



PENTECOST

DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT UPON THE APOSTLES OF CHRIST – 33 AD

# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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**BULLETIN OF JUNE 7, 2009**

## SUNDAY, JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>

### HOLY PENTECOST

#### One of the Twelve Great Feasts

- 8:40a.m. Hours
- 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
- Kneeling Vespers
- Coffee Hour

## SATURDAY, JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>

- 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

## SUNDAY, JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>

### ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

- 9:00a.m. Baptismal-Liturgy
- Luncheon

*And in the fulfilling of the day of Pentecost, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly a sound came out of the heaven as borne along by the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And tongues as of fire appeared to them, being distributed; and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled of the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Acts 2:1-4

### READER SCHEDULE

**Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**

Kathy Parrish

**Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**

Jodi McElwee



### Please Remember in Prayer

Carole Boris (newly-departed), Archpriest Michael, Monk Christian, Nadia, Kathy & Bill Parrish, Diane Evanusa, Marie, Thomas, Judith Kocinski, Jane Koshutko, Robert Evanusa, Nicholas & Linda, Nicholas, Anna, Yvonne, Katherine, Michael, Gregory, Todd & Olga Leisure, Nina Gordon, Constantina & Christos. Requests? Let Fr. John know.

### Feast of Pentecost – Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>

The Feast of Pentecost is one of the greatest and most joyous of the Church year. On this day we once again start using the prayer, "O Heavenly King" since we celebrate how God has made us sharers in His Kingdom through the descent of His Holy Spirit.



### Fast-Free Week

As a reminder, since we are celebrating Pentecost this week (June 7<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>), we do not fast, even on Wednesday and Friday.

### Baptism of Constantine Cook – Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

Next Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, Baby Constantine Cook will receive Holy Baptism. The Baptismal-Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:00am. Following the service there will be a luncheon in his honor. All are invited!



### Reading Group – Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

The Reading Group will meet at the church on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, to look at excerpts from chapter one of the "Historical Road of the Orthodox Church" by Fr. Alexander Schememann. This chapter is devoted to "The Beginning of the Church". Copies are available for pick-up at the candle stand.

### Save the Date

On Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, we will have a cookout / yard-bake sale fundraiser in the church parking lot. More info coming soon!



### New Green Liturgical Covers

A big "thank you" to the seamstresses of the parish who sowed the new green liturgical covers. May the Lord bless them as well as those who donated for this project!

### The Fast of Ss. Peter & Paul

begins on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> (the day after All Saints Sunday) and extends until the celebration of the feast of the Holy Apostles on June 29<sup>th</sup>. During this fasting period we should avail ourselves of Holy Confession.



### The Poor Box

In the back of our church is a poor box used to collect money for the needs of members of our community as well as those in the local area. Please consider making regular offerings for the assistance of those in need. May the Lord bless your generosity!



## 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, "They 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.



### Troparion – tone 8

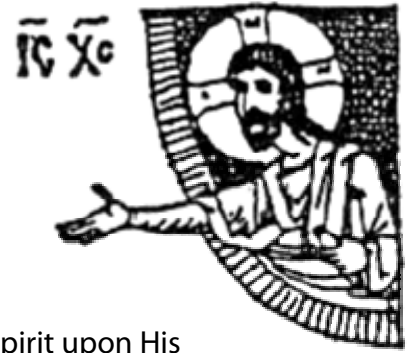
Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

### Kontakion – tone 8

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the all-holy Spirit!

## 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.





## ON HOLY COMMUNION

*Saint Ambrose of Optina*

The Holy Eucharist is the first, most important, and greatest miracle of Christ. All the other Gospel miracles are secondary. How could we not call the greatest miracle the fact that simple bread and wine were once transformed by the Lord into His very Body and His very Blood, and then have continued to be transformed for nearly two thousand years by the prayers of priests, who are but simple human beings? And what is more, this mystery has continued to effect a miraculous change in those people who communicate of the Divine Mysteries with faith and humility.



## I HAVE NO HANDS BUT YOURS

*From Parish Publishing, LLC*

A soldier in World War II was given the task of gathering up the pieces and fragments of a statue of Christ that was destroyed when the cathedral that housed it was destroyed by bombs and mortar. He found every piece and fragment, and they were turned over to an artist, whose labor of love it was to reconstruct the icon. Even though it took him months, he accomplished the work, and the statue was returned to its pedestal.

One part of the Christ was missing, however. The soldier could not find the hands of Christ. Both the soldier and the artisan considered their work incomplete without the hands. However, one day as the craftsman was viewing the statue with the missing hands, he got a wonderful idea. Instead of Christ's hands being raised in blessing, as they originally were, the craftsman placed an ornate, but simple, sign at the base of the handless replica. These were the words of the sign: "I have no hands, but yours." Will you give your hands – your time and abilities – to your church?

## A QUESTION ABOUT ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY

*From OCA.org and Fr. John Matusiak*

### Question:

Can you tell me how many Orthodox Christians there are in North America and throughout the world?

### Answer:

While it is somewhat difficult to give an exact figure -- in North America there are a variety of numbers which circulate while on the world scene it is also difficult since many Orthodox churches, especially those in the former Soviet-bloc countries, are only now in a position to ascertain a clear picture of their status -- I am happy to offer the following information.

#### North America:

One will find estimates ranging between 1 and 6 million members.

There is a certain variable in how one defines "membership"; for example, is membership based on the number of individuals baptized in the Orthodox Church, some of whom may no longer be Orthodox, or on other criteria such as financial support, registration with a parish, etc?

It would be safe to say that there are somewhere between 2 and 3 million Orthodox Christians in North America in roughly 2,000 parishes.

#### World:

While some media report upwards of 300 million Orthodox throughout the world, others estimate 200 million. To give you an idea, it is estimated that there are somewhere between 80 and 100 million Orthodox in the Russian Republic alone. Since the fall of communism the churches in Central and Eastern Europe are in a period of transition, a part of which is coming to grips with actual membership statistics, which were impossible to maintain during the communist era. Another difficulty in estimating the international numbers is found in the mobility of many individuals from traditionally Orthodox areas, such as the former Yugoslavia, the Middle East, etc.

In my own opinion, the 200 million number is probably more accurate than 300 million, but this again depends on how one defines "member" -- as a baptized individual, a registered individual, or a practicing individual who regularly participates in the life of the Church, her sacraments and worship, etc.