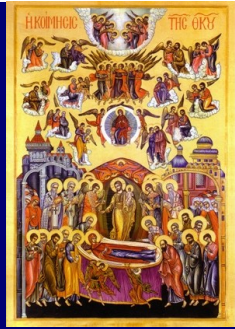


CHURCH STAFF

- Parish Priest: Very Reverend Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos
- Parish Council President: Christy Chappell Belkin
- Philoptochos President: Maria Molzahn
- Sunday School Directors: Susu Saba
- Greek School: Ilektra Kolokouri
- Choir Director: George Tzougros

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Wonder Worker

MAY 2025

NEVER TO LATE

In society today we have developed an obsession with winning, and being the first and the best at everything we do, and this is in no way wrong. But are we focusing our zeal into all areas of our life or just in the ones that are important to us. There are things happening all around us, that we sometimes have a tendency of overlooking. If it does not directly affect us, we pay it no attention. Unfortunately the Church sometimes falls into this bracket, not out of malice contempt, but more because we tend to not worry about the church. It is always there when it is needed, and will continue to be there. Fortunate for us, God does not take the same position with us. No where is this better noted than in the glorious sermon of Saint John Chrysostom which is read every year on Pascha in Orthodox Churches all around the world.

This famous sermon starts with a simple request. It asks all who are believers to enjoy the wonderful feast of Pascha. It does not ask only those who are in good standing, those who live their lives in accordance to all the rules of the Church. It simply asks all those who believe to partake in the joy which is the Resurrection of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. Now St. John continues by telling us in even greater detail that or those who toiled from the beginning all the way to those who arrived at the last minute, are all to rejoice in the feast. Think about how great these few words are in explaining God's love towards humanity. It does not matter where you may put your priorities in life, it simply tells us to partake in the feast. God does not turn away those who come last, nor does God give to those who were there from the very beginning any extra credit. The sermon continues on to say that it does not matter if you are rich or poor, if you fasted or did not. It is simply telling us to rejoice.

Now we get to the part of the sermon that for myself is the most moving. It is the triumph of Christ over Satan. We see a series of statements beginning with "It was Embittered", and immediately the laity respond by repeating it. To hear the whole congregation shout out together is an awe inspiring moment for me. To hear so many faithful cry out in unison moves me to tears. It shows the power of Christ's resurrection, and the effect it had on the world for 2,000 years now. It continues on now focusing on the crushing of Satan's power over us and this world. "He is Risen! Oh death where is your sting" "Christ is Risen! And you are Annihilated." Christ destroyed the Devil and brought us back into eternal life. He allowed us to once again to enter into God's kingdom. Let us take to heart this joyous gift that was given to us, and let us redirect our lives towards Christ. I conclude now with the only response able to show you the love we owe Christ.

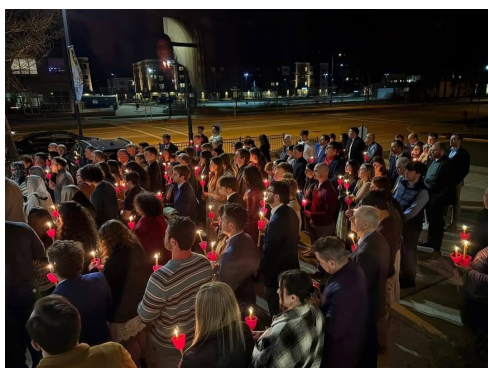
CHRIST IS RISEN!

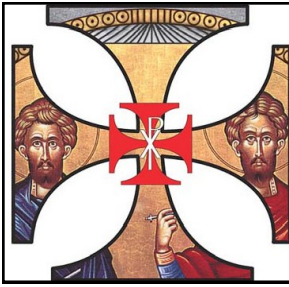
+Very Rev. Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Strict Fast Day	3
4 Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School/Creek School	5	6	7 Strict Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	8	9 Strict Fast Day	10 Russian Mission
11 Sunday of the Paralytic 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School/Creek School	12	13	14 Strict Fast Day 11:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	15	16 Strict Fast	17 Philoptochos Baking Day Youth Outing to Second Harvest Food Pantry
18 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Last Day of Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School/Creek School	19	20 8:00 p.m. Great Vespers at Saints Constantine & Helen Milwaukee 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	21 Strict Fast Day Saints Constantine & Helen 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	22	23 Strict Fast Day	24 Russian Mission
25 Sunday of the Blind Man 8:30 a.m. Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy	26 Memorial Day Cemetery Memorial Services See Fr. Christodoulos	27	28 Fast Day (Fish Permitted)	29 Ascension of our Lord 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy	30 Strict Fast Day	31 Philoptochos Baking Day

