



# St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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## HOLY PENTECOST

MAY 31, 2026

### 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 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** (to add a name contact Darice at [daricekeyes@gmail.com](mailto:daricekeyes@gmail.com))

### **For the Sick/Caregiver**

Michael (5/10)	Betty (5/17)
Charlotte (5/10)	Alexandra (5/17)
Subdeacon Sergius (5/10)	Father Paul (5/17)
Melody (5/10)	Liam (5/17)
Kathleen (5/10)	Kelly (5/17)
Donna (5/10)	Marco (5/24)
Cassidy (5/17)	Bill (5/24)
Anthony (5/17)	Margie (5/24)
Chuck (5/17)	Nina (5/24)
Phyllis (5/17)	Joshua (5/24)
Vera (5/17)	Carmine (5/31)
Lynne (5/17)	Marianne (5/31)
Bill (5/17)	Desiderio (5/31)

### **Deceased**

## **SERVICES**

### **Service Schedule for the Week of May 31**

**Sunday May 31 – PENTECOST** 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Pentecostal Vespers, then Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

**Monday June 1 – FEAST OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

**Saturday June 6** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and Catechumen Class in the church basement

**Sunday June 7** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

## **DONATIONS**

### **Weekly Giving**

May 24 – 71 adults, 15 youth, \$3,331

## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome home to the newly illumined in the Orthodox faith!

Jennifer Suarez: Patron Saint - St. Xenia of St. Petersburg

Luke Simonian: Patron Saint - St. George, Great Martyr and Trophy-Bearer

Jonathan Camey: Patron Saint - St. Paisios

May God grant you many blessed years!

Congratulations to Patrick Sunseri on the birth of his first grandson, Gabriel! Proud parents are Nicholas and Luiza Sunseri.

*Pentecost “Fire” Sale at the Parish Bookstore in Daria Hall:* Select inventory will be discounted between 10% and 50% today and next Sunday June 7 (Sunday of All Saints). Visit the bookstore during Coffee Hour to browse marked-down prayer ropes, icons, books, and devotional items. All proceeds support the bookstore.

We are looking for volunteers to help man the bookstore on Sundays on a rotational basis. If you are interested in helping, please see Manny (Nektarios) to sign up. Thank you!

Leftover containers and plastic bags are in the labeled pink container near the stage in Daria Hall. Please access these items, if needed, instead of going into the kitchen. Thank you!

## **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Jessica Kilgore – May 31

Tiberiu Milosav – June 1

Alex Janoczkin – June 1

Eleni Athanatos – June 2

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

## **COFFEE HOUR**

***\*If you are unable to accommodate your hosting date, please advise Darice as soon as possible so changes can be made.***

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. Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services, so if you have arrived late, or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock Daria Hall when you leave for church services. If you have any questions, please contact Alla Strauss.

### **SUGGESTED MENU:**

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts

Fruit

Salad

Tortilla Chips & Salsa

Hummus & Pita

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos / Graham Crackers (they are all non-dairy)

May 31 Jim & Monia Pitra, Svetlana Sosedov  
 June 7 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Ludwin Lopez  
 June 14 **FAST** Tesfahune Beyene & Tsion Kebebew, Amleset Gebrekvistas  
 June 21 **FAST SVOF Club**  
 June 28 **FAST** Tyler & Anna Cassidy, Zachary & Allison Hepburn  
 July 5 Peter & Mary Abdallah, Jim Galcik  
 July 12 Constantine Colomban, Tahara & Germain Ortiz  
 July 19 **St. Vladimir Feast Day Celebration**  
 July 26 Inna Lebedeva, Natallia Kukharenka  
 Aug. 2 **FAST** Viktoryia Baranova, Julie & Benjamin Stell  
 Aug. 9 **FAST** Nancy Mitsos, Karina Kotelnicki  
 Aug. 16 **Ladies Altar Society**  
 Aug. 23 Olga & Jim Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey  
 Aug. 30 Tony Evans, Jack Chiarkas, Trudy Ellmore  
 Sept. 6 Alex Godun, Edward & Azalea Logan  
 Sept. 13 Alex & Rebeca Medina, Juan Garcia  
 Sept. 20 **ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC**  
 Sept. 27 Corneliu & Florica Blasa, Stefania Balasa  
 Oct. 4 Troy Haynes, Luke Simonian, Christine Waite  
 Oct. 11 Catechumens, Trudy Ellmore  
 Oct. 18 Amber Edward, Amerigo Amodei, Chris & Tony Villabon  
 Oct. 25 Joe & Heather Jurik, Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick  
 Nov. 1 Alexander & Javier Torres, Matthew & Nana Barrett  
 Nov. 8 Jennifer Suarez, Jonathan Camey, Manuel & Lourdes Montiel  
 Nov. 15 **FAST** Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun, Josh Dumas  
 Nov. 22 **FAST** Nebiat Tesfa, Luwam Tesfa  
 Nov. 29 **FAST** Guy Radcliffe, Melody Stavisky



*Have a blessed week!*

# St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

## MAY / JUNE / JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
May 31	June 1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>PENTECOST</b> 8:30 AM Baptism & Chrismation - Jennifer Suarez, Jonathan Camey, Luke Simonian 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Pentecostal Vespers Bookstore Fire Sale! *Coffee Hour hosted by Pitra & Sosedov families	<b>FEAST OF THE HOLY SPIRIT</b> 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy  <i>Fast free week</i>					5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and Catechumen class
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy <b>Bookstore Fire Sale!</b> *Coffee Hour hosted by Kilgore & Lopez families	<i>Beginning of Ss Peter &amp; Paul Fast</i>	<i>Fast Day</i>	<i>Fast Day</i>	<i>Fast Day</i>	<i>Fast Day</i>	5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and Catechumen class <i>Fast Day</i>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy  *Lenten Coffee Hour hosted by Beyene/Kebebew & Gebrekvistas families	<i>Fast Day</i>	<i>Fast Day</i>	<i>Fast Day</i>	<i>Fast Day</i>	<i>Fast Day</i>	5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and Catechumen class <i>Fast Day</i>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy <b>Father's Day</b>  *Lenten Coffee Hour hosted by SVOF Club	<i>Fast Day</i>	<i>Fast Day</i>	<i>Fast Day</i>	<i>Fast Day</i>	<i>Fast Day</i>	5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and Catechumen class <i>Fast Day</i>
28	29	30	July 1	2	3	4
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy  *Lenten Coffee Hour hosted by Cassidy & Hepburn families <i>Fast Day</i>	<b>SS Peter &amp; Paul Feast Day</b> 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy		<i>Fast Day</i>		<i>Fast Day</i>	<b>Happy 250th Birthday to our great nation!</b> 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and Catechumen class