

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For the eternal memory of:**

Olga Koss, offered by her family

Readings:

- Romans 5:1-10
- Matthew 6:22-33

BRETHREN, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM**Sunday service:**

Hours – 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Private Confession – Half hour before any service. See Fr Matthew for other times.

General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month

Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month

Coffee hour – after Liturgy

(Church School has ended for the school year.)

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

Announcements:

- The next meeting of the **Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God** will be next Sunday, July 21st, after coffee hour.
- On June 16th, three members of our parish attended the **2013 Parish Council Conference**. The topic this year was: **“Parish Growth & Evangelization”**. At the invitation of Bishop Michael, the conference facilitator was Very Reverend Constantine Nasr. With enthusiasm, clarity, and wit, Father Constantine shared his years of expertise and highly practical methods for making our faith contagious and our churches inviting ~ to new visitors and to those who have fallen out of regular participation in parish life.

Conference videos can be viewed on the diocesan web site:

www.nynjoca.org/2013_parish_council_conference.html

Special Announcements:

- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the sign-up sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- Dues and assessments are still being collected for the year 2013. Total Parish Membership Fee is \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted. Please note on your check if you want it go towards Membership Fee.

Fathers of the First Six Councils:

The **Sunday of the Fathers of the First Six Councils** is a feast held the Sunday falling from July 13 to 19. The Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils are honored by the Church because, based upon the preaching of the Apostles, they have established one faith for the Church. Guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit and accepted by the Church, the Ecumenical Councils are the highest canonical and dogmatic authority in the Church.

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 “oikumene” (i.e. from all 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 StConstantine 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 (Constnatinople 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 Church venerates the Holy Fathers of the 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, has 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.

The Orthodox Church’s conciliar 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: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
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Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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Fathers of the 1st Six Ecumenical Councils

The Apostles’ preaching and the Fathers’ doctrines have established one faith for the Church.

Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, It defines and glorifies the great mystery of Orthodoxy!

Kontakion

Glory to Jesus Christ

Glory Forever

Today the Church remembers:

Fathers of the 1st Six Ecumenical Councils • All Saints of Britain and Ireland

- Apostle Aquila of the Seventy (1st c.)
- Ven. Stephen, Abbot of Mákhrišche (Vologdá—1406)
- Martyr Justus at Rome (1st c.)
- Ven. Ellius (Hellius), of Egypt (4th c.)
- Ven. Onesimus of Magnesia (4th c.)
- Repose of Ven. Nicodemos the Hagiorite (1809)

July 14, 2013

3rd Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 2 of the Octoechos