

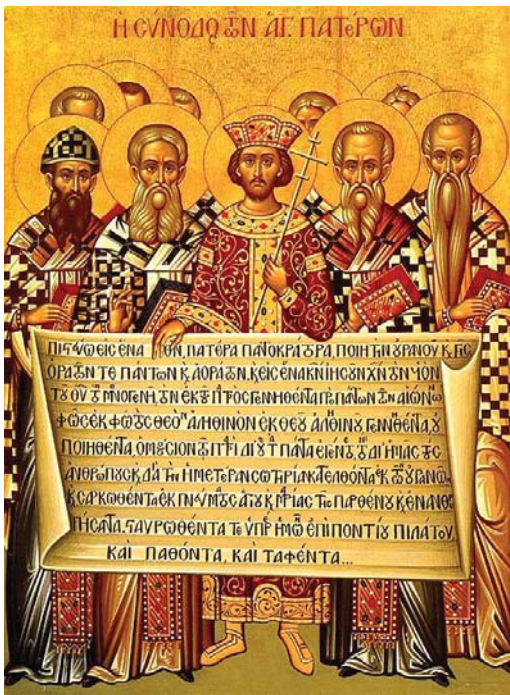
St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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July 15, 2018

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of Fourth Ecumenical Council



On July 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Great Prince Vladimir (Basil) of Kiev, Equal-to-the-Apostles; and the Martyrs Kyrikos and his mother Julitta of Tarsus.

On this Sunday, we commemorate the 630 holy and God-bearing Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council, which convened in Chalcedon in 451 against the Monophysites.

The Holy Fathers were, once again, concerned with the nature of Jesus Christ. The false teaching arose that Christ's human nature (considered by heretics as less perfect) dissolved itself in His divine nature (considered by heretics as more perfect): like a cube of sugar in a parcel of water. Thus, in that scenario, Christ had only one nature, the Divine. These false preachers were called Monophysites ("mono", meaning "one" and "physis", meaning "nature"), and they were led by Eutyches and Dioscorus. Monophysitism overemphasized the divine nature of Christ, at the expense of the human. The Fourth Ecumenical Council condemned Monophysitism and

proclaimed that Christ has two complete natures: the divine and the human, as defined by previous Councils. These two natures function as equally perfect, without confusion, and are neither divided nor separate. The Fathers declared that at no time did they undergo any change.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

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 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.

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS IN TONE EIGHT

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

KONTAKION FOR ORDINARY SUNDAYS IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

THE EPISTLE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Titus. (3:8-15)

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

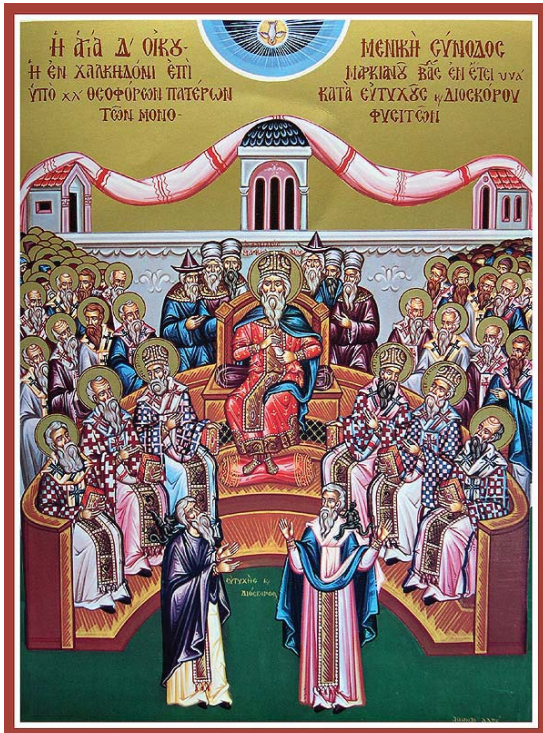
THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (5:14-19)

The Lord said to His Disciples: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Sources of Christian Doctrine: The Councils

From: *The Orthodox Faith, Volume I - Doctrine and Scripture: Sources of Christian Doctrine*- Fr. Thomas Hopko



This series of articles provides a solid overview of the sources of Christian doctrine. This article is part 5 of the series by Fr. Thomas Hopko, and discusses the importance of councils in the life of the Church – as we celebrate the Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council today. The full series includes overviews of each of the following sources (click the links to read): [Revelation](#), [Tradition](#), [The Bible](#), [The Liturgy](#), [The Councils \(this article\)](#), [The Fathers](#), [The Saints](#), [The Canons](#), and [Church Art](#).

As the Church progressed through history it was faced with many difficult decisions. The Church always settled difficulties and made decisions by reaching a consensus of opinion among all the believers inspired by God who were led by their appointed leaders, first the apostles and then the bishops.

The first church council in history was held in the apostolic church to decide the conditions under which the gentiles, that is, the non-Jews, could enter the Christian Church (see Acts 15). From that time on, all through history councils were held on every level of church life to make important decisions. Bishops met regularly with their priests, also called presbyters or elders, and people. It became the practice, and even the law, very early in church history that bishops in given regions should meet in councils held on a regular basis.

