

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley
a Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
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and Metropolitan of all North America www.antiochian.org

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The Great Feast of Pentecost

Sunday, June 7, 2020

Apolytikion of Pentecost (Tone 8)

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise, having sent upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them Thou hast fished the universe, O Lover of mankind, glory to Thee.

Kontakion of Pentecost (Tone 8)

When the High One descended, confusing tongues, He divided the nations. And when He distributed the fiery tongues He called all to one unity. Wherefore, in unison we glorify the most Holy Spirit.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for Pentecost)

*Their voice has gone out into all the earth.
The heavens declare the glory of God.*

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:1-11)

When the day of Pentecost had come, the Disciples 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."

THE GOSPEL (for Pentecost)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. John
(7:37-52; 8:12)**

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his belly 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, many 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 priests 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 the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd, who do not know the Law, are accursed." Nicodemus, 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."

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered this morning with prayers by Jeanice Rose Deeb in memory of Caren Deeb Kouri (+2 June, 2018). Memory eternal.

Special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

for Elizabeth & Mitry Ajalat on their 15th year memorial;
also Raymond Salamy's 40th year memorial;
and Sara Coudsy's 19th year memorial;
offered in loving memory by the Ajalat and Salamy families.
Memory eternal.

for Sara Coudsy (19 years) +2 June, 2001
offered in loving memory of our Sweet Mother and Sitto,
by her children: Ted & Cecilia, Jeannette & Richard,
Khalil & Susan, Lila, and Grandchildren, Ted Jr., Cathy,
Nick, Matthew, Perla, Dannai, Justin, Mikayla, Sara and Esther;
Great Grandchild, Noelle. Memory eternal.

In loving memory of our dear Richard Hollow, Jr. (21 years),
Benjamin Khalil Coudsy (3 years), Kyle Jaeger (1 year),
from the entire Coudsy and Hollow families. Memory eternal.

In memory of our dear friend, Elizabeth Ajalat from the
Coudsy and Hollow families.

for strength in the recovery of Babe Mittry by Gloria Mittry.

for Ramona Darmour, celebrating her 92nd birthday (June 8th),
by her daughter, Charmaine.

May God grant her continued health and many years!

Included in our prayers throughout the month of June are those celebrating their birthday: Issa Ababseh (6/1), Tiffany Akoury (6/2), Alexandre Abdennour (6/3), Kacy Coury-Resch (6/3), Nicholas Ablahad (6/2), Dominick Milkie (6/4), Erica Nasser (6/4), Edward Saade (6/4), Genevieve Ababseh (6/5), John Gantus (6/5), Helen Saleh (6/5), Donald Simon (6/6), Ramona Darmour (6/8), Xander Paul Fronoher (6/8), Diana Nasser (6/8), Noelle Sophia Sabbah (6/8), Stephanie Haddad (6/12), Britton Luke McLinn (6/14), Michael C. Srouer (6/14), Shylee Srouer (6/15), Daher Ababseh (6/17), Peter Anthony Yazbek (6/17), Jackie Ababseh (6/18), Charles Malouf (6/18), Megan Sullivan (6/18), Salwa Ayoub (6/19), Michael and Elias Azzam (6/19), Paula Simon Kence (6/19), Alexandra Mallouk (6/20), Stephen Haddad (6/21), Najla Barakat (6/22), Father Minas Sarchizian (6/24), Olivia Grace Abraham (6/25), Christiana Matarese (6/26), Brittney Ajalat (6/27), Father Michael Habib (6/27), Ronald Zraick (6/27); Hilalah Haddad (6/29), Malia Isabella Kence (6/29), Hunter Koa Peter Gascou (6/30), E. Frank Skaff, Jr. (6/30); and those celebrating their wedding anniversary: Connie & James Barilla (6/1), Vivian & Britton Purvis (6/4), Brittney & Michael Ajalat (6/6), Shereen & Chad Manning (6/6), Caroline & John Malouf (6/6), Fuad & Sawsan Rafidi (6/6), Esther & Albert Bitar (6/8), Mitchel & Diana Thabit (6/8), Chad & Shereen Manning (6/10), Amanda & Orlando Pena

(6/15), Abeer & Mushir Khleif (6/21), Derek & Debi Dodds (6/24). May God grant them all many years!

