The Seventh Ecumenical Council dealt predominantly with the controversy regarding icons and their place in Orthodox worship. It was convened in Nicaea in 787 by Empress Irene at the request of Tarasios, Patriarch of Constantinople. The Council was attended by 367 bishops.

The name of this Sunday reflects the great significance which icons possess for the Orthodox Church. They are not optional devotional extras, but an integral part of Orthodox faith and devotion. They are held to be a necessary consequence of Christian faith in the incarnation of the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, in Jesus Christ. They have a sacramental character, making present to the believer the person or event depicted on them. So the interior of Orthodox churches is often covered with icons painted on walls and domed roofs, and there is always an icon screen, or iconostasis, separating the sanctuary from the nave, often with several rows of icons. No Orthodox home is complete without an icon corner, where the family prays.

Icons are venerated by burning lamps and candles in front of them, by the use of incense and by kissing. But there is a clear doctrinal distinction between the veneration paid to icons and the worship due to God. The former is not only relative, it is in fact paid to the person represented by the icon. This distinction safeguards the veneration of icons from any charge of idolatry.

The theme of the victory of the icons, by its emphasis on the incarnation, points us to the basic Christian truth that the one whose death and resurrection we celebrate at Easter was none other than the Word of God who became human in Jesus Christ.

Before the Triumph of Orthodoxy came to be celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent, there was on this day a commemoration of Moses, Aaron, Samuel and the prophets. Traces of this more ancient observance can still be seen in the choice of the Epistle reading at the Liturgy and in the Alleluia verse appointed before the Gospel: “Moses and Aaron among His priests, and Samuel among them that call upon His Name.”

March 8, 2020 – Sunday of Orthodoxy

Theophylact the Confessor, bishop of Nicomedia; Apostle Hermas of the Seventy


Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 5):
Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion for the First Sunday in Lent (Tone 2):
Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

A Note to Visitors and Guests: Welcome! We are glad you have joined us today for worship! If this is your first visit to All Saints, please take a moment to fill out a visitor’s card at the greeter’s stand before you leave. The greeter also has Liturgy Books for use during the service, if you desire one. We hope you will join us for brunch following this morning’s service.
Kontakion for the Sundays in Lent (Tone 8):
O Champion Leader, to Thee I offer thanks of Victory! O Theotokos, thou hast delivered me from terror! As thou hast invincible power, O Theotokos, thou truly can set me free from all danger! Set me free and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: “Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom!”

Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4):
Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

Prokeimenon Psalm:
Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

Epistle Reading: St. Paul to the Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40
Gospel Reading: John 1:43-51

This Week at All Saints

Wednesday, March 11: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 7:00 PM

Saturday, March 14: Vespers, 7:30 PM

Volunteers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reader</th>
<th>Prospohra</th>
<th>Greeter</th>
<th>Flowers</th>
<th>Coffee</th>
<th>Food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Mar 8</td>
<td>Joseph L.</td>
<td>Carmen C.</td>
<td>Sarah K.</td>
<td>Kim A.</td>
<td>Polycarp &amp; Gosia G.</td>
<td>G - K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday Mar 11</td>
<td>Dcn Walid</td>
<td>Nancy L.</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Sign up</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday Mar 18</td>
<td>Octavian F.</td>
<td>Jerry C.</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Sign up</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Mar 22</td>
<td>Polycarp</td>
<td>Domitille N.</td>
<td>Azizeh C.</td>
<td>Kathleen W.</td>
<td>Chris &amp; Nancy L.</td>
<td>R - W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday Mar 25</td>
<td>Sd. Joseph</td>
<td>Octavian F.</td>
<td>Nancy L.</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Potluck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Mar 29</td>
<td>Doug J.</td>
<td>Cristina P.</td>
<td>Ofelija I.</td>
<td>JoAnne T.</td>
<td>Phil &amp; Roswela L.</td>
<td>A - F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

News and Announcements

Pan-Orthodox Vespers: Will be held TONIGHT March 8 at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Cicero starting at 6:30 PM.

Pre-Sanctified Liturgies: Lenten meals will be held after services on Wednesday night. Please see the sign-up sheet posted on the door to sign-up to bring something.

All Saints Community Dinner: Everyone is invited to gather together on Saturday, March 14th at 5:30 PM to share a meal and fellowship before Vespers. The meal will be a potluck dinner, so if you are up for bringing a dish (not necessary to attend), please specify what you will be bringing when you RSVP.” You can RSVP to Sarah S. or through the email link that was sent to you this week.

Please mark your calendars! Sunday, March 15th, following church school SOYO will be meeting at the Wagner house from 1-4 PM. The teens will be learning more about the persecution that our Christian brothers and sisters face around the world.

Elinor Bourjaily scholarships: The Archdiocese is making available 3 college scholarships of $500 each. If anyone is interested, please see Fr Pat or Dcn Walid for details. Application deadline is April 15.

"Whatever you may do for your brother, being hungry, and a stranger, and naked, not even the devil will be able to despoil, but it will be laid up in an inviolable treasure.”
- Saint John Chrysostom

Because a number of people in the parish are currently sick, I have heard expressions of concern about contagion through the instruments of Holy Communion. This is nothing new. We have dealt with this problem from the beginning. The Church has spoken on this subject about a million times during each of the past twenty centuries. (I suspect---but can’t prove it---that a couple of the Apostles had the sniffles the Last Supper.) The answer is ALWAYS the same: “Forget about that stuff and just do what Jesus said.” There is no further need for the authority of the Church to address this matter. It has already been dealt with adequately, and we are not going to change the inherited practice of the Church. In addition, we might all remind ourselves that more Americans died of influenza during last winter than during this winter.

However, I push no one’s conscience. If someone is overly anxious about contagion, abstinence from Holy Communion is (more-or-less) always permitted.

Be well. Fr Pat