

A GATHERING OF THE "SPIRITUALLY ELITE"

For nearly three centuries, the Christian Church was forced to endure ridicule and persecution from the pagan Roman Emperors. The blood of Christian martyrs flowed freely in the early days of the Church's existence. When Christianity was finally deemed acceptable, and, indeed, proclaimed to be the OFFICIAL RELIGION of the Byzantine Empire by Constantine the Great, it was hoped that these faithful communities of believers would find the peace and contentment for which they longed.

But it was not to be so! The Church now had to contend with an "enemy" from within: an Alexandrian priest named Arius, who was spreading a teaching that Christ was CREATED by God the Father, and, therefore, was NOT EQUAL to Him. The Church was shaken by this heretical teaching, which quickly gained widespread acceptance.

In an effort to combat this heresy, an unprecedented gathering of bishops, priests and other ecclesiastical dignitaries was convened in the city of Nicaea in the year 325 A.D. The list of the Church Fathers present was a "who's who" of early saints! St. Nicholas was there, as was St. Spiridon, St. Athanasius, St. Eustathius of Antioch, St. Eusebius of Caesarea and many others.

After heated deliberations – which saw an enraged St. Nicholas actually strike Arius -- the Council condemned the works of this heretical cleric. This Council also definitively confirmed the Symbol of Faith (the Creed), which was later expanded upon at the Second Ecumenical Council.

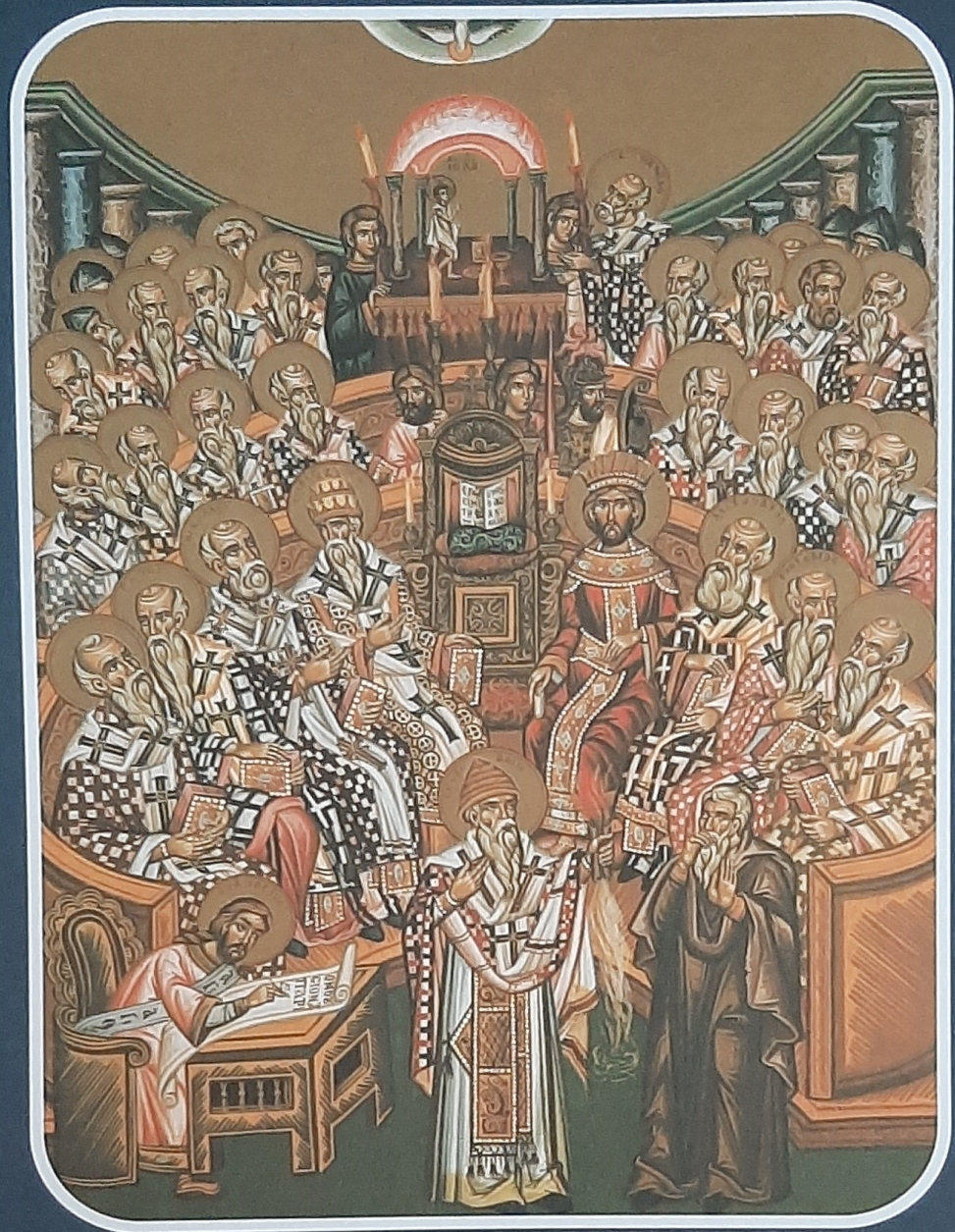
The First Ecumenical Council also established the guidelines for determining the date of Pascha, set the date of September 1 as the beginning of the liturgical year and decreed that celibacy should not be imposed upon the clergy.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

