

5 2nd Street  
Herminie, PA 15637  
<http://pokrov.iksnazul.com/>

Cantor  
Joseph Luzanski

Liturgical Schedule

Divine Liturgy  
Sunday: 8:30 am  
Holyday: 9:00 am

Confessions

One half hour before  
the divine liturgy or  
by appointment

Served By

Father Vasyl Yakubych  
Cell: 412-627-1678  
E-mail: yakubichvasill2020@gmail.com

*This week we solemnly prepare for the Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit. On Saturday we have the fifth and last commemoration of All Souls, and the reading of the names of the parish's deceased and those of parish families. In the Third Kneeling Prayer of Pentecost, we will hear the prayers for the dead, asking God to pardon them their sins.*

The Church calls Saint Constantine (306-337) "the Equal of the Apostles," and historians call him "the Great."

Saint Constantine was born in 272, the son of Constantius Chlorus, ruler of the western part of the Roman Empire, and St Helen. When his father died in 306 he was proclaimed successor to the throne. The empire was ruled at that time by several Caesars, each with his own territory. When Constantine learned that the Caesars Maxentius and Maximinus had joined against him, he marched on Italy. It was there that, on the eve of a decisive battle outside Rome, he saw in the sky a radiant Cross with the words "In this sign conquer." He ordered that a

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the  
First Ecumenical Council

Feastal Tone

*Menologion*

The Holy Emperor Constantine (337) and his Mother Helen (327), Equals to the Apostles.

Propers

Pages: 196-202



Fasts & Feasts

May 21 Seventh Sunday of Pascha (Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council)

May 27 Fifth All-Souls Saturday (9 am)

May 28 Pentecost - Descent of the Holy Spirit

May 29 Pentecost Monday: Feast of the Holy Trinity, Memorial Day (USA)

June 4 All Saints Sunday

June 5-29 The Apostles' Fast (The fast begins with the vespers on Sunday evening and concludes on June 29th)

June 24 Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John (9 am)

June 29 The Holy Glorious and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter & Paul (9 am)

battle-standard be made bearing the image of a cross and inscribed with the Name of Jesus Christ. The following day he and his forces attacked and won a spectacular victory. He entered Rome in triumph and in 312 was proclaimed "Emperor of the West."

### Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

The icon of this Council, the very first universal, or ecumenical, shows Emperor Constantine the Great in the center who became the only Roman Emperor in 322 AD. Looking for both religious and civil peace, and frustrated by the rapid spread of the Arian heresy, he summoned a council of bishops to meet in the town of Nicaea in 325. The Council welcomed at least 220 bishops, from every province except Britain. It was truly "ecumenical" – the entire Roman nation.

Arius taught that Christ was the Father's first creation, made out of nothing, but created nonetheless. The Church's teaching from the beginning was that the Logos which took on humanity and became Christ, is of the same essence as the Father, and had existed from the beginning with the Father and the Spirit. If He was not co-eternal, then when He took on humanity in Jesus, He could not have saved us by His crucifixion and resurrection. Jesus is of one essence (in Greek, homoousios) with the Father. He is true God of true God, the Word of God through 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. 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 Fathers adopted a baptismal profession of faith from the Syrians and expanded it to make our modern Creed, which then ended at the phrase "And in the Holy Spirit." This would be expanded in 381 with the remainder of the prayer of today, in order to address yet more heresies. Without Nicaea, we would not be truly orthodox, catholic Christians. Many of the Fathers who came were confessors of the Faith: they had been tortured by the pagans or, even worse, by Arians. It was remembered as a sight both appalling and inspiring: hundreds of men lacking an eye, an arm, a leg; walking with canes or crutches, leaning for support on one another. These men had suffered grievously and had not wavered. They were not about to waver on this all-important issue. While the Arian Christians endured, and have been resurrected in our modern Jehovah's Witnesses, Arius himself repented and sought to re-enter the Church, but died before he could do this

### *Let us pray to the Lord for those departed in FAITH: the 5th ALL SOULS SATURDAY*

The 5th and last Saturday is celebrated on the last day of the Season of Pentecostarion (50-days), so that our departed loved ones are in some way associated with the Resurrection of Christ, the cause and first fruit of the resurrection of all flesh and the coming GIFT of the Holy Spirit the source of eternal blessedness, because "all souls are enlivened through the Holy Spirit".

The most basic and saving truths about the All Souls Saturdays:

1. The world does not end in whatever we see and count, but also extends in the space of the spirit, which also exists, coexists together with us. In this place the souls of our departed beloved are encamped.
2. The Church is a continuous inter-communion between those of its members that are still struggling on earth and those that have already slept in the Lord. We are communion of Saints: Church militant, suffering and triumphant.
3. In the midst of the struggle of daily life we must remember the natural end of every effort, which is rest in the Lord, since there is nothing more certain than death and nothing more uncertain than the hour of death.

The readings for this Saturday have a sense of conclusion about them - they mark an end. We read the last chapter (ch.28) of the Acts of the Apostles: Paul, after his shipwreck at Malta, reaches Rome to be judged by Caesar and, while waiting, preaches Jesus Christ 'with all confidence, no man forbidding him'. These are the last words in the Book of Acts.