

# HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022 SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

**Sunday, May 29:** 11am Divine Liturgy for deceased Justine Yarmeak by Priscilla Fello

**Monday, May 30:** 9am, Divine Liturgy and Panachida for Memorial Day

**Friday, June 3:** 9am, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> hour ~ 5pm Confessions, 6pm Divine Liturgy  
for Deceased Basil Yarmeak by Priscilla Fello

**Saturday, June 4:** 9am Divine Liturgy for All Souls' Saturday  
5:30pm Great Vespers for Pentecost

**Sunday, June 5:** 10 am Reader's Matins for Pentecost  
11am Divine Liturgy for the Intentions of the Parish  
Parish Anniversary Celebration in the Hall to follow. RSVP by 5/29 on the sheet in  
the back of the church, or contact Fr. Michael or Pani Janine.

Confessions are available before Saturday Divine Liturgy. All divine liturgies are open for  
intentions. Call the office or fill out the request form in the back of church and leave it in the  
sacristy.

**AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY.....** The commemoration of the First-Nicaean Council-Fathers reminds us of our obligation to PRESERVE THE FAITH, the religious patrimony entrusted to us. In His priestly prayer, Jesus prays for those given this sacred trust, and Paul exhorts the Ephesian presbyters to be mindful of this solemn duty. As current followers of Christ, we all share the responsibility of preserving and transmitting the deposit of our holy faith.

**MIROVANJE FOR THE MARVELOUS FEAST OF THE HOLY ASCENSION .....** As we continue on this Sunday with our celebration of the Awesome Ascension Feast, there will be mirovanje, the festive sacramental anointing of the faithful, following the Divine Liturgy. The Christian greeting for this ascensional season proclaims the fact that "Christ is glorified!" With our response, we affirm that we must "Exalt Him forever!"

### **SPIRITUAL OBLIGATION OF CONFESSION & COMMUNION: EASTER DUTY.....**

In order to be a practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church, we are obliged to receive the two sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist at this designated season. This precept of the Church is called the EASTER DUTY, and the period for its fulfillment extends from the beginning of the Great Fast up until Pentecost Sunday. The Canon Law of the Church mandates that we make a worthy CONFESSION and then receive the real Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in Holy COMMUNION during this sacred season. If someone hasn't already complied with this requirement of the LAW of the Church, do not delay in going to Holy Confession and then receiving Holy Communion.

### **1ST READING: Acts 20:16-18 & 28-36 (Section 44)**

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so as to not lose time in Asia, for he was eager to get Jerusalem by the feast of Pentecost if at all possible. Paul sent word from Miletus to Ephesus, summoning the presbyters of that church. When they came to him he delivered his address:

“Keep watch over yourselves, and over the whole flock the Holy Spirit has given you to guard. Shepherd the church of God, which he has acquired at the price of his own blood. I know that when I am gone, savage wolves will come among you who will not spare the flock. From your own number, men will present themselves distorting the truth and leading astray any who follow them. Be on guard, therefore. Do not forget that for three years, night and day, I never ceased warning you individually even to the point of tears. I commend you now to the Lord, and to that gracious word of his which can enlarge you, and give you a share among all who are consecrated to him. Never did I set my heart on anyone's silver or gold or envy the way he dressed. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have served both my needs and those of my companions. I have always pointed out to you that it is by such hard work that you must help the weak. You need to recall the words of the Lord Jesus himself, who said, ‘There is more happiness in giving than receiving.’”

After this discourse, Paul knelt down with them all and prayed. They began to weep without restraint, throwing their arms around him and kissing him, for they were deeply distressed to hear that they would never see his face again. Then they escorted him to the ship.

~~~~~In our reading for today from The Acts of the Holy Apostles, the Holy Evangelist Luke reports how Paul, after his missionary endeavors in Asia, was hurrying now to be at Jerusalem for the observance of Holy Pentecost. At Miletus in Asia Minor, Paul met with the presbyters (priests) who were from Ephesus, which was nearby. The Holy Apostle Paul's moving message delivered to the elders of the Ephesian Church is thus recounted. He charges them to fulfill their solemn duty to PRESERVE THE FAITH over which they have been placed as sacred guardians. Paul exhorts these shepherds of the Church of God to take seriously their responsibility to cherish and transmit the faith intact and to guard it from those who would distort the truth and then, through corrupt and perverse teachings, lead others astray. Paul's message rings true even for us today. We must ever protect and preserve the deposit of the True Faith of Christ!

### **GOSPEL: John 17:1-13 (Section 56)**

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.”