ABOUT COMMUNION

We are happy that you have joined us today. Indeed, we pray for the "unity of the Faith" for the day when all of Christianity are united as ONE and can share a common Chalice. However, this is not the case as yet. Please note that Holy Communion, the actual Body & Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, is only for Members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, and confession, & arrived before the Gospel reading. However, everyone is welcome to partake of the blessed bread and receive a blessing from the pastor at the dismissal. If you are interested, you may inquire with the pastor how you can become a member.

If you are a guest or otherwise not a regular communicant, please give your baptismal name when receiving.



THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



St. Anthony The Great Antiochian Orthodox Church

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Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor & Dean of South Florida Deanery

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Pastor's address: 2295 Oklahoma St.. W. Palm Beach, FL 33406

WELCOME TO ST. ANTHONY'S

Where people from around the world come together to serve God and our community. We are glad you are worshipping with us today! This Church is one community of many in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. The Church of Antioch belongs to two thousand years of evangelization, teaching, history, and tradition which expresses the continued commitment of its members to the Orthodox Christian faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

St. Anthony Church is a Pan-Orthodox community, under the omophorion of His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X within the Self-ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. If you are a first time visitor, please fill out the guest form located on the literature table. We want you to feel at home in prayer and worship. Please submit your names to the ushers and introduce yourself to Fr. Elia at the end of the service so he may welcome you personally.

Following services, please join us for sharing of fellowship, coffee, and food.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2023

TONE 6 / EOTHINON 10

SUNDAY OF THE AFTER-FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

HIEROMARTYR EUTYCHIOS, BISHOP OF MELITENE; MARTYR HELICONIS OF THESSALONICA

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Clap your hands, all ye nations; shout unto God with a voice of rejoicing. For the Lord Most High is terrible; a great King over all the earth.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

He hath subdued peoples under us, and the nations under our feet. God is gone up in jubilation, the Lord with the voice of the trumpet. (**Refrain**)

Glory... Both now... (**Refrain**)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, in His holy mountain. The mountains of Si-on on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who didst rise from us in glory to the heavens; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

God is known in her towers when He cometh to help her. (**Refrain**)

For lo, the kings of the earth were assembled; they came together. (**Refrain**)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Hear this, all ye nations; give ear, all ye that inhabit the world. My mouth shall speak wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. I will incline mine ear unto a parable; I will unfold my problem on the psaltery.

~ During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the Ascension.

The Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) is "O come, let us worship... save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the

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2023 Parish Life Conference Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

June 14-17, 2023 | Miami, FL

Register at www.miamiplc.com

Saint George Cathedral is honored and excited to welcome

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA

to the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Parish Life Conference!

Please make your reservation as soon as possible!

Let's extend a warm southern welcome to His Eminence this June!



Hotel and Event Registration

EXTENDED

Hotel Until May 30, 2023

Hotel group block ends May 30, 2023,
rooms may be available but at a higher
rate.

Event Until June 2, 2023

No event registration after this date due to
hotel policy.

Will not be able to register for events at
the PLC.

Register at www.miamiplc.org

dead..." as on ordinary Sundays. After the Little Entrance, chant these hymns in the following order:

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb. And the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ASCENSION IN TONE FOUR

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, making them confident through the blessing that Thou art the Son of God, and Deliverer of the world.

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS IN TONE EIGHT

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.
~ Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.

KONTAKION OF THE ASCENSION IN TONE SIX

When Thou didst fulfill Thy dispensation for our sakes, uniting the terrestrials with the celestials, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, inseparable in space, but constant without separation, and crying unto Thy beloved: I am with you, and no one shall be against you.

THE EPISTLE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers. For Thou art just in all Thou hast done to us.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (20:16-18, 28-36)

In those days, Paul was determined to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening, if possible, to be at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the priests 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 bishops, to shepherd the church of the Lord and God, which He purchased with His own blood. For I know that after my departure ravenous wolves will enter 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, remain watchful, remembering that for three years I did not cease to admonish every one, night and day with tears. And now, brethren, 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 such laboring we ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down on his knees with them all, and prayed.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (17:1-13)

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not

praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine 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 Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou 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 Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

~ *Megalynarion*: “It is Truly Meet”; *Koinonikon (Communion Hymn)*: “Praise ye the Lord.”

~ *Instead of singing* “We have seen the true light”, sing the *Apolytikion of the Ascension*.

ABOUT THE DIVINE LITURGY

The Divine Liturgy expresses the entire Christian faith in a continuous song of praise and prayer addressed to God. It is focused on God, not on us. There is nothing just for amusement or entertainment.

