



**ST. NICHOLAS
THE WONDERWORKER**

СВ. МИКОЛАЯ ЧУДОТВОРЦЯ

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1112 Caledonia Ave.
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Pastor:
Fr. Yuriy Vyshnevskyy

~ 16 May 2021 ~

**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE
FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF NICAEA**

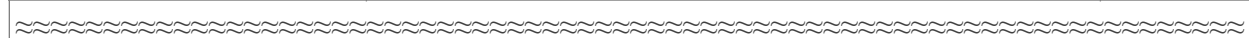


July 4, 325, was a memorable day. About three hundred Christian bishops and deacons from the eastern half of the Roman Empire had come to Nicaea in modern day Turkey. In the conference hall where they waited was a table. On it lay an open copy of the Gospels. The emperor, Constantine the Great, entered the hall in his imperial, jewel-encrusted, multicoloured brocades, but out of respect for the Christian leaders, without his customary train of soldiers. Constantine spoke only briefly. He told the churchmen they had to come to some agreement on the crucial questions dividing them. *“Division in the church,”* he said, *“is worse than war.”* The bishops and deacons were deeply impressed. After three centuries of periodic persecutions instigated by some Roman emperor, were they actually gathered before one not as enemies but as allies? Some of them carried scars of the imperial lash. One pastor from Egypt was missing an eye; another was crippled in both hands as a result of red-hot irons. But Constantine had dropped the sword of persecution in order to take up the cross. Just before a decisive battle in 312, he had converted to Christianity. Nicaea symbolized a new day for Christianity.

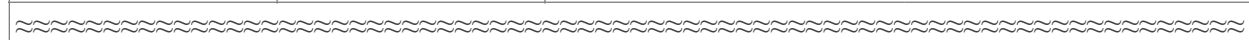


SUNDAY HYMNS	
OPENING HYMN	На Гору Днесь Єлеонську / Today, On The Mount pg. 208-209
COMMUNION HYMN	Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
CLOSING HYMN	Маріє, Діво Благословенна / O Virgin Mary, Our Blessed Lady pg. 346-347

SUNDAY & DAILY SCHEDULE		
SUNDAY, May 16	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom - ONLINE	10 AM
MONDAY, May 17	NO SERVICES	
TUESDAY, May 18	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9 AM
WEDNESDAY, May 19	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9 AM
	Moleben to the Mother of God	7 PM
THURSDAY, May 20	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9 AM
FRIDAY, May 21	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9 AM
SATURDAY, May 22	Vespers - ZOOM	6 PM
SUNDAY, May 23	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom - ONLINE	10 AM



SUNDAY EPISTLE		MAY 9 DONATIONS
DATE	READING	Envelope collection: \$200.00; Pre-authorized donations May 3 to May 9: \$235.00 TOTAL: \$435.00 May God bless and reward you abundantly for your generosity!
SUNDAY, May 16	Act 9:32-42	
SUNDAY, May 23	Act 2:1-11	
SUNDAY, May 30	Heb 11:33-12:2	
SUNDAY, Jun 6	Rm 2:10-16	



PASTORAL MINISTRY & HOLY MYSTERIES

CONFESSIONS.....	by appointment
EUCHARIST.....	by appointment
BAPTISMS.....	by appointment
MARRIAGES.....	six months notice should be given to the parish priest, and he should be contacted before any other arrangements are made
FUNERALS.....	by appointment
ANOINTING.....	by appointment
HOSPITAL VISITS.....	by appointment

Apostolic Administrator ~ Bishop David Motiuk ~ www.nweparchy.ca



ANNOUNCEMENTS

▶ **CONFESSIONS** - if you would like to come to confession please contact Fr. Yuriy at [250.891.4507](tel:250.891.4507) or st.nicholas.victoria@gmail.com

▶ **HOLY COMMUNION** - if you would like to receive Holy Communion following Sunday Divine Liturgy, the church will be open until 12:00 noon. Please enter from the far back door from the parking lot. Please wear a mask when entering the church.

