

**HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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**May 17, 2026**

## **Sunday of the Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council**

### **SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES**

**Sunday May 17:** Sunday of the Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council: 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
IHO Mary Anne Meredith for her health & God's Blessing by Mary Dzurichko

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy

**Monday May 18:** 6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Daily Vespers

**Friday May 22:** 5:00 pm Confessions, 6:00 pm Daily Vespers 7:00 pm Vigil Divine Liturgy for All Souls

**Saturday May 23:** 5<sup>th</sup> All Souls Saturday  
5:00 pm Confessions, 6:00 pm Great Vespers for Pentecost

**Sunday May 24:** Pentecost Sunday: 7am Festal Matins: 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
IHO Joseph and Dolores Bacasa on their 64<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary by their Grandchildren

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy

Divine Liturgies are open for intentions for this new year. If you would like to make an intention for a Liturgy, please call the office or fill out request form in the back of the church and give it to Fr. Michael.

**CLERGY DAYS THIS WEEK:** Fr. Michael will be away Tuesday, May 19 thru Thursday, May 21.

**ST. GEORGE ADULT RECOGNITION AWARD FOR SCOUTING:** In recognition of his work and adult leadership in scouting, Holy Spirit Parishioner Eugene E. Yeo will be awarded the St. George Medal by Fr. Dcn. Lance Weakland at the Great Vespers for Pentecost this Saturday May 23. The Vespers will begin at 6:00 PM.

**PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION:** We will celebrate the 119<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our parish on **Sunday, May 31**. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at **11:00 AM** followed by meal in the hall. The main meal will be provided by funds from the GCU. So we can plan a great gathering, there is a **sign-up sheet in the narthex**. If you plan to attend, please list what you would like to bring (i.e. beverages, sides or desserts) to share. Please see Fr. Michael or Mary Dzurichko with any questions.

**EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES (ECF):** Our ECF program has begun meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 5:00 pm in the church hall. We hope the program will continue to grow to weekly meetings. For more information, please see Eugene Yeo.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:** May God grant you many happy and blessed years!

May 9 – Marcelino Revilak

May 13 – Eric Stehle

Don't see your birthday or anniversary? Let us know so we can update the directory!

**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS:** If you are interested in learning to lead Matins as a Reader's Service on Sunday before Liturgy, please see Father Michael. Matins is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.

**ICONS AVAILABLE:** There are several blessed icons in the church hall, there is no cost to take these home, though a free will offering for the benefit of the parish is welcome.

**MORNING LITURGY COFFEE SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS:** In addition to attending services together, it is important that we spend time in conversation with one another. To make it truly a time of sharing – we ask everyone to sign up to host a Sunday. We look forward to seeing you!

**EVENING LITURGY SOCIAL:** In addition to attending services together, it is important that we spend time in conversation with one another. Please join us in the hall following the liturgy for fellowship. We look forward to seeing you!

**EPISTLE: Acts 20:16-18 & 28-38:**

Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus in order not to lose time in the province of Asia, for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if at all possible, for the day of Pentecost. From Miletus he had the presbyters of the church at Ephesus summoned. When they came to him, he addressed them, "You know how I lived among you the whole time from the day I first came to the province of Asia. I served the Lord with all humility and with the tears and trials that came to me because of the plots of the Jews, and I did not at all shrink from telling you what was for your benefit, or from teaching you in public or in your homes. earnestly bore witness for both Jews and Greeks to repentance before God and to faith in our Lord Jesus. But now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem. What will happen to me there I do not know, except that in one city after another the holy Spirit has been warning me that imprisonment and hardships await me. Yet I consider life of no importance to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the gospel of God's grace. "But now I know that none of you to whom I preached the kingdom during my travels will ever see my face again and so I solemnly declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, for I did not shrink from proclaiming to you the entire plan of God. Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the holy Spirit has appointed you overseers,\* in which you tend the church of God that he acquired with his own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come among you, and they will not spare the flock. And from your own group, men will come forward perverting the truth to draw the disciples away after them. So be vigilant and remember that for three years, night and day, I unceasingly admonished each of you with tears. And now I commend you to God and to that gracious word of his that can build you up and give you the inheritance among all who are consecrated. I have never wanted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You know well that these very hands have served my needs and my companions. In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" When he had finished speaking, he knelt down and prayed with them all. They were all weeping loudly as they threw their arms around Paul and kissed him, for they were deeply distressed that he had said that they would never see his face again. Then they escorted him to the ship.

**GOSPEL: John 17: 1-13:**

When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. "I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them, I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely.

**A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL:** Jesus Christ has given us our Faith, once and for all time. Since the death of the last apostle, St. John the Beloved, no new Public Revelation which has been given to us in the same way which Christ and the twelve apostles gave us (though there has been plenty of Private Revelation). It has been the duty of the Church to spread the message of that revelation to the ends of the earth and to all peoples, unaltered and fully illuminated. This has been no easy task, for the human mind is limited in its capacity to understand fully even the most basic and fundamental concepts.