PICTURES FROM LENT & PASCHA





FOCUS ON PHILOTOCHOS HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

Agapi Forward, May Philoptochos Newsletter
Maria Katsaros-Molzahn

Christos Anesti, Christ Is Risen!

May is here and with it our elections! The meeting on May 18th will be held after church to align with the National Philoptochos Bylaws of a face-to-face meeting and vote. Thank you to our election chairs, Patty Cameron and Barb Karavolas, for contacting and securing our slate of electors.

May also begins our summer baking season for our Greek Fest Plus sale. Please plan to join us for two Saturdays: May 17 and May 31 starting at 9:00 a.m. for koulourakia and kourambiethes baking. Please let Margo know if you can make it: margos1255@gmail.com or 608-335-6408.

Of course, May leads into June and the annual Spring Social hosted by Elene and Sue. Our hostesses kindly request that people RSVP by May 25 so they can plan accordingly. Please contact Elene at alikisage@gmail.com or Sue at solofam5@yahoo.com and let them know if you can attend.

In June we will also be making the Spanakopita on Saturday, June 28th (more information to follow).

Assumption Sunday School

PACKAGE FOOD & PICNIC



SATURDAY MAY 17, 2025



Children of grades 3rd-12th and their parents are welcome to come help package food for the Second Harvest Food Pantry. Second Harvest Foodbank - 2802 Dairy Drive Madison, WI 53718 **(12:30 - 3:30 pm)**

Afterwards, all grades and families can join us for a fun picnic at Brittingham Park - 829 W. Washington Ave. Madison, WI 53715 to celebrate the end of the Sunday school, school year! Please bring food and games to play.
(4:00 - 6:30 pm)



**There are limited slots for the food pantry sign-up.
Please let Father Christodoulos or Susu know if you are interested.**

YOUTH CORNER



Christ is Risen, Truly He is Risen!

Blessed Pascha everyone, we hope you are enjoying the beautiful spring season of May.

There is a date change to an event happening in May. This month students in grades 3rd grade and older will volunteer at the **Second Food Harvest Pantry** from 12:30-3:30 pm to help package food for people and families in need (2802 Dairy Drive Madison, WI 53718). There are only 21 slots available including parent chaperones. Final day to sign up will be on **Sunday May 11th**. This is a great opportunity for the children to learn to give back to the community and apply what they've learned in Sunday school to help those in need.

Afterwards all families of Sunday school, including the younger children, are welcome to join us at **Brittingham Park** (829 W. Washington Ave. Madison, WI 53715) from 4:00-6:30 pm for a Sunday school end of year celebration! Please bring with you a blanket, snacks/food, drinks, and games to enjoy the day together in fellowship. Hope you can make it!

There are only three more **Sunday school** classes until the year finishes up before summer break.

- Sunday May 4th
- Sunday May 11th
- Sunday May 18th (last day of Sunday school)
- Sunday May 25th - Memorial Day weekend No Sunday School

On **Sunday June 1st**, after liturgy we will have the Sunday school graduation celebration for our 8th graders graduating from Sunday school! We wish you the best of luck as you move on to high school. May the guidance and love of the Theotokos protect you always.

In Christ,
Susu Akkawi

COMMUNITY NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Will be held on Tuesday, May 20th at 7:00 p.m.

PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING: The Next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 18th hollowing Liturgy.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS: We have begun A.R.E. classes. We will be starting "Spiritual Counsels" Classes are on Wednesday's at 11:00 a.m. and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join us.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL MEETING: Women's spiritual zoom meetings will be on Thursday, May 15th at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in participating and you haven't signed in yet please contact Peli Galiti at pegaliti@gmail.com You will get the zoom link in your email.

