

**OCTOBER 15, 2017**

**ST NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**CROSS & COTTAGE STS, AUBURN 315-252-3423**

**www.stnicholasauburn.com**

**Sr Warden Greg Michaels**

**Jr Warden Rocco Lupo**

**Fr. Stephen Mack, Pastor**

**Fr. Michael Speck**

**Deacon David Donch**

**Subdeacon Michael Speck**

*PIROGHI WILL BE MADE THIS WEEK - FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20 AND 21. PLEASE HELP.*

*Wednesday, Oct 18 at 9AM: Divine Liturgy of St John*

*Saturday, Oct 21 at 9 AM Divine Liturgy (Soul Saturday)  
6PM: Vespers*

*Sunday, Oct 22 at 10AM: Divine Liturgy of St John*

**COUNCILS OF THE CHURCH.** A monumental conflict (recorded in Acts 15) arose in the early Church over legalism, the keeping of Jewish laws by the Christians, as means of salvation. "Now the apostles and elders came together [in council] to consider this matter" (Acts 15:6). This council, held in Jerusalem, set the pattern for the subsequent calling of councils to settle problems. There have been hundreds of such councils-local and regional-over the centuries of the history of the Church, and seven councils specifically designated "Ecumenical," that is, considered to apply to the whole Church. The Orthodox Church looks particularly to these Ecumenical Councils for authoritative teaching in regard to the faith and practice of the Church, aware that God has spoken through them.

**CREATION.** Orthodox Christians confess God as Creator of heaven and earth (Genesis 1:1, the Nicene Creed). Creation did not just happen into existence. God made it all. "By faith we understand that

**the worlds were framed by the word of God . . ." (Hebrews 11:3). Orthodox Christians do not believe the Bible to be a scientific textbook on creation, as some mistakenly maintain, but rather God's revelation of Himself and His salvation. Also, helpful as they may be, we do not view scientific textbooks as God's revelation. They may contain both known facts and speculative theory. They are not infallible. Orthodox Christians refuse to build an unnecessary and artificial wall between science and the Christian Faith. Rather, they understand honest scientific investigation as a potential encouragement to faith, for all truth is from God.**

CREED comes from the Latin credo, "I believe." From the earliest days of the Church, creeds have been living confessions of what Christians believe and not simply formal, academic, Church pronouncements. Such confessions of faith appear as early as the New Testament, where, for example, Saint Paul quotes a creed to remind Timothy, "God was manifested in the flesh.. ." (1 Timothy 3:16). The creeds were approved by Church councils, usually to give a concise statement of the truth in the face of the invasion of heresy.

The most important creed in Christendom is the Nicene Creed, the product of two Ecumenical Councils in the fourth century. Fashioned in the midst of a life-and-death controversy, it contains the essence of New Testament teaching about the Holy Trinity, guarding that life-giving truth against those who would change the very nature of God and reduce Jesus Christ to a created being rather than God in the flesh. The creeds give us a sure interpretation of the Scriptures against those who would distort them to support their own religious schemes. Called the "Symbol of Faith" and confessed in many of the services of the Church, the Nicene Creed constantly reminds the Orthodox Christian of what he personally believes, keeping his faith on track.