Included in our prayers for the departed throughout the month of June are:

Joseph Butros, +1 June, 1950
Frank N. Skaff, +12 June, 1960
Kevork Arakelian, +6 June, 1963
Nassima Chammas Milkie, 1968
Michael Barkett, +10 June, 1971
Nasser Homsy, +4 June, 1972
Georges Mansur, +15 Jn., 1973
Edward Toomey, +29 June, 1976
Robert Eassa, +19 June, 1978
Robert Elias, +25 June, 1980
John Stanley, +21 June, 1980
John Fadel, +6 June, 1982
Joseph Latif, +16 June, 1982
Adele Khoury, +1 June, 1983
Olga Abboud, +18 June, 1983
Edward Hanna, +18 June, 1984
Victoria Azal, +29 June, 1988
Ralph Khoury, +28 June, 1989
Angeliki Abughazaleh +June, 1989
Stella Kovallic, +17 June, 1993
Jamileh Saadeh, +6 June
Fuad Aftimos, +23 June, 1993
Maria Kaady, +27 June, 1993
Fred G. Aboud, +1 June, 1994
Georgette D. Hapip, +2 June, 1994
James Satel, +27 June, 1994
Abdallah Bitar, +11 June, 1995
Dan Martin, +1 June, 1996
Albert Horaney, +2 June, 1996
Yousseff Zaki, +7 June, 1996
William Maykay, +11 June, 1996
Salvador Chala Sr., +9 June, 1997

Sara Coudsy, +2 June, 2001
Lut'fallah Esber, +20 June, 2001
Dr. George Thabit, +24 June, 2001
Matthew Ansara, +25 June, 2001
Richard Kaady, +29 June, 2001
Adele Miriam Olivier, +5 June, 2002
Ted Haddad, +20 June, 2003
Virginia Younes, +26 June, 2003
Elizabeth Ajalat, +1 June, 2005
Gary G. Murr, +21 June, 2005
George Kirshy, +13 June, 2006
Georges Mubarkeh, +21 June, 2006
Chris Bullard, +22 June, 2006
Khader Abughazaleh, +25 June, 2006
George Marchiano, +2 June, 2007
Marge Barney, +13 June, 2007
Dorothy Philips, +12 June, 2008
Hanna K. Ababseh, +2 June, 2009
Leonida Reinhold, +18 June, 2009
Yousef Abughazaleh, +19 June, 2011
Sohad Cahach, +2 June, 2012
Margaret Saade, +8 June, 2012
Connie Gillespie, +16 June, 2012
Sal Barilla, +27 June, 2012
Elie Berberi, +11 June, 2013
Bandaly Azzam, +13 June, 2013
Jabra Muamar, +13 June, 2013
Gloria Lambert Kesler, +15 June, 2013
Rita Samara Zabaneh, +12 June, 2014
Angela Nasr, +27 June, 2014
Laila Hallak, +14 June, 2015
Mary Lou Tobey, +18 June, 2015

Lillian E. Mittry, +15 June, 1997
Ramzi Ghantous, +24 June, 1997
Lamuel Haddad, +12 June, 1997
Elie Bohamed, +19 June, 1998
Salwa Abiad, +22 June, 1998
Minor Habeeb, +30 June, 2000

Leon Saliba, +3 June, 2017
Benjamin Coudsy, +15 June, 2017
Karen Deeb Kouri, +2 June, 2018
Isabel Horaney, +22 June, 2018
Diane Wood, +4 June, 2019
Alan Malouf, +29 June, 2019

Memory Eternal!

NOTE: Names and dates mentioned above are from our current Office Records. Please inform us of any error and we will correct it.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

[NOTE: There is **no fasting** during the next week.]

Day of the Holy Spirit – Monday, June 8

The Sunday of All Saints

Great Vespers – Saturday, June 13th, 5 p.m.

Orthros – Sunday, June 14rd, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

The Fast of the Apostles

Monday, June 15th to Sunday, June 28th (inclusive)

[The traditional fasting discipline is observed from the Monday after All Saints' Sunday through June 28th (the eve of Ss. Peter & Paul). Fish, wine and oil are permitted on Monday and Tuesday, however we abstain from animal meat and dairy products.]

