

## COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

The Orthodox Church acknowledges Seven Holy Ecumenical Councils: The First Ecumenical Council (Nicea I) (May 29, and also on seventh Sunday after Pascha) was convened in the year 325 against the heresy of Arius, in the city of Nicea in Bithynia under St. Constantine the Great, Equal of the Apostles.

The Second Ecumenical Council (Constantinople I) (May 22) was convened in the year 381 against the heresy of Macedonias, by the emperor Theodosius the Great.

The Third Ecumenical Council (Ephesus) (September 9) was convened in the year 431 against the heresy of Nestorius, in the city of Ephesus by the emperor Theodosius the Younger.

The Fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon) (July 16) was convened in the year 451, against the Monophysite heresy, in the city of Chalcedon under the emperor Marcian.

The Fifth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople II) (July 25) "Concerning the Three Chapters," was convened in the year 553, under the emperor Justinian the Great.

The Sixth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople III) (January 23) met during the years 680-681, to fight the Monothelite heresy, under the emperor Constantine Pogonatos.

The fact that the Seventh Ecumenical Council (Nicea II) is not commemorated today testifies to the antiquity of today's celebration. The Seventh Council, commemorated on the Sunday nearest to October 11, was convened at Nicea in the year 787 against the Iconoclast heresy, under the emperor Constantine and his mother Irene.

The Church venerates the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils because Christ has established them as "lights upon the earth," guiding us to the true Faith. "Adorned with the robe of truth," the doctrine of the Fathers, based upon the preaching of the Apostles, has established one faith for the Church. The Ecumenical Councils, are the highest authority in the Church.

The Ecumenical Councils were always convened for a specific reason: to combat false opinions and heresies, and to clarify the Orthodox Church's teaching. But the Holy Spirit has thus seen fit, that the dogmas, the truths of faith, immutable in their content and scope, constantly and consequently are revealed by the conciliar mind of the Church, and are given precision by the holy Fathers within theological concepts and terms in exactly such measure as is needed by the Church itself for its economy of salvation. The Church, in expounding its dogmas, is dealing with the concerns of a given historical moment, "not revealing everything in haste and thoughtlessly, nor indeed, ultimately hiding something" (St Gregory the Theologian).

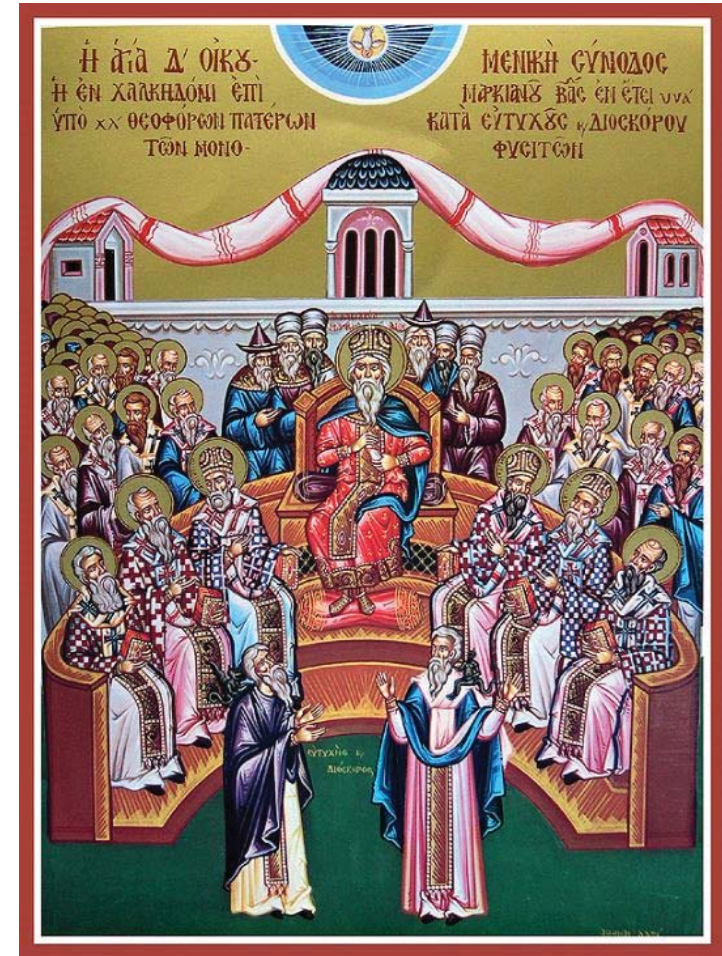
New historical conditions can lead to the change of some particular external aspect of the life of the Church. This makes creative canonical activity necessary in the conciliar reasoning of the Church, in order to reconcile the external norms of churchly life with historical circumstances. The details of canonical regulation are not fully developed for the various eras of churchly organization at all once. With every push to either forsake the literal meaning of a canon, or to fulfill and develop it, the Church again and again turns for reasoning and guidance to the eternal legacy of the Holy Ecumenical Councils, to the inexhaustible treasury of dogmatic and canonical truths.

- <http://www.oca.org> [excerpt]



## ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Port Townsend, WA



Sunday, July 18th, 2010  
8th Sunday after Pentecost  
Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the  
First Six Ecumenical Councils  
Martyr Emilian. Martyr Hyacinth. Nun  
Martyrs Grand Duchess Elizabeth and Barbara.

## **St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church**

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the West  
1407 30th Street, Port Townsend, WA 98368  
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Elizabeth and Barbara.  
Tone 7

### **Schedule**

Hours & Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am  
Children's Class and Coffee Hour after Liturgy

### **Readings**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 & Hebrews 13:7-16  
Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22 & John 17:1-13

### **RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION – TONE 7**

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death! To the thief, Thou didst open  
Paradise! For the Myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy!  
And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim  
that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy!

### **TROPARION – TONE 8**

Thou are most glorious, 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!

### **RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION – TONE 7**

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ  
descended, shattering and destroying its powers! Hell is bound, while  
the prophets rejoice and cry: The Savior has come to those in faith!  
Enter, you faithful, into the resurrection!

### **KONTAKION – TONE 8**

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 piety.

### **This Week at St. Herman's**

**Monday, July 19th – *St. Macrina; St. Seraphim of Sarov***

**Tuesday, July 20th – *Prophet Elias***

**Wednesday, July 21st**

7:00 pm Vespers

**Thursday, July 22nd – *St. Mary Magdalene***

**Saturday, July 24th**

7:00 pm Great Vespers

### **Announcements**

Father Nicholas will be away from July 17-27. Fr. Vadim  
Pogrebniak will be available in case of a pastoral emergency. He  
can be reached at 206-546-0353. Fr. Nicholas's phone while  
traveling is 360-381-8388.

Please welcome Fr. Vadim Pogrebniak, who will be serving the  
Divine Liturgy today. Fr. Irenaeus Williams will be serving next  
Sunday, July 25th.