

## **Sunday, October 15, 2017: Commemorating the Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council (19th Sunday after Pentecost)**

Welcome: Spend some time checking in with the students.

Opening Prayer: “Heavenly King” – See poster board

Gospel: John 17:1-13 – **Listen to Gospel in Church & hold small blue candles**

Lesson: 7th Ecumenical Council

- Sometimes in the church there are arguments that need to be figured out by bringing the whole church together.

- This happened with the 7th Ecumenical Council. Some people were saying that icons weren't allowed anymore. What the fathers at the council decided through the Holy Spirit is that icons are very important to our faith and brought them back.

- What are icons? They are holy pictures that we use to help us pray and remind us that God is with us and came down from Heaven as a man.

- Where are the icons in this room? In the church?

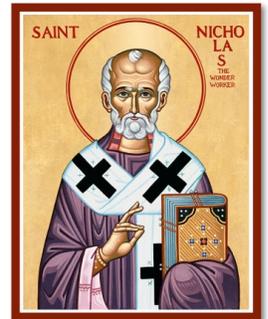
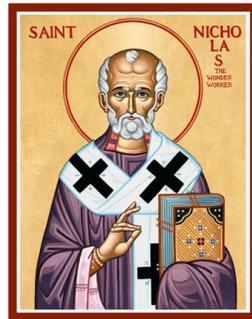
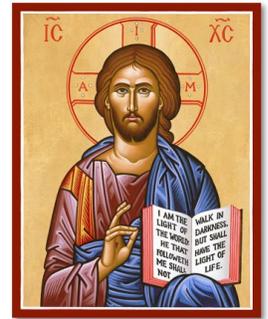
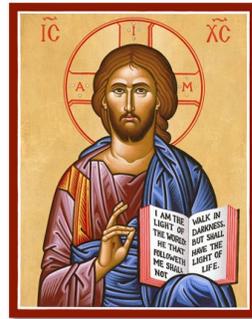
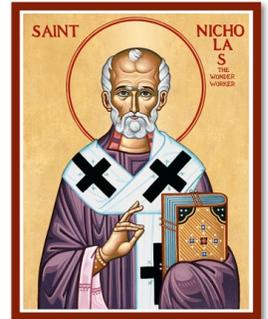
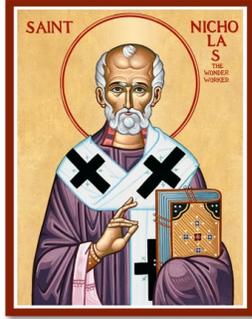
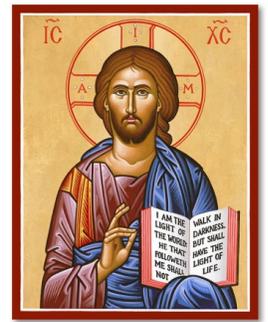
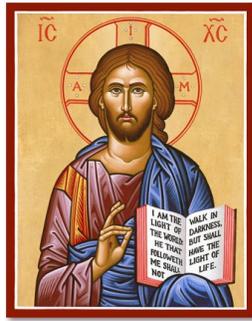
- We are thankful to have icons to help us pray because they remind us that God is always with us.

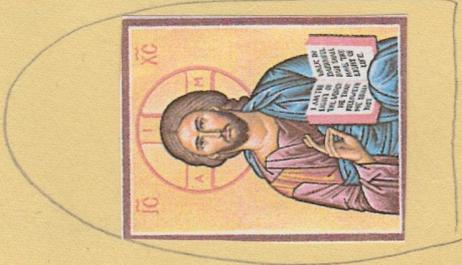
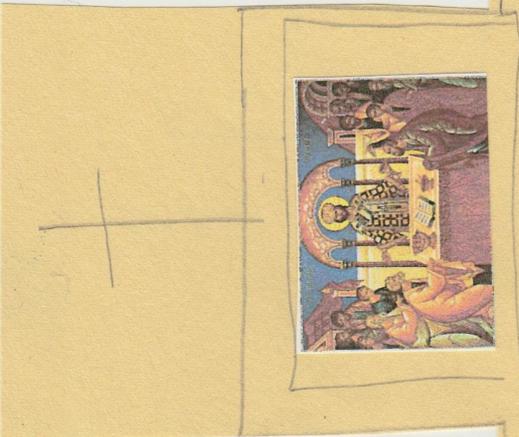
Craft: Paper model of our iconostas

- Materials: manilla file folders, printed out small icons found on iconostas (Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Jesus the Teacher; St. Nicholas, Sts. Volodymyr and Anna, The Annunciation, The Mystical Supper), iconostas stencil, glue sticks, scissors, markers

