

**Prayers for our Parishioners.** The particular law of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church directs that the pastor is to offer the Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish entrusted to him on Sundays and days of precept [holy days of obligation]" (canon 294). This liturgy intention for all parishioners is "For the Intention of Parishioners." The faithful who attend the Divine Liturgy for the parishioners who participate, according to their state, in praying for that intention. We can continue this prayer for one another during the week by remembering several parishioners and families each week. Please remember this week: Joyce Galovich, Charles and Helen Gaush & family, Dorothy Gaydos, Mary Gaydos, Aaron George, Robert and Kyra Gerardi & family, Diana and Eugene Goldlust & family, and from the Mission, Richard and Anita Rhinehart.

**Pentecost Rituals.** We express our joy in the resurrection by several rituals during Bright Week: As a sign of the joy that is ours in the resurrection, we do not kneel from Easter Sunday until Pentecost for any of the liturgical services, for the time of penance is completed, and joy now reigns. We resume sitting at the litanies, the first and second antiphons and the Troparia as well as the apostolic reading and homily.

**Seventh Sunday of Pascha.** The time between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost is a time of waiting. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He commanded the apostles to "wait for the promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4) which is the Holy Spirit. At the Last Supper Jesus had explained "it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go the Paraclete will not come to you, but if I go, I will send Him to you" (John 16:7). Jesus

has taken His glorified human nature to heaven and thereby as the First-Fruits opened heaven for those followers who follow Jesus gospel. In order for His followers to follow, Jesus must go to send the Holy Spirit to be in the Church effecting the sacraments and distributing God's grace in order to make the followers "Partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4). This Sunday, the seventh Sunday of Pascha, is also a commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council held at Nicea in 325 to respond definitively to the priest Arius who denied that Jesus was God. The bishops condemned Arianism and wrote the Nicene Creed. The fathers also settled the date for Pascha and church discipline.

**Fasting Discipline.** Fridays are Days of Penance, weekly Great and Good Fridays before Sundays which are the weekly Easter. One may abstain from meat or do an equivalent penitential practice.

**Condolences.** We offer condolence to Joanne Radko Borden upon the death of her mother, +Anne Radko, who died May 20th. The funeral was Saturday, May 25 at St. Gregory of Nyssa Byzantine Catholic Church, Beltsville, Maryland and interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. May God His departed servant, + Anne, peaceful repose. Vicnaja jej pamjat'.

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Graduates.** If you are a 2019 graduate of 8th grade, high school, college, grad school or the parent of a 2019 graduate, please submit the graduates name and school from which he/she is graduating

**Email Information.** On occasion we need to send an e-mail to all parishioners. We did a

recent message to announce the revised plans in celebrating Fr. John's Ordination Anniversary. If you have an active e-mail account and did not receive a message from the church office [epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net](mailto:epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net) on Friday May 17, then we do not have your e-mail address in our database. Please e-mail, to the address above, or call the office 703-573-3986 to confirm all of your roster information. Remember that office hours are 10:00 - 2:00 Monday - Friday. If your e-mail address needs to be held in confidence please let us know so that it will not be shared.

**Silent Auction Items Needed.** The Annual Epiphany Silent Auction will be held during the Slavic American Festival on Sunday, September 8, 2019. *Donations will be accepted beginning June 2, 2019.* The more items we have in the silent auction the more successful the auction will be. Thinking what you can donate? Silent auction donations have a value of \$25 or more. Donations can be professional services, memorabilia, restaurant and store gift cards, dinners, overnight stays, collectibles, event or sporting tickets, theme baskets, handcrafted items, wine, household services, etc. Have a donation? Contact Terry Matlaga Bell @ [tmatlaga@yahoo.com](mailto:tmatlaga@yahoo.com) or text (703) 606-2937.

**Epiphany Ladies Guild Spring Dance.** The Epiphany Ladies Guild will hold their annual Spring Dance this Saturday, June 8 from 7:30-10:30PM at the Parish Center. Live music is to be provided by The Fairfax Swing Band. Tickets are \$20 per person, \$10 per person for students, and children under 6 are free. The price includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, a dessert bar, wine, beer, varied refreshments, and door prizes.

