

SUNDAY OF PENTECOST -- THE HOLY TRINITY



*Icon of Pentecost*

**May 27, 2012**

**DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (PENTECOST); TRINITY SUNDAY**  
**THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR THERAPON, BISHOP OF SARDIA**  
**THE HOLY MARTYR THALALEUS AND HIS COMPANIONS**  
**FESTAL TONE**

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 28 – JUNE 3**

MONDAY, MAY 28 – *MONDAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR HOLY FATHER NICETAS, BISHOP OF CHALCEDON*

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy / Panakhyda      ✙ The souls of all our war dead.

TUESDAY, MAY 29 – *THE VENERABLE MARTYR AND VIRGIN THEODOSIA*

10:00 AM – Parastas / Funeral Service      ✙ Stephanie Olynk

SATURDAY, JUNE 2 – *APODOSIS OF PENTECOST; OUR HOLY FATHER NICEPHORUS THE CONFESSOR, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE*

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JUNE 3 – *SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; THE HOLY MARTYR LUCILLIAN AND HIS COMPANIONS: CLAUDIUS, HYPATIUS, PAUL, DIONYSIUS AND VIRGIN PAULA AT BYZANTIUM*

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

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**Welcome!**

We warmly welcome the students from St. Augustine High School and their families and all those who are visiting us today. It is good to have you all with us!

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**Haven't Seen Someone in a While?**

Give them a call. See how they are doing. Let them know that you not only miss them but also care enough to see if everything is okay. A kind word can go a long way.

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**If You Are Hospitalized**

please be sure to let your priest know. Even if you do not want a visit, prayers (private and/or communal) should be offered on your behalf. Your priest is not clairvoyant and will not know that you are in the hospital unless you tell him. When you check into the hospital, be sure to put yourself in the hands of the Divine Physician as well as an earthly one!



***Вічна Пам'ять! Eternal Memory!***

On Tuesday, May 29th at 10AM there will be a Parastas at 10:00 AM for Stephanie Olynk who fell asleep in the Lord on May 11. Internment will follow. Let us remember Stephanie and her families in our prayers.

"Thou didst die – Thou Who art the Life of all – in order to revive me who was dead. Thou wast laid in the tomb that I might rise from the tomb. Thou wast brought to life again that I might believe in my own resurrection."

St. Tikhon

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**Last Sunday's Bulletin**

If you haven't yet picked up last Sunday's bulletin, it is available in the church hall, or on our website, [stjohnthebaptizer.org](http://stjohnthebaptizer.org).



## 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."

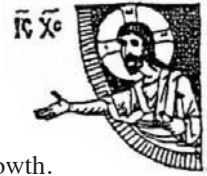
The sermon of Peter so moved those who heard it that many more believed in Jesus Christ. They asked Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; then you shall 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.



## 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*

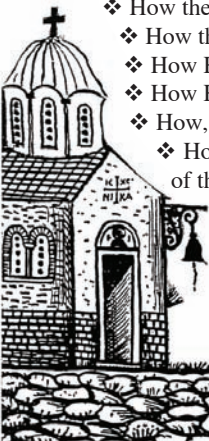
*But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. – John 14:26*

*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*

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## 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 28 through June 3) 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.

### Please Note:

When you go on vacation, please don't forget that the church still relies on your contributions. Our bills do not go on vacation. The summer months are most difficult due to the decrease in attendance. Your absence on any Sunday does not negate your obligation to support your home parish.

## A Note on Kneeling

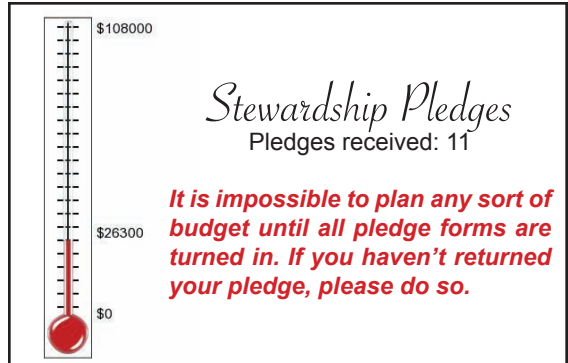
Now that Pentecost has arrived, kneeling is no longer forbidden for weekday Liturgical Services. Kneeling is reintroduced into the weekday Liturgical services with the Kneeling Prayers (which technically are part of Vespers for Monday.) "Because kneeling is a sign of penance in the Eastern tradition, 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.*)

Three pastors were having lunch together.

One said "You know, since summer started I've been having trouble with bats in my loft and attic at church. I've tried everything – noise, spray, cats – nothing seems to scare them away."

Another said "Me too. I've got hundreds living in my belfry and in the narthex attic. I've even had the place fumigated, and they won't go away."

The third said, "I baptized all mine, and made them members of the church. Haven't seen one back since!"



## Sunday offering for May 20

Amount	Number
\$10.00	2
\$15.00	1
\$16.00	1 (loose cash)
\$20.00	2
\$25.00	1
\$30.00	1
\$40.00	2
\$50.00	3
\$75.00	1
\$220.00	1
\$671.00	First Antiphon

Parishioner Total: \$671.00

Average / parish household (39): \$17.21

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00

Shortfall: (\$1454.00)

## Special Income

Contributions made in Memory of Helen Davis: \$2550.00

Net Proceeds from our Rummage Sale: \$1986.00

Contribution from Society of St. John Chrysostom: \$75.00

## PICNIC POSTPONED

THE PARISH PICNIC ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2 HAS BEEN POSTPONED. A NEW DATE HAS NOT YET BEEN SET.



**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](http://stjohnthebaptizer.org)

**Pastor:** Fr. James Bankston  
[frjames@mac.com](mailto:frjames@mac.com)

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

***The Works of the Holy Spirit***

The titles given to the Holy Spirit must surely stir the soul of anyone who hears them, and make him realize that they speak of nothing less than the Supreme Being. Is He not called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, the steadfast Spirit, the guiding Spirit?

The Spirit is the source of holiness, a spiritual light, and He offers His own light to every mind to help it in its search for truth. By nature the Spirit is beyond the reach of our mind, but we can know Him by His goodness. The power of the Spirit fills the whole universe, but He gives himself only to those who are worthy, acting in each according to the measure of his faith.

Simple in Himself, the Spirit is manifold in His mighty works. The whole of His being is present to each individual; the whole of His being is present everywhere. Like the sunshine,

which permeates all the atmosphere, spreading over land and sea, and yet is enjoyed by each person as though it were for him alone, so the Spirit pours forth His grace in full measure, sufficient for all, and yet is present as though exclusively to everyone who can receive Him.

The Spirit raises our hearts to heaven, guides the steps of the weak, and brings to perfection those who are making progress. He enlightens those who have been cleansed from every stain of sin and makes them spiritual by communion with Himself.

From the Spirit comes foreknowledge of the future, understanding of the mysteries of faith, insight into the hidden meaning of Scripture, and other special gifts. Through the Spirit we become citizens of heaven, we enter into eternal happiness, and abide in God.

*St. Basil the Great*