▶ **JOIN THE CONVERSATION WITH THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH** - Thursday nights at 4-6 PM. Join us weekly to dialog with Bishop, Clergy and Featured speakers. Follow us on [Tranquillight Calling YouTube channel](#). Email your questions and receive the Zoom link: uccconversation@gmail.com

▶ **A GIFT OF TIME** - Everyone has been affected by the COVID pandemic. For some the effects have been physical however many people have been affected psychologically experiencing stress, anxiety and depression. While there may be people who have more money and possessions, we all have the same amount of time: exactly 24 hours in every day. The greatest gift you can give someone is your time. We encourage you to reach over the phone to connect with your fellow parishioners and share with them your gift of time. Let it be your gift to them and a gift to yourself as well as we all connect as a spiritual family.

▶ **COVID-19 UPDATE** - Due to the province-wide restrictions by the Government of British Columbia **all Liturgical services are suspended until** further notice. To join the live streaming of the Liturgies please go to parish [Facebook](#) OR [Website](#). NOTE: these services are closed to the public.

▶ **PRAYER REQUEST** - Please keep in your prayers SYLVIA KELLY, CHARLOTTE & ED KRAKOWSKI, RICHARD NEWBERRY, LANCE DELVES, RICHARD MACEWKO, ANNE DRAPACK, PETER IWANUCK, JULIE CHUPICK and other members of our parish, our family and friends who are ailing, in hospitals, nursing homes and those who are not able to join actively in their community.

▶ **BEQUESTS & WILLS** - Leaving a bequeath is a process of giving a donation through your will. It is simply a distribution from your estate to a charitable organization through your last will and testament. It can be as small or as large a donation as you wish. It is important that you talk to your lawyer about the process. In your kindness please remember St Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Church in your bequeath and will. If anyone wishes to make such a bequeath in their will, the following clause may be included or added to a will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to **St Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Parish - 1112 Caledonia Avenue, Victoria BC, V8T 1G1**, the sum of \$ _____ (or _____% of my estate), to be used for the benefit of the parish and it's pastoral activities."



▶ **DONATE ONLINE** to St. Nicholas parish:
www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/45460



DIVINE LITURGY PROPER

*The Divine Liturgy of our Father among the Saints John Chrysostom.
Scripture readings from the New Testament are taken from the
New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition.
Українською - у перекладі Івана Хоменка.*

First Antiphon

Verse: Clap your hands, all you nations;* shout to God with the voice of joy.

Refrain: *Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save, us.*

Verse: For the Lord most high is awesome,* a great king over all the earth.

Refrain: *Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save, us.*

Verse: He has subdued peoples to us,* and nations under our feet.

Refrain: *Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save, us.*

Verse: God ascended amid shouts of joy;* the Lord at the sound of the trumpet.

Refrain: *Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save, us.*

Glory... Now... Only-Begotten Son...

Third Antiphon

Verse: Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord,* let us acclaim God, our Saviour.

Refrain: *Son of God, who ascended in glory,* save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Verse: Let us come before His face with praise,* and acclaim Him in psalms.

Refrain: *Son of God, who ascended in glory,* save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Verse: For God is the great Lord,* the great king over all the earth.

Refrain: *Son of God, who ascended in glory,* save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Entrance Verse: Come, let us worship* and fall down before Christ.

Refrain: *Son of God, who ascended in glory,* save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Troparion, Tone 6: Angelic powers were upon Your tomb* and the guards became like dead men;* Mary stood before Your tomb* seeking Your most pure body.* You captured Hades without being overcome by it.* You met the Virgin and granted life.* O Lord, risen from the dead,* glory be to You!

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**Troparion, Tone 4:** You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,\* giving joy to Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit,\* and assuring them through your blessing\* that You are the Son of God,\* the Redeemer of the world.

**Troparion, Tone 8:** Christ our God, You are glorified above all,\* You established our fathers as beacons on earth\* and through them guided all of us to the true faith.\* Glory to You, most compassionate Lord.