**Epiphany Ladies Guild June Social.** The Ladies Guild June Social will be held June 22, 2019 at River Bend Club in Great Falls

for dinner overlooking the golf course. This event is limited to 30 ladies of Epiphany Parish 18 or over. Attendees are to be at Epiphany at 2:45 PM. The limo bus leaves promptly at 3:00 PM and return between 5:45 PM to 6:00 PM. RSVP to Daria Parrell at [dtparrell@gmail.com](mailto:dtparrell@gmail.com) or 704-909-6133. Maryanne Smith is also taking reservations at [mbreezy1@verizon.net](mailto:mbreezy1@verizon.net) or 703-283-2564.

**EMC Father-Son Steak Night.** The EMC cordially invites all men and sons to the annual steak dinner to be held Thursday, June 6th at the social hall. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6:30PM with the delicious steak dinner to follow at 7PM. There will be a group photo taken at the dinner so we ask the members to wear their EMC shirts.

**EMC Baseball Game - Save the Date.** On Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, the Epiphany Men's Club will sponsor a baseball trip to Washington, DC to watch Arizona vs. the Nationals. The cost is \$40. The game begins at 1:35 PM. Snacks will be provided from 11:30 until the bus leaves the parking lot at 12:30 PM. Please contact Ed Gubanich at [Ed13456@aol.com](mailto:Ed13456@aol.com) or Bob Gerardi at [gerardisix@gmail.com](mailto:gerardisix@gmail.com) to make a reservation. If you intend to go to the game and have not made a reservation, please do so immediately. Tickets are available. We need to confirm the number of buses needed. This week money for tickets will be collected. There is a waiting list.

**EMC Campout & Picnic.** EMC Campout and Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, June 22nd, with the Camp sites opening at 1:00PM. There will be dinner starting around 5:30PM. Fun and games for all ages and for those staying the night, a pancake and sausage breakfast. We welcome ideas and thoughts for the day. Please see Jeff Nashwinter or Thom Soyka for more information. Sign up for the event will follow.

## EPARCHIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pool Party for Catholic Homeschoolers!**  
*Splish Splash!* Catholic homeschoolers (and those contemplating homeschooling this fall), you are cordially invited to some fun in the sun at Mayflower Homeschoolers' Annual School's Out for Summer Pool Party & Cook-Out! Come meet fellow Catholic homeschoolers while we play in the sun and eat some good grub! Tuesday, June 11, 1-4 PM. Hamburgers, hot dogs, water & lifeguards included! Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and \$3 pool admission per person (ages 3+). RSVP required. See event details & RSVP via this link:

[https://www.mayflowerhomeschoolers.org/2323/events/events\\_view?public=0&eventid=2771321](https://www.mayflowerhomeschoolers.org/2323/events/events_view?public=0&eventid=2771321). Space is limited. So, don't delay, RSVP right away!

*Mayflower Homeschoolers is a Roman Catholic independent homeschool support group under the patronage of Our Lady of Fatima.*  
[www.mayflowerhomeschoolers.org](http://www.mayflowerhomeschoolers.org); Facebook: *Mayflower Homeschoolers*

### Passaic Summer School for Cantors –

July 18-19, 2019 in Hillsborough, NJ  
This two-day class for the cantors of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic is an intensive workshop for anyone who leads our church singing. It will cover:  
The role of the cantor today;  
The “spirit” of our plain chant,  
and why it matters  
Essential musical knowledge for cantors

Developing confidence:  
singing the first three notes  
Pitch choice and pitch matching for cantors  
The baptismal and wedding services  
Celebrating your parish feast day  
(patronal feast)  
The funeral service and parastas.  
These presentations are intended to supplement, not replace, online courses and other educational opportunities, and cover material best done in-person or in church. One topic chosen by the attendees will also be covered, and all classes will integrate liturgical and spiritual aspects of our Byzantine heritage with liturgical singing. Both new and experienced cantors are welcome to participate. (Students between the ages of 15 and 18 should have the permission of their parents and pastor.)  
The two-day workshop will be held at Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, 1900 Brooks Blvd., Hillsborough, NJ. The workshop will take place on Thursday and Friday, to accommodate cantors who need to return to their home parishes for services on Saturday. Classes run from 8:30 AM to 5:00, with an optional session on Thursday evening, July 18, from 7 to 9 PM.  
A registration fee of \$100, which may be paid at the start of the class, covers all materials, and lunch for both days.