Since much of the service is the same every week, worshippers know it and can participate personally, either by singing along or just by prayerful attention. Worshippers are surrounded by icons (pictures of Christ and the saints), which remind us that we are participating, while on earth, in the worship of all the angels and saints in heaven. The entire service (except for the sermon) is sung. The words are all from Scripture or ancient Christian texts. Please follow the service in the books available in the pews. Weekly changes will appear below and marked with a corresponding letter in the service book.

COME BACK

We hope to see you next week. Each Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ with our morning Matins service at 8:45am followed by the main Sunday service, Divine Liturgy at 10am. Sunday School for the Children follows Communion. Fr. Elia would love to speak with you and answer any questions you may have. Please fill out our Guest Form (CONNECTION CARD). There’s also a place where you can let us know any specific needs or concerns and we will lift them up in prayer. We welcome everyone who would like to learn more about the Orthodox Christian Faith. Please contact Fr. Elia either by E-Mail (elia_shalhoub@yahoo.com) or on his cell phone (305) 812-4940

Announcements



May 28
June 4
June 11
June 18
June 25

Epistle Readers
Jeffrey Dick
Priscilla Spinola
Leonidas Beeny
Janet Gorczynski
Zach Ferrel



Join us Sunday, June 4

Godparent’s Day

Sunday School Graduation

Please sit together during Liturgy, recite the Baptismal vows together and join us for refreshments, short program and photo opportunity after the Liturgy.

!Soul Saturday! Saturday, June 3

Please write down the names of your loved ones who fell asleep in the Lord (form in the back) and turn it in to Yuliya on or before Sunday, May 28.

56th Biennial Antiochian Archdiocese Convention



July 23-30, 2023
St. George • Phoenix, AZ
www.ac2023az.org



We welcome His Beatitude, Patriarch
JOHN X
to the 2023 Archdiocese Convention!

*Finalize your plans at
ac2023az.org today!*



2023 BIBLE BOWL

The Book of Genesis

ALL QUESTIONS WILL COME FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS AS FOUND IN THE ORTHODOX STUDY BIBLE.

The WHOLE book? No!

WE WILL ONLY ASK QUESTIONS FROM CHAPTERS: 1-4, 6-9, 12-18, 21-22:19, 24, 27-29, 32, 37, 42-45, 48-50

Bible Bowl is Friday, June 16 at 8pm at DOMSE Parish Life Conference

- RULES CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.TEENSOYO.ORG/BIBLE-BOWL



Mock Bible Bowl
Our kids worked hard on studying Genesis.
Please, support them by joining us for in Church Bible Bowl
Sunday, June 11 after the Coffee Hour.



Holy Fathers of the First Council of Nicaea and After-Feast of the Ascension

Our Prayer and Seeking God's Will "Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father who is in heave (Mat.. 7:21)."

You will not be saved through prayer alone; you must unite prayer to the fulfillment of the will of God – all that each person is responsible for according to his calling and way of life. And prayer should have as its primary object the petition that God not let us depart from His holy will in any way. Conversely, he who is zealous to fulfill God's will in all things has boldness in prayer before God and greater access to His throne. Moreover, prayer that is not accompanied by walking in God's will is often not true, sober, and heartfelt prayer but only outward reading, during which one's moral dysfunction is concealed by a multitude of words like a fog, while the thoughts are actually disorderly and wandering. Both [prayer and the fulfillment of God's will] must be made orderly through piety, and then there will be fruit.

St. Theophan the Recluse, *Commentary on Scripture Readings for the Wednesday of All Saints, from Thoughts of Each Day of the Year*, pp. 124-125.

In Christ,
Fr. Elia Shalhoub
Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor

HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST COUNCIL OF NICAEA

Today we celebrate the first Ecumenical Council of the 318 God-bearing Fathers, which took place in Nicaea in Bithynia. Arius, the notorious heretic, began to blaspheme against God and His Son the Word, saying that the latter was not God consubstantial with the Father, but that He was created as a stranger to the Substance of the Father and His glory. Alexander, the Archbishop of Alexandria, tried to constrain Arius from disturbing the faithful with this teaching; even though Alexander excommunicated him, Arius did not cease his blasphemy, which spread throughout the Church in all nations. Thus, Emperor Constantine the Great called the First Ecumenical Council, which gathered bishops and teachers in the Church from all lands. They all proclaimed, as by one mouth, the equality of the Son of God with the Father in Substance, thus laying down the noble Confession of Faith—"The Creed"—which we Orthodox Christians recite to this day. The Church regards these divine Fathers as preachers of the Faith next to the holy Apostles.



Please pray for the healing of John Thieme, Debbie Thieme, Jennifer Glass, Beverly Delida, Lisa Zolton, Tatiana Jones, Ted Theodoropoulos, Susan Perers, Alix Hall, Nina and Diogo Penas, Beth Manzini, John Archambeau, Alex & Soula.