The Great Feast of Pentecost (fifty days after the Feast of the Resurrection) is celebrated today. There is no fasting during the week following Pentecost (June 17-21). **The Sunday of All Saints** is celebrated on the Sunday following Pentecost (June 14th). From Monday, June 15th to Sunday, June 28, we observe **The Fast of the Holy Apostles**. The period of this fast varies from year to year, depending on the date of Easter. The traditional fasting discipline includes: no meat, poultry, eggs, cheese, milk or other dairy products, fish, wine and olive oil on Monday, with *catalysis* (allowance) for wine and olive oil on Tuesday (some also permit fish on Tuesday). The Fast prepares us for the celebration of the **Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul**, Patrons of the Patriarchate of Antioch, celebrated this year on Monday, June 29th. Having rejoiced for the fifty days

following Pascha (Easter), the Apostles began to prepare for their departure from Jerusalem to spread Christ's message. According to Holy Tradition, as part of their preparation, they began to fast with prayer to ask God to strengthen their resolve and to be with them in their missionary undertakings.

The Fast of the Holy Apostles (June 15 – 28, 2020)

The **Apostles' Fast**, also called the **Fast of the Holy Apostles**, the **Fast of Peter and Paul**, or sometimes **St. Peter's Fast**, is observed by the Orthodox beginning on the second Monday after the Feast of Pentecost, up until the Feast of Ss. Peter & Paul (June 29th).

Having rejoiced for fifty days following Pascha (Easter), the Apostles began to prepare for their departure from Jerusalem to spread Christ's message. According to Holy Tradition, as part of their preparation, they began a fast with prayer to ask God to strengthen their resolve and to be with them in their missionary undertakings.

The scriptural foundation for the Fast is found in the four Gospels, when the Pharisees criticized the apostles for not fasting, Jesus said to them, "Can the children of the bridal chamber mourn, as long as the Bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, when the Bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast." In the immediate sense, Christ was referring to his being taken to be crucified; but in the wider sense it is understood in terms of his Ascension into heaven, and his commission to preach the Gospel, which can only be accomplished with prayer and fasting.

The tradition of the Fast has existed at least since Pope Leo I (461 AD), as is evidenced by his homilies, though it has subsequently been forgotten in the West. The Fast is thought to have been instituted out of thanksgiving to God for the witness of the apostles of Christ. With this Fast, believers express their thanks for the apostles' endurance of persecution during their mission.

The Apostles' Fast is not as severe as Great Lent or the Dormition Fast, but entails fasting from red meat, poultry, meat products, eggs, dairy products, fish, oil, and wine. Fish, wine and oil are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays, and oil and wine are allowed on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These fasting rules are much the same as those observed during the Nativity Fast. Depending on the date of Pascha, the Apostles' Fast can begin as early as May 18 or as late as June 21. Thus, it may be as short as eight days or as long as forty-two days in duration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Live-streaming Sunday Orthros and Liturgy

Plan to view all of our scheduled church services on-line by logging on to: either **FaceBook** or **YouTube** via our parish website: <www.stmichaelvannuys.org> Your church offering may be made on-line via our website "Donation" tab or by mailing your check to the church at: 16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406. Mailing your check to the church will save our church a 3% service charge.

Zoom Meetings Scheduled Next Week (June 8-12)

Bible Study with Father Timothy — Tuesday, June 9 at 7 p.m. **Use the link and security password provided in the parish e-mail.**

Note: Father Timothy would also welcome scheduling a Zoom Meeting with you and your family at any time by appointment.

Is There a Graduating Student in Your Family?

Please inform Father Timothy of any graduates in your family in order that they will be among those on his prayer list. Please include the school, degree achieved and graduation date as appropriate.

Join in our Parish Bible Study Zoom Meetings

An "Orthodox Bible Study" provides a broad and complete study of the full context of Holy Scripture (Old and New Testament) It is a comprehensive approach to understanding God's Word from Holy Tradition that includes: The Apostolic writings, Church Councils, the Canonical Texts, Patristic Sources, Liturgical Texts of Services and the experience of saints who have given testimony through their life as witnesses of the faith through the centuries. This week's "Virtual Bible Study Zoom Meeting" will take place on Tuesday evening, June at 7 p.m. Each study is limited to one hour. All who are interested may review the previously recorded studies by requesting the Zoom link. Just e-mail Father Timothy at: <frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org> and will also receive a

study guide. We are currently examining the New Testament readings of the season and focusing upon the Epistles of First and Second Peter.