Our God-given desire to explore and grow in knowledge combined with our capacity for creative thinking and problem solving, can lead us into the occasion of either overthinking or misconstruing the way we ought best to approach and understand any given topic. Even in the realm of the Sacred Sciences, our own Divinely bestowed gifts of intellect and conscience, when not properly applied, can lead us to faulty conclusions about the precise of the Truth in incredibly important ways. To preserve then the Deposit of Faith, the Church has a few key tools which She employs in this endeavor: 1. Sacred Scripture, the written word of God, 2. Sacred Tradition, the beliefs of the Church which are preserved orally, 3. The Magisterium, the teaching authority which is granted to the Church which is vested in Her hierarchy: the Bishops.

It is upon these 3 legs which the True Faith has been handed down since the time of the Apostles. Any interpretation of Scripture must be weighed and measured against the Sacred Tradition and confirmed by the Magisterium. Any Sacred Tradition must be preserved by the Magisterium and be understood in the light of the Scriptures. Any Magisterial proclamation must be informed and guided by the Scriptures and the Sacred Tradition. Each informs and supports the others in the joint endeavor of persevering, promulgating, and teaching the Truth which is found in Jesus Christ and His Church.

Truth is not something which is reached as a byproduct of conciliarity. The Council of Nicaea was not an exercise in the Democratic process of a developing religion, but was instead an exercise in the Church's authority to investigate whether or not the claims put forward by the Arians or the Orthodox were in line with the unbroken and eternal Truth of the Faith which had been received once and for all time. It is the preservation of Truth which drives the conciliar faculty of the Church and is the principle in which we find the fullness of unity. Popes, Bishops, and Ecumenical Councils are the means by which Unity is fostered in Truth and Truth is upheld in Unity.

**SAINT OF THE DAY:** 5/17 **The holy apostle Andronicus and his companions.** One of the Seventy, he was a kinsman of the apostle Paul, as he wrote in Romans 16:17. He was made the Bishop of Pannonia, and preached the gospel throughout that land. He and his companions were martyred for the Faith.

5/19 **The holy martyr Patrick, bishop of Prusa, and his companions,** martyred in the reign of the emperor Julian the Apostate. Taken to a boiling spring, the governor asked if Christ would save them. Patrick replied, "If he wills, he can keep me whole and uninjured, although I would wish, in this water, to be parted from this temporal life that I may live eternally with Christ; but let his holy will be done, without which not a hair of a man's head can fall." (c.361-363)

5/21 **The holy emperor Constantine and his mother Helen, equal to the apostles.** Constantine reigned in ancient Rome and in Byzantium (which became New Rome), and was the first Christian emperor, champion of the Faith. Though he was not baptized until on his deathbed, he considered himself a Christian, and called the First Ecumenical Council at Nicea in 325 to settle the Arian heresy. (337) On the Via Labicana in old Rome, Helen, the mother of Constantine the emperor is remembered. She single-mindedly worked to help the needy and piously visited churches, mingling with the crowds. Having made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to see the places of the Nativity, Passion, and Resurrection of Christ, she honored the manger and cross of the Lord by building basilicas worthy of respect. (327)

5/23 **Our venerable father and confessor Michael, bishop of Synnada.** As a peacemaker he fostered peace and concord between the Greeks and the Latins. He was sent into exile because of the cult of holy icons and died far from his home. (818)

5/23 **The venerable Euphrosyne,** hegumena of the Monastery of our Holy Savior in Polotsk was the daughter of Prince Vseslav of Polotsk. When her parents wished her to marry, she ran away to a monastery and became a nun. Euphrosyne professed many women in the monastic life, which she led prayerfully and powerfully. She died on pilgrimage to Jerusalem (1173)

**ON-LINE GIVING:** If you wish to make a monetary donation to our parish – you can do so on our website or by using this QR code. Remember every dollar helps support the mission of our parish community. Thank you.



**PRAYER FOR OUR FOUR SAINTLY BISHOPS:** Please pray for the causes of our four Saintly Bishops and ask them to intercede for your specific intentions: O Almighty God, our Lord, we bless You, we praise You, and we thank you for all the graces which You, in Your infinite mercy have bestowed upon us. We are especially grateful for giving us four saintly and heroic Bishops: **Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, Bishop Paul P. Gojdich OBSM, Bishop Basil Hopko, and Bishop Alexander Chira**, who, by their courage, charity, and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. By their great sufferings, humiliating imprisonment, and violent death they gave living witness to their Catholic faith and glorified Your exalted name. Therefore, O Gracious Lord, glorify them in return by Your divine power and inscribe their names in the book of Your Saints. For you are holy, our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever, Amen. With Ecclesiastical Approbation Acknowledgment of answered prayers: Postulator's office, 54 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214, U.S.A.

**PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS:** **Saints Cyril and Methodius**, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen. St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.