

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	Pauline
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Ann
Archpriest Ian	Stefan
Archpriest Eugene	John
Archpriest Seraphim	Vivian
Deacon John	Jung Sook
Reader Aleksei	Thomas
Monk Philaret	Cheyenne
Matushka Mary	Nancy
Elizabeth • Virginia	Randall
Kapitolina • Thomas	Rose
John • Jacqueline	Don
Euphrosynos	Norma
John • Samuel	
Catechumen Rebecca	

The repose and salvation of –

Archimandrite Alexander (October 7)
Archpriest Gregory (September 28)
Hieromonk Alexander (October 5)
Protodeacon Alexis (October 2)
Peter (September 26)

Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.

This Thursday, October 20 – 4:30 PM Open House

This Thursday, October 20 – 5:30 Vespers

This Saturday, October 22 – 2:00 PM Parish Council

This Saturday, October 22 – 5:30 Great Vespers

Next Sunday, October 23 - Q&A with Fr. Matthew, Dean, after Liturgy

***Saturday, October 29 – 11:30 AM Feed My Starving Children @
Parker United Methodist Church, 11805 Pine Drive***

*A mission parish under the omophorion of His Eminence Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,
Orthodox Church in America*



ST TIKHON ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Sunday, October 16, 2016
Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council



*The Church of Hagia Sophia in Nicaea (now Iznik, Turkey),
site of the Seventh Ecumenical Council*

Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck
Other services as announced

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Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

Today the Church remembers the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council under the holy Patriarch Tarasius. The Synod of 787, the second to meet at Nicea, refuted the Iconoclast heresy during the reign of Empress Irene and her son Constantine VI. The Council decreed that the veneration of icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype (the person depicted). It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because “no man has seen God at any time” (John 1:18).

Martyr Longinus the Centurion, who stood at the Cross of the Lord

The Holy Martyr Longinus the Centurion, a Roman soldier, served in Judea under the command of the Governor, Pontius Pilate. When our Savior Jesus Christ was crucified, it was the detachment of soldiers under the command of Longinus which stood watch on Golgotha, at the very foot of the holy Cross. Longinus and his soldiers were eyewitnesses of the final moments of the earthly life of the Lord, and of the great and awesome portents that appeared at His death. These events shook the centurion’s soul. Longinus believed in Christ and confessed before everyone, “Truly this was the Son of God” (Mt. 27:54).

According to Church Tradition, Longinus was the soldier who pierced the side of the Crucified Savior with a spear, and received healing from an eye affliction when blood and water poured forth from the wound. After the Crucifixion and Burial of the Savior, Longinus stood watch with his company at the Sepulchre of the Lord. These soldiers were present at the All-Radiant Resurrection of Christ. The Jews bribed them to lie and say that His disciples had stolen away the Body of Christ, but Longinus and two of his comrades refused to be seduced by the Jewish gold. They also refused to remain silent about the miracle of the Resurrection.

Having come to believe in the Savior, the soldiers received Baptism from the apostles and decided to leave military service. St Longinus left Judea to preach about Jesus Christ the Son of God in his native land (Cappadocia), and his two comrades followed him.

The fiery words of those who had actually participated in the great events in Judea swayed the hearts and minds of the Cappadocians; Christianity began quickly to spread throughout the city and the surrounding villages. When they learned of this, the Jewish elders persuaded Pilate to send a company of soldiers to Cappadocia to kill Longinus and his comrades. When the soldiers arrived at Longinus’s village, the former centurion himself came out to meet the soldiers and took them to his home. After a meal, the soldiers revealed the purpose of their visit, not knowing that the master of the house was the very man whom they were seeking. Then Longinus and his friends identified themselves and told the startled soldiers to carry out their duty.

The soldiers wanted to let the saints go and advised them to flee, but they refused to do this, showing their firm intention to suffer for Christ. The holy martyrs were beheaded, and their bodies were buried at the place where the saints were martyred. The head of St Longinus, however, was sent to Pilate.

Pilate gave orders to cast the martyr’s head on a trash-heap outside the city walls. After a while a certain blind widow from Cappadocia arrived in Jerusalem with her son to pray at the holy places, and to ask that her sight be restored. After becoming blind, she had sought the help of physicians to cure her, but all their efforts were in vain. The woman’s son became ill shortly after reaching Jerusalem, and he died a few days later. The widow grieved for the loss of her son, who had served as her guide.

St Longinus appeared to her in a dream and comforted her. He told her that she would see her son in heavenly glory, and also receive her sight. He told her to go outside the city walls and there she would find his head in a great pile of refuse. Guides led the blind woman to the rubbish heap, and she began to dig with her hands. As soon as she touched the martyr’s head, the woman received her sight, and she glorified God and St Longinus.

Taking up the head, she brought it to the place she was staying and washed it. The next night, St Longinus appeared to her again, this time with her son. They were surrounded by a bright light, and St Longinus said, Woman, behold the son for whom you grieve. See what glory and honor are his now, and be consoled. God has numbered him with those in His heavenly Kingdom. Now take my head and your son’s body, and bury them in the same casket. Do not weep for your son, for he will rejoice forever in great glory and happiness.”

The woman carried out the saint’s instructions and returned to her home in Cappadocia. There she buried her son and the head of St Longinus. Once, she had been overcome by grief for her son, but her weeping was transformed into joy when she saw him with St Longinus. She had sought healing for her eyes, and also received healing of her soul.

Also this week: *Prophet Hosea (October 17); HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST LUKE (October 18); Prophet Joel (October 19); Greatmartyr Artemius of Antioch (October 20); Ven. Hilarion the Great (October 21); MEMORIAL SATURDAY – DEMETRIUS SATURDAY; Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Abercius, Bp and Wonderworker of Hieropolis (October 22).*

*** “regular” fasting all week ***

Epistles: II Corinthians 6:16-7:1 (Sunday) / Hebrews 13:7-16 (Fathers)
Gospels: Luke 8:5-15 (Sunday) / John 17:1-13 (Fathers)

Troparion – Tone 8 (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend from on *high*, O Merciful One! /
Thou didst accept the *three*-day burial to free us from our sufferings! ///
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee!

Troparion – Tone 8 (Fathers)

Most glorious art *Thou*, O Christ our God! / Thou hast established the *Holy* Fathers as lights on the earth! /
Through them Thou hast guided *us* to the True Faith! /// O greatly-compassionate *One*, glory to Thee!

Kontakion – Tone 8 (Resurrection)

By rising from the *tomb*, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. /
Eve exults in *Thy* Resurrection, ///
And the world celebrates Thy Rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Kontakion – Tone 6 (Fathers)

The Son, having shone ineffably from the Father, / Having two *natures* was born of a woman. /
We do not reject His image when we gaze upon it, / But piously representing it, we honor it with faith. /
Therefore the Church, having the True Faith, /// Kisses the *icon* of the incarnation of Christ.