

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

Risley, father of Linda, offered by Linda and Richard
Nikolai Taran, Brother of Holly Dawson

For the health of:

Yury, grandson of Fr. Boris and Matushka Galina, on his birthday
Gabrielle Stefy on her 15th birthday, granddaughter of Lore Stefy

Readings:

- Acts 20:16-18, 28-36
- John 17:1-13

IN THOSE DAYS, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesos and called to him the elders 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 overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in 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 be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now 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 so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made.

"I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours 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 you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you 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 you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
(General Confession – 9 50 AM on the first Sunday of each month. Except Lent)
(Private Confession – Half hour before any service. Please don't delay the service.)
(Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School - 9:30 AM

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:

- **There will be no Church School today, but there will be Church School next week on June 3rd. This will be the last class of the school year.**
- **Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon** - The Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon of the Mother of God will be at St. Nicholas Church, Philadelphia Pa. on Wednesday evening, June 6th, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. **We are invited to come and participate by praying before the icon, and to be anointed with the myrrh that has gushed from this icon for four years now.** You can receive a small swatch of cotton dipped in this myrrh, that has a particular sweet smelling rose aroma. See Linda or Richard Dantine if you are interested in going.
- The **2012 Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** program is underway. This is a way to: Support our diocesan seminarians, establish more mission parishes in our Diocese, and support existing parishes that need help. Our parish will be having a special collection for the next few weeks to donate to this fund. We ask that you help out by contributing to the collection and/or donating directly by mail with a "**Vision for Our Future ~ DDB**" flyer, or online at the website:
http://nynjoca.org/vision_for_future_2012.html
- **The next meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos will be on Sunday, June 3rd**, after coffee hour.
- **The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on June 24th**, after coffee hour.

Reminder:

- **The Vespers of Pentecost** - The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself (next Sunday). Usually this service immediately follows the Divine Liturgy; it is "**added**" as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn "**summing up**" of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. On Pentecost, we bring flowers, symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon: "**Who is so great a God as our God?**" The Vespers of Pentecost features three long prayers at which the faithful kneel for the first time since Easter.

7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA - Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council:

Today, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, *"I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"* (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior's words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor's sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ.

Ascension Thursday (this past Thursday):

The Church's celebration of the ascension, as all such festal celebrations, is not merely the remembrance of an event in Christ's life. Indeed, the ascension itself is not to be understood as though it were simply the supernatural event of a man floating up and away into the skies. The holy scripture stresses Christ's physical departure and his glorification with God the Father, together with the great joy which his disciples had as they received the promise of the Holy Spirit who was to come to assure the Lord's presence with them, enabling them to be his witnesses to the ends of earth (Lk 24:48-53; Acts 1:8-11; Mt 28:20; Mk 16:16-14).

In the Church the believers in Christ celebrate these very same realities with the conviction that it is for them and for all men that Christ's departure from this world has taken place. The Lord leaves in order to be glorified with God the Father and to glorify us with himself. He goes in order to "prepare a place" for and to take us also into the blessedness of God's presence. He goes to open the way for all flesh into the *"heavenly sanctuary ... the Holy Place not made by hands"* (see Hebrews 8-10). He goes in order send the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father to bear witness to him and his gospel in the world, making him powerfully present in the lives of disciples.

The liturgical hymns of the feast of the Ascension sing of all of these things. The antiphonal verses of the Divine Liturgy are taken from Psalms 47, 48, and 49. The Troparion of the feast which is sung at the small entrance is also used as the post communion hymn.

*Thou hast ascended in glory O Christ our God,
granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing they were assured that Thou art the Son of God,
the Redeemer of the world!*

(Troparion).

*When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake,
and didst unite earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory,
O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love Thee,
but remaining with them and crying:
I am with you and no one will be against you!*

(Kontakion).

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
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Sunday Bulletin
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Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

**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!*

Troparion

On this day the Church remembers:

7th Sunday of Pascha • Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council • Afterfeast of Ascension • Hieromartyr Therapon, Bishop of Sardis (3rd c.) • Translation of the Relics of Ven. Nilus of Stolbensk (1667) • St. John the Russian (Confessor), whose relics are on the Island of Euboia (1730) • Ven. Ferapónt (Therapon), Abbot of Belozérsk (1426) • Translation of the Relics of Ss. Kiprián, Photii (Photius), and Jonah, Metropolitans of Moscow and All Russia (1472) • Ven. Therapon, Abbot of Monza (16th c.) • Virgin Martyr Theodora and Martyr Didymus the Soldier, of Alexandria (304)

May 27, 2012

7th Sunday Of Pascha
(Tone 6)

Pentecostarion
Week 7