

From the Front Cover

The Sunday after the Feast of Ascension is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. This day commemorates the 318 God-bearing Fathers who gathered in the city of Nicaea in 325 A.D. at the request of the Emperor, Saint Constantine the Great, to address the heresy of Arianism together with other issues that concerned the unity of the Church.

Arius was a protopresbyter of the Church of Alexandria, and in 315 A.D., he began to blaspheme against the Son of God saying that He was not the True God, consubstantial (of one essence) with the Father, but rather a work or creation of God and different from the essence and glory of the Father. He also taught that the Son of God had a beginning. These teachings shook the faithful, creating controversy and division in the Churches, which led to a theological and ecclesiastical crisis throughout the Christian Church.

Moved with divine zeal and concern for unity, the Emperor Constantine the Great, equal to the Apostles, summoned the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was in this place that the bishops of the Church gathered in 325 A.D. All of them, with one mouth and one voice declared that the Son and Logos/Word of God is one in essence with the Father, True God of True God. The Holy Fathers composed the holy symbol of Faith, the Nicene creed:

“We believe in one God. The Father Almighty. The maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; True God of True God; begotten not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father, and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end.”

The Holy Fathers anathematized Arius for his heretical beliefs and teachings, cutting him off from the Church. Recognizing the divine Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council as heralds of the Faith after the divine Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration.



**The After-Feast of the Feast of Ascension
Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the
First Ecumenical Council**



Saint Mary Orthodox Church of West Palm Beach

*A Parish of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast of the
Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America*
The Most Reverend Metropolitan Joseph, *Primate*

The Right Reverend Nicholas, *Bishop for Diocese of Miami and the Southeast*
The Very Reverend Father Peter Shportun, *Priest | Pastor*

Church Address: 1317 Florida Mango Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
(561) 965-5007 *(Church Office)* (561) 632-7066 *(Fr. Peter's Cellular)*
stmaryschurch@bellsouth.net *(Email)*

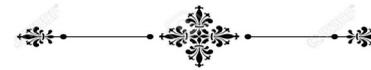
Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM
Banquet Hall Rentals: Maribel Perez - (561) 721-5696

Welcome!

Whether you are a parishioner or a visitor, we are glad you have chosen to pray with us at Saint Mary's. As a friendly reminder, please observe the following upon entering the church for prayer.

- If you arrive after the services begin, try to enter the Church quietly and observe what is happening. Try not to interrupt the service by your entrance.
- Please silence your cellular telephones.
- Please place your offerings in the basket on the table in the Church Narthex (Entrance), or the Offering Tray when passed.
- You are invited join us in the Banquet Hall for coffee and refreshments following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.

- We welcome Fr Gustavo Alonso who is presiding over the Divine Liturgy this Sunday. Fr. Peter is out of town attending a wedding in Atlanta, and will return on Sunday evening.
- There will be a Special Meeting of the Parish Council on Sunday, June 5th, at 12:00 PM, in the Conference Room. The purpose of the meeting is to address the air-conditioning system in the hall and its replacement.



Schedule of Services

Holy Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council,

June 5th

- Matins at 8:50 AM, followed by the
 - Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM

Wednesday, June 8th

- Vespers at 6:30 PM

Pentecost Sunday - June 12th

- Matins at 8:50 AM, followed by the
 - Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM
- Kneeling Prayers at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy

Sacrament of Confession

Fr. Peter is available for the hearing of Confessions:

- Wednesday's 6:00 to 6:30PM
- Sunday's 8:30 to 8:50 AM
 - By appointment

Wednesday 'Ask Abouna' on Wednesday, June 8th following Vespers. Bring your question and bring your friends.

Food for Hungry People

Now is the time to return your Food For Hungry People Lenten almsgiving boxes. The boxes may be placed on the table in the Church Narthex. If you did not use FFHP Box during Great Lent and wish to contribute, please see Sam Pasley.

GRADUATION
SUNDAY
WE HONOR YOU



On Sunday, June 12th, Saint Mary's will honor our 2022 graduates in prayer and with a special coffee hour in their honor. Graduates from the following will be honored:

- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- College
- Graduate School

Please submit their names to Fr. Peter by Wednesday, June 9th, for inclusion in the bulletin.



If you did not have your home blessed before Great Lent, Fr. Peter will be blessing homes through the end of June. Please speak to him to make arrangements to have your home blessed.

Absolute Truth

by Abbot Tryphon

In an age when many people think truth is relative, the knowledge that there is such a thing as absolute truth, is comforting. The freedom that comes with the knowledge that we are able to embrace teachings that are a continuation of an unbroken line dating back to Apostolic times, is liberating. As Orthodox Christians, we are not faced with the troubling task of interpreting the scriptures anew, or deciding moral and dogmatic teachings for ourselves, or trying to make our faith relevant for this age. Rather, we can immerse ourselves in the knowledge that we have embraced the Mind of the Ancient Universal Church.

We haven't had to reinvent the Faith, because we have aligned ourselves with the Church that is both ancient, and relevant for the modern seeker. We know the Church's teachings are not based on the finite mind, or the imagination of our own fallen nature, but the eternal truths that have endured from ancient times.

It is comforting to know the Church has remained true to her inheritance for some two thousand years. It is liberating to know ancient Christian dogmas, ways of worship, and moral teachings, are guiding our lives, just as they have for two thousand years.

Truth is not relative, but is absolute. There is no greater freedom than to be able to receive, as our own, the transcending truth that has made saints, from ancient times. There is no greater freedom than being able to embrace the absolute truth that has transcended time, space, culture, and race. No greater joy than to be counted as belonging to Christ, and having joined ourselves to the very Church He founded.



The Very. Rev. Abbot Tryphon is Igumen of All-Merciful Saviour Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington. This and other articles may be found on his website abbottryphon.com

The After-Feast of the Feast of Ascension Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated on this day. The service text may be found beginning on page 91 in the Red Service Book in the pews.

Divine Liturgy Variables

The First Antiphon

Clap your hands, all ye nations; shout unto God with a voice of rejoicing. For the Lord Most High is terrible; a great King over all the earth.

Refrain. Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

He hath subdued peoples under us, and the nations under our feet. God is gone up in jubilation, the Lord with the voice of the trumpet. (**Refrain**)

Glory... Both now... (**Refrain**)

The Second Antiphon

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, in His holy mountain. The mountains of Sion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

Refrain. Save us, O Son of God, Who didst rise from us in glory to the heavens; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

God is known in her towers when He cometh to help her. (**Refrain**)

For lo, the kings of the earth were assembled; they came together. (**Refrain**)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

The Third Antiphon *[sung during the Little Entrance]*

Hear this, all ye nations; give ear, all ye that inhabit the world. My mouth shall speak wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. I will incline mine ear unto a parable; I will unfold my problem on the psaltery.

The Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

- *After the Little Entrance, these hymns are sung in the following order:*

Resurrectional Apolytikion in 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 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 Ascension in Tone 4

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, making them confident through the blessing that Thou art the Son of God, and Deliverer of the world.

Apolytikion of the Holy Fathers in Tone 8

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.

Apolytikion of the Church (Dormition) in Tone 1

In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling-asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

Kontakion of the Ascension in Tone 6

When Thou didst fulfill Thy dispensation for our sakes, uniting the terrestrials with the celestials, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, inseparable in space, but constant without separation, and crying unto Thy beloved: I am with you, and no one shall be against you.

The Epistle

Prokeimenon: Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers. For Thou art just in all Thou hast done to us.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. [20:16-18, 28-36]

In those days, Paul was determined to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening, if possible, to be at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the priests 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 bishops, to

Please contact either me or Father Peter to discuss this matter and what assistance you can be to Saint Mary's.

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have." 2 Corinthians 8: 22

In Christ,

Mark Samra, Parish Council Chairman
561-719-7530

Fr. Peter Shportun, Pastor
561-632-7066

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1317 Florida Mango Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America /



Summertime Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!

Following the Sunday Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour is a time for fellowship and to welcome visitors to our church community. Each Sunday, Coffee Hours hosts are needed. To volunteer, Please sign-up at the entrance of the hall, or speak to Jane Pasley or Khouryia Myriam.

- Coffee Hour for Sunday, June 5th, is hosted by Sam and Kelly Pasley.

Church Directory Information

The Parish Council is in the process of updating our Church Directory to better minister to our Saint Mary's Community. If you have not done so already, please take a minute or two to complete a Church Directory Information Form. Forms are on the table in the Church Narthex.



Saint Mary Orthodox Church of West Palm Beach, Florida

May 31, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

While some may step away from the church during the summer months for various reasons, the church continues open its doors and offer ministry to the community. Your continued support to our beloved Saint Mary's Church is greatly appreciated.

