

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

Sunday, June 11, 2023

All Saints Sunday

Tone 8. Epistle, Heb. 11:33-12:2; Gospel, Matt. 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30
Holy Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas / St. Luke, Bishop of Simferopol

SERVICES

SATURDAY 6 p.m. Vespers (Holy Resurrection Church, Belle Vernon)

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR will be held today following the Divine Liturgy.

ST. NICHOLAS SOCIETY WILL BE MEETING today, following the Divine Liturgy.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, June 25 following the Divine Liturgy.

ST. PETER and PAUL FAST begins tomorrow.

VIGIL OFFERINGS – Sunday, June 11, 2023

MARY BEHANNA (Virgin Mary Kiot) – In memory of parents, Andy and Patrina Gernat (2)

GINNY and DAVE CASCIANI – For health of son, Eric

SANDY KLIZAS – In memory of Stephen and Helen Drake (2) / In memory of Frank and June Drake (2) / Special intentions / For health of Mira Olsen

KEN BEHANNA – For health and welfare of our church

GERALDINE ROZIK – For health of brother, Gerald / In memory of parents, Joseph and Helen Rozik / For health and welfare of our Church

DR. DIMITRI and PAULINE PETRO – In memory of uncle, Steve Drake / For birthday of granddaughter, Stephanie / For health of Gerald Rozik / For health of Christine and Alex (2) / For health of Tom and Russell (2) / For health of Ted and Jonah (2) / For health of Natalie and Rob (2) / For health of Kyra and Luke (2) / For health of cousin, Jeannette

TOM and ELAINE BACKSTROM – In memory of mom and dad / In memory of cousin, Charylene Gladys / Special intentions / God's healing hand be upon sister, Michele / God's blessings upon grandchildren, Sydney, Luke, Freddy, and Madison / For health of family

JIM and VERA HAYS – For health of cousin, Adrienne Hirsch / For health of all parishioners / In memory of all the departed members of our parish / In memory of newly departed cousin / God's blessings on St. Nicholas Church
M/M ROB MONTINI – For anniversary of Christine and Nick Milchovich / For birthday of daughter, Stephanie
MARK SOROKA – In blessed memory of father, Fr. Igor / In blessed memory of mother, Matushka Irene

The First Ecumenical Council

Today we remember the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, convened at Nicaea in 325. The results of the Council were very important, but so was its personal meaning for those who attended.

For the first time, after three centuries of semi-subterranean existence, prelates gathered from all parts of the Church, many still with the marks of wounds and mutilations received under [the persecutions of the emperor] Diocletian. The unprecedented magnificence of their reception and the hospitality and kindness of the new emperor [Constantine] confirmed their joyous assurance that a new era had begun, and that Christ was indeed victorious over the world. Constantine himself was the first to interpret the council in this way.

The great accomplishment of the Council was to refute Arianism, a widely-held heresy that threatened to divide the Church. It was a dispute, as the emperor said, that was "more dangerous than war and other conflicts" because it called into question Jesus' ability to be our Savior.

The Arians claimed that Jesus was not eternal, not equal to His Father, but a created being. The Church insisted that He had to be the divinely powerful Son of God in order to be able to save us. So, opposing Arianism, the Fathers of the Council at Nicaea proclaimed that Jesus Christ is of the same substance as His Father, and there was never a time when He did not exist. His perfect divinity, therefore, was able to assume perfect humanity, and save all who are human.

This teaching is squarely Biblical. In one verse of the reading chosen for this day, John 17:5, Jesus prays, "And now, Father, glorify me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made." Father and Son have the same glory, and have had it forever.

The truth established at Nicaea remains basic to our faith. But then, as now, truth was accompanied by deceitfulness and the persecution of truth tellers. We must take comfort, as fourth century Orthodox Christians also had to do, in another verse (16:33) from John's Gospel: "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."