

The Weekly Messenger – May 20, 2018
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
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Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 *Gospel: John 17:1-13*

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!
KRISHTI U NGJALL! VERTET U NGJALL!

The First Ecumenical Council Soon after Emperor Constantine took up residence in Nicomedia, the eastern capital, after his victory over Licinius, he was chagrined to learn of this new controversy that was troubling the whole Eastern Church. So, with the advice of St Hosius, Bishop of Spain (c. 257–357), his theological advisor, he summoned the largest council of bishops ever held up to that point. It opened on May 20, 325, in the city of Nicea, near Nicomedia. Constantine himself gave the opening address. According to tradition, 318 bishops were in attendance, including the famous and greatly beloved Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra in Lycia, and Saint Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithus in Cyprus.

This council, known now as the First Ecumenical Council, decreed that the Logos, the Word and Son of God, is uncreated, ever-existent, and fully divine. He is begotten—that is, “born” or generated—from the Father, and not made or created by Him. He is of one essence (in Greek, *homoousios*) with the Father. He is true God of true God, the Word of God by Whom all things were made (Jn 1.3; Heb 1.2). It is this uncreated, only-begotten, divine Son of God Who became man from the Virgin Mary as Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel and the Savior of the world.

The Council of Nicea also decreed a number of canons (i.e., Church regulations) concerning various issues of order and discipline in the Church. Canon 6 confirmed the jurisdictional authority of Alexandria over Egypt and the neighboring regions of Libya and Pentapolis, “since the like is customary for the Bishop of Rome also [meaning that the Roman Church, in a corresponding way, had jurisdictional authority only over Rome and its neighboring territory—at that time, most likely central Italy]. Likewise, in Antioch and the other provinces let the Churches retain their privileges.” This canon clearly ratifies the ancient practice of the Churches in the major cities each having full jurisdictional authority only over the surrounding region.

Read more: <https://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/church-history/fourth-century/the-first-ecumenical-council>

Parishioner News: Congratulations to Laureta (Lakuriqi) and John Kittel who are expecting their first child in July. Laura is the daughter of Andon and Miranda Lakuriqi. Many years!

May Monthly Giving: 8-ounce plastic cups for cold drinks at coffee hour

Commemorations for the Deported: The victims in Gaza, Thoma Prifti, Jennie Sapanas, Jorgjia Kashari (2 yrs.), Father Deacon Stephen Stefani and those servicemen and women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their Country.

Commemorations for the Living: The families in Gaza, Richard Trout, Joseph Urquhart, Father Dimitrie Vincent, Betty Subashi, Brenda Cantwell, Dolly Seiler, Sara, Craig Risley, Wayne Merkle, Elizabeth Jones, Ann Gjoka, Virginia Daka, Haretina (Papa) Milo, Margarita, Peter Melnik, Dhimiter Ndrecka, Pandeli, Jorgaq, Lefteri, and all of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Memorial Day Grave Blessing at Fernwood Cemetery: Father Brooks will be at Fernwood Cemetery on Monday, May 28, 2018 @ 10:00 am, at the “upper portion” of the cemetery. He will then proceed to the other section to bless the graves.
fr.brooks@stjohnsphila.org Or call Father Brooks 215-992-9234

Please send information about the graduates in your family, College, High School, 8th Grade. We would like to acknowledge and congratulate our graduates. Send an email to info@stjohnsphila.org Include the name of the graduate and the school from which they graduated. For 8th grade let us know what high school they will be attending next year, HS grads if they are attending college, the name of the college, or what they will be pursuing. College graduates, their degree and plans for the future. We would also like the proud parents and grandparents’ names. Thank-you!

Upcoming Events:

May 27th Pentecost

May 28th Memorial Day – Father Brooks will bless the graves at Fernwood and other Cemeteries upon request

June 10th Final day of Sunday school and graduation

SATURDAY June 16th Pool party and barbeque at K. Costa’s house

July 23rd – 27th All American Council & Archdiocesan Assembly St. Louis MO

Aug 3rd – Aug 5th AANO Convention Washington D.C.

Aug 26th Divine Liturgy & Church Picnic Neshaminy State Park

Coffee Hour Sponsors: *Please check the sign-up sheet in the vestibule and pick a date or visit our website and signup online: <https://teamup.com/ksqta3sqv6k1qvr2o7>*

Many thanks to those who have sponsored coffee hour.

May 20th Elena Shomos & Zach Smith

May 27th Sunday school

June 3rd Mike & Carolyn Dardaris

June 10th NO SPONSOR

June 17th NO SPONSOR