

SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



Icon of Pentecost



May 24, 2015

SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

OUR VENERABLE FATHER SYMEON OF THE WONDROUS MOUNTAIN

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 25 – MAY 31

SATURDAY, MAY 30

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MAY 31 – SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; THE HOLY APOSTLE HERMAS, AUTHOR OF “THE SHEPHERD”;
THE HOLY MARTYR HERMES

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

*If you are reading the bulletin during the Liturgy (including the homily),
please **stop** and be attentive – будьмо уважні!*

Parish Meeting

A date of June 28 has been set for a general meeting of the parish. This meeting will run from 12:00 noon until 1:30 PM and will have two main agenda items:

1. Parish Finances
2. Parking Lot
3. Parish Needs (roof, etc...)
4. Stewardship

There will be an opportunity for individuals to speak. Those wishing to be added to the list of speaker must inform Fr. James by June 21st.

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“There is a famine abroad on the earth, a famine not of bread, for we have had too much of that and our luxury has made us forget God; a famine not of gold, for the glitter of so much of that has blinded us to the meaning of the twinkle of the stars; but a famine of a more serious kind, and one which threatens nearly every country in the world – the famine of really great men. In other words, the world today is suffering from a terrible nemesis of mediocrity. We are dying of ordinariness; we are perishing from our pettiness.”

– Archbishop Fulton Sheen
The World's Greatest Need
(Address delivered January 31, 1932)



**“This is no time to be
ashamed of the Gospel.
It is the time to preach
it from the rooftops.
Do not be afraid to
break out of comfortable
and routine modes of
living in order to take up
the challenge of making
Christ known in the
modern metropolis.”**

Share 2015

Jesus asks us to commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent and our treasure as an outward sign of the love and gratitude we have for Him. Please be a good steward of your gifts and share them by participating in **Share 2015 – Annual Eparchial Appeal**.

Христос попросив нас бути добрими провідниками дарів, довірених нам, ділитися часом, талантом, скарбами, як видимий знак любови і вдячності до Нього. Будь ласка, лудтьє добрими провідниками своїх дарів, і поділіться ними, приймаючи угасть в **Share 2015 – Єпархіаний Заклик**.



PENTECOST – THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE APOSTLES

The tenth day after the Ascension of Jesus Christ was the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Christ. It was the Jews' great feast of Pentecost, which commemorated the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai.

All the Apostles, the Mother of God, and the other disciples of Christ and other of the faithful, were all together in one room in Jerusalem. It was the third hour of the day by the Hebrew reckoning of hours, according to our system—nine o'clock in the morning. Suddenly a sound came from Heaven, like a rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. There descended on them tongues that looked like fire, which rested on each one of them. There were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, previously unknown to them. Thus the Holy Spirit, according to the promise of the Savior, descended on the apostles in the form of tongues of fire, as a sign that He gave the apostles the ability and zeal to preach the teachings of Christ to all peoples. He descended in the form of fire as a sign of the power to cleanse sins, to sanctify and warm souls.

On the occasion of the feast of Pentecost, there were in Jerusalem many Jews who had come from various nations. Hearing the noise, a great multitude of people came together around the house where the disciples of Christ were. They were all bewildered and asked each other, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? How is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? How are they able to tell in our languages the mighty works of God?" In disbelief they said, "Thy are filled with new wine." Then the Apostle Peter, standing with the eleven, said that they were not drunk, but that the Holy Spirit had descended upon them, that it has been prophesied by the Prophet Joel, and that Jesus Christ, Whom the Jews had crucified, had risen from the dead, ascended

into Heaven and poured out on them the Holy Spirit. Finishing this sermon about Jesus Christ, the Apostle Peter said, "Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus, Whom you crucified."

The sermon of Peter so moved those who heard it that many more believed in Jesus Christ. They asked Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; then you shall also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." So those who believed in Christ readily accepted baptism, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. Thus began the building of the Kingdom of God on earth, the Church of Christ.

