marks of the recent external crisis: the savage persecution of Christians by the state. One commentator has said that they were "the walking wounded, living demonstrations of how cruelly human beings can treat each other." The saintly Paphnutius, for example, hobbled along on legs whose sinews had been cut; he had only one eye, as did other victims of the emperor Diocletian and his torturers. Some men had skin that had been scorched by flames, or permanently scarred by the lashes of whips.

Yet here they were, still ready to serve Christ and the Church by laboring to create a statement that would tell the truth about the relationship of the Son to His Father. For Constantine, the important thing was to restore order and calm in the empire. His letter of invitation to the Council had read in part, "I entreat you that my endeavors may be brought to a prosperous end, and my people be persuaded to embrace peace and concord."

But the "walking wounded" were defending a Kingdom, not some mere earthly empire. Whether with their blood or their words, they would not fail in that defense.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Michael Bzik**, who celebrates his birthday this Saturday. May God grant you and all those celebrating a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!

Floral Offerings

Floral arrangements today are offered by Maryann Stagen in memory of her mother Mary. May her Memory be Eternal!

Announcements

◆ Save the Date: The upcoming **Parish Council Conference** will take place on **Sunday, June 25**, from **2pm - 6pm** at Ss. Peter & Paul Church, 76 Whitehead Avenue, South River, NJ. Judge Ray Lanier will be the presenter. He will guide all through the changes, emphasize the reasons for and the importance of the Diocesan By-Laws, and will be available to answer all related questions on this topic. A flyer is forthcoming. All Board of Trustees' members, please plan to attend this conference.

◆ **St. Andrew's Camp Annual Bicycle Ride Fundraiser**: Do a charity bike ride this year! Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 26, 2017 and bike for St. Andrew's Camp. This ride is ideal for the person who has never attempted a charity bike ride. The Ride offers 3 distances from which to choose, each on flat to rolling terrain. Overnight accommodations are available at the camp. Reach out and ask a friend to bike with you and support the Camp at the same time. For additional information visit www.saintandrewscamp.org.

◆ The **Food Pantry** is always in need of food items. Please keep those less fortunate in mind and help us to feed those in need. A basket is in the vestibule of the church for your convenience. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.



May 28, 2017

7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Holy Fathers
of the 1st Ecumenical Council
Afterfeast of the Ascension

- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 26-36
Gospel: Jn. 17:1-13
- Panikhida - in memory of all departed Veterans of our parish
- Coffee Hour – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JUNE 3 - MEMORIAL SATURDAY

5:30pm - Panikhida
6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

SUNDAY, JUNE 4 - HOLY PENTECOST

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Vespers with kneeling prayers