

PARISH NEWS - May 24th, 2020

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, 325

Неділя Св. Отців Нікейського Собору, 325

Welcome! Bienvenue! Вітаємо! Welcome to St. George's Church!

Our mission is to know, love and serve our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ.

Here at St. George's Church, the center of our life is the Sunday and daily Divine Liturgy.

It is here where we come to know Christ in each other, in the Sacred Scriptures and through participation in the Holy Sacraments.

A life of Christian Catholic stewardship includes a strong commitment toward the sacramental life through prayer, Liturgy and active ministry.

We are called to become the image and likeness of Christ God in all we say and do.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS / ПРОСИМ О МОЛИТВУ ЗА ЗДОРОВ'Я

... all our parishioners who are in the hospitals, care homes, shut-ins and those who are not able to join us actively due to health reasons. Remember, if you would like a hospital or home visit, please call the parish office and let us know. Due to privacy laws, all requests must come from the individual or the immediate family.

Divine Liturgy:

Sunday 9:30 a.m. (English & Ukrainian)

Weekdays & Holy Days: Please see bulletin

Weekly Divine Liturgy - As the parishes are closed to the public, we will continue to celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and feast days. These services will be available to the public through online sources such as the parish website. Each Sunday Divine Liturgy will be available on Saturday at 5:00 PM. We will work to provide other services and options of prayer during this time as well. We do invite everyone to search the internet and Facebook for other online services that are available. Before the pandemic and especially now, there are many parishes especially in Canada that have online services on a regular basis.

~ Parish and Community Announcement ~

Please Remember to Support Your Parish.

In these unusual times, we are joining the world with debit or credit card usage.

If your preference is to use a card, please find the [DONATE Link](#) on our website main page.

Mailing traditional Sunday Offering Envelopes is still a good option.

THANK YOU: We heartily thank everyone who has been able to support our church during this difficult time for all of us by sending your weekly offerings by mail.

May Our Lord reward you a hundredfold for your generosity. Дякуємо за вашу щедрість!

LAST WEEK COLLECTION

7 Envelopes - \$750.00

In Memory of Anne Stipeć (Phil Hrycak) - \$100.00

Special donation to the church (Kusters Family) - \$250.00



Saint George's COVID-19 Directives Re: Church Services

With the continued closure of the church services to the public, the faithful are reminded to follow the directives in compliance with restrictions given by the civic and health authorities and the Eparchy of Toronto.

Follow the link on parish website to view our pre-recorded current Sunday Liturgies.

We will be providing you with these videos until such a time as we are able to open the Church doors once again.

Confession - Those wishing to make their confession should make a Perfect Act of Contrition followed by a penitential prayer. Such a sincere "Perfect Act of Contrition" can permit a person to receive Holy Communion under the condition that the person sincerely desires to amend his/her life and at the first available opportunity must make a proper Sacramental Confession.

Communion - You may make a Spiritual Communion by which we unite ourselves in prayer with the Lord during the transmission of the Divine Liturgy. We express sorrow for our sins, pray the communion prayer and ask the Eucharistic Lord to come into our heart.

Pre-recorded Divine Liturgies on YouTube Channel

Saints George's will be posting a pre-recorded Liturgy for Sundays on Fr. Bohdan's YouTube channel.
Each Divine Liturgy will be posted each Saturday evening.

[CLICK ON THIS LINK:](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoGSvtuIEjSAT7sWbjMIPvg/videos>



Prayer to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

O Mother of Perpetual Help, we come before your holy Icon seeking to follow Your Son.
Mary, please gently guide us to enter more deeply into the mystery of Redemption.
Help us as we contemplate the Incarnation, Passion, Death & Resurrection of Your Son, Jesus, Our Redeemer.
Help us to receive and accept the Light of Christ present in your arms.
Mary, we present our needs to you and ask that you place them in the hands of your Son.
Most Holy Mother of God, Our Mother of Perpetual Help, save us. Amen.

O Most Holy Mother of God, save us! Пресвята Богородице, спаси нас!

COMMUNICATING WITH OUR PARISHIONERS

The parish office and Fr. Bohdan would like to be able to communicate directly with our parishioners and let you know when important updates have been made to the parish website. *The trouble is we don't have a lot of our parishioners' email addresses.* Please send an email to winnicki@rogers.com with your email address so we can complete our records and send out emails to as many parishioners as possible.

