



GCU
Christmas in July

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Authority of the Council - Authority of the Church

The authority of the Councils is based also on their ecclesiological grounding. A council is not an independent, autonomous body, additional, coming from outside, acting unilaterally. It is not the product of accidental circumstances in history and imposed afterwards. It is closely, or rather organically, related with the very essence of the Church. This body of Christ is a living organism, destined to grow, to face difficulties during this process, to be implanted in other regions of the world needing inculturation and a certain adaptation.

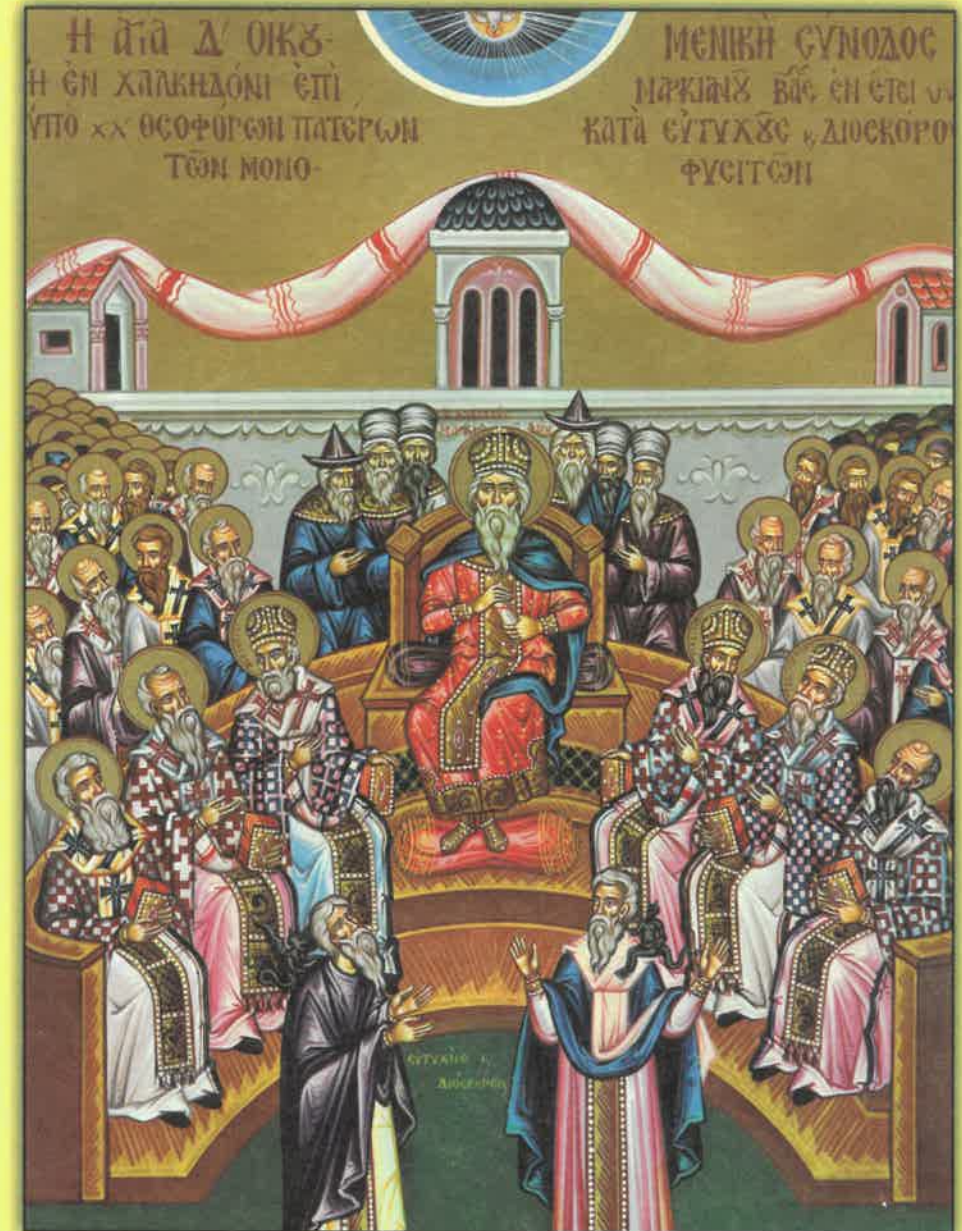
Such embodiment and multifaceted ministry creates problems, tensions, even divisions and in spite of the good will of the local

bishop and pastors, the convocation of as a major assembly is considered as a natural instrument, salutary and indispensable.

The official voice of the catholicity and the koinonia of all the other sister churches, in harmony and guided by the Spirit, would only provide the new assessments, possible remedies and solutions. The functioning of such a council was such that the opinions and requests at issue found expression from the very womb of the Church. Once the decision was made, the people had a part in receiving it and publicizing it (Acts 15:22) as is seen in the first assembly of Jerusalem.

