



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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HOLY PENTECOST

June 23, 2024

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

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, and 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.

Prokeimenon – Tone 8

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / and their words to the ends of the universe.
V. The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

Holy 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 fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness 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 fulness 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.

THE VIGIL OF PENTECOST

The all-night Vigil service begins with a solemn invitation:
"Let us celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit,
The appointed day of promise, and the fulfillment of hope,
The mystery which is as great as it is precious."

In the coming of the Spirit, the very essence of the Church is revealed:
"The Holy Spirit provides all,
Overflows with prophecy, fulfills the priesthood,
Has taught wisdom to illiterates, has revealed fishermen as theologians,
He brings together the whole council of the Church."

In the three readings of the Old Testament (Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29; Joel 2:23-32; Ezekiel 36:24-28) we hear the prophecies concerning the Holy Spirit. We are taught that the entire history of mankind was directed towards the day on which God “would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh.” This day has come! All hope, all promises, all expectations have been fulfilled. At the end of the Aposticha hymns, for the first time since Easter, we sing the hymn: “O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth...,” the one with which we inaugurate all our services, all prayers, which is, as it were, the life-breath of the Church, and whose coming to us, whose “descent” upon us in this festal Vigil, is indeed the very experience of the Holy Spirit “coming and abiding in us.”

Having reached its climax, the Vigil continues as an explosion of joy and light for “verily the light of the Comforter has come and illumined the world.” In the Gospel reading (John 20:19-23) the feast is interpreted to us as the feast of the Church, of her divine nature, power and authority. The Lord sends His disciples into the world, as He Himself was sent by His Father. Later, in the antiphons of the Liturgy, we proclaim the universality of the apostles’ preaching, the cosmical significance of the feast, the sanctification of the whole world, the true manifestation of God’s Kingdom.

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?”

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God.

In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter “the ordinary time” of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called “after Pentecost”—and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches—for the Church “never grows old, but is always young.” It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit—“the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life—comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity,” and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope.

Father Alexander Schmemmann (1974)

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we

were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”

Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.” Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?” So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why have you not brought Him?” The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this Man!” Then the Pharisees answered them, “Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.” Nikodemos (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, “Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?” They answered and said to him, “Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee.” Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED

Dates are when the name was added to the bulletin; names will remain in four bulletins and then removed. To add the name again, please email Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com.

For the Sick / Caregiver

Bill (6/2)
Carmine (6/2)
Marianne (6/2)
Subdeacon Serge (6/9)
Melody (6/9)
Michael (6/9)
Charlotte (6/9)
Vera (6/9)
Chris (6/16)

Matushka Mary (6/16)
Father Paul (6/16)
Alexandra (6/16)
Lynne (6/16)
Bill (6/16)
Connie (6/16)
Kelly (6/23)
Liam (6/23)

For the Deceased

Albert (6/2)
Awatif (6/2)
Anna (6/16)
John (6/16)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the Week of June 23

Sunday June 23 – PENTECOST 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by kneeling prayers. Then Coffee Hour in Daria Hall.

Saturday June 29 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday June 30 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

June 16 – 72 adults, 16 youth, \$2,123

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a FOCA Club meeting today during Coffee Hour. This will be the last FOCA meeting until September.

This week is fast free through June 30.

Please refer to the last page of this bulletin for information on an upcoming Diocesan Parish Council Conference on Parish Management, which will be held in Glen Gardner on Saturday August 10. Parish Council members should plan on attending, but the Conference is open to all parishioners. Let Darice know if you plan on attending. Thank you.

St. Vladimir Feast Day Information:

Archbishop Michael will be celebrating with us on Saturday July 13 and Sunday July 14.

Vespers will be served on Saturday at 5:00 PM, followed by Potluck Supper in Daria Hall.

Hierarchical Liturgy will be served on Sunday at 10:00 AM, followed by Banquet in Daria Hall.

