

The Arian Heresy

Shortly after the beginning of the Donatist schism, the Arian controversy arose. Arius, an Alexandrian presbyter, began teaching some time before 318 that the Logos, the Word of God who became man—Jesus Christ—is not the divine Son of God. For Arius, the Son of God is not the pre-existent, eternally existing, uncreated Second Person of the Holy Trinity, but a created being—created out of nothing, like everything else, by God the Father.

According to Arius, God is not the uncreated Holy Trinity. Rather, God is the Father, the Creator, alone. For Arius, God the Father created His Logos, or Word, or Son, as the first and greatest of His creatures. This Logos then earned the right to be worshiped as God because of His constant devotion to the Father. Thus the Son became God's instrument for the salvation of the world, being born as the man Jesus. Hence, for Arius, Jesus Christ is not the uncreated, divine Son of God having exactly the same uncreated divine nature that God the Father has. Rather, He is a created being, as is the Holy Spirit.

Saint Alexander, Bishop of Alexandria (r. 312–328), tried to convince Arius to stop this teaching that directly subverted the Bible and the traditional teaching and worship of the Church. But Arius refused to desist. Instead, he appealed far and wide for support. He found his most powerful ally in Eusebius, Bishop of Nicomedia, his former classmate in the Christian school at Antioch led by Saint Lucian (d. 312). Ironically, it was this Arian-sympathizing Bishop Eusebius who eventually became the court theologian to Emperor Constantine in his later years, and who baptized him on his deathbed in 337.

“Lord, I Call” Verses at Great Vespers of the Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

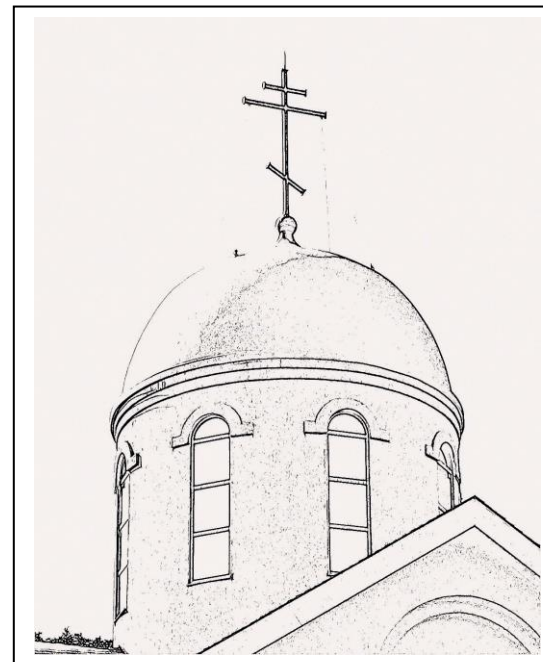
*Thou wast begotten from the Father before the Morning Star,
but Arius taught wrongfully that Thou wast created:
in his ignorance he designated Thee as a creature,
yet the Fathers of the Council proclaimed Thee as Son of God, //
co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.*

*Arius fell into the abyss of sin,
pretending blindness that he might not see the Light.*

*By his purpose he became the image of Judas.
But the Council at Nicea proclaimed Thee as Son of God, //
co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.*

*The foolish Arius blasphemed the All-holy Trinity,
dividing the Persons into three different unequal substances,
but the God-bearing Fathers denounced his confusion:
they assembled with the zeal of Elijah,
destroying error with the sword of the Spirit, //
as they were directed by the inspiration of God.*

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Rev. Fr. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton, *Choir Director*

May 28, 2023
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Holy Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council. Afterfeast of Ascension.

Tone 6. St. Niketas, Bishop of Chalcedon (9th c.). St. Ignatii (Ignatius) the Wonderworker, Bishop of Rostov (1288). St. Eutychius, Bishop of Melitene (1st c.). Martyr Heliconis of Thessalonica (244). Hieromartyr Helladius, Bishop in the East (6th-7th c.). St. Germanus (Germaine, Herman), Bishop of Paris (576).

Today's Readings:

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

Gospel: John 17:1-13

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Saturday – **6:00pm Great Vespers**

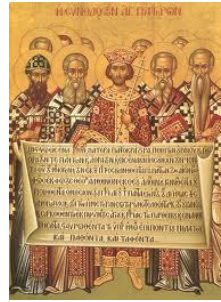
Sunday – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Sunday – **10:30am Vespers of Pentecost**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Gospel: John 7:37-52, 8:12



Holy Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.occa-brick.org.

Please pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood!

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are **Mary Herelick, Mat. Faith Kuharsky, Marie Price, Zoran Pejovic, Ingrid Kopec, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Mary Tczap, George Stavrou, Margaret Makara, Dennis & Ann Marie Gahr, Michael Getmanov, Alan Diaz, Mary Ann Sivilic, and Lori Ratushnuk.**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for Coffee Hour after the veneration of the Cross. **The reception of the Holy Eucharist is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.**

Annunciations

TODAY – Please join us for Coffee Hour after we venerate the Cross at the end of Divine Liturgy. **Team #2** has Coffee Hour responsibilities today.

TODAY is the **final day of Church School** for this school year. **Many thanks** to Sarah Bair, Gary Paxton, the parents and children, and all those who support the education efforts of the parish.

Sunday, June 4 - The parish will host a fundraising event based on donations of used clothing and other items. All items brought to the parish will be weighed. The parish will then receive monetary compensation based on the total weight of items donated. Please speak with Liz Petrides with any questions you may have regarding this project. The company accepting and processing the donations is **Carecycle**.

Sunday, June 25 – A baby shower will be held for the many mothers served by an Orthodox organization that helps women who are faced with crisis pregnancies. **ZOE for Life** is based in Cleveland, OH, and has recently opened a chapter in Binghamton, NY. More information on this ministry may be found at www.zoeforlife.org. Electronic invitations with more specific information about the event will be sent out this week.

A date has been set for our annual **Parish Ethnic Fair**. Sunday, **September 25** is the date of the event. Tara Paxton and Martha Christos have stepped forward as **co-chairpersons**. Please save the date on your calendars.

Please periodically visit members.instantchurchdirectory.com to keep your parish directory listing up to date and/or to view the entire on-line parish directory. Please contact Father Gary if you are unable to sign in.

A **list of church tasks** has been emailed to all parishioners. Please consider which tasks you may be able to take on as an offering to God and the parish. We will discuss this more in the near future.

Many thanks to those who gave their lives in the line of duty in order to preserve the freedoms of this land.

MANY YEARS

Birthdays

Today – Tom Anderson

Monday – Meghan Humphrey

Friday – Matushka Mary

Friday – Lia Eickhorn

Wedding Anniversaries

Friday – Tom & Debbie Anderson (#38)

What do you think of the following statement: “Prosperity was (for Chrysostom) a danger. The worst sort of persecution, worse than an open persecution. Nobody sees dangers. Prosperity breeds carelessness”? Why is prosperity so dangerous spiritually? Why do so many people in our churches want to become wealthy anyway?

From Money & Salvation by Andrew Geleris, M.D.