



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, May 28, 2023

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the
First Ecumenical Council

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Six:

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 hades, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee.

- TROPARION OF ASCENSION, Tone Four:

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

- TROPARION OF THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:

Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast established the Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth, and through them didst guide us all to the true Faith. O Most Merciful One, glory be to Thee.

- KONTAKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:

The preaching of the Apostles and the doctrines of the Fathers confirmed the one Faith in the Church. And wearing the garment of truth woven from theology on high, she rightly divideth and glorifieth the great mystery of piety.

- KONTAKION OF ASCENSION, Tone Six:

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

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, May 27: 5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
- Sunday, May 28: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal
- Monday, May 29: 11:30 AM, Panikhida at Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery
- Wed., May 31: 4 PM, M.O.M. Diaper Bank Distribution
6 PM, Vespers

- Thurs., June 1: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, Feast of St. Justin Martyr (Protection Church)
6 PM, Parish Council Meeting
7 PM, Online Bible Study
- Fri., June 2: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
- Sat., June 3: 9 AM, Memorial Liturgy for day before Pentecost
5 PM, Vigil for Pentecost
- Sun., June 4: 9 AM, Chrismation of Vickie Swing
10 AM, Festal Divine Liturgy and Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost
12:30 PM, Potluck Agape Meal
- Mon., June 5: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for *Holy Spirit Day* in St. Seraphim

• TODAY'S CELEBRATION:

The seventh Sunday of 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. 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, but rather divine being created by God. 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 East. Moved with divine zeal and concern for unity, the Emperor Constantine the Great, equal to the Apostles, summoned the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325. The Holy Fathers composed the holy symbol of Faith, the Nicene Creed: “We believe in one God. The Father Almighty...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...” The Church has appointed this present Sunday after Ascension for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto their praise and honor. Today's feast affirms that the One Who rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven, is truly God and truly man, uniting in Himself therefore heaven and earth. —*borrowed*

• MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE AT THE CEMETERY:

A *Panikhida* will be served on Memorial Day, May 29, at 11:30 AM, at Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery. I invite all of you to join me in praying for those who laid down their lives for their country, and as a public witness of our Orthodox Faith in prayerful action. —*Fr Lawrence*

• M.O.M. OUTREACH—DIAPER BANK:

Just a reminder for anyone who would like to volunteer at our MOM Outreach diaper distribution, it will be in two weeks on Wednesday, May 31, from 4–6 PM at the parish. We need extra help this time, processing a very generous donation of beautiful used baby clothes. We just need to sort and store the clothes for easy access when parents want to look through and take some home.

• PENTECOST—Saturday and Sunday, June 3, 4 and 5:

Pentecost—the Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit—is the completion of Pascha and Ascension (the

end of the Fifty Days of celebration since Pascha) because it is our “access” to the Paschal way of life. At the Ascension, the Divine and Eternal Son—the God-Man—has placed His risen and victorious human nature, the nature He shares with us, next to the Father on the Throne. And now we reign with Him, because...at Pentecost (and at our Chrismation), the Father sent the Holy Spirit to enliven us and unite us to Himself: we “put on Christ” and therefore become sharers in the Kingdom of Heaven now, and receive the power of Life Eternal.

Our celebration of Pentecost will begin with the *Memorial Divine Liturgy* on Saturday morning, June 3 at 9 AM, in the Protection Church. This is the last in the long series of Memorial Saturdays which began before Great Lent. On this day we commemorate all departed Christians, since they also participate with us in salvation through the power of the Holy Spirit, awaiting the resurrection.

On Saturday afternoon we will have the Festal Vigil at 5 PM. Please note that Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco, our Diocesan Cathedral (seat of the ruling hierarch) has invited all the Deanery Clergy to attend the 6 PM Vigil there. Fr Nicholas and Protodeacon Jeremiah will celebrate the Vigil here with you, while Deacon Justin and I serve in San Francisco.

The Feast continues on Sunday morning at 9 AM with the reception in Chrismation of Vickie Swing, followed by the Festal Divine Liturgy beginning at 10 AM. We will begin the awe-inspiring *Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost*—a torrential river of praise, supplication and thanksgiving, at the conclusion of Liturgy. —*Fr Lawrence*

- LIFE IN CHRIST:

If Christ died for us, it is to overcome death and allow us, at the end of time, to rise again as he did himself. But His Passion and agony on the cross also have another meaning, which we do not emphasize enough: by suffering and dying, he has abolished the power of suffering and death; he has granted us, if we unite ourselves to him and thus receive the grace he has acquired for us, to no longer fear suffering and to improve ourselves spiritually through it, and to no longer fear death, but to put our hope in eternal life, so that we can say with St. Paul in chapter 15 of the first Epistle to the Corinthians: “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

Christ removed the necessity of sin, put an end to the tyranny of the devil, and made death harmless, but he did not remove sin, the action of demons, physical death, or the consequences of sin in general, so as not to force and deny the free will that caused it. On the physical level, the fallen world remains subject to its own logic. For this reason, too, illness affects each person differently...

The man who lives in Christ in the Church, where the fullness of grace is found, receives the “pledge of the Spirit,” knows spiritually the first fruits of the goods to come. On this spiritual plane, sin, the devil, death and corruption no longer have power over him, cannot affect him; he is spiritually free from them. But incorruptibility and immortality, if thus assured to him, will become real for his body only after the Resurrection and the Judgment, just as the deification of his whole being will find its complete fulfillment only at this ultimate moment (cf. 1 Cor 15:28).

—*Professor Jean-Claude Larchet, excerpts from a recent interview*

- THURSDAY MORNING LITURGIES:

During June we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy each Thursday morning at 9 AM in the Protection Church (with the exception of the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29).

- LIFE'S EMERGENCIES WORKSHOP:

Saturday, June 17. See the flyer for the workshop.

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

JUNE 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 28 - Holy Fathers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM, Panikhida at Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery 	30	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vespers 	JUNE 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy (Martyr Justin) • 6 PM, Parish Council • 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, online 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions 	3 - Soul Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy • Church Decoration • 5 PM, Vigil for Pentecost (here and in SF for the Parish Feast)
4 - PENTECOST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy & Kneeling Vespers • 12:30 PM, POTLUCK • 4 PM, <i>Cantiamo Concert</i> 	5 - Day of the Holy Spirit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy 	6	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vespers 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy (Greatmartyr Theodore) • 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, online 	9 <p><i>No Confessions today</i></p>	10 <p><i>(1 PM, Baptism, All Saints Parish using church)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions
11 - All Saints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal 	12 <p>Sts. Peter and Paul Fast Begins</p>	13	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vespers 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy (Prophet Amos) • 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, online 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions in <u>Protection Church</u> 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM, Life's Emergencies Workshop • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions
18 - All Saints of America <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal 	19	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vespers 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy (St. Alban of Britain) • 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, online 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–2 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Vigil for the Nativity of St John 	24 - Nativity of St. John <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions
25 - Sts. Peter and Fevronia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal <p><i>Depart for Church Camp</i></p>	26 <p><i>Fr Lawrence and Campers at St. Eugene's Camp all week</i></p>	27	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Great Vespers with Litya 	29 - Sts. Peter and Paul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–2 PM, Confessions 	JULY 1 <p><i>Feast of St. John of SF at Geary St. Cathedral</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions