

PENTECOST

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "**the last and great day.**" It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end - the achievement and fulfillment - of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "**birthday**" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness

This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fullness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fullness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fullness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "**day without evening**" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fullness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.

Once again it must be noted that the feast of Pentecost is not simply the celebration of an event which took place centuries ago. It is the celebration of what must happen and does happen to us in the Church today. We all have died and risen with the Messiah-King, and we all have received his Most Holy Spirit. We are the "**temples of the Holy Spirit.**" God's Spirit dwells in us (Rom 8; 1 Cor 2-3, 12; 2 Cor 3; Gal 5; Eph 2-3). We, by our own membership in the Church, have received "**the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit**" in the sacrament of chrismation. Pentecost has happened to us.

THE VESPERS OF PENTECOST

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately the Divine Liturgy, is "added" to it as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn "summing up" of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. We hold flowers in our hands symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon: "**Who is so great a God as our God?**"

The Vespers of Pentecost features three long prayers at which the faithful kneel for the first time since Easter.

See us on the web at:

ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin.html

E-Mail us at:

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Pentecost

Glory to Jesus Christ

Glory Forever

*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!

Kontakion – Holy Pentecost

On this day the Church remembers:

8th SUNDAY OF PASCHA - Holy Pentecost. Feast Of The Holy Trinity

- Ven. Onuphrius the Great (4th c.) and Ven. Peter of Mt. Athos (734) • Finding of the Relics (1649) and the second glorification (1909) of Rt. Blv. Anna of Kashin. Ven. Arsenius, Abbot of Konevits (1447) • Ven. Onuphry, Abbot of Mal'sk (Pskov—1492)
- Ven. Bassian and Jonah of Pertomsk (Solovétsky Monastery—1561)
- Ven. Onuphry and Auxenty of Vologdá (15th-16th c.) • Ven. Stephen of Komel', Abbot of Ozérsk Monastery (Vologdá -1542). • Ven. John, Andrew, Heraclemon, and Theophilus, Hermits, of Egypt (4th c.).

June 12, 2011

Holy Pentecost

Tone 7

| 8th Sunday of Pascha

| Pentecostarion end

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For eternal memory of:**

Jacob, father of Matushka Galina, offered by Fr Boris and Matushka Galina.

For the health of:

Linda "Babes" Dantine on her birthday, offered by her family.

Readings:

- Acts 2:1-11
- John 7:37-52; 8:12

WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The officers then went back to the chief priest and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM

(**General Confession** on the first Sunday of each month, except during Lent)

Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

Vespers of Pentecost - after Liturgy

Church School

(during the school year)

Coffee hour after Liturgy

Saturday June 18

9:30 am - Greeting and vesting of the Bishop

10:00 am - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to joins us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- **Visit by Bishop Michael, this Saturday, June 18, 2011**
The parish is happy to announce that His Grace, Bishop Michael will visit our parish on Saturday, June 18. There will be a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy followed by a luncheon; the cost of which will be \$10.00 per person. There will be no advanced sale of tickets, but **luncheon reservations should be made by using the sign up sheet at the candle stand.** Greeting and vesting of the Bishop will be at 9:30 AM with the Liturgy starting around 10:00AM.

Special Announcements:

- **Church school has ended for the school year.** We would like to thank the parents and grandparents of our students for bringing them to church early these past few weeks. It has helped to allow the Divine Liturgy to begin on time. Sunday School special awards will be given out today after the Liturgy.
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the sign up sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- The next **meeting of the Parish Council** will be **June 26**, after coffee hour.