Divine Liturgies this week:

DATE	TIME	INTENTION	OFFERED BY
Saturday, May 23 rd	11:00 AM	Health & God's Blessings for Anna Shpak	Olexandra Pyasta
Sunday, May 24 th	10:00 AM	Health & God's Blessings for Pyasta Family	Olexandra Pyasta



Act of Spiritual Communion

Did you know? - that Catholics can make an Act of Spiritual Communion?

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion means uniting one's self in prayer with Christ's sacrifice and worshipping Him in His Body and Blood. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Divine Liturgy. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily. When unable to receive Holy Communion, pray the prayer below:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Joseph

Protect, O Holy Guardian, this our nation.

Enlighten those responsible for the common good, so that they might know – like you do – how to care for those entrusted to their responsibility.

Grant intelligence of knowledge to those seeking adequate means for the health and physical well – being of their brothers and sisters.

Sustain those who are spending themselves for those in need, even at the cost of their own safety: volunteers, nurses, doctors who are on the front lines in curing the sick.

Bless, O St Joseph, the Church: beginning with her ministers, make her the sign and instrument of your light and your goodness.

Accompany, O St Joseph, our families: with your prayerful silence, create harmony between parents and their children, in a special way with the youngest.

Preserve the elderly from loneliness: grant that no one might be left in desperation from abandonment and discouragement.

Comfort those who are the most frail, encourage those who falter, intercede for the poor.

With the Virgin Mother, beg the Lord to liberate the world from every form of pandemic.

Amen.

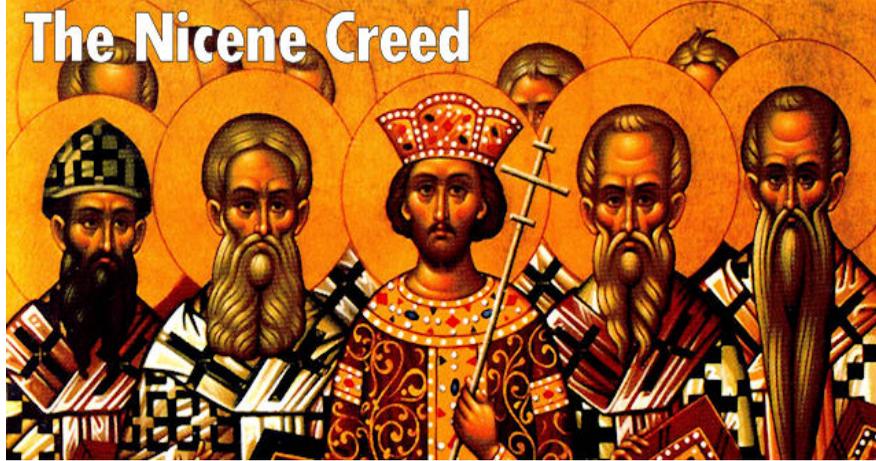
With faith there is always hope

During this Coronavirus pandemic, many are tempted to fear, anxiety and perhaps even despair. Some have lost their precious lives, some have lost those whom they love, some have suffered through the debilitating effects of this illness, some have lost their jobs, their income, and most have encountered much disruption to the normal flow of their daily lives.

Every crisis in life is also an opportunity to turn to our beloved Savior in trust and complete abandonment so as to rest in His merciful hands. To rest in the hands of God means we are secure, despite the uncertainty of life. It means we are free to love God and others, despite the challenges we face. It means we raise our eyes to Heaven, rather than look down in fear.

“Live simply, so others may simply live.”
(St. Teresa of Calcutta)

The Nicene Creed



THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF NICEA

The Sunday before Pentecost is called on our church calendar the Sunday of the Holy Fathers. On this day each year we are asked to remember what our fathers did: specifically, the 318 Church Fathers who came together in 325 AD in Nicea to form the First Ecumenical Council. The Emperor Constantine had just put an end to the bloody, three hundred-year persecution of the Church, during which 11 million Christians gave their lives for Christ. Christians now began coming out of the catacombs to worship in churches. These 318 bishops came together to define the teachings of Christ, which were being challenged by false teachers. They gave us, among other things, the Nicene Creed, the summary of our faith, which is still read at every Divine Liturgy. So, on every year, on the Sunday before Pentecost we are called to remember those who stand behind us. Those who have already received the Holy Spirit. Remember the Apostles, the martyrs, the saints. Remember what they suffered to make the Holy Spirit available to us next Sunday. And too, we must remember that like they, we must pass on to others this same Holy Spirit by our words and deeds.

