

SS. PETER & PAUL

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Rev. Joseph McCartney, Rector

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Gospel Reading ~ John 17:1-13
Epistle Reading ~ Acts 20:16-18, 28-36
Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

This Week at a Glance

Thur, June 1st

9:30 am - Moleben for
the Sick & Suffering

Sat, June 3rd

4:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sun, June 4th

9:00 am - The Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Panikhida

The Panikhida is served today in memory of the one Year anniversary of the repose of our beloved Monk Vladimir. May his memory be eternal!



Support our
Parish while
you shop!

Feast Day Meditation

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.

The emperor Constantine not only called together the council, but he also presided over the sessions of the Council. 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. Saint 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).

Baseball Game Outing

On Sunday, June 11th following the Divine Liturgy, we will have a parish-wide outing to a Lake Erie Crusher's baseball game verses the Gateway Grizzlies. The game starts at 2:05pm. The cost per person is \$15, which includes a box seat behind home plate and an \$8 concession voucher that can be used at the park snack bar. Last year we had a fantastic time. You won't want to miss out. Kids will have a blast as it will be a celebration of team mascot, Stomper's birthday with a Candy Drop presented by B.A. Sweetie's Candy Co. A sign-up list is downstairs on the Bulletin Board.

--- **This is your last weekend to sign up!** ---