Metropolitan Emilianos

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS



Icon of the Holy Fathers

Glory to Jesus Christ!
Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu!
Slava Na Viki!



Vol 13 #29

SAT., JULY 18
6:00 p.m.

(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy) – Blessing of Cars

+Theresa “Babcia” Vrabel requested by: Family
(20th anniversary of passing 7.10)

+Edward Andrew Tirpack requested by: Family
(remembrance of 96th birthday 7.19)

SUN., JULY 19

11:00 a.m.

The Sunday of the Fathers of the Six Ecumenical Councils – Blessing of Cars

+Carmen J. McGarry requested by: Wife: Liz & daughters
(remembrance of 73rd birthday 7.16)

+Francis “Babe” Lazorcak requested by: Dave & Annette Hospodar
(23rd anniversary of passing 6.27)

Mon., July 20
6:00 p.m.

The Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah — Simple Holy Day

+Dr. John F. Galida requested by: Robert & Andria Shevetz
(40th day of passing)

SAT., JULY 25
6:00 p.m.

(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)

+Joanne Hritz requested by: Husband: John
& Daughters: Jennifer & Jacki

+Daniel A. Watkins requested by: Parents: Alice & John
(13th anniversary of passing 7.26)

SUN., JULY 26
11:00 a.m.

The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

+Daniel Vokish requested by: Wife: Janice
(remembrance of 80th birthday 7.27)



July 19 – Carol Hileman
July 20 – Carmela Circelli
July 21 – Greta Marks
July 24 – Dorothy Leone, David Penwell
July 25 – Elizabeth McGarry

Pray for the Homebound, Sick, Hospitalized, & in Recovery updated: July 17, 2026

RESIDING AT HOME – Andy Arendas, Bonnie Cohn, Michael Drotar, Geraldine Dubos, Ted Fesz, Michael Katula, Kathi Klimis, Paul Kotch, Greta Marks, Patty Orenic, Frank Phillips, Martha Swantek. The Inn at Ironwood (6699 Ironwood Blvd., Canfield, OH 44406) – Dorothy Leone. Windsor House at St. Mary’s (1899 W. Garfield Rd., Columbiana, OH 44408) – Anne Thomas.

Church offerings from July 11 & 12, 2026

Sunday Offering....\$1,835.00

Loose Currency....\$20.00

Candles....\$79.00

TOTAL: \$1,934.00

Church Attendance

Saturday 7/11 – **45** (6:00 pm)

Sunday 7/12 – **23** (11:00 am)



July 12th TOTAL:
\$90.00

When Baba gets a ceiling fan. 😊

Babushka level 20



Weekly Requirement to Meet Yearly Expenses

Date	Collection	Required	(Shortage)
July 12	\$1,934	\$2,950	(\$1,016)
YTD	\$76,288	\$82,600	(\$6,312)

Quote of the Week

“Fire and water do not mix, neither can you mix judgment of others with the desire to repent.”

— St. John Climacus

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

BRUSH
BUCKET
BUFF
BUGS
CHAMOIS
CHROME
DIRT
DRIVEWAY
GRIME
HEADLIGHTS
HOSE
HUBCAPS
LICENSE PLATE
MIRRORS
POLISH
RINSE
ROOF
SEALANT
SHINE
SOAP
SPONGE
SPRAY
SQUEEGEE
TOWEL
VACUUM
WATER
WAX
WINDSHIELD

CAR WASH

Word Search

W	D	L	M	I	R	R	O	R	S	D	C	B	F	U	Z	R	P	A	K	W
I	C	H	A	M	O	I	S	O	A	P	E	R	N	S	F	E	E	V	D	I
D	C	I	L	C	C	P	T	C	N	B	I	I	Y	V	F	T	N	E	I	T
T	V	K	C	Q	V	S	D	O	W	N	E	O	Z	A	G	A	O	A	F	X
E	N	X	K	J	X	F	L	Q	S	X	D	R	I	V	E	W	A	Y	Z	G
Q	O	S	B	K	G	S	I	E	U	K	F	O	K	J	C	B	N	V	E	J
D	U	F	R	O	O	F	E	L	M	F	E	J	X	O	Y	Q	E	N	M	R
E	N	I	H	S	T	H	G	I	L	D	A	E	H	B	R	U	S	H	O	Q
W	I	N	D	S	H	I	E	L	D	B	L	V	R	Z	L	Y	I	P	R	Q
C	R	O	D	Y	Q	F	A	S	P	A	C	B	U	H	I	E	B	A	H	R
M	M	S	S	S	U	D	T	Y	B	U	C	K	E	T	C	S	X	U	C	A
U	T	E	B	X	L	D	O	F	A	H	O	O	M	K	E	O	C	N	F	T
U	A	A	J	H	G	Q	W	E	F	T	E	K	P	C	N	H	D	Y	H	F
C	Y	L	D	C	J	D	E	R	B	C	E	A	D	L	S	Y	D	R	R	Z
A	W	A	U	Z	D	G	L	H	O	O	G	P	P	T	E	G	E	L	P	O
V	O	N	O	R	G	H	M	E	H	Q	E	X	I	M	P	C	F	V	G	H
E	Y	T	G	R	I	M	E	S	T	T	E	I	A	D	L	E	I	Z	O	J
E	G	A	G	G	R	D	I	U	P	C	U	I	D	W	A	Y	Q	Q	A	S
L	B	E	R	E	A	L	I	M	E	N	Q	R	R	A	T	M	R	O	G	H
E	X	N	O	P	O	U	O	R	D	F	S	K	G	T	E	P	O	U	S	L
E	G	N	O	P	S	H	F	U	T	Y	V	Y	L	O	Q	Q	B	P	O	Z