~~~~~The Holy Evangelist John presents us with Jesus' priestly prayer for His disciples, present and future. This prayer is offered by our Lord to His Heavenly Father for all of His followers in order that they would PRESERVE THE FAITH which He taught and which has been transmitted by His holy Church. In a specific way, Jesus is praying for His apostles and their successors. In general, however, He is praying for all of us “who belong to Him.” For we, as true-believing Christians, are Jesus' modern-day disciples who still continue His work in our space-age world. The Lord provides for the welfare of His Church by choosing leaders—present-day apostles—who carry-on the preaching of the Good News of salvation, calling the whole of mankind to the New Life achieved by the risen and glorified Savior. These servants of today's Church are the bishops, priests, and other orders of the clergy. These men belong to Jesus in a unique and specific way. They are committed to follow in His footsteps, continuing His divine mission in the world.

### **FIFTH ALL-SOULS SATUDAY TO BE OBSERVED NEXT WEEKEND .....**

On the day before Blessed Pentecost Sunday, forty-nine days after the magnificent celebration of the Splendorous Resurrection of our divine Savior, we shall observe the Fifth All-Souls Saturday on the nineteenth of May. At this year's final memorial for all of our faithful departed, we especially invoke the Most Holy Spirit with our fervent prayers offered in their behalf, asking for the repose of their immortal souls. As we make this universal remembrance, we beseech the Author of Life Himself to conduct their souls into the fullness of His everlasting celestial Kingdom. "Since we have loved them during life, let us not abandon them until we have conducted them by our prayers into the House of the Lord!" May the Lord God remember them forever and make their memories eternal, v'ičnaja jim pamjat'!

**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF NICEA: 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL.....** The seventh Sunday after the paschal feast is dedicated to a commemoration of the 318 Fathers of the First Nicean Council. This first ecumenical or universal council of all of the bishops of the world was held in the year 325 A.D. at Nicea, a major city of the Byzantine Empire in Asia Minor. This council was convened by the first Christian Emperor Constantine the Great, and most of the bishops attending were Byzantine hierarchs. At the First Nicean Council, the true divine nature of Jesus was affirmed solemnly, and a proclamation of the exact teachings of Christ's Church was produced as the council-fathers formulated the Nicene Creed. In addition, the council established the manner to determine the date for the Holy Resurrection, Christianity's principal feast. In their attempt to preserve the faith, the example of these 318 Holy Council-Fathers is set before us as a reminder of our own duty to defend the treasure of our holy faith. We must live in conformity with the maxims of our True Faith. We must cherish the venerable customs and the honorable traditions of our Byzantine Catholic Church. And most of all, like those Holy Nicene-Fathers, we have the sacred obligation to transmit this rich religious heritage to all of our future generations of Byzantine Catholics!

### **NEXT SUNDAY IS THE GLORIOUS FEAST OF HOLY PENTECOST.....**

On this day we celebrate the divine descent of the All-Holy Spirit upon the blessed apostles and the Spirit's presence within the Church to this very day. This is the patronal feastday of our Holy Spirit Parish, and among the Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic people, the three pentecostal holy days are known as The Green Feasts. Since next Sunday is the Ruthenian "Green Sunday," we are requested to wear something GREEN on that day and for the other Pentecost feastdays. The green reminds us of the New Life that we have in the Spirit of God, and it is emblematic of the Springtime of spiritual rebirth and soul-rejuvenation that is bestowed upon us once again as we celebrate the Most Holy Spirit's coming to us. On Holy Pentecost Sunday when we enter the church, we are to say our prayers standing, and continue to stand at the Pentecost Divine Liturgy as we have during the resurrectional season. Toward the end of this Divine Liturgy, the priest-celebrant will kneel down at the altar to begin the three prayers in honor of the all-glorified Trinity. We all then will be invited to join him in kneeling, thus signaling the end of the festive paschal-resurrectional-ascensional season of standing. By our kneeling down, we usher-in the pentecostal period of regular liturgical time.

**PARISH ANNIVERSARY** – Don't forget! Holy Spirit Parish will be celebrating its 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Pentecost Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Fr. Michael if you're interested in helping. There is an RSVP form on the website, sign up in the back of the church, or contact Fr. Michael or Pani Janine by 5/29.

**Saturday June 4th:** 5:30 PM Great Vespers

**Sunday June 5th:** 10:00 AM Matins for Pentecost

11:00 AM Divine Liturgy

1:00 PM Events in the Parish Hall begin.

1:30 PM Blessing and serving of lunch (Buffet Style).

4:00 PM Concluding Remarks

Contact us at (412)-687-1220 or at [frmichaelkunitz@gmail.com](mailto:frmichaelkunitz@gmail.com)

Please RSVP by Sunday May 29th

**SUMMER SERVICES** – Please remember we will change to 9am Sunday Divine Liturgy starting June 12, the Sunday after Pentecost.

### **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*