GOSPEL REFLECTION John 17:1-13

John's Gospel, Chapter 17, is referred to as Jesus' High Priestly prayer. It's a long and beautiful prayer that would be worth reading in its entirety for reflection. Jesus begins by speaking to the Father that "the hour has come." His hour of suffering and death is upon Him. But He sees it as an opportunity for His glorification. This is an important revelation within John's Gospel and especially within this prayer. The Cross is horrible from a human perspective alone. But from the divine perspective or the will of the Father and the salvation of the world, it is glorious and the moment in which Jesus takes up His throne of the Cross. It is glorious because He perfectly fulfills the will of the Father through His freely embraced suffering. From there, Jesus prays for the Apostles in particular. He prays for their mission so that they will have the grace they need to also embrace the will of the Father and continue the work of Jesus. He knows that it is only by embracing their crosses, in accord with the will of the Father, that they will be able to be glorified. Reflect, today, on the Gospel of John and as you do, allow the Lord to speak to you. Hear Him calling you to perfect fulfillment and glory. But know that this is achieved by the embrace of your "hour." The Father is calling you to follow in the footsteps of His Son by laying down your life in perfect obedience to the Father's will. Embracing this cross is the path to Heaven and Jesus' prayer provides all the grace you need to say "Yes."

WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING?

As we, like the disciples, looking in the wrong direction? As they looked up to heaven, they probably realized what they had lost. Jesus was no longer in their midst. But then, the Easter stories tell us that they never really understood His risen presence with them. And so they were asked: "Why are you standing here looking at the sky?" (Acts 1:11).

Are we also looking up to heaven when we should be looking out to the world? Of course. It is right that we reflect on Jesus' ascension. However, today's understanding of the universe helps us realize that the biblical account of Jesus' ascension into heaven may be a way of saying that He is glorified with God. As Paul says, He has been granted the place of honour at God's right hand, "far above every principality, authority, power and dominion" with all things beneath His feet" (Ephesians 1:21-23). Jesus, now with God, radiates the full splendour of His resurrection.

We must turn to the Gospel to get the fullness of the story of the ascension. Jesus did not say: "Watch what is going to happen." Instead He told them to go out: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). We might know these words so well that we miss their forcefulness. In effect, Jesus is telling them: go out to the whole world and tell them what you have seen and heard. I did what it was for me to do, now it is up to you to do the rest. Don't worry, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). Look where you're going, not where I went.

-Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



LEARNING TO WAIT DURING THIS PANDEMIC

by Archbishop (Emeritus) Stefan Soroka

Our daily life has suffered many major disruptions as a result of the covid-19 pandemic. You and I have been challenged to be patient and to wait. For most of us, it is hard to wait. It is hard to wait in traffic. It is hard to wait in line at a check-out counter. It is hard to wait for a vaccine to be developed. The longer we wait, the worse we tend to worry.

Recall that the Risen Christ asked the apostles to wait after His ascension. Jesus knew that the apostles could not fulfill their work alone. They needed the presence of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the work of the kingdom. The Holy Spirit would encourage, instruct, guide, and comfort them in their earthly ministry. They needed to wait. Why wait? There is a lesson for you and for me in what happened to them while they waited.

Perhaps the apostles needed to wait so that they could learn some obedience. They needed to learn to prepare themselves in listening to God's plan for them.

The passage of time would also help to prepare the apostles' hearts. They needed time to heal from their failures. They needed time to draw together. There is a special fellowship that develops among those who wait.

Waiting increases anxiety. Jesus knows this and calls the apostles and us to move beyond anxiety to trust, to grow in faith. If things do not seem to work out the way we expected, perhaps it is an opportunity to find God's plan in our life.