Arab American Educational Foundation Scholarships

Once again the American Arabic Educational Foundation (AAEF) is awarding scholarships to Southern California students of Arabic heritage. The scholarship requires that the applicant be a graduating high school senior or equivalent, planning to enter either an academic or vocational school the term following the granting of the scholarship. The recipient must also be of Arabic Heritage, and resident of one of the following California Counties: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, or Ventura. Applicants must also be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. Applications may also be submitted by college and graduate students. All of the above eligibility and qualifications apply. Applications may be obtained by e-mail in contacting: Fred Milkie, Jr. at <application@aaefscholarship.com> or by downloading it from: <http://www.aaefscholarship.com> Questions may be directed to Fred Milkie, Jr. by phoning him at: 818-535-4243. The applications must be turned in no later than July 1, 2020.

Raies-Murr Educational Trust Scholarship

Only members, in good standing of St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church (Van Nuys) or St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral (Los Angeles) and who have been accepted to or are currently enrolled in a **publicly supported** (not private) institution of higher learning, including eligible **publicly supported** vocational, technical and trade schools, are eligible to apply for a Raies-Murr Scholarship. Applications can be obtained by e-mailing Mallory Murr at: <RaiesMurrScholarship@gmail.com>. The applications must be returned by July 20, 2020.

Upcoming Events

St. Michael Ladies Annunciation Tea - **Postponed to August 15**

Speaker: Mother Paraskeva of St. Barbara Monastery

Topic: "Sow to the Spirit: Preparing Now for the World to Come"

29th Annual St. Michael Annual Golf Classic
(Postponed to Monday, November 2, 2020)

The 57th "Sweetheart Ball" - at the Universal Hilton Hotel
(Postponed to November 28, 2020)

Parish Life Conference - July 1-5, 2020 **(Cancelled)**

St. Nicholas Summer Camp - July 12 to August 1, 2020 **(Cancelled)**

Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.

Holy Bread Offering List

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Jun 14 - Mimi Hallak (Sunday of All Saints)

Note: There are no Coffee

Jun 21 - Charlotte Murr (Father's Day)

Hours scheduled

Jun 28 - open

Jul 05 - open

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread and
Cindy Tamoush at: (818-345-4363; famtam5@socal.rr.com) to sign-up for the Coffee Hour.

Study: "Building a Worshipping Community"

All of Father Timothy's visual presentations: "Building a Worshipping Community" are now available on-line. Visit our parish website homepage <stmichaelvannuys.org> and click onto link of the presentations on the slider: Part I - "Children in Church;" Part II - "Church Hymnography; Antiphonal Singing and Chanting;" Part III - "Iconography in the Church; Their Order and Placement;" Part IV - "The Iconostasis, Its Purpose and Function." Part V, soon to be available will focus on "The 'Assembly of the Faithful' in the Nave and Its Furniture."

THE KNEELING PRAYERS OF THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

Immediately following the final prayer of the Divine Liturgy by the priest at the icon of Christ, the kneeling prayers are said. Note: This is a very short abridged segment of a full Kneeling Vespers Service that is normally done on the eve of the the Day of the Holy Spirit (Monday). [This order is used by our Cathedral in Los Angeles.]