Honoring the Prophet Elijah

This Monday, our Byzantine Catholic Church commemorates the glorious Prophet Elijah (Elias) is a prophet of the Old Testament. His name has been variously translated as “whose God is the Lord.” In the Old Testament, Elijah is first introduced in 1 Kings 17:1 as delivering a message from God to Ahab, king of Israel. He is sometimes known as the “Tishbite,” being from the town of Tishbe. Having delivered his message to Ahab, he retired at the command of God to a hiding-place by the brook Cherith, beyond Jordan, where he was fed by ravens. When the brook dried up God sent him to the widow of Zarephath, a city of Zidon, from whose scanty store he was supported for the space of two years. During this period the widow’s son died, and was restored to life by Elijah (1 Kings 17:2-24).



During these two years a famine prevailed in the land. At the close of this period of retirement and of preparation for his work, Elijah met Obadiah, one of Ahab’s officers, whom he had sent out to seek for pasturage for the cattle, and bade him go and tell his master that Elijah was there. The king came and met Elijah, and reproached him as the “troubler of Israel.” It was then proposed that sacrifices should be publicly offered, for the purpose of determining whether Baal or the Israelite God was the true God. This was done on Mount Carmel; the result was that a miracle took place convincing those watching that Baal was false and that the Israelite God was real. The prophets of Baal were then put to death by the order of Elijah. Jezebel, enraged at the fate that had befallen her priests of Baal, threatened to put Elijah to death (1 Kings 19:1-13). He therefore fled in alarm to Beersheba, and went alone into the wilderness, and sat down in despondency under a juniper tree. As he slept, an angel touched him, and said unto him, “Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.” He arose and found a cake and a cruse of water. Having partaken of the provision, he went forward on his way for forty days to Horeb, where he took residence in a cave. Here God appeared to him and said, “What dost thou here, Elijah?” In answer to Elijah’s despondent words God manifests to him his glory, and then directs him to return to Damascus and anoint Hazael king over the Arameans (Syria), Jehu king over Israel, and Elisha to be prophet in his room (1 Kings 19:13-21; compare 2 Kings 8:7-15; 9:1-10). Some six years after this, he warned Ahab and Jezebel of the violent deaths they would die (1 Kings 21:19-24; 22:38). He also, four years afterwards, warned Ahaziah, who had succeeded his father Ahab, of his approaching death (2 Kings 1:1-16). During these intervals he probably withdrew to some quiet retirement, no one knew where. His interview with Ahaziah’s messengers on the way to Ekron, and the account of the destruction of his captains with their fifties, suggest the idea that he may have been in retirement at this time on Mount Carmel. The Carmelites have a tradition that they were founded by Elijah at this time.

The time now drew near when he was to be taken up into heaven (2 Kings 2:1-12). He went down to Gilgal, where there was a school of prophets, and where his successor Elisha, whom he had anointed some years before, resided. Elisha was distraught by the thought of his master’s leaving him, and refused to be parted from him. The two went on and came to Bethel and Jericho, and crossed the Jordan, the waters of which were “divided hither and thither” when smitten with Elijah’s mantle. Upon arriving at the borders of Gilead, which Elijah had left many years before, it “came to pass as they still went on and talked” they were suddenly separated by a chariot and horses of fire; and “Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven,” Elisha receiving his mantle, which fell from Elijah as he ascended. Elijah’s chosen successor was the prophet Elisha.

Blessing of vehicles this weekend

Because of this ascension of Elijah into heaven on a fiery chariot (July 20), it became the Byzantine tradition to bless cars. This blessing is not only to preserve the car and its passengers from all evil, but we also pray that this blessing may show us the way of salvation. We pray that the grace of God may help us to be ever intent on doing good works so that we may attain everlasting joys and blessings after the trials in our earthly pilgrimage are over. Thus, this blessing like all blessings is not a mere superstitious formula, but rather a reminder that it is through the grace of God that we are able to live the type of life which will bring about our salvation. The purpose of the blessing is not so much as to drive away evil spirits as it is a call for us to live Christ-like lives, dedicating all that we are and have to His divine plan.



