

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST COUNCIL



Icon of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

23300 King Drive

Clinton Township, MI 48035

Parish Office: 586-791-1052

Parish Cell: 216-501-0319

Email: frrepko@ameritech.net

stnicksbyzantine@yahoo.com

Website: stnicksdetroit.com



The Propers for today are on pages 196-202 of the teal Divine Liturgy books and pages 71-73 in the yellow pew books. *The Feast of the Ascension:* In his human body, the Lord returned to the glory he has at the right hand of his Father on high. In this way, he lifts our human nature to deification and is enthroned as the High Priest who has suffered human death, yet is risen for the sake of human life. We glorify the Lord and await his coming again in glory.

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Glory be to Him Forever!

Divine Liturgy Schedule:

All are welcome!

Scripture readings:

Epistle: Acts 20: 16-18, 28-36

Gospel: St. John 17:1-13

Sat.	June	1	Postfestive Day of the Ascension. The Holy Martyr Justin 4:00 p.m. For the parish family of St. Nicholas Church
Sun.	June	2	SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS AT THE FIRST NICEAN COUNCIL 8:30 a.m. +Joseph Chontos by Judy Chontos and family 11:00 a.m. +Sister Ambrosia, OSBM by her family Reader of the Epistle: Subdeacon Phillip Dinsmore/Cantor
Mon.	June	3	Postfestive Day of Ascension. The Holy Marytr Lucillian
Tues.	June	4	Postfestive Day of Ascension. Our Venerable Father Metrophanes 9:00 a.m. +Betty Dirda by Charlotte Dirda
Wed.	June	5	Postfestive Day of Ascension. The Holy Martyr Dorotheus 9:00 a.m. +Helen Pahule by the Pahule family
Thurs.	June	6	Postfestive Day of Ascension. Our Venerable Father Bessarion
Fri.	June	7	Leave-taking (Otdaniye) of Ascension. The Holy Martyr Theodotus
Sat.	June	8	5TH ALL SOULS SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. Memory of all the Faithful Departed 4:00 p.m. For the parish family of St. Nicholas Church
Sun.	June	9	PENTECOST "GREEN" SUNDAY 8:30 a.m. +Andrew Kuruc by the Kuruc family 10:30 a.m. Akathist to the Mother of God — intention for our parish 11:00 a.m. +Ann Kulasa by Mr. Robert Kulasa Reader of the Epistle: Subdeacon Phillip Dinsmore/Cantor

WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS The faithful of St. Nicholas Church would like to welcome new parishioners and visitors. We are happy that you have joined us on our spiritual journey and we hope that you feel welcome. **RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION** If you are Roman Catholic or Orthodox you are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When coming to receive Communion please do not extend your tongue — tilt your head back and open your mouth so that the priest can place the Body and Blood of Christ into your mouth with a golden spoon. Please do not close your mouth upon the spoon. **FASTING BEFORE LITURGY** Please fast at least (a minimum of) one hour before attending the Divine Liturgy and receiving Communion. **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)** Please do not receive Communion if you have committed sins of a grave nature (i.e., "mortal sins"). Go to Confession first before receiving Communion. Visitors: please sign the guest book by the bulletin board.

Please continue to pray for the sick and shut-in of our parish: Doris Crawley, Lillian Stefano, Kitty Marchione and Pete Digon.

Special thanks to Suzanne and Jim Swanney, ECF Coordinators, and to all of our ECF staff and parents who made the ECF end-of-the-year picnic a BIG success!

A special welcome to Marylyn (and Sam) Barone who traveled a great distance to be at our parish for the icon workshop. A special welcome to our icon workshop students.

Feast of the Ascension This holy day is celebrated on the fortieth day after the Resurrection of Christ, on the Thursday of the sixth week of Pascha. The Ascension of Christ into heaven is mentioned in the prophecies of the Scriptures. Christ Himself, upon His resurrection, said to Mary Magdalene: "I ascend unto My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God" (John 20:17). This great event, with which Jesus' life on earth concludes, is briefly mentioned in the Gospels of Mark and Luke. But in the Acts of the apostles there is a fuller account. Gathering His disciples, Jesus commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to await what had been promised by the Father, that is the descent of the Holy Spirit. "John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence . . . You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:5, 8). Saying this, He went with His disciples to Bethany and stopped on the Mount of Olives. "While they beheld, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into Heaven'" (Acts 1:9-11). Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem to where the Theotokos and the myrrh-bearing women were in prayer. In the Gospel of Mark it is written that upon ascending to heaven, the Lord sat upon the right side of God the Father, that is, the human soul and body of Jesus Christ took on the same glory as His Divinity. Ascending to heaven, Jesus Christ promised to always be invisibly on earth among those who believe in Him.

