

The Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils:

Today, the Church venerates the **Holy Fathers of the First Six 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, they have 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.

In the Ninth Article of the Nicea-Constantinople Symbol of Faith proclaimed by the holy Fathers of the First and Second Ecumenical Councils, we confess our faith in “**One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.**” By virtue of the catholic nature of the Church, an Ecumenical Council is the Church's supreme authority, and possesses the competence to resolve major questions of church life. An Ecumenical Council is comprised of archpastors and pastors of the Church, and representatives of all the local Churches, from every land of the whole inhabited world.

The Orthodox Church acknowledges Seven Holy Ecumenical Councils:

The First Ecumenical Council (Nicea I) (May 29, and also on seventh Sunday after Pascha) was convened in the year 325 against the heresy of Arius, in the city of Nicea in Bithynia under St Constantine the Great, Equal of the Apostles.

The Second Ecumenical Council (Constantinople I) (May 22) was convened in the year 381 against the heresy of Macedonias, by the emperor Theodosius the Great

The Third Ecumenical Council (Ephesus) (September 9) was convened in the year 431 against the heresy of Nestorius, in the city of Ephesus by the emperor Theodosius the Younger.

The Fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon) (July 16) was convened in the year 451, against the Monophysite heresy, in the city of Chalcedon under the emperor Marcian.

The Fifth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople II) (July 25) "Concerning the Three Chapters," was convened in the year 553, under the emperor Justinian the Great

The Sixth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople III) (January 23) met during the years 680-681, to fight the Monothelite heresy, under the emperor Constantine Pogonatos.

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 Orthodox Church's councilor 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).

See us on the web at:

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Glory to Jesus
Christ

Glory Forever

*You are most glorious, O Christ our God!
You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them you have guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, glory to You!*

Troparian - Fathers of the First Six Councils

On this day the Church remembers:

- **Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils**
- Greatmartyr Marina (Margaret) of Antioch in Pisidia (4th c.) • Ven. Irenarchus, Abbot of Solovkétsky Monastery (1628) • Translation of the Relics of Ven. Lazarus of Mt. Galerius near Ephesus. Ven. Andrei Rublev (14th-15th c.) • Royal Passionbearers Tsar Nicholas (Nikolai) • Tsaritsa Alexandra, Tsarevich Aleksey, Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia (1918—July 4th O.S.)

July 17, 2011

Tone 4 of the Octoechos.

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For health of:**

Members and guests of our parish, offered by the parish council.

Readings:

- Hebrews 13:7-16 (Holy Fathers)
- John 17:1-13 (Holy Fathers)
 - **Romans 10:1-10**
 - **Matthew 8:28-9:1**

BRETHREN, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

At that time, when Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

Summer Sunday service:**Hours - 9:10 AM****Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM****(General Confession on the first Sunday of each month)****Coffee hour after Liturgy**

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- The Sunday **Divine Liturgy service will begin a half hour earlier** now that Sunday school is on its summer break. The hours will be celebrated at 9:10 AM, and the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:30 AM. We will return to the normal service schedule the Sunday after Labor Day.

Special Announcements:

- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- **The next meeting of the Parish Council will be July 31**, after coffee hour.
- **The next meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos will be August 7**, after coffee hour.