DEACON: On bent knees, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

THE FIRST PRAYER

PRIEST: O pure and blameless Lord, Who art without beginning, invisible, incomprehensible, unchangeable, immeasurable, unbounded, forbearing and alone immortal, who dwellest in unapproachable light, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea and all therein, Who grantest to all their petitions before asking, to Thee we pray and of Thee we ask, O Master who lovest mankind, the Father of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and of the ever-virgin Mary, the noble Theotokos; Who first didst teach us by word and then by deed, when He endured His saving Passion, giving us an example to offer Thee our supplications with bowed head and bended knee, for our sins and ignorance of the people. O most merciful Lord, who lovest mankind, hear us on whatever day we call upon Thee, but especially on this day of Pentecost, whereon, after our Lord Jesus Christ had ascended into heaven and sat on the right hand of Thee, O God and Father, He sent down the Holy Spirit to his holy Disciples and Apostles, Who alighted on each of them and filled them all with His inexhaustible divine grace; and they did speak in strange tongues, prophesying Thy great deeds. Hear us, who beseech Thee, and deliver our souls from the captivity of our sins by Thy loving help. Accept us, who kneel down before Thee and cry out: we are Thine, O Lord, though we have sinned, for from the womb of our mother Thou art our God. But as we have passed our life in idleness and vanity, we have been stripped of thine grace, and have become unable to pray as we ought. Yet do we trust in Thy compassion and cry unto Thee. Remember not the sins of our youth and ignorance; cleanse us of our secret sins. Reject us not in our old age, and forsake us not when our strength fails. Before we return to the earth, prepare us to return to Thee. Measure our lawlessness with a measure of Thy generosity, and raise up against our many transgressions the bottomless abyss of Thy compassion. Look down from the height of Thy holiness upon Thy people who await from Thee abundant mercy. Visit us with Thy goodness and deliver us from the power of Satan. Establish our lives in obedience to Thy holy commandments. Commit unto Thy people a faithful guardian angel. Gather us all unto Thy kingdom. Forgive those who put their trust in Thee. Purify us by the operation of Thy Holy Spirit and remove from us the wiles of the adversary.

THE SECOND PRAYER

DEACON: Again and again, on bent knees, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who hast given Thy peace to mankind, and art present with us in this life, ever granting the gift of the All-holy Spirit to the faithful, as an inheritance that can never be taken away, in a manner most clear Thou hast sent down today the divine grace upon Thy holy Disciples and Apostles, and didst open their lips with tongues of fire. Through them all mankind hath received the knowledge of God in their own languages. We have been enlightened by the light of the Spirit, emancipated from delusion as from darkness, and through the distribution of the perceptible tongues of fire and the wondrous action of the same, we have been taught the faith that is in Thee, and we have been illumined so as to praise Thee with the Father and the Holy Spirit, in one Godhead, Power and Authority. Wherefore, O Splendor of the Father, the express Image, inalterable and immovable, of His essence and nature, the Fountain of salvation and grace: Open my lips, sinner that I am, and teach me how and for what I must pray; for Thou dost know the multitude of my sins, but Thy tenderness doth overcome the enormity thereof. Behold, I come before Thee in fear and trembling, casting my despair into the depth of Thy mercy. Order my life, O Thou who dost order all creation with Thy word, and with the unutterable power of Thy wisdom, O calm Haven of the storm-tossed, make known to me the way wherein I should walk. Grant my reasoning the Spirit of wisdom, and the Spirit of understanding to my foolishness. Overshadow my acts with the Spirit of Thy fear; renew a right spirit within me. With Thy governing Spirit strengthen my unstable mind, that I may be worthy each day to keep Thy commandments. Guide me by Thy righteous Spirit to do only that which is profitable, that may I be ever mindful of Thy glorious Second Coming, which will search out our deeds. Let me not be led astray by the corrupting pleasures of this world, but strengthen me to yearn for those treasures which are to come. For Thou, O Master, didst say, "Whatever ye ask in My Name ye shall receive" from Thy co-eternal Father. Therefore grant to our souls contrition, and to our thoughts solicitude over our accountability at Thy just and terrible judgment. Extend to us all Thine helping hand. Forgive us our offenses and accept our prayers offered on bended knees as incense, rising before Thy blessed Kingdom.

