

Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea

The First Council of Nicaea is the First Ecumenical Council of the Church. The meeting took place in Nicaea which is in Bithynia (modern day Turkey). Emperor Constantine the First (325AD) called this meeting because heresiarch Arius began a blasphemous teaching against the Son and Word of God. In response to the improper teachings, the council needed to develop doctrine for the Church.

The Bishops of the land were invited to attend this Council. 318 Bishops were in attendance most from the Eastern Church. Among these Bishops were a number of well-known saints such as Nicholas of Myra, Athanasius the Great, Alexander of Alexandria, and Spyridon of Trimythous. The agenda included the following items:

1. The Arian question regarding the relationship between God the Father and Jesus; i.e. are the Father and Son one in divine purpose only or also one in being
2. The date of celebration of the Paschal/Easter observation

The meeting opened on May 20. The first item addressed was the Arian question. After a month of negotiations the Bishops agreed to the original Nicene Creed. This creed was used to define the Church's faith clearly for all those who profess it.

Outside of developing the Creed this council was faced with coming up with a method to determine the date of Pascha. It was determined Christians should not celebrate Pascha on the same day of Jewish Passover. The Council decided Christians would celebrate Pascha on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).

During this meeting the Father of the Council developed 20 Canons (laws) for the Church. These twenty canons included the laws of conditions for ordination, hierarchical structure, life and status of clergy, penance and reconciliation of failed Christians, and liturgical discipline. The first 20 canons can be found in the blog section of the St. Anna Youth webpage.

The First Ecumenical Council is commemorated the seventh Sunday after Pascha and May 29. The Council is also remembered on the ninth Sunday after Pentacost, Sunday of the Fathers of the First Six Councils.

Kontakion of the First Ecumenical Council: *The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one faith for the Church. Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, It defines and glorifies the great mystery of Orthodoxy!*

The Happiest Place on Earth Disneyland

The GOYA will depart for their annual Disneyland Trip on Monday, June 14- Wednesday, June 16. The cost is \$130 per child which includes two nights hotel, breakfast for two days, Disneyland entrance, and a BBQ. Transportation costs will be finalized in the coming days. Please let Michelle Hawe know if you plan to attend by Tuesday, May 21 so we can order tickets and reserve hotels.

Trip Itinerary:

Monday, June 14

Depart for Southern California

Day at the Beach

BBQ

Tuesday, June 15

Disneyland

Wednesday, June 16

Visit a Southern California Sister parish

Trip Home

Chaperones are still needed for the trip! Please contact Michelle Hawe if you would like to participate as a participant or chaperone!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Religious Education: Religious Education Commencement/Promotion will be on Sunday, June 6. Please let Michelle Hawe know of any of our youth graduating high school and those moving into high school.

GOYA News: Tuesday evening the Jr. High and High School students will gather at the Church for a night of discussion and fellowship. This week the kids will be helping in Food Festival preparation. Join us for the fun!

JOY/HOPE News: JOY/HOPE is on Wednesday evenings. We will be meeting at 6:30 pm in the preschool rooms.

Summer Camp: During the summer our parish will go to St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center for the first week of Summer Camp, July 11-17. Throughout the week our youth will participate in the worship cycle, faith based discussions, swimming, arts and crafts, sports, a trip to the Sequoia's, and the annual Olympics. Each evening there is a different activity such as game night, camp fire, skit night, a dance and more. All the youth that have experienced camp love it and look forward to going back the next year because of their experiences and friendships that are made.



JOY/GOYA Six Flag Discovery Kingdom Trip

This year we will be taking our JOY and GOYAnS who would like to attend to Marine World on Tuesday, June 22. We will be departing the Church at 9:00 am for a full day of fun and excitement. Tickets for the park are \$26 per participant. Transportation costs are not included in ticket price. Chaperones are needed! All release forms are located on the website. To reserve your families place please pay for tickets to Michelle Hawe no later than May 24.

Save the Date

May 23 Pentecost- Family Worship Day
June 6 Religious Education Commencement
June 14-16 GOYA Disneyland Trip
June 20 Discovery Kingdom Trip
June 22 Marine World Trip (JOY)
July 11-17 Parish to Summer Camp

Youth Website and Facebook

Join St. Anna Youth and Young Adult Ministries on the web! Stay up to date on all youth news and events by logging onto www.saintanna.org/youth. The site can also be found through the Parish homepage (www.saintanna.org).

Our site is a place for our youth to share pictures, join us on Facebook, and view my blog about hot topics, retreats, and more. Also join us on Facebook search for Saint Anna Greek Orthodox Shrine Youth and Young Adult Ministries and join the conversation.

Weekly Schedule

Tuesday, May 18	GOYA	6:30 pm
Wednesday, May 19	JOY and HOPE Meeting	6:30 pm
Saturday, May 22	Vespers Young Adults at Michelle's	5:00 pm 6:00 pm