



Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church
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Presiding Priest: Fr. George Alexson (cell) 703-314-6421
Orthros 8:45am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

May 28, 2017
Fathers of the 1st Council

THE 318 FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

The **First Ecumenical Council** was held in Nicea in A.D. 325 and set a pattern for all later Ecumenical Councils. It primarily addressed the issue of Arianism (producing the original version of the Nicene Creed) and set a universal pattern for calculating the date of Pascha—the Paschalion. It is also referred to as the **First Council of Nicea**. The council was summoned in the year 325 by the Emperor St. Constantine the Great, who desired unity in the Roman Empire and thus called the Church's bishops together to settle the raging of the heresy of Arianism, the doctrine that Jesus Christ was a created being and therefore not truly the one God. The synod had originally been intended to be held at Ancyra, but its location was moved by Constantine to Nicea (much closer to the imperial headquarters in Nicomedia) so that he might be able to participate more easily. The First Council of Nicea assembled according to tradition on May 20 of 325. Earlier in the year, there had already been a council at Antioch, presided over by St. Hosius of Cordoba, which condemned Arianism and its followers, even explicitly naming Eusebius of Caesarea (who is believed to have waffled somewhat on the question). When Constantine convened the council at Nicea, he did so primarily out of a desire to have a unified Empire rather than in an attempt to affect Church doctrine. After the initial speeches by the emperor, Hosius is generally believed to have presided at the council, summoned on the scene by the emperor himself, who had retained him as theological advisor. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann writes in his *Historical Road of Eastern Orthodoxy* that Constantine intended the synod to be "the symbol and crown" of his victory over Licinius and the reunification of the Empire (p. 76). In his opening address, St. Constantine describes disputes within the Church as "more dangerous than war and other conflicts; they bring me more grief than anything else" (ibid., p. 77). Eusebius of Nicomedia first submits an Arian creed for the delegates to consider, and it is rejected immediately. Eusebius of Caesarea then submits a baptismal creed native to Palestine for consideration. It is this latter creed that many historians regard as being the essential framework for the Nicene Creed, though many also regard the creed issued at the earlier Antiochian council to be the basis for Nicea's creed. The Palestinian creed had (Continued on the back page...)

Vacation Church Camp 2017 – TODAY is the LAST DAY TO REGISTER!! June 12-16, 2017; 9:30am-12:30pm. The theme is the life of the Theotokos. More details and a registration form are on our website. See Denise Lansdell or Asha Ioanou with questions.



EPISTLE READING : Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36

IN THOSE DAYS, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesos and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.' " And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

GOSPEL READING : The Gospel According To John 17: 1-13

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made.



"I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

Coffee hour today is sponsored by the ladies Philoptochos. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS May 28, 2017

There is no Sunday School TODAY due to the Memorial Day weekend.



It is your stewardship and devoted support that allows our church not only to operate, but to plan and grow every year through the grace of God. As we enter the Summer season, please continue encouraging your fellow parishioners who have not pledged, to make a stewardship commitment to our church. Thank you! Ron Baldinger, Stewardship Chair: ron.baldinger@gmail.com.



Today is the last Sunday Philoptochos is collecting gift cards for LAWS (Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter). We thank you for helping those in need.

Save the Date: Ladies Night on **Tuesday, June 6th** at Coopers Hawk in Ashburn. Details to follow.



GOYA - June 4th is our monthly meeting after Liturgy. **June 10th** at noon are GOYA Elections and end of year outdoor bbq/picnic at Great Falls Park. On **June 11th**, Fr. George will bless our graduating high school GOYA seniors. On **June 18th**, GOYAns will be handing out Father's Day gifts.

Sunday School – Our End of the Year Event / **Graduation will take place on June 11 right after Divine Liturgy. Please join our Sunday School students and teachers in a celebratory program** dedicated to the Holy Apostles; It is a great opportunity to refresh our memory and hear who the Holy Apostles are, what are their names and how they went about spreading Christianity. Thank you for all your support and encouragement.