From the day of the descent of the Holy Spirit the Christian faith quickly spread with the help of God, and the number of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ multiplied. Instructed by the Holy Spirit, the apostles preached boldly to all about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, about His suffering for us and resurrection from the dead. The Lord helped them with many great miracles which were performed by the apostles in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. At first the apostles preached to the Jews, and then dispersed to various countries to preach to all the people. To perform the sacraments and to preach Christianity the apostles established, by the laying on of hands, bishops, presbyters, and deacons. This grace of the Holy Spirit, which was clearly conferred on the apostles in the form of tongues of fire, is now conferred in our Holy Orthodox Church invisibly in its sacraments, through the successors to the apostles, the pastors of the Church, its bishops and priests.

Апостоли ГУЛАГу

Несхитна вірність Христові і Його Церкві Ісповідника віри Митрополита Йосифа (Сліпого) та усієї греко-католицької єрархії, їх глибока впевненість у перемозі над злом, їх особисте свідчення відданості Римському Апостольському Престолові служили надихаючим прикладом і підтримкою у вірі й надії як для мирян, так і для духовенства, що уникнули арештів чи заслання, або ж перебували в неволі.

“Який же благодатний цей Сибір для нас усіх, для учнів Христових, для росту й життя Христового Царства. Він, колись пустеля, днесь пересяклий кривавим потом закованих, та непереможених синів поневоленої країни. Із закутої в сніги й морози землі чужої неслись не тільки нарікання й лайка, з неї піднімалися і піднімаються по сьогодні слова тихої і щирої молитви до Всевишнього. На ній, у різних закутках і вертепах її, приноситься вже десятки років нова жертва Тіла й Крови Господньої, на ній родилась і жила помічна духовна школа для виховання нових служителів Христа. Ота Сибірська земля побачила нову справжню людину, справжніх християн, справжніх вірних синів Христової Церкви...”

—3 листа Митрополита Йосифа (Сліпого) із заслання від 17 лютого 1961 р.

Молитовний батько



Священномученик **Микола Цегельський** народився 17 грудня 1896 р. в с. Струсові на Тернопільщині. У 1923 р. закінчив богословський факультет Львівського університету. 5 квітня 1925 р. Митрополит Андрей (Шептицький) рукоположив його на священика. Був ревним душпастирем, дбав про духовність, освіту та добробут своїх вірних. Після війни зазнав репресій з боку більшовицької влади, відмовившись перейти на офіційне православ'я. Отець випив до дна гірку чашу залякування, погроз і побоїв. 28 жовтня 1946 р. був заарештований, а 27 січня 1947 р. - засуджений на 10 років ув'язнення. Згодом його заслали у Мордовію, а дружину, троє дітей і невістку вивезли в Читинську обл. Жив у жахливих умовах табору суворого режиму, зазнав нестерпних фізичних страждань через хворобу, проте це не зламало його сильного духа.

Помер 25 травня 1951 р. як мученик за віру, похований на табірному цвинтарі ст. Потьма.

“Моя наймиліша дружино. На Успення минуло 25-ліття нашого подружжя. Мило згадую наше спільне родинне життя, і в снах щоденних з тобою і діточками, і тому я щасливий... Цілую батьківським поцілунком їх чоленька та благаю жити чесно, заховуватись у невинності, держатись оподалік усякої скверни. За це молюсь найбільше”.

— Із листів о. Миколи Цегельського із Мордовії

Apostles of the Gulag

The unbending faithfulness to Christ and His Church of confessor of the faith Metropolitan Josyf Slipyj and all the Greek Catholic hierarchy, their deep certainty in the victory over evil and their special witness of fidelity to the Roman Apostolic See served as an inspiring example and supported the faith and hope of laity and clergy alike who had avoided arrest and exile and had not been time in prison.

"What a blessing this Siberia has already been for us all, for all the followers of Christ, for the growth and the life of Christ's kingdom. This place, once barren, today is soaked with the bloody sweat of prisoners and the unconquered sons of an enslaved nation. Not only laments and curses have come forth from this alien land surrounded by snow and frost. Words of calm and sincere prayer have also gone up to the Almighty and continue to go up to this day. For a number of years now, from various corners and caves the new sacrifice of the Body and Blood of Christ has been offered. A spiritual school has been born and thrives which helps in the upbringing of new ministers of Christ. This very Siberian land has seen a truly new human being, true Christians, true and faithful sons of Christ's Church..."

- Excerpt from a letter of Metropolitan Josyf (Slipyj) from exile, February 17, 1961.