At times in church history, councils of all of the bishops in the church were called. All the bishops were not able to attend these councils, of course, and not all such councils were automatically approved and accepted by the Church in its Holy Tradition. In the Orthodox Church only seven such councils, some of which were actually quite small in terms of the number of bishops attending, have received the universal approval of the entire Church in all

times and places. These councils have been termed the Seven Ecumenical Councils (see table below).

The dogmatic definitions (dogma means official teaching) and the canon laws of the ecumenical councils are understood to be inspired by God and to be expressive of His will for men. Thus, they are essential sources of Orthodox Christian doctrine.

Besides the seven ecumenical councils, there are other local church councils whose decisions have also received the approval of all Orthodox Churches in the world, and so are considered to be genuine expressions of the Orthodox faith and life. The decisions of these councils are mostly of a moral or structural character. Nevertheless, they too reveal the teaching of the Orthodox Church.

The Seven Ecumenical Councils

Nicea I	325	Formulated the First Part of the Creed, defining the divinity of the Son of God
Constantinople I	381	Formulated the Second Part of the Creed, defining the divinity of the Holy Spirit
Ephesus	431	Defined Christ as the Incarnate Word of God and Mary as Theotokos
Chalcedon	451	Defined Christ as Perfect God and Perfect Man in One Person
Constantinople II	553	Reconfirmed the Doctrines of the Trinity and of Christ
Constantinople III	680	Affirmed the True Humanity of Jesus by insisting upon the reality of His human will and action
Nicea II	787	Affirmed the propriety of icons as genuine expressions of the Christian Faith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Camp St. Mary Staff and Families

A very warm St. John greeting to the staff and families of Camp St. Mary of Egypt, which runs this coming week. The staff and counselors will be training and preparing this weekend, and will be with us for the Divine Liturgy and lunch following. It is a blessing to have them with us today, and we extend our love and prayers for a beautiful week of worship, fun and fellowship at camp!

Help Needed for Fr. Paul on Thursday Morning

Dear St. John family,

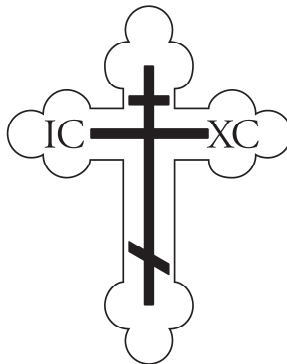
Fr. Paul Truebenbach (307-331-5197) will be in our area for Camp St. Mary this week and will take this opportunity to clear out a storage unit that he has in Post Falls. Here is his request: Looking for 2–3 guys to help beginning at 9:45am or 10:00am on Thursday the 19th at All Storage Northwest. It should only take an hour. Free blessings to all who help!

Thank you so much!!!

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION

TRISAGION prayers will be offered today in memory of +Rev.Fr.Thomas F.O’Dea seven year anniversary. MEMORY ETERNAL. By Fr.Nicholas,Kh.Malvi,Fr.+Thomas’s wife Kh.Marcia, her sisters Anita,Tere and family.

OFFERED BY: The Neyman,Townsend,Boyd,Youssef,O’Dea and Chala Family in the occasion of their Sister and Aunt Teresa Chala’s 75th Birthday! God grant all them many years.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Saturday, July 14: Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, July 15: Orthros 9:00am, Divine Liturgy 10:00am, Lunch following

July 16-21: Camp St. Mary, and Fr. Mark away at Clergy Symposium

Wednesday, July 18: Little Compline with Akathist Hymn 6:00pm

Friday, July 20: Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, July 21: Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, July 22: Orthros 9:00am, Divine Liturgy 10:00am, Lunch following

EPISTLE READERS

July 15 Joy Corey

July 29 Tabitha Townsend

July 22 Reader David Gencarella

August 5 Reader Sebastian Horton

LUNCH TEAM

July 15: Team 3: Joy Corey, Tecca family, Roth family, Gencerella family & Knoles family

July 22: Team 4: Mannion family, Nicky Nolan and Jack, Photios & Walden family

July 29 Potluck: Please bring a dish to share!

August 5: Team 1: Schaefer family, Gallatin family & Phillips family

August 12: Team 2: Purviance family, Bardwell family, Jenny Dancy & Sandford family

CLEANING ROTATION (nave, narthex, hallway and upstairs restrooms)

Week of 7/15 Joy Corey

Week of 7/28 Jeanne Rickert

Week of 7/22 St. Theophan Coop

Week of 8/5 Mary Jo Neyman

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING: Michael (Fr. Powley's wife Ashley's father), Cindy (Aquilina) (Tiffani Gallatin's mom), Kandi, the mother of Joy's grandson John, Barbara Garbinski, Nicky Nolan, Kh. Joanna Townsend, Marina (Jeane Wood's mother), Shirley Myers, Kaitlin Weisman, Helen Odell, Barbara Schaefer, Metropolitan Paul Yazigi and Metropolitan Youhanna Ibrahim (hostages in Syria), Suffering Christians throughout the Middle East.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED: Alice Roth, Debbie (Shawna King's mother), Rd. Herman Engelhardt, Victims of Abortion, Departed Christians throughout the world who have died for their Faith.



A Note Regarding Holy Communion

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, only those who are members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and recent confession may participate in Holy Communion. (We invite all, however, to partake of the blessed bread which is distributed at the dismissal.) Please see the pastor for inquiries on how to become a member.