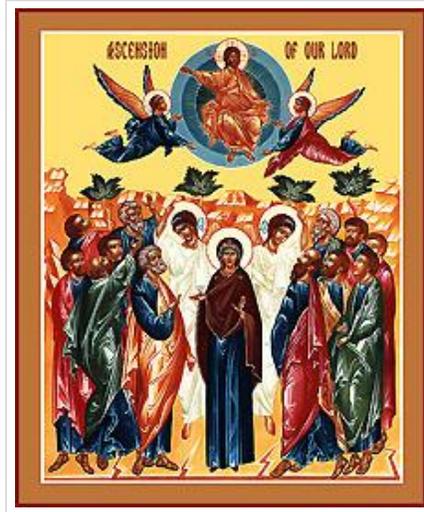


St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am.  
University of Mt. Union Library Building - Room KHIC 003  
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)  
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)  
June 1, 2014

7<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Pascha/ Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council at Nicaea/  
After-feast of the Ascension

**Mission Phone # 330 768-7633**

Mission Website <http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com/>



**Tone 6      Troparion      (Resurrection)**

The angelic powers were at Your tomb; the guards became as dead men.  
Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure body. You took captive hell, // not being tempted  
by it.

You came to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

**Tone 4      Troparion      (Ascension)**

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy  
Spirit. Through the blessing, they were assured, that You are the Son of God, // the Redeemer of the  
world!

**Tone 8      Troparion      (Fathers)**

You are most glorious, O Christ our God! You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the  
earth.

Through them You have guided us to the true Faith. // O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

**Tone 4      Troparion      St. Nikolai**

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of  
abstinence; your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Nikolai, entreat  
Christ our God that our souls may be saved!

**Tone 8      Kontakion      (Fathers)**

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church.  
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, // It defines and glorifies the great  
mystery of piety.

**Tone 6      Kontakion      (Ascension)**

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, and united earth to heaven, You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love You, but remaining with them and crying:// “I am with you, and there is no one against you!”

**Epistle:** Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

**Tone 4      Prokeimenon**

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever!  
v: For You are just in all that You have done for us!

**Tone 1      Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

v: The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
v: Gather to Me, My venerable ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!

**Gospel:** John 17:1-13

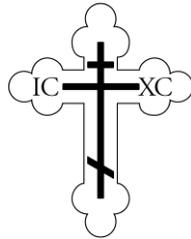
**(Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” we sing:)**

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who has ascended from earth to heaven!  
We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

**Communion Hymns**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**(Instead of “We have seen the True Light,” we sing the Troparion of Ascension)**



**On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.**

The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, “I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior’s words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor’s sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most harmful of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial (one in essence) with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: St Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), St Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos (December 12), and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

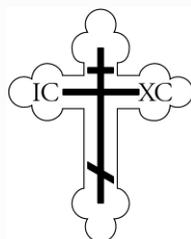
With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius (who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (May 2 and January 18). He is called "the Great," for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today's Feast, he is referred to as "the thirteenth Apostle."

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, ***"God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous."***

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heretic Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan's knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a flawed statement of faith proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith (Creed). St Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word "consubstantial," which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of self-aggrandizing reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).



**PRAYERS are requested for:**

Candi (friend of John and Lynette Baier)

Wendy (friend of Lana Baier)

Jacquelyn, friend of Dan and Jake Krupko who has been diagnosed with heart problems.

Nell Janik and her husband, George.

**COFFEE HOUR:**

Coffee Hour this Sunday will be provided by Dan Ralich.

Thank you to Jaga for hosting coffee hour last Sunday.

We need coffee hour hosts. Coffee Hour for the summer needs to be very simple (i.e. coffee, donuts, juice) due to facility constrictions. Any leftovers will need to go home with the host.

Tom and Laan Baier will host coffee hour on June 8. Our next available date to host coffee hour is the first Sunday in July. Please see Cathy or Tom Baier if you would like to help.

**CHURCH PICNIC:**

We are unable to use the facilities at the University of Mount Union on June 15. Last Sunday, we decided to have a picnic on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The picnic will be hosted at the home of the Krupkos. Complete details will be available next week. We will be celebrating the Divine Liturgy at their home prior to the picnic. Please see Tom Baier or Cathy Krupko to sign up to bring a dish!

**DIOCESAN MEETING:**

The weekend of June 28 and 29, the Diocese will hold its annual meeting at St. Elia in Akron, Ohio. All clergy are to celebrate the Liturgy on Sunday in Akron. Therefore, we will not conduct Liturgy at our Mission location that date but will join the Liturgy at St. Elia in Akron. If transportation is an issue, please see Father Joe.

St. Nikolai of Zica, Orthodox Mission of Alliance

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