

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL 5/17/26

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✨ Terri Ferko (req. by Mike Ferko)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✨ Helen Kohan (req. by Mike Kohan)

11:00 AM (E) For the People of Ukraine)

5TH ALL SOULS SATURDAY 5/23/26

Friday: 6:30 PM (G) All Souls Divine Liturgy

Saturday: 9:00 AM (E) All Souls Divine Liturgy

PENTECOST SUNDAY 5/24/26

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) For the Parish Family

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✨ Debbie Pangratz (req. by Paul Pangratz Family)

11:00 AM (E) ✨ Helen Bauman (req. by Robert Eberly Family)

OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN US:

05/10/26

\$1214.00**CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD MAY COLLECTION – Breakfast Cereal***Proverbs 14:31 – “Anyone who oppresses the poor is insulting God who made them. To help the poor is to honor God.”***EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION**

God with Us Eastern Catholic Formation is the official catechetical apostolate of the Eastern Catholic Bishops of the United States. The website address is: www.godwithusononline.org This website now makes available radio podcasts, online lectures, a monthly newsletter, books and other education materials which serve to promote a better understanding of Eastern Catholics and their expression of the Catholic faith in the United States. The resource material on this website is constantly updated or changed to better meet the needs of its users.

FOR REFLECTION

Just before he ascended into heaven, Jesus told his followers that they would not be left alone but that the Holy Spirit would come to them as a helper, guide, and comforter. Through the Holy Spirit and his power, they would be able to carry out the mission Jesus gave them to “go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

That same Holy Spirit is available to us today to help us accomplish our goals and the good that God wills for our lives. If we need to break a bad habit, find courage to take a new job, learn to be assertive, or grow in trust, the Holy Spirit’s power can help us.

THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

An ecumenical council is a gathering of the bishops of the world summoned by the pope to share the responsibility of teaching and guiding the Catholic Church. The first such council met in Nicea (modern Turkey) in the year 325. It was presided over by Emperor Constantine and approved by Pope Sylvester I. This council began formulating the Nicene Creed. It also condemned the heresy of the priest Arius who taught that Jesus was not equal to God the Father, thus denying the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. This heresy caused much turmoil in the early Christian Church and had to be forcefully addressed by this council.

Blessings Remembered

We human beings like to remember the good things in life, yet often have a tendency to be able to block out the unpleasant after a while, and thus forget what happened. This is exactly the opposite of what happens to a person who has Post-Traumatic Stress, who cannot seem to block out the unpleasant, and who keeps reliving the terrors until they become disabling. So the challenge is to be able to remember without the memories becoming traumatic.

Our calling as Judeo-Christian people is to remember what God has done for us. Remembrance is at the heart of the Jewish Passover and the Lord’s Supper, for example. Both recall difficult times (the bondage of the Hebrews in Egypt and the upcoming Crucifixion and death of Jesus), yet both herald hope (the deliverance of Israel from the Egyptians and the Resurrection of Christ and salvation of mankind). May we remember how Jesus triumphed over sin and death and know that nothing the world can inflict on us will ever take away the Lord’s goodness and love for us.

A PRESCRIPTION FOR LIFE

Most people are familiar with the short version of the Serenity Prayer: “God grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.” As a prescription for life, this prayer has it all.

First, we turn to God as the source of our peace because there is no peace on earth that compares to his. Then, acceptance of our limitations becomes the first step toward freedom. Courage to change flows from a confidence that is rooted in a right relationship with God. We acknowledge his loving will and focus our efforts on changing the only thing that we can: ourselves.

Finally, the beautiful gift of wisdom from the Holy Spirit grows through obedience. It also helps us to lead correctly-ordered lives that will not be disturbed by every pressing storm.

FROM THE DESERT FATHERS

When the Lord is directing our steps, he is always doing it for our own good and the good of our souls. If we can trust in that and trust in him, we will experience a deep peace in knowing that all is as it should be, and all will be well in due time.

JESUS PRAYER – Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner