



SS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA, DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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May 27, 2012

7th Sunday of Pascha Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

- 8:40am – Hours, Confession
 - 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
- Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36*
Gospel: John 17:1-13
- **Blessing of the Coverings** donated in memory of Juliana and Andrew Bacsik by the Bacsik-Wyskanycz families.
 - **Panikhida** – in memory of Andrew Bacsik, on his 1st Anniversary of Repose
 - **Fellowship** – Please come downstairs following Liturgy for Coffee Hour, provided by Andrea and Russ Wyskanycz in memory of Andrew Bacsik, on his 1st Anniversary of Repose. Memory Eternal!

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JUNE 2 – MEMORIAL SATURDAY

9:00am – Divine Liturgy & Panikhida

6:00pm – Great Vespers with Litya

SUNDAY, JUNE 3 – PENTECOST

8:30am – Order of Confession, Hours

9:00am – Divine Liturgy followed by Vespers of Pentecost with kneeling prayers.

The Walking Wounded in Nicaea

The Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council are commemorated each year on the seventh Sunday of Pascha. This year, that day is May 27th.

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 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

Intercessory Prayer

THE LIVING:

Eva Benda, Valentina Benda, Cathryn Christensen, Olga DeMay, Marianne Guagenti, George Hook, Peter Mazula, Walter Milk, Helen Pirniak, Stephen & Lillian Sokol, Faith Verona, Elizabeth Zuber, Olga Stecher.

THE DEPARTED:

Peter Kalada, Benedict Benda, Georgette Saba, Matilda Skripak, Andrew Bacsik, Helen Pawlush, Mary Milk, Antonina Rotko, Helen Cotrone, June Bianchini, Marianne Benda.

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 1st Birthday to Reagan Joanne Galati and to all who celebrate their Birthdays this week. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!



Today's Memorial Offering

• **Sanctuary Lamp** – in memory of Anastasia Grudinoff's Anniversary of Repose – by John & Helen Wanko.

• **St. John's Cross** – in memory of Andrew Bacsik, on his 1st Anniversary of Repose.

• **St. Nicholas Cross** – in memory of Andrew Bacsik, on his 1st Anniversary of Repose.

• **Triple Candelabra** – in memory of Andrew Bacsik, on his 1st Anniversary of Repose.

• **Candles on the Altar** – in memory of Andrew Bacsik, on his 1st Anniversary of Repose.

Announcements

❖ This **Saturday, June 2** is a **Memorial Saturday**. The Divine Liturgy with Panikhida for the departed will start at 9:00am. Even though our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates *all* Her departed faithful at these services, it is our personal spiritual responsibility towards our departed loved ones to light candles and offer our heartfelt prayers for them *in the Church*.

❖ A heartfelt **Thank You** to Andrea & Russ Wyskanycz for donating beautiful red Coverings that will be used during the Nativity Fast. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity! Memory Eternal to Andrew and Juliana Bacsik, in whose memory they are donated. Vechnaya Pamiat!

Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy. It is our joy to have you with us today. If this is your first visit to our parish, we welcome you and invite you to return as often as you are able.

While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross, receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy and for fellowship in our Church Hall after the service.