

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE
FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



Icon of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Love One Another

“I give you a new commandment,” said Jesus, “love one another.” ... He showed the newness of His command and how far the love He enjoined surpassed the old conception of mutual love by going on immediately to add: “Love one another as I have loved you.” To understand the full force of these words, we have to consider how Christ loved us. Then it will be easy to see what is new and different in the commandment we are now given.

Do you not see what is new in Christ’s love for us? The law commanded people to love their brothers and sisters as they love themselves, but our Lord Jesus Christ loved us more than Himself. He who was one in nature with God the Father and His equal would not have descended to our lowly estate, nor endured in His flesh such a bitter death for us, nor submitted to the blows given Him by His enemies, to the shame, the derision, and all the other sufferings that could not possibly be enumerated. Nor, being rich, would He have become poor, had He not loved us far

more than Himself. It was indeed something new for love to go as far as that!

Christ commands us to love as He did, putting neither reputation, nor wealth, nor anything whatever before love of our brothers and sisters. If need be we must even be prepared to face death for our neighbor’s salvation as did our Savior’s blessed disciples and those who followed in their footsteps. To them the salvation of others mattered more than their own lives, and they were ready to do anything or to suffer anything to save souls that were perishing.

The Savior urged us to practice this love that transcends the law as the foundation of true devotion to God. He knew that only in this way could we become pleasing in God’s eyes, and that it was by seeking the beauty of the love implanted in us by Himself that we should attain to the highest blessings.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

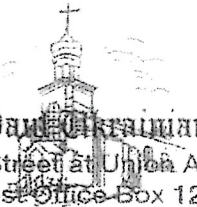
**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com**

Rev. Dr. Ronald Popivchak
Pastor

Area Code 610
272-7035

Khristos Voskres! **Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church** May 20-21, 2023

Christ is Risen!


Hurst Street at Union Avenue
Post Office Box 126
Bridgeport, Pennsylvania 19405
www.sspeterpaulukrchurch.us

The Ascension

Last Sunday, the 14th, the largest congregation in years attended the 9:00 AM First Communion Divine Liturgy, The Balcony was so crowded that we were afraid it might give way! It was a glorious day for all the 10 “Angels” who received their First Holy Communion. We thank Kathy Plush and Lois Paul for their great work preparing this class!

This Saturday and Sunday we will all **celebrate Father Ronald’s Birthday (5/22/41)**. We thank all the good folks who sent along their prayers, gifts, and good wishes to Father and who shared all the treats under the tents on the church lawn.

Today we will mark the feast of the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Heaven to join His Father. And we all pray that we will also ascend to Heaven with Christ some day and sing with the Angels and dance with the Saints!

We Will Livestream the Holy Liturgy thus weekend on Sunday at 9:00 AM as we mark Father’s Birthday. Next weekend we will live stream the Liturgy on Saturday, May 27th at 6:00 PM. Please tell all your friends and neighbors about this schedule.

On Monday, May29, we plan to celebrate the Holy Liturgy in Church at 9:00 AM and Sing our Requiem Panachyda at our Cemetery at 10:00 AM. We hope to have Father Lonchyna from Trenton by our side for your convenience this Memorial Day.

The Subsequent Catering event in our Hall will be for the Sacred Heart Church here in Swedesburg on Friday, June 16th. We will need a **Lot of Help** for this dinner, so mark your calendar to be with us for the final event this spring.

Please Remember our parish family and bring them: Our Father's, Our Mother's, Our Brothers, Our Sisters, Our Patzuk, Dottie Dolgash, Ed and Sophia Tomchick, Frank and Sandy Katarynick, Pat Pasquale, Olga Danko, The Timbario Boys, Vera Tryciecky, Margaret Dudas, perhaps a prayer, a card?

We Are So Grateful to all our faithful for being so generous to our beloved Parish. This generosity allows us to help the poor and unwed mothers nearby, as well as our Ukrainian Brothers and Sisters in far-off Ukraine. **May the Ascended Lord Jesus Bless and Keep Us All!**

DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, May 20th, 6 PM

Father's Peace & Health

Sunday, May 21st, 9 AM

Father Ronald (Richard, Cheryl & Kathy)

Saturday, May 27th, 6 PM

Anita Chomiak (Russell Chomiak)

Sunday, May 28th, 9 AM

Wasył, Anastasia, Eva, & Filip (Bill, Bridget)

ASCENSION TROPAR: You have gloriously ascended, O Christ our God, delighting Your disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit. They were assured by Your Blessings, for You are the Son of God and the Redeemer of the world. GLORY TO THE FATHER AND THE....

ASCENSION KONTAK: You carried out a decree of Providence concerning us, and You reconciled the earth with Heaven. O Christ Our God, now you have ascended and promised to send the Holy Spirit upon Mankind to abide with us forever. You promised to be with us forever.

ASCENSION PROKIMEN: Be exalted above Heaven, O God, Your glory covers the earth.

Слава Україні!

О. РОНАЛД