

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For the health of:**

MaryAnn and Bill Kuzemchak on their 52nd wedding anniversary

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, Pontos 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 **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
(Private Confession – Half hour before any service. Please don't delay the service.)
(Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School - 9:30 AM

Coffee hour - after Liturgy

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

Announcements:

- **Today will be the last class of the school year for Church School.**
- **Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon** - The Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon of the Mother of God will be at St. Nicholas Church, Philadelphia Pa. on Wednesday evening, June 6th, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. **We are invited to come and participate by praying before the icon, and to be anointed with the myrrh that has gushed from this icon for four years now.** You can receive a small swatch of cotton dipped in this myrrh, that has a particular sweet smelling rose aroma. See Linda or Richard Dantine if you are interested in going.
- The **2012 Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** program is underway. This is a way to: Support our diocesan seminarians, establish more mission parishes in our Diocese, and support existing parishes that need help. Our parish will be having a special collection for the next few weeks to donate to this fund. We ask that you help out by contributing to the collection and/or donating directly by mail with a "**Vision for Our Future ~ DDB**" flyer, or online at the website:
http://nynjoca.org/vision_for_future_2012.html
- **There will be a meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos today** after coffee hour.
- **The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on June 24th**, after coffee hour.

Reminder:

- **Volunteers are needed to clean the church.** Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, downstairs, to indicate when you can help.
- **Dues and assessments are being collected for the year 2012, Total Parish Membership Fee is now \$200.** Partial payments are gladly accepted.
- 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

Pentecost - The Descent of the Holy Spirit:

In the Old Testament, **Pentecost** was the feast which occurred fifty days after Passover. As the Passover feast celebrated the exodus of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt, so Pentecost celebrated God’s gift of the ten commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

In the new covenant of the Messiah, the Passover event takes on its new meaning as the celebration of Christ’s death and resurrection, the “*exodus*” of men from this sinful world to the Kingdom of God. And in the New Testament as well, the Pentecostal feast is fulfilled and made new by the coming of the “*new law*,” **the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ.**

The Holy Spirit that Christ had promised to his disciples came on the day of Pentecost (*Jn 14:26; 15:26; Lk 24:49; Acts 1:5*). The apostles received “*the power from on high*,” and they began to preach and bear witness to Jesus as the risen Christ, the King and the Lord. This moment has traditionally been called the birthday of the Church.

On Pentecost we have the final fulfillment of the mission of Jesus Christ and the first beginning of the messianic age of the Kingdom of God mystically present in this world in the Church of the Messiah. For this reason the **fiftieth day** stands as the beginning of the era which is beyond the limitations of this world, fifty being that number which stands for eternal and heavenly fulfillment in Jewish and Christian mystical piety: seven times seven, plus one.

The **Divine Liturgy of Pentecost** recalls our baptism into Christ with the verse from Galatians again replacing the Thrice-Holy Hymn. Special verses from the psalms also replace the usual antiphonal psalms of the liturgy. The epistle and gospel readings tell of the Spirit’s coming to men. The Kontakion sings of the reversal of Babel as God unites the nations into the unity of his Spirit. The Troparion proclaims the gathering of the whole universe into God’s net through the work of the inspired apostles. The hymns *O Heavenly King* and *We have seen the True Light* are sung for the first time since Easter, calling the Holy Spirit to “*come and abide in us*”, and proclaiming that “*we have received the heavenly Spirit*.” The church building is decorated with flowers and the green leaves of the summer to show that God’s divine Breath comes to renew all creation as the “*life-creating Spirit*.” In Hebrew the word for Spirit, breath and wind is the same word, **ruah**.

The **Great Vespers of Pentecost evening** features three long prayers at which the faithful kneel for the first time since Easter. The Monday after Pentecost is the **feast of the Holy Spirit** in the Orthodox Church, and the Sunday after Pentecost is the **feast of All Saints**. This is the logical liturgical sequence since the coming of the Holy Spirit is fulfilled in men by their becoming saints, and this is the very purpose of the creation and salvation of the world. “*Thus says the Lord: Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I your God am holy*” (*Lev 11:44-45, 1 Pet 1:15-16*).

- V. Rev. Thomas Hopko

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
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Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God

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Holy 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 - Pentecost

On this day the Church remembers:

8th SUNDAY OF PASCHA • Holy Pentecost: Feast Of The Holy Trinity

- Martyr Lucillian and those who suffered with him at Byzantium: four youths—Claudius, Hypatius, Paul, and Dionysius; and the Virgin Paula (270-275) • Hieromartyr Lucian—Bishop, Maximian—Presbyter, Julian—Deacon, Marcellinus and Saturninus, at Beauvais in France (81-96).

June 3, 2012

Pentecost Sunday
8th Sunday of Pascha (Tone 7)

Feast of the Holy Trinity
(Fast free week)