

Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

Today, on this Sunday that falls between July 13 and July 19, the Church commemorates the Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils. These councils took place over the span of 356 years (325-681).

What follows is excerpted from a longer article located at www.oca.org/saints/lives:

The Orthodox Church acknowledges Seven Holy Ecumenical Councils. 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.

The Orthodox Church's conciliar definitions of dogma have the highest authority, and such definitions always begin with the Apostolic formula: "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..." (Acts 15: 28).

The Ecumenical Councils were always convened for a specific reason: to combat false opinions and heresies, and to clarify the Orthodox Church's teaching. But the Holy Spirit has thus seen fit, that the dogmas, the truths of faith, immutable in their content and scope, constantly and consequently are revealed by the conciliar mind of the Church, and are given precision by the holy Fathers within theological concepts and terms in exactly such measure as is needed by the Church itself for its economy of salvation. The Church, in expounding its dogmas, is dealing with the concerns of a given historical moment, "not revealing everything in haste and thoughtlessly, nor indeed, ultimately hiding something" (Saint Gregory the Theologian).

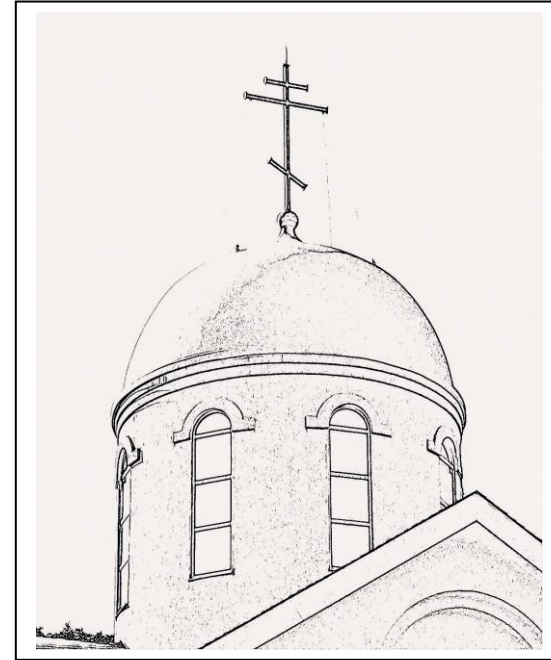
**The holy Fathers are the renowned keepers
of the Apostles' tradition;**

**They rightly taught that the Trinity was undivided,
and their assembly dethroned Arius and those with him:
the Macedonians who rejected the authority of the Church were convicted;
Nestorius, Eutychius, Dioscorus, Sabellius, and Severus were judged.**

**O Lord, deliver us from their error, we pray,
and preserve our lives in peace!**

Litya verse for the Feast

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Rev. Fr. Alexander Smida, *Attached Priest*

Rev. Fr. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Reader Matthew Hascha, *Choir Director*

July 18, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Fathers of the 1st Six Ecumenical Councils

Tone 3. Martyr Emilian of Silistria in Bulgaria (363). Martyr Hyacinth of Amastridea (4th c.). Ven. John the Long-suffering of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—1160). Ven. Pambo, Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th c.). Ven. Pambo, Hermit, of Egypt (4th c.). Monastic Martyrs Grand Duchess Elizabeth and Barbara (1918—July 5th O.S.). The “TOLGA” Icon of the Mother of God (1314).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Romans 6:18-23 and Hebrews 13:7-16

Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13 and John 17:1-13

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

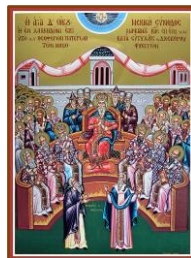
Saturday – **6:00pm Great Vespers**

Sunday – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10 and Galatians 4:22-31

Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1 and Luke 8:16-21



*Fathers of the 1st
Six Ecumenical
Councils*

Please pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood!

Please pray for all our Diocesan youth, staff, and volunteers, who are attending camp at St. Andrew's Camp this year.

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are **Zoran Pejovic, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Rdr. John Economou, Margaret Makara, Ann Marie and Dennis Gahr, and Dorothy Studier.**

For those who have joined us in-person today for worship, we are happy you have done so. We 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 recent confession. We encouraged you 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.**

Annunciations

TODAY – Team #2 continues our new Coffee Hour ministry effort. Everyone is invited to participate after the veneration of the Cross.

Father Gary will be away from this afternoon to Saturday afternoon. In case an urgent pastoral need arises in his absence, please contact Father Michael Pejovic at (848) 228-1563.

Grocery Gift Cards are available for sale. Please see **Cathy Berger or Olga Pasick** at Coffee Hour to make purchases.

Stewardship Donations may be brought to the church or mailed to the church at 360 Van Zile Road, Brick, NJ 08724. On-line donations are possible by visiting our website for a link. Many thanks for continuing to support your parish prayerfully and financially.

Saturday, August 28th - The annual **St. Andrew's Camp Bicycle Ride** will take place on this day. 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.

MANY YEARS

Birthdays this week:

Today – Cristina Ciorlian

Tuesday – Father Alexander Smida

Wedding Anniversaries this week:

Monday – Laura & James Macmillan (#41)

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.occa-brick.org.