**Glory: Kontakion, Tone 8:** The apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrine\* confirmed the Church's one faith,\* and wearing the garment of truth\* woven from theology that descends from on high,\* she rightly imparts\* the mystery of godliness\* and sings its glory.

**Now: Kontakion, Tone 6:** When you had fulfilled Your plan for us\* and united things on earth with those in heaven,\* You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,\* in no way distant, but remaining in separable,\* You cried to those who love You:\* I am with You and there is none against you.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 4:** Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever. *Verse:* For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us. (*Daniel 3:26,27*)

**Epistle - Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 - A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.** In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; he was eager to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent a message to Ephesus, asking the elders of the church to meet him. When they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the entire time from the first day that I set foot in Asia. "Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" When he had finished speaking, he knelt down with them all and prayed.

**Alleluia, Tone 8:** *Verse:* The God of gods, the Lord, spoke and summoned the earth from the rising of sun to its setting. *Verse:* Gather to Him His devout ones, who with sacrifice make covenant with Him. (*Psalms 49:1,5*)

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**Gospel - John 17:1-13** - At that time, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.”

*Instead of “It is truly ...” we sing:* O my soul, magnify the Lord who in glory ascended bodily into the heavens. *And the Irmos:* O Mother of God,\* you transcended both mind and word,\* and in time, ineffably bore the Timeless One:\* it is you who, with one accord,\* we, the faithful, magnify.

**Communion Hymn:** Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest. (*Psalm 148:1*)\* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;\* praise befits the righteous. (*Psalm 32:1*) Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia.

*Instead of “We have seen the true light”, “Let our mouths be filled” and “Blessed be the name” we sing:* Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, above all the earth be Your glory.

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### Перший Антифон

*Стих:* Всі народи, заплещіте руками, воскликніть Богові голосом радості.

**Приспів:** *Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас.*

*Стих:* Бо Господь Всевишній – страшний, цар великий по всій землі.

**Приспів:** *Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас.*

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*Стих:* Він покоровив людей нам і народи під ноги наші.

**Приспів:** *Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас.*

*Стих:* Зійшов Бог під оклики веселі, Господь – під голос сурми.

**Приспів:** *Молитвами Богородиці, Спасе, спаси нас.*

**Слава: І Нині: Єдинородний Сину ...**

### Третій Антифон

*Співаємо звичайний третій антифон, але з приспівом:* Спаси нас, Сину Божий, що родився від Діви, співаємо тобі: Алилуя.

**Тропар, глас 6:** Ангельські сили на гробі твоїм\* і сторожі омертвіли \* Марія ж стояла при гробі,\* шукаючи пречистого тіла твого.\* Полонив ти ад і, не переможений від нього,\* зустрів ти Діву, даруючи життя.\* Воскреслий з мертвих, Господи, слава тобі!

**Тропар, глас 4:** Вознісся ти у славі, Христе Боже наш,\* радість сотворивши ученикам обітуванням Святого Духа,\* утвердивши їх благословенням,\* бо ти еси Син Божий,\* ізбавитель світу.

**Тропар, глас 8:** Препрославлений ти, Христе Боже наш,\* світила на землі – отців наших оснував ти\* і ними до істинної віри всіх нас направив ти.\* Багатомилосердний, слава тобі.

**Слава: Кондак, глас 8:** Апостолів проповідування і отців догмати\* єдину віру утвердили церкві,\* яка і, ризу істини з богословія вишнього носячи,\* право править, і славить благочестя велике таїнство.

**І Нині: Кондак, глас 6:** Сповнивши промисел щодо нас\* і те, що на землі, з'єднавши з небесним,\* вознісся ти у славі, Христе Боже наш,\* ніяк не відлучаючись, але невідступнео перебуваючи,\* ти кличеш до тих, що люблять тебе:\* Я з вами і ніхто проти вас.