Prayerful Parent



Priest and martyr **Father Mykola Tsehelskyi** was born on 17 December 1896 in the village of Strusiv, Ternopil District. In 1923, he graduated from the Theological Faculty of Lviv University. On 5 April 1925 Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky ordained him to the priesthood. He was a zealous priest who cared for the spirituality, education and welfare of his parishioners. After the war he was repressed by the Bolsheviks because he refused to convert to Orthodoxy. Father drank deep from the bitter cup of intimidation, threats and beatings. On 28 October 1946 he was arrested and on 27 January 1947 he was sentenced to ten years imprisonment. He was deported to Mordovia (Russia), but his wife, three children and daughter-in-law were taken to Russia's Chytynska region. He lived in extremely horrid conditions, in a camp that was notoriously strict and cruel.

He suffered from severe pain due to illness, but this did not break his strong spirit.

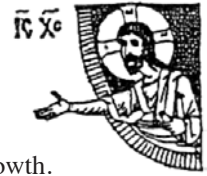
He died a martyr for the faith on 25 May 1951 and is buried in the camp cemetery.

"My dearest wife: the feast of the Dormition was our 25th wedding anniversary. I recall fondly our family life together, and every day in my dreams I am with you and the children, and this makes me happy ... I give a fatherly kiss to all their foreheads and I hope to live honestly, behaving blamelessly, keeping far from everything that is foul. I pray for this most of all."

-- From the letters of Father Mykola Tsehelskyi written in Mordovia

THE HOLY SPIRIT

- ❖ is God, the third Person of the Holy Trinity;
- ❖ proceeds from the Father;
- ❖ is sent into the world by Jesus Christ;
- ❖ inspires God's People to speak God's truth and to do His will; and
- ❖ is the Giver of Life who upholds and sustains creation in its existence, life, and growth.



Fifty days after His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ sent the Holy Spirit upon His disciples. What does the Lord Jesus Christ say about the Holy Spirit?



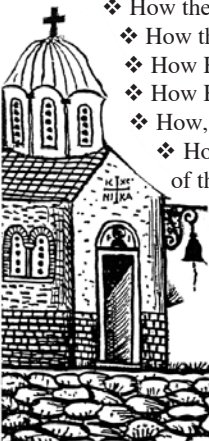
If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, so that He may be with you forever, the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see Him nor know Him. But you know Him, for He dwells with you and shall be in you. – John 14:15-17

But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. – John 14:26

When He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth. For He shall not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears, He shall speak. And He will declare to you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and will declare it to you. – John 16:13-15

CONTEMPLATION – THE DESCENT OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE APOSTLES

- ❖ How the Apostles stood in one mind at prayer.
- ❖ How, there came a sound from heaven as a rushing mighty wind.
- ❖ How there appeared fiery tongues, one on each of the Apostles.
- ❖ How the Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in various tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance.
- ❖ How some mocked them saying, “They have had too much new wine.”
- ❖ How the rest wondered and marveled, hearing the Apostles speak to them of the wonderful works of God in their own languages.
- ❖ How the small are made great by God the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ How the fearful are made fearless by Him.
- ❖ How He makes the simple wise.
- ❖ How He makes the inarticulate eloquent.
- ❖ How, from fishermen, He makes fishers of men for the Kingdom of God.
- ❖ How, from shepherds of an irrational flock, He makes shepherds of a rational flock – the true sheep of the House of Israel.
- ❖ How the Apostles, led by the Holy Spirit, traveled throughout the world without means and without friends.
- ❖ How, through the Holy Spirit, the Apostles proclaimed the Lord's Gospel.
- ❖ How, through the Holy Spirit, the Church continues to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

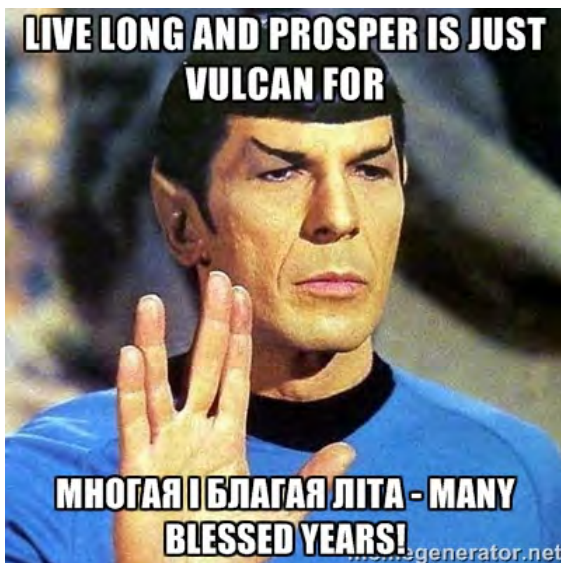


Fast-Free Week

During the week after Pentecost (May 25 through May 30) we do not fast, even on Wednesday and Friday. This week is given to us to celebrate the renewal of the Holy Spirit received on Pentecost.