SAVE THE DATE - TUESDAY JULY 8th PARISH OUTING TO MADISON MALLARDS: This year in July our parish will have an outing to the Madison Mallards game on Tuesday, July 8th with the game beginning at 6:05 p.m. More information will be available soon.

STEWARDSHIP NOTE: Supporting the Church is EACH Orthodox Christian's responsibility to the Lord. From the single young adult to the married couple to the young family to those who are senior citizens, it takes everyone's commitment to support OUR parish of Assumption and promote OUR Orthodox Christian Faith!

Many thanks to all those who have pledged and we invite all those who haven't to please submit their pledge to the church office today.

GRADUATE SUNDAY: On Sunday, June 1st the parish honors the academic accomplishments of our youth. We are to honor our graduates from high school, college or university who have had their names submitted to Fr. Christodoulos by Monday, May 25th. (Please email or call to confirm.) Telling Father after church does not equal contacting him.) This is also the day we honor our 8th Grade Sunday School Graduates. The last day of Sunday School will be Sunday, May, 18th.

THE MEMORY OF A GLORIOUS WEEK: Holy Week and Pascha are now history for 2024. Warm words of appreciation are due to a myriad of volunteers who helped to make Pascha such a meaningful experience in our lives. The altar boys, choir, chanters, readers, Myrrhobares ushers, the people who decorated the Epitaphios, the dyers of the Easter eggs, flowers and many more shall occupy a special place in our hearts and prayers. Thank you all and God bless!

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES: In remembrance of Memorial Day, our Church clergy will be chanting the Trisagion Service at grave sites on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th. At 10:00 a.m. at Forest Hill Cemetery. Fr. Christodoulos will be at Forest Hill Cemetery, weather permitting, until 11:00 a.m. At approximately 11:10 a.m. Fr. Christodoulos will be at Resurrection Cemetery until noon. If Father is not at a graveside he will be waiting in his car. You are welcome to Call or text him to set up a time.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL OR ESTATE PLANNING: As we begin this new year, please consider making a Planned Gift to the Church. A Planned Gift is an opportunity to leave a legacy that strengthens the Church and supports its vital ministries and will leave an impact that will be felt for years to come. It may also give you substantial current tax benefits as well as estate tax benefits. If you are interested in finding out more about the many ways that the Church can be included in your will or estate planning, please contact a Parish Council Member.

FOOD FOR THE NEEDY: Please help the needy and bring non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry. Canned vegetables and fruits, pasta, baby food, canned meals, peanut butter and jelly, pasta sauce, cereal, canned soup, etc. We are always so fortunate and thankful that we have generous parishioners. We are able to feed many of those in need, with your help. Place any items in the Barrel in the Foyer

NEW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT DRIVE: As a community we have always tried and succeeded in taking care of and upgrading our Sanctuary and facilities. We the spirit of continuously improving our church. We are beginning a long term Capital Improvement Fund Drive. We are looking at 3 particular future projects. These are the Broken Sewer pipe in our back parking lot, Replacing and upgrading our current church sound system and remodeling our kitchen. The months ahead we will be formally setting up a Capital Improvement Fund Drive Committee who will spearhead the entire process. We ask everyone to consider this in future giving, funeral memorials and in planned giving. If you are interested in giving a donation for the Capital Fund please put "Capital Improvement Fund Drive" on the memo line of the check or mark it on the envelope. Together we can get these projects finished.