**Bishop's Appeal** The goal for Epiphany was \$19,800 and the total donated was \$21,490. Forty percent of \$19,800 will be a reversion to the parish.

## Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

### COMING EVENTS

*(see inside for details)*

- Byzantine Spirituality
- Silent Auction
- ELG June Social
- ELG Spring Dance
- EMC Baseball Game
- EMC Family Campout
- Father-Son Steak Night

#### EMC BINGO

06/04/19	Team B
06/11/19	Team C
06/18/19	Team D
06/25/19	Team A

<http://EMCBINGO.com>

June 2, 2019

## TITHING & GIVING

Parish Donations – May 26, 2019

Adults	\$2631.00
Building Fund	\$810.00
School of Religion	\$16.00
Holy Days	\$70.00
Candles	\$140.00
BCY	\$15.00
Retired Religious	\$5.00
St. Nicholas Fund	\$2.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3689.40</b>

*"Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth." (Dt. 8:18)*

## LITURGY AND LIFE

**Prayer Intentions.** Please remember in prayer: Msgr. George Dobes, Michael Mikulak, David Sayen, Mary McDonnell, Justine Ferrari, Louis Shanks, Caroline Zurun, Mary Beth Vieira, Irene Markovich, Mary Gaydos, Betty Markovchick, Jeffrey Sesok, John Vernoski, Marge Rusnak, and Msgr. Dobes. Please pray for these friends and relatives of parishioners: Shirley Anne Markham, Jeffrey Mikulak, Francine O'Leary, Russell Plasha, Tim O'Leary, Joanne Gaudino, Patricia Delfine, Rev. Joseph Jugan, Steven Goula, Fr. Conan Timoney, Eileen Gray, James Seman, Fr. Lee Gross, Mike Shuster, Greg Starr, Florence Kunder, Ed Livingston, Richard Doering, Julia Zdynak, Mary Catharine Bishop, Tim Berty, Joyce Rose, Ethan Augliera, Krista Brazzill, Jean Figel, Doris Stender, June Parrell, Richard Ryaby, Kelly Kunder, and Jeff Lowery.



# EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Byzantine Catholic Church  
3410 Woodburn Road, Annandale, VA 22003  
Phone: 703-573-3986 --- Fax: 703-573-0344  
Very Rev. John G. Basarab - Pastor

Glory to Jesus Christ!  
Glory Forever!

June 2, 2019

Slava Isusu Christu!  
Slava Na Viki!

## DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST NICEAN COUNCIL

June 2 Sun. 8:00 AM Intention of Parishioners  
10:30 AM +Helen Berezny Vargo by Gerardi family

### SEVENTH PASCHAL WEEK

June 4 Tues. 10:00 AM +Michael George Koshuta by Monica Koshuta & family  
June 7 Fri. 10:00 AM Health & God's Blessings on Elizabeth Basarab by Fr. John

### FIFTH ALL SOULS SATURDAY

June 8 Sat 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy and Remembrance of the Departed

### PENTECOST

June 9 Sun. 8:00 AM Intention of Parishioners  
10:30 AM +Michael George Koshuta by Monica Koshuta & family

### ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – June 9, 2019

June 9 Sun. 8:00 AM T. Hughes (L), J. Cooke, J. Lampl  
10:30 AM G. Naccash (L), J. Cassella, A. Naccash, A. Naccash

### USHER SCHEDULE – June 9, 2019

June 9 Sun. 8:00 AM BCY  
10:30 AM T. Soyka (L), E. Gubanich, E. Koval

## EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD Byzantine Catholic Church The Sacraments – Our Life in Christ

**Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation** - (Baptism, Chrismation, Holy Eucharist). We follow the command of the Lord to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Chrismation (Confirmation) and Holy Eucharist (First Holy Communion) is imparted at the same time immediately following baptism

**Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Infants** – is scheduled at the Divine Liturgy on Saturdays or Sundays during the year except certain fast periods. Sponsors must be Catholics in good standing and supply a sponsor card attesting to that from their parish. While two Catholics in good standing is usual, one baptized non-Catholic can function as a Christian Witness with the Catholic sponsor. Both must be at least sixteen years of age. Details are available at the parish office.

**Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Adults** – follows a period of catechumenate. This is a period of spiritual formation. Please see the priest or deacon.