Operating the church does not come without any unexpected problems or expenses. Our church community is currently facing a major expense that needs your help. This past week, our air conditioning system in the hall ceased to work and is past the point of repair. The lack of air conditioning in the hall puts the church in a difficult position of having to cancel daily and weekly hall rentals, thus losing rental income. In addition, our Sunday Coffee Hours and fellowship activities are put on hold. The Parish Council is working diligently to replace the air conditioning units as soon as we locate the equipment.

In addition, our parking lot has become an eyesore, fallen into disrepair and presents a hazard in some places. This too needs our immediate attention.

The current estimate to replace the air conditioning units and resurface the parking lot to is close to \$100,000, a substantial amount of funds that Saint Mary's does not have. To meet this expense your help is needed. We understand that the urgency of this request is never at a good time - especially during the summer months.

We encourage you not to take away from your current contributions to Saint Mary's that assist with our daily expenses. We ask that you contribute in any way you feel you are able. Keeping our church from a serious financial deficit depends on each one of us and of our ability and willingness to support these expenditures.

shepherd the church of the Lord and God, which He purchased with His own blood. For I know that after my departure ravenous wolves will enter 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, remain watchful, remembering that for three years I did not cease to admonish every one, night and day with tears. And now, brethren, 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 such laboring we ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down on his knees with them all, and prayed.

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا .

فَأَيْتَكَ عَدَلٌ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا .

فَصَلِّ مِنْ أَعْمَالِ الرُّسُلِ الْقِدِّيسِينَ الْأَطْهَارِ .

في تلك الأيام، ارتأى بولس أن يتجاوز أفسس في البحر لئلا يعرض له أن يبطئ في أسية. لأنه كان يعجل حتى يكون في اورشليم يوم الغنصرة إن أمكنه. فمن ميليتس بعث إلى أفسس، فاستدعى فسوس الكنيسة. فلما وصلوا إليه قال لهم: اخذوا لأنفسكم ولجميع الرعية التي أقامكم الروح القدس فيها أساقفة، لترعوا كنيسة الله التي افتتأها بدمه فإني أعلم هذا، أنه سيدخل بينكم بعد ذهابي ذئاب خاطفة لا تشفق على الرعية ومنكم أنفسكم سيقوم رجال يتكلمون بأموار ملتوية ليجذبوا التلاميذ وراءهم لذلك اسهروا، متذكرين أنني مدة ثلاث سنين لم أكف ليلاً ونهاراً أن أنصح كل واحد بدموع والآن استودعكم، يا إخوتي، الله وكلمة نعمته القادرة أن تبنيكم وتمنحك ميراناً مع جميع القديسين. إني لم أشته فضة أو ذهب أو لباس أحد. وأنتم تعلمون أن حاجاتي وحاجات الذين معي خدمتها هاتان اليان. في كل شيء يبينت لكم أنه هكذا ينبغي أن نتعب لنساعد الضعفاء، وأن نتذكر كلام الرب يسوع. فإنه قال: إن العطاء هو مغبوط أكثر من الأخذ. ولما قال هذا، جثا على ركبتيه مع جميعهم وصلى.

The Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (17:1-13)

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou

hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine 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 Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou 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 Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفًا مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يُوْحَنَّا الْإِنْجِيلِيّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّمِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ .

في ذلك الزمان، رَفَعَ يَسُوعُ عَيْنَيْهِ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَقَالَ: يَا أَبَتِ قَدْ أَتَيْتَ السَّاعَةَ، مَجِّدِ ابْنَكَ لِئُمَّجِّدَكَ ابْنُكَ أَيْضًا. كَمَا أَعْطَيْتَهُ سُلْطَانًا عَلَى كُلِّ بَشَرٍ لِيُعْطِيَ كُلَّ مَنْ أَعْطَيْتَهُ لَهُ حَيَاةً أَبَدِيَّةً. وَهَذِهِ هِيَ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ، أَنْ يَعْرِفُوكَ أَنْتَ الْإِلَهَ الْحَقِيقِيَّ وَحْدَكَ، وَالَّذِي أَرْسَلْتَهُ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ. أَنَا قَدْ مَجَّدْتُكَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ. قَدْ أَتَمَمْتُ الْعَمَلَ الَّذِي أَعْطَيْتَنِي لِأَعْمَلُهُ. وَالآنَ مَجَّدْنِي أَنْتَ يَا أَبَتِ عِنْدَكَ بِالْمَجْدِ الَّذِي كَانَ لِي عِنْدَكَ مِنْ قَبْلِ كَوْنِ الْعَالَمِ. قَدْ أَعْلَنْتُ اسْمَكَ لِلنَّاسِ الَّذِينَ أَعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي مِنَ الْعَالَمِ. هُمْ كَانُوا لَكَ، وَأَنْتَ أَعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي، وَقَدْ حَفَظُوا كَلَامَكَ. وَالآنَ قَدْ عَلِمُوا أَنَّ كُلَّ مَا أَعْطَيْتَهُ لِي هُوَ مِنْكَ. لِأَنَّ الْكَلَامَ الَّذِي أَعْطَيْتَهُ لِي أَعْطَيْتَهُ لَهُمْ. وَهُمْ قَبِلُوا وَعَلِمُوا حَقًّا أَنِّي مِنْكَ خَرَجْتُ، وَأَمَّنُوا أَنَّكَ أَرْسَلْتَنِي أَنَا مِنْ أَجْلِهِمْ أَسْأَلُ. لَا أَسْأَلُ مِنْ أَجْلِ الْعَالَمِ، بَلْ مِنْ أَجْلِ الَّذِينَ أَعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي، لِأَنَّهُمْ لَكَ. كُلُّ شَيْءٍ لِي هُوَ لَكَ، وَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ لَكَ هُوَ لِي، وَأَنَا قَدْ مَجَّدْتُ فِيهِمْ. وَلَسْتُ أَنَا بَعْدُ فِي الْعَالَمِ، وَهؤلاءِ هُمْ فِي الْعَالَمِ، وَأَنَا آتِي إِلَيْكَ. أَيُّهَا الْأَبُ الْقُدُّوسُ احْفَظْهُمْ بِاسْمِكَ، الَّذِينَ أَعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي، لِيَكُونُوا وَاحِدًا كَمَا نَحْنُ. حِينَ كُنْتُ مَعَهُمْ فِي الْعَالَمِ، كُنْتُ أَحْفَظُهُمْ بِاسْمِكَ. إِنَّ الَّذِينَ أَعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي قَدْ حَفَظْتَهُمْ، وَلَمْ يَهْلِكْ مِنْهُمْ أَحَدٌ إِلَّا ابْنُ الْهَلَاكِ، لِيَتِمَّ الْكِتَابُ. أَمَّا الْآنَ فَإِنِّي آتِي إِلَيْكَ. وَأَنَا أَتَكَلَّمُ بِهَذَا فِي الْعَالَمِ لِيَكُونَ فَرَحِي كَامِلًا فِيهِمْ.

- *The Divine Liturgy continues as usual with the following changes:*
- *Communion Hymn “Praise ye the Lord...” is sung.*

- *After Communion, Instead of singing “We have seen the true light”, sing the Apolytikion of the Ascension.*

Liturgical Offerings

- Holy Altar Vigil Candle for the week of June 5th is offered in glory of the Most -Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Holy Bread for the Divine Liturgy is offered by Sam & Kelly Pasley on the occasion of their son Sammy 5th Birthday. Also for the health of Jane and Jeanne on the occasion of their birthdays.

If you wish to offer Holy Bread or an Altar Vigil Candle, please speak with Fr. Peter.

Please Remember In Your Prayers

For the Living

“Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.” James 5: 14

For the Good Health of the Servants of God: Archpriest Michael & Matushka Annette Zaparyniuk, The Priest John, Michael, Sub-Deacon William Hall, George Frieji, Jodet Rae, Judy Chalhub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhub, Nayla Tacla, Jenna Welch, Shane Brown, Raouf Saballeil, Val Franji.

For the Shut-ins of our Church Community: Gloria Yedlinsky, Lidia Pawlcuk, Basil Dalack, Angie Smith, Zakia Salloum.

Metropolitan Boulos & Archbishop Youhanna, for their release from captivity and safe return.

For those affected by the shootings at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

For the end of hostilities and sufferings, and for peace in the Ukraine.

For those serving in our armed forces here and abroad: Christopher Smith, Jonathan Shportun.

For the Departed

“With the spirits of the righteous made perfect, give rest O Lord to the souls of Thy servants...”

Robert Laham (newly departed 5/24/22), Thomas Eissey (newly departed 5/4/22), Margo Fankhauser (newly departed 5/3/22), Fr. Nicholas Neyman (12/12/21), Sonia AbuHadid (10/3/21), Ruth Bashour (6/28/21).