Waiting can be fruitful. If our lives belong to God, we do not become frustrated when our plans do not work out. If time belongs to God, we are not angered when things get rearranged in life. We come to realize that our 'to-do' list may not match God's assignment list. God is more interested in obedience, in quiet hope, in a prepared soul, than He is in our accomplishments.

The apostles had to wait. Not for ten minutes. Not for ten hours. They will wait for ten days. They did not know how long they would have to wait. While they waited, they struggled with their desires to get started in their earthly ministry. They argued whether they heard Jesus accurately. They struggled to encourage each other, to keep from quitting and returning home.

While waiting, the apostles learned to pray like they had never had to pray before. They learned to depend on one another. They learned to use their faith. In the absence of the physical presence of Jesus, they allowed their faith in his world to grow.

Centenary of St. John Paul II

Pope Francis extended his heartfelt greetings to Polish-speaking listeners, as the Church continues to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Saint John Paul II. He noted that the Polish saint was "a pastor of great faith who loved to entrust the Church and all of humanity to God in prayer." The Pope prayed that, like Saint John Paul II who chose "TotusTuus" as his motto, we might turn to Our Lady in times of difficulty and ask for her intercession.

Sunday, May 24, 2020

Seventh Sunday after Pascha. Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, Tone 6;
Our Venerable Father Simeon of the “Mountain of Wonders” (596)

First Antiphon

Clap your hands, all you nations;* shout to God with the voice of joy.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save, us.

For the Lord most high is awesome,* a great king over all the earth.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save, us.

He has subdued peoples to us,* and nations under our feet.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save, us.

God ascended amid shouts of joy;* the Lord at the sound of the trumpet.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save, us.

Glory... Now... Only-Begotten Son...

Third Antiphon

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord,* let us acclaim God, our Saviour.

Son of God, who ascended in glory, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Let us come before His face with praise,* and acclaim Him in psalms.

Son of God, who ascended in glory, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

For God is the great Lord,* the great king over all the earth.

Son of God, who ascended in glory, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Entrance

Come, let us worship* and fall down before Christ.

Son of God, who ascended in glory, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion, Tone 6: Angelic powers were upon Your tomb* and the guards became like dead men;* Mary stood before Your tomb* seeking Your most pure body.* You captured Hades without being overcome by it.* You met the Virgin and granted life.* O Lord, risen from the dead,* glory be to You!

Troparion, Tone 4: You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,* giving joy to Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit,* and assuring them through your blessing* that You are the Son of God,* the Redeemer of the world.

Troparion, Tone 8: Christ our God, You are glorified above all,* You established our fathers as beacons on earth* and through them guided all of us to the true faith.* Glory to You, most compassionate Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion, Tone 8: The apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrine* confirmed the Church's one faith,* and wearing the garment of truth* woven from theology that descends from on high,* she rightly imparts* the mystery of godliness* and sings its glory.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 6: When you had fulfilled Your plan for us* and united things on earth with those in heaven,* You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,* in no way distant, but remaining in separable,* You cried to those who love You:* I am with You and there is none against you.

Prokeimenon, Tone 4

Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

verse: For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us. (*Daniel 3:26,27*)

Epistle - Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you.

“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Alleluia, Tone 1

verse: The God of gods, the Lord, spoke and summoned the earth from the rising of sun to its setting.

verse: Gather to Him His devout ones, who with sacrifice make covenant with Him. (*Psalms 49:1,5*)

Gospel - John 17:1-13

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as *We are*. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

Hymn to the Mother of God

O my soul, magnify the Lord who in glory ascended bodily into the heavens.

and the Irmos: O Mother of God,* you transcended both mind and word,* and in time, ineffably bore the Timeless One:* it is you who, with one accord,* we, the faithful, magnify.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest. (*Psalm 148:1*)* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;* praise befits the righteous. (*Psalm 32:1*) Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

Instead of “We have seen the true light” and “Let our mouths be filled” we sing:

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, above all the earth be Your glory.

HUMOR: Elephant

The class teacher asks students to name an animal that begins with an “E”. One boy says, “Elephant.”

Then the teacher asks for an animal that begins with a “T”. The same boy says, “Two elephants.”

The teacher sends the boy out of the class for bad behavior. After that she asks for an animal beginning with “M”.

The boy shouts from the other side of the wall: “Maybe an elephant!”