**Mystery (Sacrament) of Crowning in Marriage** – According to the Pastoral Policy and Guidelines for Marriage Preparation for the Catholic Church in New Jersey, couples wishing to marry must inform the pastor one year before the date of the wedding and be free to marry in the Catholic Church. Couples will meet with the priest and deacon in four sessions – to begin the pre-nuptial investigation, to take FOCUS, a communications, values and religious inventory approved for use in the Catholic dioceses/eparchies, to complete the pre-nuptial investigation and for a session on the theology of the mystery (sacrament). They are also required to attend Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter.

**Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance** – The Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance is regularly available each Saturday 11:30 AM – 12:00 Noon. In addition, confessions are heard during the Christmas Fast (Advent) and the Great Fast (Lent) on Sundays between the Divine Liturgies. Visiting confessors are also scheduled at special times during the Great Fast. Confessions are also heard on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Great and Holy Week to prepare for the observance of the Lord's Resurrection.

**Anointing of the Sick** – Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life endangering medical conditions as well as those who are to undergo surgery should avail themselves of the sacrament of penance and anointing of the sick. If surgery is scheduled, please consider confession and anointing at the church before entering the hospital since there is more privacy for confession and less chance of interruption for confession and anointing. If you are unable to come to church, please call the rectory. Families of parishioners who have a medical emergency should contact the rectory office so one of the priests can go the hospital.

**Holy Communion and Visitation of the Sick** – Holy Communion is brought to our parishioners who are ill at the hospital or at home by the deacon on Sundays and at other times by arrangement. Please contact the deacon or the rectory office by Friday prior to the Sunday communion visitation.

**Funeral Services** – The Office of Christian Burial is offered in ways to accommodate the needs of the family. The Epiphany Ladies Guild as part of their charity offers a Mercy Meal for families at the Parish Center following the interment. Epiphany of our Lord cemetery is a portion of Fairfax Memorial Park. Parishioners who are interested in purchasing cemetery plots should see the deacon.

**Byzantine Catholic Mission of Montgomery County** - Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM; Religious Education & Social Hour 11:15-12:15; 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg, MD; (301) 482-0282.

### Parish Administration

*"The Church is not an organization with sacraments but a sacrament with organization."*

#### Parish Clergy

Very Rev. John G. Basarab, Pastor  
Deacon Elmer Pekarik, Deacon Peter Turko

#### Parish Office Staff

Jamie Bacigalupi, Administrative Assistant  
Diane Dougherty, Financial Assistant

#### Parish Council of Administration

Emil Koval, Greg Puhak, Sally Green

**Parish Office Hours:** 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Monday- Friday  
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Sunday

**School of Religion** - School of Religion classes meet on Sundays between Liturgies (9:20 AM - 10:20 AM) throughout the school year (September - June). Classes are offered for children grades Preschool & Kindergarten - High School

Announcements may be dropped off in the Parish Office, faxed to the office (703-573-1088) or email to [epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net](mailto:epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net).

**Registration** - Individuals who wish to register in the Parish should stop by the Parish Office and complete a census form.

Epiphany of Our Lord Church, Annandale, VA

<http://www.eolbcc.org>

Epiphany of Our Lord does not conduct pastoral business on the website email.

The appointed reading concludes “When he had finished speaking he knelt down and prayed with them all”. This prepares us that next Sunday we will kneel and pray the kneeling prayers of Pentecost. Kneeling at Pentecost shows we are docile and open to receive the Holy Spirit.

From *The Navarre Bible: John*, and *Ignatius Bible: John*

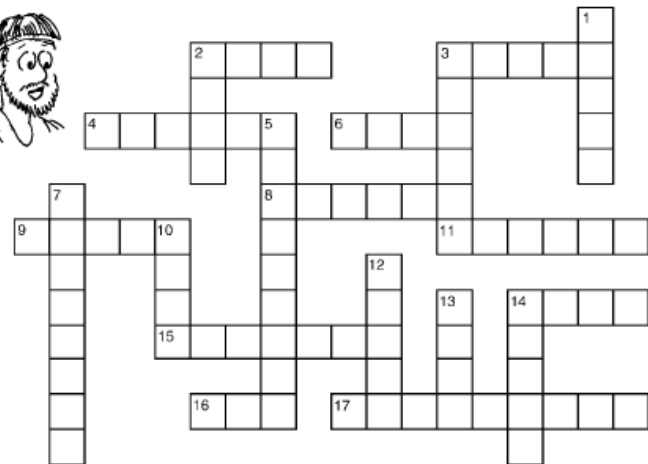
### Children’s Corner

© 2019 CRI • PO Box 6360, Beaufort, SC 29903 • 800 992-2144 • www.ChildrensBulletins.com

Paul had important things to share with these dear friends he might never see again.