- How To: Cut manilla file folders along the fold into two pieces; one side of the file will be for one child. Place the iconostas stencil on the piece of file and trace around. Cut out the icons and paste them in the appropriate place on the iconostas cut out. Decorate the iconostas around the icons. Write “Thank you for giving us icons to help us pray”

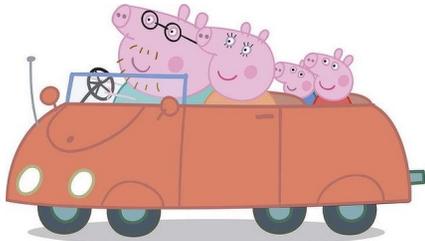
End of Class: Hand out “Car Qs” to children, and “Cheat Sheet” to parents.





# Car Qs

Sunday, October 15th



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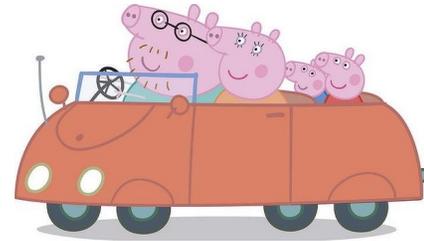
1. What are icons?
2. What do icons help us do?
3. Do you have any icons in your house? Which ones? Where are they?

### Praying Together:

Father, thank you for sending us Your Son, Jesus, as our Saviour. Help us remember all you do for us as we pray before icons, reminding us that we are made in Your image and likeness. Amen.

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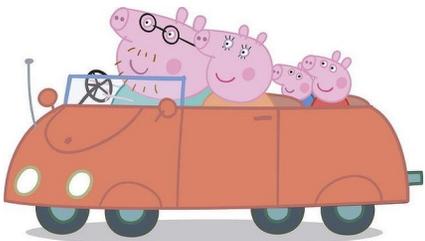
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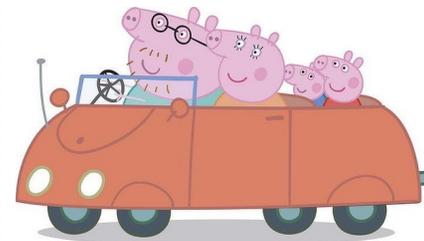
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## Parents' Cheat Sheet - Car Qs

Oct. 15/17, Commemorating the 7th Ecumenical Council (19th Sunday after Pentecost)

### 1. What are icons?

1. Icons are holy pictures of people and events that happened in the history of the church. They are stylized in their representation so as not to be confused as realistic renderings of Christ who is God. You can find them in church, at home, in schools, and anywhere where worship takes place. Iconographers go through an extensive process of prayer when they “write” icons using specific materials. To learn more about how to write an icon, check out the Fall Program Guide for info on upcoming classes.
2. Icons have not always been accepted within the church. During the Iconoclast period (700-850 AD), many icons were destroyed after being declared heretical. Thanks to the 7th Ecumenical Council, however, the leaders of the church came to the conclusion that icons did indeed have a place within worship. Though we commemorate the 7th Ecumenical Council today, we celebrate the Feast of Orthodoxy<sup>1</sup> on the 1st Sunday of Lent. Everyone is encouraged to bring icons to bless on this day. To learn more about Iconoclasm and the 7th Ecumenical Council check out [http://archeparchy.ca/news\\_details.php?news\\_id=126](http://archeparchy.ca/news_details.php?news_id=126) for a summary of the proceedings. For more detailed information, check out <http://www.ccel.org> and search “Seventh Ecumenical Council.”
3. God’s best icon, however, is “a human being made in God’s own image.”<sup>2</sup> Through baptism we as believers have “put on Christ,” which means that Christ lives within us. That also means that we are living icons to those around us, reminders that God is always present and with us.

### 2. What do icons help us do?

1. Icons help us pray and remember that God is always with us. They also remind us that God took on flesh and has redeemed our humanity through his death and Resurrection. “He who venerates the icon, venerates in it the reality for which it stands.”<sup>3</sup>

### 3. Do you have any icons in your house? Which ones? Where are they?

1. Eastern Christians are encouraged to have a designated icon corner in their house, a place where the family can worship together. Check out the Pastoral Centre for more information on setting up an icon corner in your home.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://archeparchy.ca/news\\_details.php?news\\_id=126](http://archeparchy.ca/news_details.php?news_id=126)

<sup>2</sup> Found in a black and clear duotang at the Pastoral Office in the “Icon” section.

<sup>3</sup> <http://findingthetruefaith.com/the-sunday-of-the-triumph-of-orthodoxy/>