JULY 11-13

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
11 N. Seventh St., Madison, WI 53704

ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP \$270 for 3-day class

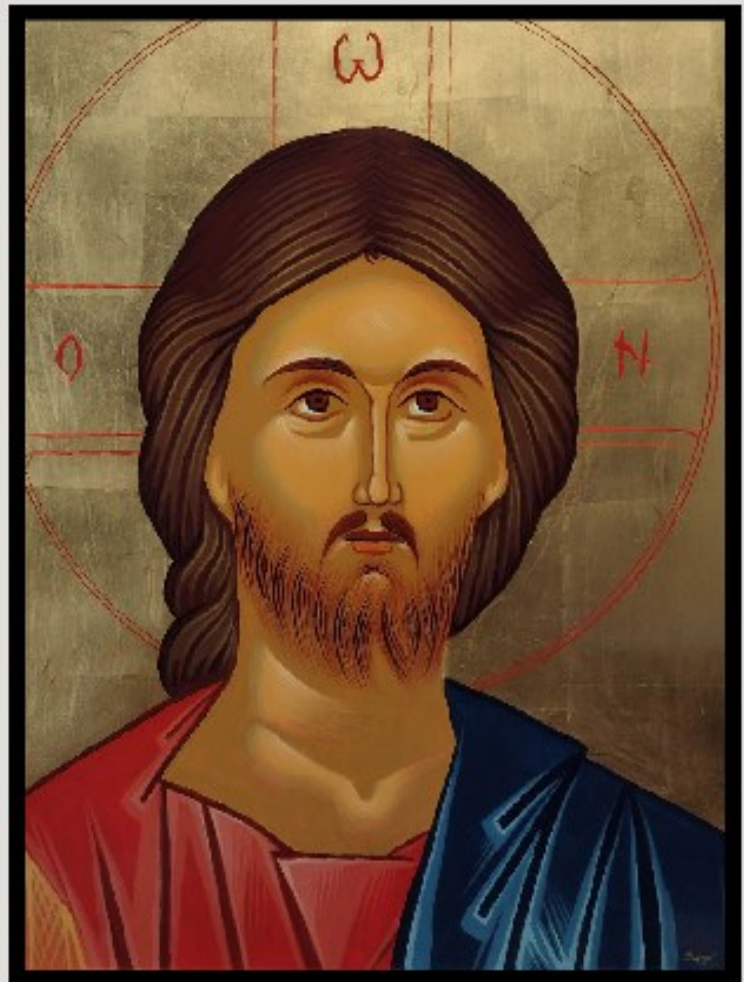
Join us for a three-day workshop painting the icon of Jesus.

Iconographer Drazen Dupor will lead a step-by-step class to create an icon using Byzantine technique.

No previous experience necessary. All materials included. Each participant will complete their own icon.

Workshop Hours

Fri. July 11 5 PM -- 8 PM
Sat. July 12 9 AM -- 5 PM
Sun. July 13 1 PM -- 5 PM



Register by June 15!

Scan the QR code
or email Christy at
christy.chappell@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

TUESDAY, JULY 8

GATES OPEN: 5:05 PM

FIRST PITCH: 6:05 PM

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW





FANARI CAMP PRESENTS

LIGHTHOUSE

EST. 2019

June 21-28, 2025 Waukesha, Wisconsin

A summer program for the high school class of 2025
where we facilitate reflection on self, God, and
neighbor, teaching you an immense amount about
who you are and what your purpose is in this world
and providing a deeper understanding of our faith.
Plus, fun activities and excursions in
and around Milwaukee!

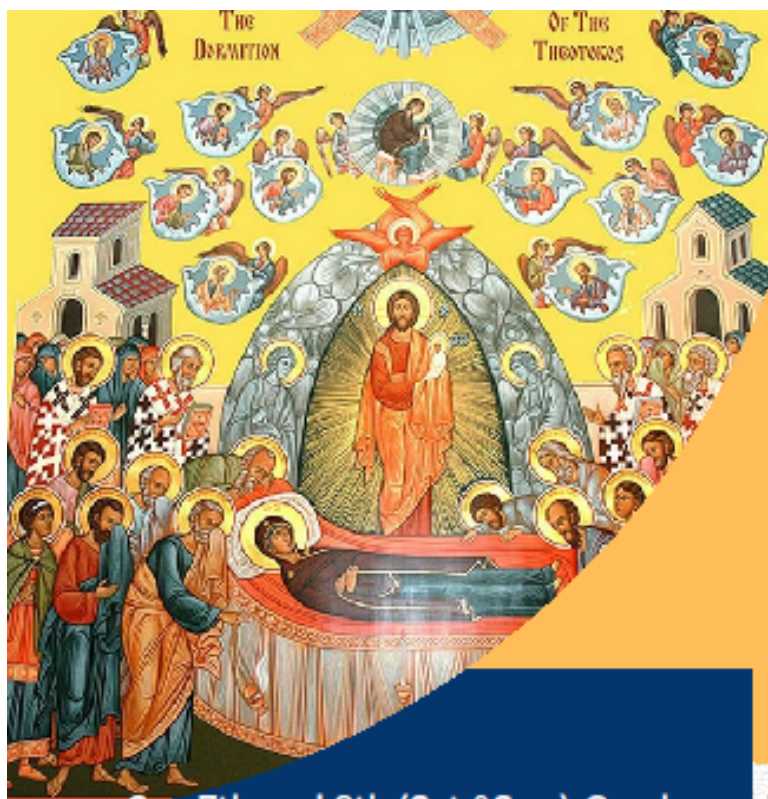
**This might be exactly what
you need after graduation!**