THE THIRD PRAYER

DEACON: Again and again, on bent knees, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O Ever-flowing Fountain, life-giving, illuminating, creative Power, co-eternal with the Father, Christ our true God, Who hast most excellently fulfilled the whole salvation of mankind, and didst tear apart the indestructible bonds of death, breaking asunder the bolts of Hades and treading down the multitude of evil spirits; Thou didst offer Thyself as a blameless Sacrifice to the Father and offer us Thy pure, spotless and sinless body, and by this fearsome, inscrutable divine labor dost grant us life everlasting. Thou didst descend into Hades and demolish the eternal bars, revealing an ascent to those who were in the lower abode. With the lure of divine wisdom Thou didst entice the dragon, the head of subtle evil, and with Thy boundless power didst bind him in abysmal hell, in inextinguishable fire, and extreme darkness, delivering us from the same. O Wisdom of the Father, Thou great of Name Who dost manifest Thyself as a great Helper to those who are in distress and as a luminous Light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. Thou art the Lord of everlasting glory, the beloved Son of the Most High Father, eternal Light from eternal Light, Thou Sun of justice! Hear us who pray unto Thee, O Master, and accept our prayers, and grant repose to our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, children, relatives, and kinsfolk, and all those who are of the household of Faith who have fallen asleep, who have gone to their final rest in the hope of resurrection and life everlasting. Inscribe their names in the Book of Life; give them rest in the bosom of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the land of the living, the Kingdom of Heaven, in the paradise of delight, leading all into Thy Holy dwelling place by Thy radiant angels. Raise up their bodies and ours with Thee on that Day which Thou hast appointed, according to Thine unfailing promise. For there is no death, O Lord, to Thy departing servants who cast off their bodies and come unto Thee, O God, but a transition from sorrowful things to things pleasant and sweet, to rest, joy, and expectation of resurrection. And though all have sinned against Thee, be Thou compassionate unto them and us, for there is none without sin, but Thou alone art without sin, O Lord Jesus Christ our God. Therefore, O Lord, through Thy grace and love for mankind, pardon, remit and absolve our sins, both voluntary and involuntary, which we have committed either with knowledge or through ignorance, openly or in secret, whether by word, deed, or thought, and by all our senses and actions, and to those who have preceded us, grant emancipation and repose. To those of us who are here,

bless us, and give us and all Thy people a blessed and peaceful ending to our lives, and at Thy fearsome and dreadful Coming, open unto us Thy fathomless love of mankind, making us worthy of Thy Kingdom.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May Christ our true God, as good lover of mankind, have mercy on us and save us for the sake of Your goodness. For Thou emptied Thyself from the Father's bosom, assuming our human nature wholly and making it divine, and ascended at once into the Heaven and enthroned at the right hand of God the Father, then sent down the divine, holy, consubstantial, and coeternal Spirit, equal in might and glory, upon Thy holy Disciples and Apostles, and through Him, illumined them, and through them, the whole world, through the intercessions of Thy most pure and allblameless holy Mother, of the holy, glorious, Spiritbearing Apostles, and of all the Saints have mercy upon us and save us.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our god and our hope, glory to Thee!

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: A-men.

Priest: May He Who poured out the grace of the All-Holy Spirit from Heaven upon His holy disciples and apostles in the form of fiery tongues for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother, and of all the saints, have mercy upon us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and liveth mankind. Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

People: Amen.

Pastor's Sermon
The Sunday of Pentecost
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
June 7, 2020

On this day, the fiftieth day after Easter, we celebrate the Feast of Holy Pentecost. The descent of the Holy Spirit occurred ten days after the Ascension

following a period of time when the Disciples, in obedience to the instructions of our Lord, waited for Him while praying and fasting. As the fiftieth day after the Jewish Passover, the Feast of Pentecost is a remembrance of the Old Law. The Israelites received the Ten Commandments after a period of fifty days from the time of the crossing of the Red Sea. And so, we also celebrate fifty days after Pascha, receiving the One who gives us the Law, the All-Holy Spirit; He who guides us in all truth and teaches us what is pleasing to God.

The Holy Spirit's descent in the form of tongues of fire upon the Apostles is a demonstration that He is not separate from the living Word; also to empower the Holy Apostles with the use of words in teaching the multitudes as they brought them to Christ. **The descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of fiery tongues was to show, on the one hand, that God is a consuming fire, while on the other hand, our need of purification.** His grace rested upon the Apostles in tongues so that they could gather those of different languages who were scattered throughout the world. This all took place on the Day of Pentecost because it was fitting that the grace of the Spirit be poured out at the same time that the Old Law had been received, just as Christ was the new and true Pascha in place of the old Passover.

