

## Fr. Thomas Hopko on the Nicene Creed:

In the fourth century a great controversy developed in Christendom about the nature of the Son of God (also called in the Scripture the Word or *Logos*). Some said that the Son of God is a creature like everything else made by God. Others contended that the Son of God is eternal, divine, and uncreated. Many councils met and made many statements of faith about the nature of the Son of God. The controversy raged throughout the entire Christian world.

It was the definition of the council which the Emperor Constantine called in the city of Nicea in the year 325 which was ultimately accepted by the Orthodox Church as the proper Symbol of Faith. This council is now called the First Ecumenical Council.

Following the controversy about the Son of God, the Divine Word, and essentially connected with it, was the dispute about the Holy Spirit. The following definition of the Council in Constantinople in 381, which has come to be known as the second ecumenical council was added to the Nicene statement: "And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. In one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

This whole Symbol of Faith was ultimately adopted throughout the entire Church. It was put into the first person form "I believe" and used for the formal and official confession of faith made by a person (or his sponsor-godparent) at his baptism. It is also used as the formal statement of faith by a non-Orthodox Christian entering the communion of the Orthodox Church. In the same way the creed became part of the life of Orthodox Christians and an essential element of the Divine Liturgy of the Orthodox Church at which each person formally and officially accepts and renews his baptism and membership in the Church. Thus, the Symbol of Faith is the only part of the liturgy (repeated in another form just before Holy Communion) which is in the first person. All other songs and prayers of the liturgy are plural, beginning with "we". Only the credal statement begins with "I." This, as we shall see, is because faith is first personal, and only then corporate and communal.

*"Let us Attend!"*



*"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..."*

A PARISH BULLETIN OF  
ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH  
Olyphant, Pennsylvania

Rev. Paul J. Witek, Ph.D., Rector

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14 July 2024

**Third Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Bulletin, Sunday, 14 July 2024**

**3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2.**

**Fathers of the 1st Six Ecumenical Councils.** Apostle Aquila of the Seventy (1st c.). Ven. Stephen, Abbot of Mákhreshche (Vologdá—1406). Martyr Justus at Rome (1st c.). Ven. Ellius (Hellius), of Egypt (4th c.). Ven. Onesimus of Magnesia (4th c.). Repose of Ven. Nikodemos the Hagiorite (1809).

**Epistles:** Romans 5:1-10  
Hebrews 13:7-16

**Gospels:** Matthew 6:22-33  
John 17:1-13

*Our souls and minds are strengthened and fortified by the regular reading of the Holy Scriptures. Daily readings can be found on the parish's wall calendar, or online by visiting the OCA's daily reading page:*  
<https://www.oca.org/readings>

### **Schedule**

~ **Wednesday, 17 July 2024: 9:00AM. Akathist to the Royal Passionbearers**

~ **Saturday, 20 July 2024: 6PM Great Vespers.**

~ **Sunday, 21 July 2024: 9:30AM. Divine Liturgy, followed by Agape coffee hour fellowship.**

## **Announcements**

~A welcome to all visitors that are joining us today. Please come downstairs and join in Agape Coffee Hour Fellowship.

~ Thank you to Fr. Mikel Hill for serving Vespers yesterday evening, and to Fr. David Hester for serving this morning and preaching the homily. Many blessed years.

~ Next Sunday, 21 July, Fr. Paul will bless vehicles immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Please come and have your car blessed.

~ Please note that Fr. Paul will be away from the parish starting on Thursday, 11 July 2024 and will return on 20 July 2024. If you have a pastoral emergency during Fr. Paul's absence and require a priest, please call Fr. John Black at 610.427.9279.



# DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

*The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia • Orthodox Church in America*

July 11, 2024

Dear beloved clergy and faithful,

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be. By the grace of God and with the assistance of our clergy, Diocesan faithful and faithful from outside the Diocese, especially the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. we enjoyed a blessed week at our summer camp program. Through the sacrificial offering of time, talents and donations our youth enjoyed a wonderful time of prayer, fellowship, Christian education, boating, fishing, arts and crafts and many various activities.

We were incredibly blessed with the creative leadership of our new Camp Director Dan Peck. He truly is amazing in his ability to connect with the youth and his organizational skills as well. The success of the camp was due to his ability to coordinate and identify the talents of our gifted staff, volunteers as well as the mutual cooperation of staff and campers. Dan developed a flex schedule which allowed more options for activities simultaneously for each age group and provided opportunities for our campers to work in collaboration with the staff. We are grateful to all who participated in preparation, scheduling, education, food preparation, and overseeing and assisting with the many aspects of providing our Orthodox Youth with a quality program. We received many donations from parishes and individuals to sponsor our Diocesan Youth program. The financial support received covered the costs for numerous children, especially those with multiple siblings who otherwise would not been able to attend. The cost for just the food for campers and staff exceeded \$16,000. We also appreciate the donation of pierogis from our parishes and from Mrs. Ts, who donated 1152 pierogis (996 dozen). Through your generosity, last year and this year we had many first time campers and the percentage of our Diocesan campers is now in the majority for the last two years. The two exhaust fans added the week before camp to the pavilion cost \$5,000 and helped reduce the trapped hot air and make our daily programs more comfortable for everyone. We also purchased two more volley ball nets and three canopies (10' x 20').

We were blessed to have many talented and gifted adults who offered of themselves both before camp, during the week of camp and breaking things down. We are working to provide a debriefing for all who participated for their valuable feedback. There is always room for improvement, new ideas and new activities. We know the teens would appreciate the addition of kayaks for future camp activities.

Once again we are blessed to partner with St Tikhon's Seminary and St. Tikhon's Monastery for access and use of their facilities and participation. Given the wonderful response this year, we will likely see registration close within a week of opening. Our Fall Youth retreat will be October 18-20th at Camp Hebron for children 12-18. We have not asked for donation for the previous Winter Retreat or Fall Retreat, but donations are appreciated. Please encourage your youth to attend and your adults to volunteer to serve Christ and His Holy Church in the coming years!

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

+ MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

CC: Dan Peck, Camp Director