Registration opens
March 10



Scan here for
more info & to
register





SAVE THE DATES

Assumption

Sunday School 2024-2025 Events

Mark your calendars for the different Sunday school events for the new school year!

Sep 7th and 8th (Sat & Sun): Greek Fest +

Sep 15th (Sun) : First day of Sunday school

Oct 20th (Sun): Pumpkin patch and corn maze family outing

Nov 10th (Sun): Chili cook off fundraiser

Nov 15th (Fri): Kolyva Night

**Dec 1st (Sun): No Classes
Thanksgiving break**

Dec 13th (Fri): Ginger bread night

Dec 15th (Sun): Christmas Pageant

**Dec 22nd & Dec 29th: No Classes
Christmas Break**

Jan 12th (Sun): Ice Skating at Edgewater

**Feb 2nd (Sun): God Parents Day
Breakfast fundraiser**

Feb 17th (Mon): Family bowling night

Mar 3rd (Mon): Lent Starts

Mar 30th (Sun): No Classes Spring Break

Apr 12th (Sat): Lazarus Retreat

Apr 13th (Sun): No Classes Palm Sunday

Apr 20th (Sun): No Classes Pascha

May 4th (Sun): Family picnic outing

May 18th (Sun): Last day of Sunday school

Jun 1st (Sun): Graduate Sunday Celebration



FANARI CAMPING MINISTRY EVENTS

2024-2025

OCT 4-6, 2024

Fall Camp

NOV 22-24, 2024

High School Girls Retreat

DEC 30, 2024

Reunion Dance
at Ascension of Our Lord

JAN 17-20, 2025

Winter Camp

MAR 22, 2025

Lenten Retreat
Locations TBD

JUN 15-21, 2025

Summer Camp:
Session 1

JUN 21-28, 2025

Lighthouse

JUN 22-28, 2025

Summer Camp:
Session 2

JUN 29-JUL 5, 2025

Summer Camp:
Session 3

JUL 6-12, 2025

Summer Camp:
Session 4

JUL 13-19, 2025

Summer Camp:
Session 5



WWW.FANARI.CAMP



@fanari.camp.official

Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of Chicago
St. Iakovos Retreat Center
Kansasville, Wisconsin

Equal of the Apostles and Emperor Constantine with his Mother Helen: The Church calls Saint Constantine (306-337) “the Equal of the Apostles,” and historians call him “the Great.” He was the son of the Caesar Constantius Chlorus (305-306), who governed the lands of Gaul and Britain. His mother was Saint Helen, a Christian of humble birth.

At this time the immense Roman Empire was divided into Western and Eastern halves, governed by two independent emperors and their corulers called “Caesars.” Constantius Chlorus was Caesar in the Western Roman Empire. Saint Constantine was born in 274, possibly at Nish in Serbia. In 294, Constantius divorced Helen in order to further his political ambition by marrying a woman of noble rank. After he became emperor, Constantine showed his mother great honor and respect, granting her the imperial title “Augusta.”

Constantine, the future ruler of all the whole Roman Empire, was raised to respect Christianity. His father did not persecute Christians in the lands he governed. This was at a time when Christians were persecuted throughout the Roman Empire by the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and his corulers Maximian Galerius (305-311) in the East, and the emperor Maximian Hercules (284-305) in the West.