First Ecumenical Council The First Ecumenical Council was summoned by Emperor Constantine the Great on May 20th, 325 AD. The Council assembled at Nicaea in the province of Bithynia of Asia Minor and was formally opened by Constantine himself. The Council lasted two months and twelve days. Three hundred and eighteen bishops were present. Hosius, Bishop of Cordova, assisted as legate of Pope Sylvester. The Council passed 20 canons including the Nicene Creed, the Canon of Holy Scripture (Holy Bible), and established the date for the celebration of Pascha (Easter). The main reason for its being called was the Arian controversy. Arius held that Jesus Christ was created by God and denied Christ's divinity. Arius argued that if Jesus was born, then there was a time when He did not exist; and if He became God, then there was time when He was not. Arius' original intent was to attack another heretical teaching by which the three persons of the Godhead were confused (Sabellianism). Ultimately, Arianism was condemned as a heresy. The true divinity of Christ was defined (homoousios).

"For God the Holy Spirit is the Paraclete, but what is a Paraclete? The word is Greek. Often it is translated Comforter, but a Paraclete does more than comfort. A Paraclete is one who comforts, who cheers, who encourages, who persuades, who exhorts, who stirs up, who urges forward. A Paraclete is one who calls us on to good.

You can always identify the pastor of any parish. He's the one who goes around turning out the lights. Two young priests were discussing how frugal the pastor was. One said, "When he dies, if he sees the light at the end of the tunnel, he'll put it out."

Weekly Collections

5/26/2019

"My return to the Lord for all His goodness to me"

Offertory	\$ 1,416.00
Holy Days	\$ 140.00
Candles	\$ 31.00
Poor Box	\$ 12.00
GCU Grant	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
Total:	\$ 1,799.00

Thank you to those who generously support our parish. *Everything we have is on loan from the Lord, entrusted to us for a while to use in serving Him.*

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

23300 King Drive, Clinton Township, MI 48035

Phone: (586) 791-1052; Email: stnicksbyzantine@yahoo.com

Served by: Father Joseph J. Repko, Pastor
Subdeacon Phillip Dinsmore

Cantors: George Nagrant, Nicholas P. Nagrant, Joseph Wanchik, Steve Terlescki, John P. Minarish, and Subdeacon Phillip Dinsmore and Richard Baranko, *Cantor Emeritus*.

Choir Director: Nicholas J. Nagrant

Catechetical Director: Suzanne Swanney

Youth Directors: Adam Digon and Kimberly Kaufman

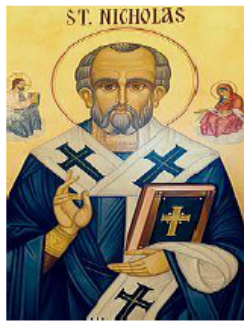
Liturgy Schedule: Saturday 4:00 P.M. (Anticipated Sunday Obligation with Vespers)
Sunday 8:30 A.M. (Slavonic / English mix)
11:00 A.M. (English)
Daily Liturgy as scheduled (see inside of the bulletin)
Holy days as scheduled (see inside of the bulletin)

Knowledge of the True God Nurtures Us to Eternal Life

Are we saying that knowledge is eternal life? Are we saying that to know the one true and living God will suffice to give us complete security for the future without need of anything else? Then how is "faith apart from works dead?" When we speak of faith, we mean the true knowledge of God and nothing else, since knowledge comes by faith. The prophet Isaiah tells us this: "If you do not believe, neither shall you understand." But he is not talking about a knowledge that consists in barren speculations, which is entirely worthless. For one of the holy disciples said, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder." What then shall we say to this? How is it that Christ speaks the truth when He says that eternal life is the knowledge of God the Father, the one true God, and with Him of the Son? I think, indeed, we must answer that the saying of the Savior is completely true. For this knowledge is life, laboring as it were in birth of the whole meaning of the mystery and

granting to us participation in the mystery of the Eucharist, whereby we are joined to the living and life-giving Word. And for this reason, I think, Paul says that the Gentiles are made fellow members of the body and fellow partakers of Christ, inasmuch as they partake in His Blessed Body and Blood. And our members may in this sense be conceived of as being members of Christ. This knowledge, then, which also brings to us the Eucharist by the Spirit, is life. For it dwells in our hearts, reshaping those who receive it into son-ship with Him and molding them into incorruption and piety toward God through life, according to the Gospel. Our Lord Jesus Christ, then, knowing that the knowledge of the one true God brings to us and promotes our union with the blessings of which we have spoken, says that it is eternal life. It is the mother and nurse of eternal life, being in its power and nature pregnant with those things that cause life and lead to life.

St. Cyril of Alexandria



Saint Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

Clinton Township, MI

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

“Slava Isusu Christu!” “Slava Na Viki!”

Announcements for June 2, 2019: Sunday of The Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

Welcome to our Icon Writing Workshop Participants: We would like to extend a warm welcome to our instructor Marylyn Barone and her husband, plus anyone else visiting this weekend to participate in our Icon Writing Workshop. We hope your experience here was spiritually rewarding, and want to let you all know you are welcome to visit and pray with us again at any time.

This Sunday, June 2nd, is our annual ECF end-of-year picnic, after the 11am Liturgy. All parishioners are invited to attend, and are asked to bring a side item or dessert to share. The ECF program is providing the hamburgers and hot dogs, as well as the drinks.

Flag Day Ceremony next Sunday (June 9th): GCU Lodge 860 invites all parishioners to participate in a short Flag Day ceremony, immediately following next Sunday's 11:00am Divine Liturgy. Lodge 860 will provide lunch in the hall afterwards, too.