What an awesome week - "Wow, God"



Our 2026 Vacation Bible School program concluded this past Friday. What a great 5 days filled with songs, crafts, activities, outside games, skits, snacks and lunch, and lots of faith and fun. Our St. Michael Church extends a very special THANK YOU to our Coordinator of the program, Keri Vokish for organizing and coordinating the week and dedicating much time and work to the program. THANK YOU to our VBS teachers: Lucy Allen, Sarah Circelli, Elizabeth Dowell, Bobby Hritz, Grace Papini, Emily Vasilchek, & Pam Vasilchek. THANK YOU to our Crew Leaders: Noah Hicks, Genevieve Hicks, Aubrey Vokish, and Christopher Vokish. THANK YOU to our VBS

Kitchen Crew: Marcia Turocy and Grace Papini. THANK YOU to Dr. Frank Turocy for playing Jesus. THANK YOU to Gregory Stanko for a great butterfly presentation. Also, THANK YOU to Terry Tirpack for clean-up each day. And, THANK YOU to ALL who made donations to make this week possible. Check out the pics of all 5 days on our parish's facebook page.

Reverse Raffle tickets now available

Saturday, October 3, 2026 - 5:00 p.m. apps; 6:00 p.m. dinner; 7:00 p.m. drawing begins.

200 tickets will be drawn with the grand prize of \$2,500.00. Other cash prizes and games, including liquor bottle card game, bingo, and 50/50. Tickets are \$100.00 & includes dinner, bar, and your number to enter drawing. Tickets are available in the narthex, or by email to stmikesbyzkids@gmail.com Get your lucky number(s) now! Don't wait.



Local Byzantine Church to host Blessed Mother Statue

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, 356 S. Belle Vista Avenue, Youngstown, --Saturday, August 1st 3:30-4:15 p.m. The statue of our Blessed Mother Mary will be at St. Mary Church (in the church). Guest speaker Catherine Moran. The Forgotten and abandoned Request - the 5 first Saturdays of reparation - One hundredth anniversary.

Let's do a cool jive...our pastor's mom is eighty-five

Our St. Michael Parish extends Happy Birthday wishes to GRETA MARKS who celebrates her "85th Birthday" on Tuesday, July 21st. May the Lord God grant to His handmaid, Greta, peace, health, and happiness for many blessed years, na mnohaja i blahaja l'ita! Happy 85th Birthday Father's mom!



Get the party crew...someone is ninety-two

Our Saint Michael Parish offers Happy Birthday wishes to DOROTHY LEONE who celebrates her "92nd" birthday on Friday, July 24th. May the Lord God grant to His handmaid Dorothy, peace, health, and happiness, for many years, na mnohaja i blahaja l'ita! Happy 92nd Birthday Dorothy!

Banns Of Marriage I

Geri Romito and Abraham Santana to receive the Holy Sacrament of Crowning (Marriage) at our St. Michael Church on Friday, August 7, 2026.

USA postage increased last Sunday

As of last Sunday, July 12, 2026 - the price of a First-Class Forever stamp went up 4 cents — from 78 cents to 82 cents.

61st ANNUAL ASSUMPTION PILGRIMAGE

The annual Assumption Pilgrimage at the Maronite National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, North Jackson, OH will be August 13-15th. On Friday, August 14th at 7:00 p.m., a Byzantine Catholic Liturgy will be held with Bishop Robert Pipta as the celebrant, and our pastor will concelebrate. this will count in fulfilling your obligation for the Dormition holyday if you attend.

'On Controlling Our Thoughts' - By Father Thaddeus of Vitovnica

Our life depends on the kind of thoughts we nurture. If our thoughts are peaceful, calm, meek, and kind, then that is what our life is like. If our attention is turned to the circumstances in which we live, we are drawn into a whirlpool of thoughts and can have neither peace nor tranquility. As soon as a desire or a worldly thought enters our mind, God immediately sends a warning. Instead of coming to our senses and blocking such thoughts and desires, we nurture them and long for them, and afterwards we wonder why bad things happen to us. These signs of warning come in the form of temptations.

In our minds we conceive everything we do, say, and plan. Without this we cannot do or say anything. Everything first receives its shape and form in the mind; all of our energy is first made manifest in our thoughts. Thoughts are the power that conceives everything in the center of our being (the heart) and when we are united with the Source of life (God), everything is revealed to us and we are open to all kinds of knowledge.

This is how we must live – controlling our thoughts. It is not good to dwell on every thought that comes to us; otherwise, we lose our peace. If we learn to refuse such proposals, we are quiet. We do not fantasize or create images in our mind.