In festal hymn of the *Kontakion* we hear: *When the High One descended, confusing tongues, He divided the nations. And when He distributed the fiery tongues He called all to one unity. Wherefore, in unison we glorify the most Holy Spirit.*

The image that this hymn presents us with is the event of the building of the Tower of Babel by a people who were of one mind and one language; a people whose aim was "making a name for themselves" (Genesis 11:4). In verses 6-9 of Genesis 11 it is recorded: *The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible to them. Come, let us [Note: God is spoken of in the plural] go down and confuse their language so that they will not understand each other."* So the Lord scattered them over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world...[scattering] them over the face of the whole earth.

In the Vespers service of Pentecost we hear a commentary on this passage with a verse from the *Aposticha*: *Of old there was confusion of tongues because of the boldness of the tower-builders. But those tongues have not uttered wisdom for the glory of divine knowledge. There God condemned the infidels to punishment, and here with the Spirit Christ illuminated the fishermen. At that time, the confusion of tongues was designed for vengeance, and now the unison of tongues hath been renewed for the salvation of our souls.*

You may recall that at the “Vespers of Love” on Holy Pascha the Gospel is intentionally read in many languages to also signify how the message of the forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to all nations. Similarly, on Holy Pentecost, we hear the account in today’s Epistle that all who gathered in the international city of Jerusalem heard the good news in their own language as the Apostles were given utterance by the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is the Feast that is the culmination of Holy Pascha (Easter). It is the completion of God’s plan of salvation. For you and me, the working of the Holy Spirit in our life brings about many things. First and foremost, **the Spirit reveals Christ, deepens and renews our commitment to Christ and his teachings. The Spirit of God also illumines and brings back to one’s remembrance the teaching of Christ and His Apostles.** The descent of the Holy Spirit brought illumination. The Spirit of Truth aided the Apostles in their reflection and remembrance our Lord’s teaching. Moreover, the Spirit enabled them to perceive things differently. Their lives not only took on a new sense of purpose, death itself acquired a new meaning.

Second, **the Holy Spirit is a sanctifying power.** He enables a Christian to remain steadfast in truth and to earnestly desire purification of sins, by a living a repentant life. It is what empowers one to remain faithful. The Spirit’s coming also motivated and empowered the believers to do many things that they otherwise would not thought of doing by themselves or of their own strength. However, the Holy Spirit that came upon them was not a force that was imposing or intrusive. He empowered them to demonstrate initiative with humility. The All Holy Spirit transcended, transformed, and even dissolved any might that was opposed to love,

bringing an end to any animosity and contention. There was unity among the Apostles with a bond of peace. And the power that was manifested through them was the power of forgiveness; a forgiveness that they experienced and began to proclaim.

Third, **life in the Spirit manifests the fruit of the Spirit, namely, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, patience, kindness, goodness, meekness, and self-control.** The Spirit enables a Christian to practice forgiveness from the heart, as one having experienced the forgiveness of sins. It is the central message of the Gospel at Easter, the message that Christ proclaims to the Apostles at the Ascension, and today, it is the message that is heard by the Disciples by the many who heard it in their own language. In the words of the Holy Apostle Peter in verse 38 of chapter 2 in the Book of Acts, he proclaims to all who curiously gathered in Jerusalem having heard the noise in the upper room: *Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* And so, finally, **the Holy Spirit whose work is to glorify Christ empowers a Christian to be a strong witness to Jesus as Lord, as a living example by word and deed.**

Prayer

May the All-Holy Spirit, Christ's own Spirit, sent from the Father illumine us with the light of piety and understanding that we may all remain steadfast in His love.

SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

أحد العنصرة

طروبارية العيد على اللحن الثامن

مبارك أنت أيها المسيح إلهنا, يا من أظهرت الصيادين غزيري الحكمة, إذ أنزلت عليهم الروح القدس, وبهم اصطدت المسكونة, يا محب البشر المجد لك

قنّاق العيد على اللحن الثامن

لما نزلَ العليّ مبلبلاً الألسنة كان للأمم مقسماً، ولما وزعَ الألسنَ الناريةَ، دعا الجميعَ إلى الوحدةِ. فباتفاق الأصوات نمجّدُ الروحَ الكليّ قُدسُه.