Place words from the list in the crossword.  
Use them to complete Paul's message.

God	weak	needs	church	distort
come	will	truth	savage	proclaim
hard	work	watch	supply	hesitated
help	covet	whole	wolves	shepherds



1. He had not (5D) \_\_\_\_\_ to (7D) \_\_\_\_\_ the (3A) \_\_\_\_\_ (6A) \_\_\_\_\_ of (16A) \_\_\_\_\_.
2. They should (12D) \_\_\_\_\_ like (17A) \_\_\_\_\_ over the (4A) \_\_\_\_\_ because false teachers would (14A) \_\_\_\_\_ in like (8A) \_\_\_\_\_ (3D) \_\_\_\_\_ and (15A) \_\_\_\_\_ the (9A) \_\_\_\_\_.
3. He had shown by his example that they should not (14D) \_\_\_\_\_, but (11A) \_\_\_\_\_ their own (1D) \_\_\_\_\_ by (10D) \_\_\_\_\_ (2D) \_\_\_\_\_ and be eager to (13D) \_\_\_\_\_ the (2A) \_\_\_\_\_.

## PARISH USTAV

The Order for the Divine Liturgy  
For  
Fathers of the First Council

### PLACE RIBBONS AT:

- BLUE p. 11 Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy  
RED p. 196 Sunday of the Fathers of the First Nicene Council

### ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: Festal Tones

**EXCEPT:** Cherubic Hymn  
We Praise You

Communion Hymn p. 180 **ALL D**  
Our Father Tone 6 p. 71

1. Hymn during Incensation “Be Exalted” on reverse of this sheet
2. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
3. First & Second Antiphons of Ascension p. 196
4. Third Antiphon and Entrance Hymn of Sunday p.197
5. At the Troparia:  
Troparion of Resurrection Tone 6 p. 197 RED  
Troparion of Ascension Tone 4 p. 198 RED  
Kontakion of Council Fathers Tone 8 p. 199 RED
5. Scripture readings:  
Prokeimenon of Council Fathers Tone 4 p. 200 RED  
Epistle: Acts 20:16-18 &28-38  
Alleluia of the Council Fathers Tone 1 p. 200 RED  
Gospel: John 17:1-13
6. Instead of “*It is truly proper...*”, Magnification p. 200 RED
7. Instead of “*We have seen a true light...*” and “*May our mouth be filled...*” “Be exalted...” p. 202 RED and Slavonic on the reverse of this sheet.
8. Remain standing as we pray Hymn of Protection Epiphany Hymnal p. 51

## JEDINORODNYJ SYNE - ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON

Slava Otcu i Synu i Svjatому Duchu, i nyňi i prisno, i vo v'iki v'ikov. Amiň. Jedinorodnyj Syne, i Slove Božij, bezsmerten syj, i izvolivyj spasenija našeho radi voplotitisja ot svjatyja Bohorodicy i prisno-d'ivy Mariji, nepreložno vočelov'ičivysja, raspnysja že, Christe Bože, smertiju smert' popravyj, jedin syj Svjatyja Trojcy, sproslavl'ajemyj Otcu I Svjatому Duchu, spasi nas.

### HOLY GOD – SVJATYJ BOŽE

Svjatyj Bože, Svjatyj kr'ipkij, Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas. (3)

Slava Otču, i Synu, i Svjatому Duchu, i nyňi i prisno, i vo v'iki v'ikov. Amin.

Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas.

Svjatyj Bože, Svjatyj kr'ipkij, Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas.

### IŽE CHERUVIMY – LET US WHO MYSTICALLY

Iže Cheruvimy tajno obrazujušče, i životvorjasščej Trojci trisvjatuju p'isň prinosjasšče, vsjakuju nyňi zitejskoje otveržim pečal'.

Amiň. Jako da Carja vs'ich podimem, anhel'skimi nevidimo dorinosima činmi. Allilua. Allilua. Allilua.