After the death of Constantius Chlorus in 306, Constantine was acclaimed by the army at York as emperor of Gaul and Britain. The first act of the new emperor was to grant the freedom to practice Christianity in the lands subject to him. The pagan Maximian Galerius in the East and the fierce tyrant Maxentius in the West hated Constantine and they plotted to overthrow and kill him, but Constantine bested them in a series of battles, defeating his opponents with the help of God. He prayed to God to give him a sign which would inspire his army to fight valiantly, and the Lord showed him a radiant Sign of the Cross in the heavens with the inscription “In this Sign, conquer.”

After Constantine became the sole ruler of the Western Roman Empire, he issued the Edict of Milan in 313 which guaranteed religious tolerance for Christians. Saint Helen, who was a Christian, may have influenced him in this decision. In 323, when he became the sole ruler of the entire Roman Empire, he extended the provisions of the Edict of Milan to the Eastern half of the Empire. After three hundred years of persecution, Christians could finally practice their faith without fear.

Renouncing paganism, the Emperor did not let his capital remain in ancient Rome, the former center of the pagan realm. He transferred his capital to the East, to the city of Byzantium, which was renamed Constantinople, the city of Constantine (May 11). Constantine was deeply convinced that only Christianity could unify the immense Roman Empire with its diverse peoples. He supported the Church in every way. He recalled Christian confessors from banishment, he built churches, and he showed concern for the clergy.

The emperor deeply revered the victory-bearing Sign of the Cross of the Lord, and also wanted to find the actual Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. For this purpose he sent his own mother, the holy Empress Helen, to Jerusalem, granting her both power and money. Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem and Saint Helen began the search, and through the will of God, the Life-Creating Cross was miraculously discovered in 326. (The account of the finding of the Cross of the Lord is found under the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, September 14). The Orthodox Church commemorates the Uncovering of the Precious Cross and the Precious Nails by the Holy Empress Helen on March 6.

While in Palestine, the holy empress did much of benefit for the Church. She ordered that all places connected with the earthly life of the Lord and His All-Pure Mother, should be freed of all traces of paganism, and she commanded that churches should be built at these places.

The emperor Constantine ordered a magnificent church in honor of Christ’s Resurrection to be built over His tomb. Saint Helen gave the Life-Creating Cross to the Patriarch for safe-keeping, and took part of the Cross with her for the emperor. After distributing generous alms at Jerusalem and feeding the needy (at times she

even served them herself), the holy Empress Helen returned to Constantinople, where she died in the year 327.

Because of her great services to the Church and her efforts in finding the Life-Creating Cross, the empress Helen is called “the Equal of the Apostles.”

The peaceful state of the Christian Church was disturbed by quarrels, dissensions and heresies which had appeared within the Church. Already at the beginning of Saint Constantine’s reign the heresies of the Donatists and the Novatians had arisen in the West. They demanded a second baptism for those who lapsed during the persecutions against Christians. These heresies, repudiated by two local Church councils, were finally condemned at the Council of Milan in 316.

Particularly ruinous for the Church was the rise of the Arian heresy in the East, which denied the Divine Nature of the Son of God, and taught that Jesus Christ was a mere creature. By order of the emperor, the First Ecumenical Council was convened in the city of Nicea in 325.

318 bishops attended this Council. Among its participants were confessor-bishops from the period of the persecutions and many other luminaries of the Church, among whom was Saint Nicholas of Myra in Lycia. (The account about the Council is found under May 29). The emperor was present at the sessions of the Council. The heresy of Arius was condemned and a Symbol of Faith (Creed) composed, in which was included the term “consubstantial with the Father,” at the insistence of the Emperor, confirming the truth of the divinity of Jesus Christ, Who assumed human nature for the redemption of all the human race.

After the Council of Nicea, Saint Constantine continued with his active role in the welfare of the Church. He accepted holy Baptism on his deathbed, having prepared for it all his whole life. Saint Constantine died on the day of Pentecost in the year 337 and was buried in the church of the Holy Apostles, in a crypt he had prepared for himself.