**Прокімен, глас 4:** Благословен еси, Господи, Боже отців наших,\* і хвальне, і прославлене ім'я твоє навіки. *Стих:* Бо праведний еси в усьому, що сотворив ти нам.

**Апостол - Дія. 20:16-18, 28-36 - 3 книги Діянь Святих Апостолів читання:** Тими днями Павло вирішив плисти попри Ефес, щоб не баритися в Азію поспішав бо, щоб, по змозі, на день П'ятидесятниці бути в Єрусалимі. З Мілету він послав у Ефес і прикликав пресвітерів церкви. Коли ж вони прийшли до нього, він до них промовив: «Ви знаєте, як з першого дня, коли я вступив у Азію, увесь час поводився я з вами. Зважайте на самих себе й на все стадо, над яким Дух Святий поставив вас єпископами, щоб пасли церкву Божу, що він придбав кров'ю власною. Я знаю, що по моїм відході ввійдуть поміж вас вовки хижі, які не щадитимуть стада. Та й з-поміж вас самих повстануть люди, що говоритимуть погубні

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речі, щоб потягнути за собою учнів. Тому чувайте, пригадуйте собі, що я три роки, ніч і день, не переставав кожного з вас із сльозами наводити на розум. А тепер передаю вас Богові і слову його благодаті, що може збудувати й дати вам спадщину між усіма освяченими. Ні срібла, ні золота, ані одежі я не вимагав ні від кого. Ви самі знаєте, що моїм потребам і тих, які зо мною, служили оці руки. У всьому я показав вам, що, так працюючи, треба допомагати слабосильним і пам'ятати слова Господа Ісуса, що сам сказав: «Більше щастя – давати, ніж брати.» Промовивши це, він упав на коліна і з усіма ними почав молитися.

Алилуя, глас 8: *Стих:* Бог богів, Господь мовив, і призвав землю від сходу сонця до заходу. *Стих:* Зберіть йому преподобних його, що заповідують завіт його в жертвах.

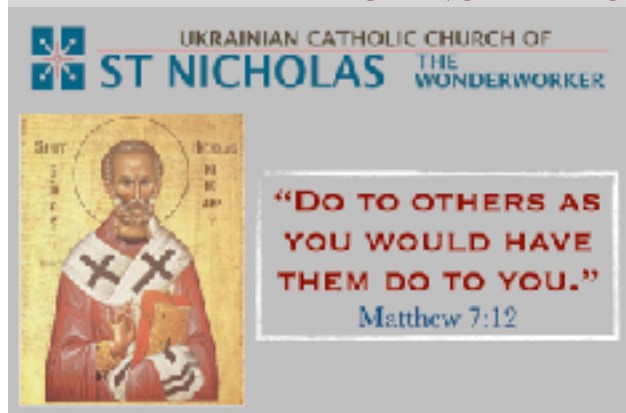
Євангеліє - Івана 17:1-13 - Ісус, підвівши очі свої до неба, проказав: «Отче, прийшла година! Прослав свого Сина, щоб Син твій тебе прославив, згідно з владою, що її ти дав йому над усяким тілом: дарувати життя вічне тим, яких ти передав йому. А вічне життя у тому, щоб вони спізнали тебе, єдиного, істинного Бога, і тобою посланого – Ісуса Христа. Я тебе на землі прославив, виконавши те діло, яке ти дав мені до виконання. Тепер же прослав мене, Отче, у себе – славою тією, що її я мав у тебе перед тим, як постав світ! Я об'явив твоє ім'я людям, яких ти від світу передав мені. Вони були твої, ти ж передав мені їх, і зберегли вони слово твоє. Нині збагнули вони, що все, тобою дане мені – від тебе; слова бо, тобою мені дані, я їм дав, і сприйняли вони їх, і справді збагнули, що від тебе я вийшов, і увірували, що ти мене послав. Молю ж за них: не за світ молю, лише за тих, яких ти передав мені, бо вони – твої. І все моє – твоє, твоє ж – моє, і в них я прославився. Я вже більш не у світі, а вони у світі, і я до тебе йду. Отче Святий! Заради імени твого бережи їх, тих, що їх ти мені передав, щоб були одно, як ми! Бувши з ними у світі, я беріг їх у твоє ім'я; тих, яких ти передав мені, я їх стеріг, і ніхто з них не пропав, лише син загибелі, щоб збулося Писання. Тепер же іду до тебе, і кажу те, у світі будучи, щоб вони радіщів моїх мали у собі вщерть.