### SVJAT, SVJAT, SVJAT – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Svjat, svjat, svjat, Hospod' savaoth, ispolň nebo i zeml'a slavy Tvojeja: osanna vo vyšnich, blahosloven hrjadyj vo imja Hospodne, osanna vo vyšnich.

### TEBE POJEM – WE PRAISE YOU

Tebe pojem, Tebe blahoslovim, Teb'i blahodarim, Hospodi, i molimtisja Bože naš.

### OTČE NAŠ – OUR FATHER

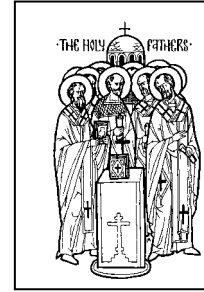
Otče naš, iže jesi na nebes'ich, da svjatitsja imja Tvoje. Da prijedet carstvije Tvoje, da budet vol'a Tvoja, jako na nebesi, i na zemli. Chl'ib naš nasuščnyj dažd nam dnes'. I ostavi nam dolhi naša, jakože i my ostavl'ajem dolžnikom našim. I ne vvedi nas vo iskušenje, no izbavi nas ot lukavaho.

### VOZNESISJA – BE EXALTED

Voznesisja na nebesa Bože, i po vsej zeml'i slava Tvoja.

## Meditation on Today's Readings

### *Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council*



*“Eternal life is this, to know you, the only true God, and Him who You have sent, Jesus Christ...I glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.” John 17:3-4*

This gospel passage is from the Last Supper. It is usually called the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus because Jesus is the High Priest, and because the prayer contains the basic elements of prayer a priest offers to God when a sacrifice is to be made: glorification, remembrance of God's saving works, intercession on behalf of others, and a declaration of the offering itself.

This passage is appointed to be proclaimed twice every year: on the Seventh Sunday of Pascha, that is the Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, and on the Sunday of the Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council. The Ecumenical Councils were called to correct erroneous ideas about God. This prayer of the Son of God to God the Father reveals why it is so important to have only correct ideas about God: eternal life is knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

From the biblical perspective, the glory of God is the weight and magnificence of God's Being. Jesus possesses that glory in His divine nature as the Eternal Son. Now, Jesus is asking the Father to glorify Him in His human nature. How will this be accomplished? Jesus will glorify the Father by being lifted up on the cross in His human nature. In turn, Jesus asks that it be the Father's Will to glorify Jesus by Their together raising Jesus - resurrecting Him – thereby asking the Father to glorify the Son's human nature. Then by the Father taking Jesus' glorified and resurrected human nature into heaven - the Ascension - Jesus can glorify and exalt our human nature.

The glory of Jesus has three dimensions. First, the glory of the Father is promoted because Christ's obedience to the Father has brought God's saving work to completion. Second, Christ's divinity hidden in His humanity will now be manifested through His resurrected humanity invested with God's authority over creation. Third, and most importantly for our benefit, Christ in His glorification gives us the opportunity to attain eternal life, to know God the Father and Jesus Christ, His only Son. For us to know Christ and the Father glorifies the Father and Jesus Christ and in turn involves our participation in divine glory, *theosis*, where we grow in love, friendship and communion with God Himself.

*Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus in order to not lose time in the province of Asia for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if at all possible, for the day of Pentecost. Acts 20:16-18, 28-36*

The account from the Acts of the Apostles reflects the commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council and serves to prepare the Church for the commemoration of Pentecost on the coming Sunday.

The first part of the pericope states that Saint Paul was exerting all effort to be in Jerusalem for Pentecost. This is an exhortation for each member of Christ's Body the Church to be together in churches around the world on the feast of Pentecost since it is our anniversary. We have received the Holy Spirit in a special way in Chrismation – Confirmation.

In the next part of the reading Saint Paul calls for the presbyters of the Church of Ephesus to assemble. He warns the priests about danger to Christ's Body, the Church. Paul says, “Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, in which you tend the church of God that He acquired with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come among you, and they will not spare the flock. And from your own group, men will come forward, perverting the truth to draw the disciples away after them.”

This part of the appointed reading is to refer to the assembly of the bishops at the first Ecumenical Council who have been called together, who three hundred years after Saint Paul spoke, see the wolves and those from the flock saying Jesus is not God.