

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church of America

A Parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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*July 18, 2021*

*Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils*

- 9:10 am - Hours
- 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy followed by Panikhida in memory of Michael Hilko  
*Epistle:* Rom. 6:18-23  
*Gospel:* Matt. 8:5-13
- **Coffee Hour** – Church Hall. Everyone is invited for a fellowship followed the service.

### *Schedule of Services*

**Saturday, July 17**

- 5:00 pm – Great Vespers

**Sunday, July 18**

- 9:10 am - Hours
- 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy.

♦ We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for coffee hour after the service. Please note that reception of the Holy Eucharist is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.



### WEEKLY BIBLE MESSAG

#### *The First Six Ecumenical Councils*

In the Ninth Article of the Nicea-Constantinople Symbol of Faith proclaimed by the holy Fathers of the First and Second Ecumenical Councils, we confess our faith in "One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church." By virtue of the catholic nature of the Church, an Ecumenical Council is the Church's supreme authority, and possesses the competence to resolve major questions of church life. An Ecumenical Council is comprised of archpastors and pastors of the Church, and representatives of all the local Churches, from every land of the "oikumene" (i.e. from all the whole inhabited world). The Orthodox Church acknowledges Seven Holy Ecumenical Councils:

The First Ecumenical Council (Nicea I) (May 29, and also on seventh Sunday after Pascha) was convened in the year 325 against the heresy of Arius, in the city of Nicea in Bithynia under St. Constantine the Great, Equal of the Apostles.

The Second Ecumenical Council (Constantinople I) (May 22) was convened in the year 381 against the heresy of Macedonias, by the emperor Theodosius the Great.

The Third Ecumenical Council (Ephesus) (September 9) was convened in the year 431 against the heresy of Nestorius, in the city of Ephesus by the emperor Theodosius the Younger.

The Fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon) (July 16) was convened in the year 451, against the Monophysite heresy, in the city of Chalcedon under the emperor Marcian.

The Fifth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople II) (July 25) "Concerning the Three Chapters," was convened in the year 553, under the emperor Justinian the Great.

The Sixth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople III) (January 23) met during the years 680-681, to fight the Monothelite heresy, under the emperor Constantine Pogonatos.

The fact that the Seventh Ecumenical Council (Nicea II) is not

commemorated today testifies to the antiquity of today's celebration. The Seventh Council, commemorated on the Sunday nearest to October 11, was convened at Nicea in the year 787 against the Iconoclast heresy, under the emperor Constantine and his mother Irene.

The Church venerates the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils because Christ has established them as "lights upon the earth," guiding us to the true Faith. "Adorned with the robe of truth," the doctrine of the Fathers, based upon the preaching of the Apostles, has established one faith for the Church. The Ecumenical Councils, are the highest authority in the Church. Such Councils, guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and accepted by the Church, are infallible.

#### Parable of the day. A Merchant and His Donkey :

One beautiful spring morning, a merchant loaded his donkey with bags of salt to go to the market in order to sell them. The merchant and his donkey were walking along together.

They had not walked far when they reached a river on the road. Unfortunately, the donkey slipped and fell into the river and noticed that the bags of salt loaded on his back became lighter.

There was nothing the merchant could do, except return home where he loaded his donkey with more bags of salt. As they readied the slippery riverbank, now deliberately, the donkey fell into the river and wasted all the bags of salt on its back again.

he merchant quickly discovered the donkey's trick. He then returned home again but reloaded his donkey with bags of sponges.

The foolish, tricky donkey again set on its way. On reaching the river he again fell into the water. But instead of the load becoming lighter, it became heavier.

The merchant laughed at him and said: "You foolish donkey.... Your trick had been discovered, you should know that, those who are too clever sometimes over reach themselves."

### *Birthday Greeting*

Happy Birthday go out this week to **Halen Baron** – July 22; and **Kathy Petrow** – July 24. May God continue to enrich their life with the fullness of joy and happiness for many years – Mnogaya Lyeta!

### *Announcement*

♦ **Best Wishes to Michael Paduani and Alissa Pekoraro** who were joined together yesterday in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. May their lifelong journey as husband and wife be filled with love and happiness for many years – Mnogaya Lyeta!

♦ **St. Andrew's Camp Bicycle Ride.** This year the Ride will be on Saturday, August 28th, 2021. Archbishop Michael often speaks about the great service the Camp provides to our youth and families. The Ride is a fun way to support OUR camp and connect with others from other churches. All levels of ability are welcome. Riders can choose among various distances relevant to their ability. Riders will be cycling on roads. Helmets required. The support staff will be available to Riders and there are designated rest stops. Participants can come to the Camp on Friday night and for a nominal donation stay in the main dorm. Those arriving on Friday will be treated to a free Pasta dinner. After the Ride, everyone treated to a FABULOUS post-ride barbecue! The suggested donation for the ride is \$60. Suggested overnight dormitory donation is \$30. Please see the Saint Andrews Camp website for additional information and pictures of previous rides. Non-cyclists volunteers are appreciated. Come and visit the camp and take in the event. Bring a friend! If you have any questions please contact this year's ride coordinator Brenda Geloff at 315-552-4191.

