

## Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council (June 1)

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

The Church has honored this Council since ancient times. Christ promised, "I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). Though the Church faces many trials, it remains victorious through Christ. The holy martyrs bore witness to this, enduring death for the faith, yet the sword of persecution was broken by the power of the Cross.

In the fourth century, while persecution ended, heresies arose from within. Chief among them was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, denied the divinity of Jesus Christ, teaching that the Son was not consubstantial with the Father, but a created being. A local council under Patriarch Alexander condemned Arius, but he refused correction and spread his heresy with support from some Eastern bishops.

Concerned, Emperor Constantine consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova and called the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325. Three hundred eighteen bishops from across Christendom gathered. Many bore scars from persecution and remained steadfast defenders of the faith.

Among them were Saint Nicholas of Myra and Saint Spyridon of Tremithos. With Patriarch Alexander came his deacon Athanasius, later called "the Great" and "the thirteenth Apostle." Athanasius became a leading voice in defense of Orthodox doctrine.

The Emperor presided over the sessions and addressed the bishops, saying that internal division within the Church was more painful to him than war. Arius, backed by seventeen bishops, remained defiant. Athanasius responded with clarity, exposing Arius's blasphemous teachings. Arius was excommunicated, and his false doctrine condemned.

The Council rejected the Arian creed and proclaimed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith, now known as the Nicene Creed. At Constantine's suggestion, the word consubstantial (ὁμοούσιος) was added to affirm that the Son is of one essence with the Father.

The Council also issued twelve canons on Church discipline and determined the date for celebrating Holy Pascha. It decreed that Pascha should be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox, never coinciding with the Jewish Passover.

Thus, the First Ecumenical Council preserved the truth of the Gospel, upheld apostolic teaching, and strengthened the unity of the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom of the Fathers.

*Text and Image from oca.org*



## ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the  
Antiochian Archdiocese

*His Eminence Metropolitan SABA*



*His Grace Bishop THOMAS*



*Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor*  
215-954-9286



*Father James Thayer*  
215-692-0890

## June 1, 2025 SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1st ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



**Tone 6**

**Eothinon 10 - St. John 21:1-14**

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

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

**RESURRECTION TROPARION** - Tone 6 - When Mary stood at thy grave, looking for thy sacred Body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led'st hades captive and wast not tempted thereby; thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O thou who art risen from the dead. O Lord, glory to thee!

**TROPARION FOR ASCENSION** - Tone 4 - Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, having become confident of the blessing. Verily, thou art the Son of God and Deliverer of the world.

**TROPARION FOR THE HOLY FATHERS** - Tone 8 - Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise, who didst establish the Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith. O most merciful One, glory to thee!

**TODAY:** ORTHROS, 8:15 a.m.  
Ft. Washington Mission Chapel, 9:00 a.m.  
Divine LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.  
25th Anniversary Blessing (Chebeleu), 11:15 a.m.  
Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:30 a.m.

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**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. If you or anyone you know is in the hospital or homebound and would like a visit, please call the church office.

## Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

This Week:

Next Week (June 8):

**COFFEE HOUR:** Chebeleu (25th Anniversary)

Tyshko (Valerie's Birthday & Graduation)

**PROSPHORA BREAD:** Kristi Moore

Gabriela Plesa

**ALTAR CANDLES:** Sidorochev & Chebeleu

*Sign Up on Hallway Bulletinboard*

**USHERS:** John N. & Conor M.

TBD

**CLEANING TEAM:** Evan R., Zach W., Beraki H., Val H. Radu C., Mary T., Daniel F., Tony M.

**COFFEE HOUR TEAM:** Calvin; Mary; Conor, Christian Michael; Dave/Darby, Steven

\* **IT IS TIME TO RETURN OUR FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE OFFERINGS.** Thank you for remembering the needs of others.

### Mark Your Calendar:

**Apostles' Fast**  
*June 16-28*

**2025 Parish Life Conference**  
*June 25-28, 2025*

**VCS 2025**  
*July 28-Aug 1*

**Holy Transfiguration**  
*August 6*

**Dormition Fast**  
*Begins August 1*

**Dormition of the Theotokos**  
*August 15*

**International Food Festival**  
*September 19-20*

**JUNE OUTREACH**  
**COLLECTION:**

**Bath & Shower**  
**Products**

### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria and all the holy land	Newly Departed +Coca-Lucia +Nicholas
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	(June Parish Diptychs)
N.I. Flora, Michael, Selena, Kele	+Nicholas +Maria
N.C. John and Mary Archpriest Joel	+Marion Betty
Dn Michael	+Victoria
Nun Sergeia	+Anna
John	+Gail
Doris	+Sophia
James	+Mat. Linda
Steven	+John
Paraskevi	
Elizabeth	
Michaela	<u>Catechumens</u>
Elias	Ryan
Mary	Kassandra
Maria	Rose
Constantinos	Jasper
Mary	Catherine
Helen	Matthew
Barbara	Matthew
Ana	Mary
Alexander	Martin
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, Michael, Xenia, & all Missionaries	Meghan-Photini
Dn Nathan, John, Samuel & all seminarians	John
Those searching for housing, jobs and spouses	Steven
Engaged Couples	Robert
Families trying to conceive	Liara
Expectant mothers	Asher
New mothers and their babies	Sarah
Those in mourning	Andrew
The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity	Carolyn
	Martin
	James
	Anthony

## **SPECIAL APPEAL**

Three ways you can help as we are gearing up for another **Vacation Church School**, of growth in faith and love for God: 1) See Kate Gohl about volunteering; 2) Pray for Fr. Noah, leaders, and students; 3) Consider offering a financial gift to cover expenses.

### This Week:

**Mon, June 2:** Divine Liturgy, 7:00 a.m.

**Tues, June 3:** Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.  
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1 p.m.

**Wed, June 4:** Divine Liturgy, 7:00 a.m.  
**Compline & Patristic Reading, 6:30 p.m.**  
FOCUS Philadelphia (Norristown), 7:00 p.m.

**Thurs, June 5:** Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.  
FOCUS Philadelphia (Aviator Park), 8:00 p.m.

**Fri, June 6:** Divine Liturgy, 6:00 a.m.  
Confessions, 6:00 p.m.  
**Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.**

**Sat, June 7:** Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.  
Catechumen Class, 4:30 p.m.  
**VESPERS & Artoklasia, 6:00 p.m.**  
Confessions, 7:15 p.m.  
Men's Fellowship Bonfire, 7:45 p.m.

**Sun, June 8:** **HOLY PENTECOST**  
*Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission 9am*  
**ORTHROS 8:15, a.m.**  
**DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.**  
Coffee Hour  
**Kneeling Prayers 1:30 p.m.**

**ATTENDANCE:** Vespers for May 24: 87    Divine Services May 25: 234  
Hierarchical Liturgy: 208    Mission Chapel: 5/11: 44, 5/18: 51, 5/25: 45

**OFFERINGS 5/25:** Candles, \$320. Collections, \$2,031.32. Book Shelf Ministry, \$38. Building Fund, \$500. SJA, \$100. Food for Hungry, \$245. Vestments, \$48.51. Needy Fund, \$122.02. Stewardship, \$6,591.60. Total received: \$10,016.45.

**THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts II:26)