Divine Liturgy will be served on Monday (actual Feast Day) July 15 at 9:30 AM.

There are 3 sign-up sheets on the table in the back of the church across from the candle desk:

Sign-up for Potluck Dinner on Saturday.

Sign-up to attend Sunday Banquet (donations will be accepted at the door). If you do not sign up, please understand that we may not be able to accommodate you – food will be prepared for the number of people who sign up.

Sign-up to donate needed items for the Banquet; all items need to be brought to Daria Hall by Sunday July 7.

Help will be needed setting up and prepping the meal Saturday morning.

Help will be needed in the kitchen early Sunday morning.

Help will be needed serving the meal on Sunday.

Help will be needed cleaning up after the meal.

Please volunteer to help – many hands are needed both days!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Darice Keyes – June 23

Marina Dorvil – June 25

Luke Kilgore – June 27

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

COFFEE HOUR

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. **PLEASE NOTE: Your assigned Coffee Hour Support**

Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky or Alla Strauss.

SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (non-dairy)

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) **with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event.** The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

June 23 Nina Laushell, Lynne Sheedy & Bill Hazelton

June 30 Ludwig & Paula Koerte, Nina Shafran

July 7 Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt, Ramazi Shubitidze

July 14 **ST. VLADIMIR DAY CELEBRATION**

July 21 Chris Kasmer, Herman & Francine Meyer

July 28 Tamara Karkusova, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky

Aug. 4 **FAST** Luwam Tesfa, Nebiat Tesfa

Aug. 11 **FAST** Nancy Mitsos, Darice Keyes

Aug. 18 Ladies Assumption Altar Society

Aug. 25 Alex Godun, Blake & Jessica Kilgore

Sept. 1 Tyler Burger, Awet Tesfa

Sept. 8 Olga & James Bates, Tanya & Walter Tribbey

Sept. 15 James & Monia Pitra, Anne Cheslock
Sept. 22 **ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC – NO COFFEE HOUR**
Sept. 29 Sami Bachir, Nour Ragab
Oct. 6 Virgiliu & Gabriela Plesa, Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav
Oct. 13 **ANNUAL TURKEY SOCIAL – NO COFFEE HOUR**
Oct. 20 Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick, Alan & Mimi Berck
Oct. 27 Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun
Nov. 3 Matthew Anderson, Jeremy Salmon
Nov. 10 Galina Shubina, Amber Touch
Nov. 17 Fiyori Habtesillasse, Lemlem Woldearegay
Nov. 24 **FAST** Peter Abdallah, Jim Galcik
Dec. 1 **FAST** Natalia Kolomatskaia, Trudy Ellmore
Dec. 8 **FAST** Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Hannah Dougherty
Dec. 15 **FAST** Vera Pschenyczny, Amleset Gebrekvistas
Dec. 29 Valeria & Timothy Srock, Guy Radcliffe
Jan. 5 Darice Keyes, Bill & Margie DiCicco
Jan. 12 Aftan Chowansky, Alex & Brittani Brasowski

PARISH COUNCIL CONFERENCE

On

PARISH MANAGEMENT

Saturday, August 10, 2024 10am to 3pm

ST. GREGORY PALAMAS CHURCH
5 Church Street, Glen Gardner, NJ

Come and learn management strategies and best practices to implement at your parish. Topics will include:

- **Effective Communication**
- **Financial Budgeting & Reporting**
- **Setting & Monitoring Parish Goals**
- **Keeping Christ at the Center of Parish Life**
- **Relating the Parish to the Diocese**
- **Parish Outreach - Telling the Parish's Story**
- **... More**

This annual conference is intended for **any and all members** of our diocesan parishes, especially those who are serving on parish councils. Speak with your parish priest about attending, and RSVP to Father Gary Breton, Dean of the New Jersey Deanery, at (848) 333-7055 or gjbretton@gmail.com.

Registration begins at 9:00am. Lunch is included. Parking is limited, so plan to carpool if possible.