A Note on Kneeling

Now that Pentecost has arrived, kneeling is no longer forbidden for weekday Liturgical Services. Kneeling is reintroduced into the **weekday** Liturgical services with the Kneeling Prayers (which technically are part of Vespers for Monday.) Kneeling is **still prohibited** for all Sundays. "Because kneeling is a sign of penance in the Eastern tradition, the faithful should be discouraged from kneeling during the Paschal Season and on **all** Sundays of the year. The faithful should be properly instructed as to the reasons why kneeling at these times is not congruent with the theology of the Eastern Churches." (Art. 464 § 1 – *Pastoral Guide of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA.*)



Roof Campaign



The hall roof is in dire need of repair. There are at least six separate leaks. Numerous patch jobs have failed to solve the problems. The current drought has minimized the problem but we

continue to pray for rain anyway. There is good news and bad news: The good news is - we have the money; the bad news is - it's still in your pockets. We will be soliciting quotes for repairs soon. Know a roofer you would recommend?

Roof Repair Challenge

An anonymous donor has given \$1000.00 towards the repair of the hall roof. The donor has challenged the rest of the parish to contribute to this cause so that the roof can be fully repaired rather than patched.

Roof Challenge Response: \$1550.00

Pastor:

Fr. James Bankston: (619) 905-5278

Pastoral Council:

Vladimir Bachynsky: (619) 865-1279

Mark Hartman: (619) 446-6357

Luke Miller: (858) 354-2008

Jeanine Soucie: (718) 674-4529

Social Committee Chairperson:

Megan Hartman (619) 540-4291

Finance Committee:

Bohdan Knianicky: (619) 303-9698



**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква
Святого Йоана Хрестителя
St. John the Baptizer
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

4400 Palm Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91941
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

Website: stjohnthebaptizer.org

Pastor: Fr. James Bankston
frjames@mac.com

Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

The Spirit - Salt and Light

The soul that is deemed to be judged worthy to participate in the light of the Holy Spirit by becoming His throne and habitation, and is covered with the beauty of ineffable glory of the Spirit, becomes all light, all face, all eye. ... That the souls of the just become heavenly light, the Lord himself has told His Apostles: "You are the light of the world" (Mt 5:14). For He Himself, who first transformed them into light, has ordered and commanded them to be light to the world. ... Just as the eyes are the light of the body and when the eyes are healthy and sound, then the whole body is enlightened, so also on the contrary, if anything should happen to render the eyes darkened, then the whole body is in darkness.

Thus the Apostles were called and ordained to be the eyes and the light of the whole world. For this reason the Lord told them: "If you, who are the light of the world, will persevere and not turn away, behold, then the whole body of the world will be enlightened. But if you, who are light, should be led into darkness, how great is that darkness, which is nothing less than the world." Thus the Apostles, who were made light, brought light to those who

believed and enlightened their hearts by the heavenly light of the Spirit by whom they themselves had been enlightened.

And since they themselves were salt, they seasoned and salted every believing soul by the salt of the Holy Spirit. For the Lord told them: "You are the salt of the earth" (Mt 5:13). He meant by earth the souls of upright men. For they ministered to the souls of men the heavenly salt of the Spirit, seasoning them and keeping them free from decay and from anything harmful, away from the putrid condition they were in. ... If indeed the soul takes refuge in God, believes and seeks the salt of life, which is the good and human loving Spirit, then the heavenly salt comes. ... The Spirit cleanses the soul by the strength of His salt. Thus the soul is brought back to health and freed from its wounds by the true salt in order again to be useful and ordered to serve the heavenly Lord.

Pseudo-Macarius

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.theosismedia.com**