Замість “Достойно...” ми співаємо: Величай, душе моя, Господа, що з плоттю во славі вознісся на небеса. **Ірмос, глас 5:** Тебе, вище ума і слова Матір Божу, що в часі безлітнього несказанно родила, вірні однодумно величаємо.

Причасний: Хваліте Господа з небес, хваліте його в вишніх. Радуйтеся, праведні, у Господі, правим належить похвала. Алилуя, алилуя, алилуя!

Замість “Ми бачили світло істинне”, “Нехай сповняться уста наші”, “Нехай буде ім'я”, співаємо: Вознесися на небеса Боже і по всій землі слава Твоя.

PRAYER DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK



Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace. Be with our priests and spiritual care givers. May they know that they are loved and cared for.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

For You are a God of mercy, kindness, and love, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.



МОЛИТВА ПІД ЧАС СПАЛЯХУ КОРОНАВІРУСУ

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Ісусе Христе, ти подорожував по містах і селах, оздоровлюючи від хвороб і немочей. За Твоїм повелінням хворі видужували. У час пандемії коронавірусу повели цій хворобі відступити, щоб ми відчули Твою оздоровлюючу любов.

Вилікуй тих, хто хворий вірусом. Нехай вони відновлять свої сили та здоров'я завдяки якісній медичній допомозі.

Вилікуй нас від нашого страху, який заважає націям спільно працювати та сусідам допомагати один одному.

Вилікуй нас від нашої гордості, яка може змусити нас претендувати на невразливість до захворювання, що не знає меж.

Залишайся поруч у цей час невизначеності та смутку. Будь з тими, хто помер від вірусу. Нехай вони спочивають з Тобою у вічному спокої. Будь з родинами тих, хто хворий або помер, коли вони турбуються і сумують, захищай їх від хвороб і відчаю. Нехай вони знають Твій спокій.

Будь з лікарями, медсестрами, дослідниками та всіма медичними працівниками, котрі прагнуть вилікувати та допомогти постраждалим та, котрі піддають себе ризику в своїй праці. Нехай вони знають Твій захист і спокій.

Будь з нашими священиками та духовними опікунами. Нехай вони знають, що їх люблять і піклуються про них.

Будь з лідерами всіх націй. Дай їм передбачення діяти милосердно та зі справжньою турботою про добробут людей, котрим вони призначені служити. Надай їм мудрості інвестувати у довгострокові рішення, які допоможуть підготуватися або запобігти майбутнім спалахам. Нехай вони пізнають Твій мир, коли разом працюють над досягненням його на землі.

Будь ми вдома чи за кордоном, в оточенні багатьох людей, які страждають цією хворобою, або наодинці, Ісусе Христе, залишайтеся з нами, коли ми терпимо і сумуємо. Замість нашої тривоги дай нам спокій.

Бо Ти - Бог милосердя, доброта та любов, і ми прославляємо Тебе, Отця, і Сина, і Святого Духа, нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.

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FIRST COUNCIL OF NICAEA. FACTS



The **First Council of Nicaea** was held in Nicaea, in Bithynia in 325. Nicaea is the city of Iznik in Turkey. The Roman Emperor Constantine called the bishops of the Roman Empire to the first ecumenical conference of the early Christian Church. It had as most important result the first uniform Christian doctrine, called the Nicene Creed.

With the creation of the creed, a precedent was established for subsequent 'general (ecumenical) councils of

Bishops' (Synods) to create statements of belief and church law. The purpose was to define unity of beliefs for the whole of Christendom.

