



St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Church

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Rector

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Services Schedule

Please see our [online calendar](#) for dates and times of Feast Day services.

Bulletin for Sunday, June 09, 2019

Welcome



Jesus Christ taught us to love and serve all people, regardless of their ethnicity or nationality. To understand that, we need to look no further than to the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-

37). Every time we celebrate the Divine Liturgy, it is offered "*on behalf of all, and for all.*" As Orthodox Christians we stand against racism and bigotry. All human beings share one common identity as children of God.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatian 3:28)

Weekly Services

Tuesdays at 8:30a - Daily Matins

Wednesdays at 6:00p - Daily Vespers (The Church is open at 4:30p for "Open Doors" - confession, meditation and reflection).

Thursday at 8:30a - Daily Matins

Saturday at 5:30p - Great Vespers

Sunday at 9:30a - Divine Liturgy

Members of our Parish Council are:

Greg Jankura - Council President

Michael Kuziak - Council Vice President

Natalie Kucharski - Council Treasurer

Glenn PenkoffLidbeck - Council Secretary

Kyle Hollis - Member at Large

Roderick Seurattan - Member at Large

Pastoral Care - General Information

- *Emergency Sick Calls* can be made at any time. Please call Fr Steven at (860) 866-5802, when a family member is admitted to the hospital.
- *Anointing in Sickness*: The Sacrament of Unction is available in Church, the hospital, or your home, for anyone who is sick and suffering, however severe.
- *Marriages and Baptisms* require early planning, scheduling and selections of sponsors (crown bearers or godparents). See Father before booking dates and reception halls!
- *Funerals* are celebrated for practicing Orthodox Christians. Please see Father for details. The Church opposes cremation; we cannot celebrate funerals for cremations.

Announcements

On Sunday, June 30th, Anastasia Elliott and Malcolm Littlefield will be joined in marriage through the sacrament of matrimony. As is the practice of the Church, this announcement is made three weeks before the date of the service.

On Saturday, July 13th, the entire parish is invited to go to Holy Ghost Church in Bridgeport, where St Alexis was once the rector. Fr John Jullian has invited us to have a tour of the church and grounds,

to celebrate Vespers there, and to have dinner before for departing for home. I therefore need to tell him how many people will be attending. Please let me know if you would like to join us for this special visit.

We are asking, once again, for donations of port wine for the oblation, and votive candles. Please see Fr Steven for details if you would like to participate in this stewardship opportunity.

Is there any interest in creating a professional parish photo directory, such as was once done at the concegraton of the church? Lifetouch has a sale going on at the moment. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, we would need to have at least 20 families/individuals participate.

Saints and Feasts



June 09

Fathers of the 1st Council

The heresiarch Arius was a Libyan by race and a protopresbyter of the Church of Alexandria. In 315, he began to blaspheme against the

Son and Word of God, saying that He is not true God, consubstantial with the Father, but is rather a work and creation, alien to the essence

and glory of the Father, and that there was a time when He was not. This frightful blasphemy shook the faithful of Alexandria. Alexander, his Archbishop, after trying in vain to correct him through admonitions, cut him off from communion and finally in a local council deposed him in the year 321. Yet neither did the blasphemer wish to be corrected, nor did he cease sowing the deadly tares of his heretical teachings; but writing to the bishops of other cities, Arius and his followers requested that his doctrine be examined, and if it were unsound, that the correct teaching be declared to him. By this means, his heresy became universally known and won many supporters, so that the whole Church was soon in an uproar.

Therefore, moved by divine zeal, the first Christian Sovereign, Saint Constantine the Great, the equal to the Apostles, summoned the renowned First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was there that the shepherds and teachers of the Church of Christ gathered from all regions in the year 325. All of them, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God, and they composed the holy Symbol of Faith up to the seventh article (since the remainder, beginning with "And in the Holy Spirit," was completed by the Second Ecumenical Council). Thus they anathematized the impious Arius of evil belief and those of like mind with him, and cut them off as rotten members from the whole body of the faithful.

Therefore, recognizing the divine Fathers as heralds of the Faith after the divine

Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honour, and unto the strengthening of the true Faith.

Parish Calendar

Service and Events

June 9 to June 17, 2019

Sunday, June 9

Fathers of the 1st Council
Fellowship and Stewardship Ministry
9:15AM Reading of the 3rd Hour
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, June 10

June Bronen
Alexander and Antonina the Martyrs

Tuesday, June 11

Akathist to St Luke the Confessor
Bartholomew the Holy Apostle
Akathist to Chinese Martyrs of the Boxer Rebellion
8:30AM Daily Matins
7:00PM Deanery Mtg

Wednesday, June 12

Onuphrius of Egypt
4:30PM Open Doors
6:00PM Evening Prayers

Thursday, June 13

Aquilina the Martyr of Syria
Nancy Davis
8:30AM Daily Matins

Friday, June 14

Repose of Joan Navarro
The Holy Prophet Elisseus (Elisha)

Saturday, June 15

The Saturday of Souls
5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, June 16

Evangelism and Outreach Ministry meeting
Holy Pentecost
9:15AM Reading of the 3rd Hour
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, June 17

Monday of the Holy Spirit

Prayers, Intercessions and Commemorations



William, Sophia, Robert,
Ann, Evelyn, Nina, John,
Alex, Vincent, Luke,
Kathryn, Anastasia,
Malcolm, Veronica,
Darlyne, Irene, Nancy,
Elena, Jevon, Stella
Anna, Ivan and Joscean.

And for... Sofie, Katrina,
Olena, Valeriy, Olga, Tatiana, Dimitri,
Alexander and Maxim.

All of our College Students: Alex, Kaitlyn, Jack,
Sam, Connor, Nadia, Isaac and Matthew.

Many Years! to Nancy Davis on the occasion of her birthday;

Memory Eternal, on this, the anniversary of the repose of Joan Navarro.

Pray for: All those confined to hospitals, nursing homes, and their own homes due to illness; for all those who serve in the armed forces; widows, orphans, prisoners, victims of violence, and refugees;

All those suffering chronic illness, financial hardship, loneliness, addictions, abuse, abandonment and despair; those who are homeless, those who are institutionalize, those who have no one to pray for them;

All Orthodox seminarians & families; all Orthodox monks and nuns, and all those considering monastic life; all Orthodox missionaries and their families.

All those who have perished due to hatred and intolerance and all those departed this life in the hope of the Resurrection.

Today we commemorate:

Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Afterfeast of Ascension. St. Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria (444). Ven. Kirill, Abbot of Belozérsk (1427). Ven. Alexander, Abbot of Kushta (Vologdá—1439). Five Nuns beheaded in Persia: Martyrs Thecla, Mariamne, Martha, Mary, and Ennatha (346). St. Columba, Enlightener of Scotland (597).

Hymns of the Day

Tone 6 Troparion (Resurrection)

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.
You took captive hell,//
not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.//
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

Tone 4 Troparion (Ascension)

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,
granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise
of the Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing, they were assured,
that You are the Son of God,//
the Redeemer of the world!

Tone 8 Troparion (Fathers)

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!

Tone 8 Kontakion (Fathers)

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 piety.

Tone 6 Kontakion (Ascension)

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for
our sake,
and united earth to heaven,
You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,
not being parted from those who love You,
but remaining with them and crying://
"I am with you, and there is no one against
you!"

(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing:)

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life,
Who has ascended from earth to heaven!
We magnify you, the Mother of God, who
beyond reason and understanding gave birth
in time to the Timeless One.

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him
in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise
befits the just! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

(Instead of "We have seen the True Light," we sing the Troparion of Ascension)

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. 4th Tone. Daniel 3.26,27.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our
fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

**The reading is from Acts of the Apostles
20:16-18, 28-36.**

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.

Gospel Reading

**Fathers of the 1st Council
The Reading is from 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 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."

Wisdom of the Fathers

For there is One God, and One Mediator between God and Man, the Man Christ Jesus. For He still pleads even now as Man for my salvation; ...

St. Gregory the Theologian

4th Theological Oration, 4th Century

... for He continues to wear the Body which He assumed, until He make me God by the power of His Incarnation; although He is no longer known after the flesh -- I mean, the passions of the flesh, the same, except sin, as ours.

St. Gregory the Theologian

4th Theological Oration, 4th Century

Reflection



Sunday Of The Fathers Of The First Ecumenical Council

Introduction

The seventh Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. This day commemorates the 318 God-bearing Fathers who gathered in Nicaea in 325 at the request of the Emperor, Saint Constantine the Great, to address the heresy of Arianism together with other issues that concerned the unity of the Church.

Commemoration of The Great and Holy Feast of Pascha

Arius was a protopresbyter of the Church of Alexandria, and in 315, he began to blaspheme against the Son of God saying that He was not the true God, consubstantial with the Father, but rather a work or creation of God and different from the essence and glory of the Father. He also taught that the Son of God had a beginning. These teachings shook the faithful at Alexandria. The Bishop of Alexandria, Alexander, attempted to correct Arius through admonitions, cut him off from communion, and finally deposed him in 321 through a local council. Arius continued with his heretical teachings, creating controversy and division in the churches of other cities, which led to a theological and ecclesiastical crisis throughout the Christian Church.

Moved with divine zeal and concern

for unity, the Emperor Constantine the Great, equal to the Apostles, summoned the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was in this place that the bishops of the Church gathered in 325. All of them, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God. The Fathers composed the holy symbol of Faith, the Nicene Creed:

"We believe in one God. The Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end."

The Fathers also anathematized Arius for his heretical beliefs and teachings, cutting him off from the Church.

Recognizing the divine Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council as heralds of the Faith after the divine Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honor, and unto

the strengthening of the true Faith.

Icon of the Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

The icon of the Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council depicts Saint Constantine together with the God-bearing Fathers and Saints of the Church who attended the Council and affirmed the unity of the Faith through the Nicene Creed. The Fathers are shown holding the text of the Creed, also referred to as the Symbol of Faith.

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the of the Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

The Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. This is the first Sunday after the leave-taking or apodosia of Pascha, and the celebration of the Feast of the Ascension. The services of Vespers, Orthros, and the Divine Liturgy include hymns of both the Ascension and in commemoration of the Fathers.