



# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Protection of the Virgin Mary

8600 Grand Blvd.  
Merrillville, IN 46410  
(219) 947-4748 (Church)  
(219) 730-4698 (Hall Rental)

Great Vespers  
Saturday - 4 PM  
Feast Days - 7 PM  
Divine Liturgy  
Sunday - 9:45 AM  
Feast Days - 9 AM  
Sunday Adult class 9Am  
Children's classes after liturgy

Fr. Peter Bodnar, Rector

Fr. Christopher Sarafin

All services in English

A parish of the  
Orthodox Church in America

[PtvM.com](http://PtvM.com)

## OUR SUNDAY BULLETIN

May 16

Seventh Sunday of Pascha/Tone 6  
Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical  
Council  
Afterfeast of the Ascension



Today's commemorated feasts  
and saints...

**7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA —  
Tone 6. The Three Hundred  
and Eighteen Holy Fathers of  
the First Ecumenical Council  
at Nicæa. Afterfeast of the  
Ascension.** Ven. Theodore the  
Sanctified, disciple of Ven.  
Pachomius the Great (368).  
Translation of the Relics of Ven.  
Ephraim, Abbot of Perekóp  
(Novgorod—1545). Ven.  
Cassian (1537) and Laurence  
(1548), Abbots of Komel'  
(Vologdá). St. Alexander,  
Archbishop of Jerusalem (213-  
250). Martyrs Vitus, Modestus,  
and Crescentia, at Lucania (ca.  
303). Bl. Child Musa of Rome  
(5th c.). St. George, Bishop of  
Mitylene (9th c.).

### Troparion -Tone 6 (Resurrection)

The angelic powers were at thy tomb:  
the guards became as dead men.  
Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most  
pure Body.  
Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it.  
Thou didst come to the virgin, granting life. O  
Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to  
Thee!

### Kontakion -Tone 6 (Resurrection)

When Christ God, the giver of life, raised all of  
the dead from the valleys of misery with His  
mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the  
human race. He is the Savior of all, the  
Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all

### Troparion - Tone 8

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!

### Kontakion - Tone 8

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!

## Readings for Sunday May 16, 2010

### **Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 (Epistle)**

**16**For 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.**17**From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.**18**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,**28**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.**29**For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.**30**Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.**31**Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.**32**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.**33**I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel.**34**Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me.**35**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.' **36**And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

### **John 17:1-13 (Gospel)**

**1**Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,**2**as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.**3**And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**4**I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.**5**And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.**6**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.**7**Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.**8**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.**9**I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.**10**And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.**11**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.**12**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.**13**But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

## Commemorated on May 16

On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, 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.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: St Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), St Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos (December 12), and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius (who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (May 2 and January 18). He is called "the Great," for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today's Feast, he is referred to as "the thirteenth Apostle."

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, "God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous."

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan's knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. St Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word "consubstantial," which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY..... May 16 2010

**SUNDAY** 16 9am Adult class, 9:45 3rd Hr 10:00 Divine Liturgy  
Church School , St clement welcome dinner  
Blessing of Graves

**TUESDAY** 18 6pm Prayer service. Parish Council mtg

**SATURDAY** 22 4pm Great Vespers with Litya

How Many Church Fathers were present at the 1st Ecumenical Council at Nicea ?

A 150  
B 318  
C 225  
D 91

THE ANSWER IS ON THE FIRST PAGE  
OF THIS WEEKS BULLETIN

**Attention all cooks! The Cookbook Committee** is still in need of more recipes for the cookbook being put together in celebration of our 100-Year Anniversary. Please submit your favorite recipes to Janice Barancyk, or leave in the church office with her name attached. This project can only be successful with your help! Also, if you have any title suggestions for the cookbook, please submit those also. T



**The Cookbook Committee next meets on June 6 after coffee hour.**

**The Golf committee has a table set up today for your convenience**



**Saturday June 5th**

*The prizes have been flowing in and it looks like its going to be a lucky day for some of the raffle ticket holders at the outing.*

*If you would like to put together a foursome now is the time to do it*

*If you would like to golf but do not have a foursome, we can put you into a good friendly group*

*Some people will just attend the dinner, they don't want to golf.*

*Great move, it promises to be a fun event, great food and of course great place to hang out with your friends and church family*

*Dinner tickets are only \$20,00*

We are still accepting donations for expenses,  
prizes  
&volunteers

**Thank you all so much who have already contributed so much to this event**

email bulletin items to [ptvmchurchgrowth@live.com](mailto:ptvmchurchgrowth@live.com)