All GCU Lodge 860 members are asked to please stick around after the Flag Day ceremony and lunch next Sunday, for their 2nd **Quarterly meeting**, in the church hall.

Father's Day will be here in two weeks (June 16th): Please remember to submit your Father's Day envelopes by next Sunday, June 9th, so that Father Joe can compile the list of living and deceased fathers that we will pray for on Father's Day. We will have a Panachida after the 8:30 liturgy for deceased fathers, and a Moleben after the 11:00 liturgy for the living fathers. Please also join us between the two Liturgies on Father's Day for a continental breakfast in honor of all of the fathers in our parish.

IMPORTANT-- Eparchial Stewardship Drive: We are nearing the end of this year's Stewardship Drive, but unfortunately we still are ~\$2,150 short of our goal (as of May 24). If you have not yet made your pledge for this Stewardship year, please send it in today! The deadline for making payments is June 30th.

UPCOMING EVENTS (fliers to be posted soon):

Saturday, July 20th
Sunday, August 4th
Saturday, August 24th
Saturday, September 14th

“Saints in the Summer” Mini Summer Bible Camp
GCU District 11 Annual Golf Scramble
St. Nicholas Parish Pork-n-Potluck Picnic (aka “Pig Roast”)
GCU Night at Comerica Park, w/ Tailgate Party at St. Nick's

Happy Birthday to Jim Van Kula (6/1) and Suzanne Swanney (6/4)! May God grant them many more happy, healthy, and blessed years!

Attention, Young Adults: You are invited to the first-ever Byzantine Catholic Young Adult Convocation. The convocation will take place August 1st-4th at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in New York City and is open to all young adults ages 18-35. The convocation will be divided into three parts, each addressing one step on the journey to discipleship (being *Called to Discipleship*, being *Transfigured through a new life in Christ*, and being *Sent to proclaim the Gospel to the world*).

The goal of this convocation is to bring these themes together by engaging young adults to recognize their own call to discipleship, and to unite and foster relationships of Eastern Catholics in the United States. During the convocation, there will be time for prayer and self-reflection, social events providing time for fellowship each evening, special opportunities to see the sights of NY City, and three dynamic keynote speakers: Fr Boniface Hicks, OSB (<http://www.fatherboniface.org>), Mother Gabriella Houck (<http://www.christthebridegroom.org>), and Nick Redd (<https://www.iamnickredd.com>).

Registration is available at theosisinaction.org/convocation-2019 through June 15th. We welcome and invite all young adults ages 18-35 to join us on this very special weekend! Young adults with questions are welcome to reach out to Adriana Shubeck or Chris Russo, co-founders of Theosis in Action, the official young adult ministry of the Eparchy of Passaic at theosisinaction@gmail.com or <https://www.facebook.com/theosisinaction>.

Akathist services at St. Nick's: For those that might be interested, St. Nicholas Parish has started a regular offering of a special prayer service called an Akathist to the Mother of God on select Sundays (check the service schedule in the bulletin each week to confirm). The Akathists will start at 10:30am and end before the 11am Liturgy. Please attend if you are able. We will be praying for the spiritual welfare and growth of our parish!

Volunteers Needed for our Eparchy's 50th Anniversary Celebration: Deacon Greg Loya has put out a second request for help. They are looking for additional volunteers to help on both Friday and Saturday, June 21-22. Specifically, they still need help for the following:

Friday 7 PM vespers: Parking lot, ushers, greeters, servers.
Saturday 10 AM Moleben: Ushers, greeters, servers. Parking lot.
Saturday 11 AM Divine Liturgy: Ushers, greeters, servers. Parking lot.
Saturday Dinner: Greeters at door, checking reservations.

Also, they could use some extra staffing in their "first aid station." Medical experience is not required for this, as the volunteers will not be expected to provide that level of care. If anyone is interested in volunteering in any of these capacities for the Eparchy's 50th Anniversary, please contact Subdeacon Phillip.

Generous Scholarships Available for Ave Maria University and Ave Maria School of Law: High School Juniors & Seniors, and College Seniors & Post Graduates, you are invited to Ave Summer Fest, Wednesday, June 12, 6:00 p.m. Dinner ~ 6:30 p.m. Program. Meet AMU & Ave Law founder Tom Monaghan, AMU V.P. of Enrollment Brent Johnson, AMSL Associate Dean of Admissions Tabitha Canalda; alumni, and current students to learn about these generous scholarships: **Ave Maria School of Law - Michigan/Toledo Full-Tuition Scholarship** (Plus Stipend) and **Ave Maria University - Michigan Scholarship \$28,000** over 4 years (Plus additional AMU Aid) and **Ave Maria University - Michigan Homeschool Scholarship \$36,000** over 4 years (Plus additional AMU Aid). Enjoy an evening of great food, fellowship, and live music. FREE - Registration required by Monday, June 10 to attend. For more information & to register go to www.avemariafoundation.org or call 734-930-3441

For more info: Please see our bulletin, LIKE us on Facebook or visit our website: stnicksdetroit.com