

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

Sunday, June 5, 2022

Tone 6. Epistle, Acts 20: 16-18, 28-36. Gospel, John 17:1-13
Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council /
Hieromartyr Dorotheus / Ven. Dorotheus of Gaza

SERVICES

SATURDAY 7:00 p.m. VESPERS
(Holy Resurrection Church Belle Vernon)

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR today, following the Divine Liturgy

ALTAR TABLE CANDLES (7) offered by Rodney Prystash (God's blessings for parents, Ralph and Ina Prystash, on their 67th wedding anniversary / June 2)

VIGIL OFFERINGS – Sunday, June 5, 2022

MARY BEHANNA (Virgin Mary Kiot) – In memory of parents, Andy and Petrina Gernat (2)
ALBERT HANNA – Special intentions
SANDY AITKEN – In memory of brother, Ethan / In memory of dad, Lee / For health of mother, Pauline; sister, Natalie; Aunt Rosemary; Aunt Bunny; and Dennis Carroll / Special intentions
PAULINE AITKEN – In memory of son, Kevin / In memory of son, Ethan / In memory of husband, Lee / In memory of grandson, Nicholas / For health of daughter, Natlie / For health of sister, Bunnie / For health of Dennis Carroll / Special intentions / Congratulations to Alex Milchovich on winning the musical competition
TOM and ELAINE BACKSTROM – Special intentions / In memory of mom and dad / God's healing hand be upon sister, Michele / God's blessings upon grandchildren, Sydney, Luke, Freddy, and Madison / For health of family
DEACON RODION, MATUSHKA SANDY and FAMILY – For health of Deacon Rodion, Nicholas and Christina / For health of Dennis Carroll / For peace in the world / Birthday blessings for Vera Hays and Mary Behanna / Special intentions
VLAD KASH – In memory of Fr. Igor
JIM and VERA HAYS – In memory of departed parishioners / For health of all parishioners / For health of Dennis Carroll / In memory of all our fallen veterans
DR. DIMITRI and PAULINE PETRO – For anniversary of Christine and Nick / For anniversary of Ted and Joceline / Anniversary remembrance of Uncle Steve and Aunt Helen / For health of Christine and Alexandra (2) / For safe travel and health of Tom, Shelley, Russell, and Rachel (4) / For health of Jonah and Catherine (2) / For health of Natalie, Rob and Giada (3) / For health and safe travel for Zewe family (5)

ROB and NATALIE MONTINI – For health of niece, Giada Montini
M/M NICK MILCHOVICH – God's blessings upon daughter, Alex on her graduation / God's blessings upon Stephanie Montini on her graduation / For health of Giada Montini / In memory of Dr. Joseph Jani
MARK SORKA – In blessed memory of father, Fr. Igor / In blessed memory of mother, Mat. Irene

Fathers of 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 all those who attended, including our patron saint, St. Nicholas of Myra.

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.

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 (16:33b) from John's Gospel: "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

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