



# ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA

Orthodox Church  
in America

[orthodoxalexandria.org](http://orthodoxalexandria.org)

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*Welcome to our parish!*

Thank you for choosing to worship with us on the Lord's Day. We are grateful for your prayers and participation!

Please join us for coffee hour after the service. Our priest, Father Alessandro, would love to greet and welcome you.

Holy Eucharist requires full communion of faith, so if you are not an Orthodox Christian, please do not approach the Chalice. If you are an Orthodox Christian, please note that communion must be preceded by fasting, recent Confession, and reconciliation with all people.

**MAY 28, 2023**

7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical  
Council

Afterfeast of Ascension

St. Niketas, Bishop of Chalcedon

## The Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, "I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior's words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor's sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ. Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being. A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops. Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova, who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In the year 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea. Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, Saint Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos, and others venerated by

the Church as holy Fathers. With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius. He is called “the Great,” for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, “God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous.” Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan’s knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13). The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. Saint Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word “consubstantial,” which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion. In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ’s divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error. After resolving this dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Archpriest Daniel, Daniel, Brian, Don, Bobbi, Yuri, David

DEPARTED: Lorena, Luke

BIRTHDAYS: Ivana Class

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PARISH PICNIC:** Please mark your calendar for June 18. On the feast of All Saints of America, we will celebrate our patronal feast day! In place of coffee hour, we plan to enjoy a picnic outdoor. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

**CHOIR REHEARSALS:** Choirs members, please note the dates of the choir rehearsals over the next few months: June 10, July 15, August 12, September 16, and October 14.

**YOUTH MINISTRY PRESENTATION:** On Saturday, June 10, the Young Adults Group at St. Nicholas Cathedral will host a presentation called "Dying to Self: Finding Identity, Belonging and Purpose in Christ" by Ken Liu, of Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries (OYM).

## UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

|             |                            |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| May 28, Sun |                            |
| 8:45 AM     | Church School              |
| 9:30 AM     | Divine Liturgy             |
| June 1, Thu |                            |
| 9:00 AM     | Divine Liturgy             |
| June 3, Sat |                            |
| 5:00 PM     | Great Vespers              |
| June 4, Sun |                            |
| 8:45 AM     | Church School              |
| 9:30 AM     | Divine Liturgy             |
| 11:00 AM    | Pentecost Kneeling Vespers |

## MINISTRY ROTATIONS

*Coffee Hour* - Margheritino

*Reader* - Childs

*Assisting the Treasurer* - Childs & Easton

*Fr. Alessandro is available for Confession on Saturday after Vespers or by appointment*