AHEPA – Join us for the final AHEPA Chapter meeting of the season on **JUN 12** at church at 7:30PM for Officer and Executive Leadership Elections! Also mark your calendars for the AHEPA Summer Social on **JUN 17!** Stay tuned for details and if you haven't joined our Chapter and would like to attend, please see a Member to

get sponsored. Email us at info@ahepa542.org, visit our website at www.ahepa542.org, or call 703.493.0897.

PAREA (Our Company of Friends) – **Time change!** Our **June PAREA Luncheon** will take place on the **second Tuesday, June 13th, at NOON** at the **Mediterranean Breeze**, (20693 Ashburn Rd. #100, Ashburn, VA 20147 - Tel: 703-726-1045). Please let Marina know if you will be joining us (703-349-1842).

Camp Good Shepherd –VA: **July 2-8**, Camp Piankatank in Hartfield, VA, 5th-12th graders. Camp Good Shepherd is a Metropolis of New Jersey overnight youth camp for the Orthodox Christian youth in the Diocese. The camp program serves to instill in the child an understanding of the Orthodox faith while embracing the life of the Church and developing deep relationship with peers their own age. Contact cgsvirginia@gmail.com with questions.

WEEKLY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE for JUNE 2017

Sat. June 3 Sat. of Souls 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy

Fri. June 28 Vespers at Sts. Peter and Paul, Frederick, Md

Thurs. June 29 Sts. Peter and Paul 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy; 7:00 PM, Great Vespers

Fri. June 30 The Twelve Holy Apostles Feast day of our Church 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy

(Cover message cont...) included the Biblical phrase "Firstborn of all creation" in its description of Christ, but that phrase does not appear in the Nicene Creed, probably because, taken out of its context in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossians, it could be interpreted in an Arian manner. This phrase gets replaced with the famous *homoousios*, a philosophical term meaning that the Son of God is *of one essence* with the Father. It is particularly interesting that this term was used, despite it previously having been employed by the heretical Sabellians (notably Paul of Samosata) in the 3rd century during their conflict with St. Dionysius the Great. As with much terminology from philosophy, however, the Church Fathers co-opted *homoousios* and gave it a new, Orthodox meaning. It was originally introduced at Nicea by Hosius (or possibly even Constantine), then supported by "a small group of bold and far-sighted theologians who understood the inadequacy of merely condemning Arius and the need to crystallize Church tradition in a clear concept" (Schmemmann, p. 78).

SUNDAY SCHOOL's Fundraising for OCMC

We will be selling VIRO OLIVE OIL from Kalamata (superior extra virgin quality) at discount prices; **When?** On Sundays June 4 & 11. **Where?** At our church entrance **What?** Bottles of 250ml for \$5 each, bottles of 500ml for \$10. All proceeds will help Orthodox Christians who serve as missionaries, volunteer for Mission Teams and support the mission ministries of the Church to take the Gospel to people around the world. Special Thanks to IONIAN IMPORTERS LLC for donating 15 cases of Viro Olive Oil. For information and if you want to preorder contact; Carol Zangos, c.zangos@cox.net, Ergini B. Martnishn, ergini@aol.com or (703) 652-4426, Denise Lansdell, (703) 723-5825 or deniseinvirginia@gmail.com, Athanasia Dacey, sdacey@comcast.net text: (571) 359-0249.

Congratulations to **Alexandra Dorn** and **Angelo Dacey** who were awarded for achieving excellence in academic, civic and Orthodox faith endeavors, during the Washington Metropolitan Area 47th Annual AHEPA Awards Banquet at the Hilton Washington DC. Our Alexandra and Angelo were among 34 other students who were saluted by the Color Guard, Greek Embassy representatives, teachers, principals, professors and entrepreneurs. For information about this annual scholarship program, contact Ergini and Steven Martnishn, 703-652-4426.



Save the date! Annual Parish Picnic, Sat. Aug. 26, 12:00-3:00, Ashburn Farm Windmill Pavilion. Organized by the Stewardship Committee. All parishioners are invited! An online signup and RSVP will be forthcoming closer to the date.