The agenda of the synod:

- The Arian question;
- The celebration of Passover;
- The Meletian schism;
- The Father and Son one in purpose or in person;
- The baptism of heretics;
- The status of the lapsed in the persecution under Licinius.

The purpose of the council was to resolve disagreements in the Church of Alexandria over the nature of Jesus in relationship to the Father; in particular, whether Jesus was of the same substance as God the Father or merely of similar substance. St. Alexander of Alexandria and Athanasius took the first position; the popular presbyter Arius, from whom the term Arian controversy comes, took the second. The council decided against the Arians (of the estimated 250-318 attendees, all but 2 voted against Arius). But many of the Eastern bishops who were pro-Arian, were prevented from reaching the Council until after the vote had been taken.

Another result of the council was an agreement on the date of the Christian Passover (*Pascha* in Greek; Easter in modern English), the most important feast of the ecclesiastical calendar. The council decided in favour of celebrating the resurrection on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox, independently of the Bible's Hebrew calendar and authorized the Bishop of Alexandria to announce annually the exact date to his fellow bishops.

The Council of Nicaea was historically significant because it was the first effort to come to a consensus in the church through an assembly representing all of Christendom. "It was the first occasion for the development of technical Christology." Further, "Constantine in convoking and presiding over the council signalled a measure of imperial control over the church." With the creation of the Nicene Creed, a precedent was established for subsequent general councils to

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create a statement of belief and canons which were intended to become guidelines for doctrinal orthodoxy and a source of unity for the whole of Christendom - a momentous event in the history of the Church and subsequent history of Europe.

The First Council of Nicaea was called by Constantine upon the recommendations of a synod led by Hosius of Cordoba in the Eastertide of 325. To most bishops, the teachings of Arius were heretical and a danger to the salvation of souls. In the summer of 325, the bishops of all provinces came to Nicaea (now known as İznik, in modern-day Turkey), a place easily accessible to the majority of them, particularly those of Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Greece, and Thrace.

Approximately 300 bishops attended, from every region of the Empire except Britain. This was the first general council in the history of the Church since the Apostolic Council of Jerusalem. In the Council of Nicaea, "The Church had taken her first great step to define doctrine more precisely in response to a challenge from a heretical theology." The resolutions in the council, being ecumenical, were intended for the whole Church.

Constantine had invited all 1800 bishops of the Christian church (about 1000 in the east and 800 in the west), but only 250 to 320 bishops actually participated. Eusebius of Caesarea counted 250, Athanasius of Alexandria counted 318, and Eustathius of Antioch counted 270 (all three were present at the council). Later, Socrates Scholasticus recorded more than 300, and Evagrius, Hilarius, Jerome and Rufinus recorded 318.

The bishops were given free travel to the council, as well as lodging. These bishops did not travel alone; each one had permission to bring with him two priests and three deacons; so the total number of attendees would have been above 1500. Eusebius speaks of an almost innumerable host of accompanying priests, deacons and acolytes.

A special prominence was also attached to this council because the persecution of Christians had just ended with the February 313 Edict of Milan by Emperors Constantine and Licinius.

The Eastern bishops formed the great majority. Of these, the first rank was held by the three patriarchs: Alexander of Alexandria, Eustathius of Antioch, and Macarius of Jerusalem. The Latin-speaking provinces sent at least five representatives: Marcus of Calabria from Italia, Cecilian of Carthage from Africa, Hosius of Córdoba from Hispania, Nicasius of Dijon from Gaul, and Domnus of Stridon from the province of the Danube. Pope Silvester I did not attend, telling he was ill, but he was represented by two priests.

Athanasius of Alexandria, a young deacon and companion of Bishop Alexander of Alexandria, was among the assistants. Athanasius eventually spent most of his life battling against Arianism. Alexander of Constantinople, then a presbyter, was also present as representative of his aged bishop.

*\* The icon of the Council of Nicaea (top page), with Arius depicted as defeated by the council, lying under the feet of Emperor Constantine.*

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