الرسالة

إلى كلِّ الأرض خرج صوتُهم، السماواتُ تذيع مجدَ الله

فصل من أعمال الرسل القديسين الأَطهار

ولما جاء اليومُ الخمسون، كان الرسلُ كلُّهم مجتمعين في مكانٍ واحدٍ، فخرج من السماء فجأةً دوي كريح عاصفةٍ، فملاً كل البيت الذي كانوا فيه. فظهرت لهم السنة كأنها من نارٍ قد أنقسمت فاستقر لسان على كل منهم، فامتأوا كلهم من الروح القدس، وأخذوا يتكلمون بلغاتٍ غير لغتهم، على ما آتاهم الروح القدس أن ينطقوا. وكان في أورشليم أناس أتقياء من اليهود جاؤوا من كل أمة تحت السماء. فلما حدث ذلك الصوت تجمهر الناس، وأخذتهم الحيرة، لأن كل واحد كان يسمعهم يتكلمون بلغته. فدهشوا وتعجبوا وقالوا: "أما هؤلاء المتكلمون كلهم من الجليل؟ فكيف يسمعهم كل واحد منا بلغة بلده؟ نحن من برثية ومادية وعيلام وما بين النهرين واليهودية وكبدوكية وبنطس وأسية وفريجية وبمفيلية ومصر ونواحي لبيبة المجاورة لقيروان، ومنا من هم رومانيون يقيمون هنا ويهود ودخلاء وكريتيون وعرب! فإننا نسمعهم يتكلمون بلغاتنا على أعمال الله العظيمة

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ القديسِ يوحنا

في آخر يوم من العيد، وهو أعظم أيامه وقف يسوع وقال بأعلى صوته: "إن عطش أحد فليجئ إلي ليشرّب، ومن آمن بي، كما قال

الكتاب, تفيض من جوفه أنهار ماء حي." وأراد بقوله الروح الذي سيناله المؤمنون به, فلم يكن الروح القدس قد أعطي حتى الآن, لان يسوع لم يتمجد بعد. فقال كثيرون ممن سمعوا كلام يسوع: "بالحقيقة هذا هو النبي." وقال غيرهم: "هذا هو المسيح!" وقال آخرون: "أمن الجليل يجيء المسيح؟ أما قال الكتاب إن المسيح يجيء من نسل داود, ومن بيت لحم مدينة داود؟ فوقع بين الناس خلاف في شأنه. وأراد بعضهم أن يمسكوه, ولكن لم يمد أحد يدا عليه. ورجع الحرس إلى رؤساء الكهنة والفريسيين, فقال لهم هؤلاء: "لماذا لم تأتوا به؟" فأجاب الحرس: "ما تكلم إنسان قط مثل هذا!" فقال لهم الفريسيون: "أخذتم أنتم أيضا؟ أرايتم واحدا من الرؤساء أو الفريسيين آمن به؟ أما هؤلاء العامة من الناس الذين يجهلون الشريعة فهم ملعونون." فقال نيقوديموس, وكان من الفريسيين, وهو الذي جاء قبلا إلى يسوع: "أتحكم شريعتنا على أحد قبل أن تسمعه وتعرف ما فعل؟" فأجابوه: "وأنت أيضا من الجليل؟ فتش تر أنه لا يقوم من الجليل نبي." وكلمهم أيضا يسوع قال: "أنا نور العالم من يتبعني لا يمشي في الظلام, بل يكون له نور الحياة."

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعنى عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، الا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقتصر فقط على أعضاء الكنائس الارثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريبة (وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذى يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضوا في الكنيسة الارثوذكسية

Father's Day - June 14

Mrs. John B. Dodd, of the State of Washington, first proposed the idea of "Father's Day" in 1909. Mrs. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart. William Smart, a Civil War veteran, was widowed when his wife (Mrs. Dodd's mother) died in childbirth with her sixth child. Mr. Smart was left to raise the newborn and his other five children by himself on a rural farm in eastern Washington State. It was after Mrs. Dodd became an adult that she realized the strength and selflessness her father had shown in raising his children as a single parent.

The first Father's Day was observed on June 19, 1910 in Spokane, Washington. At about the same time in various towns and cities across America other people were beginning to celebrate "Father's Day." In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day. Finally in 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed a Presidential Proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day.