

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley
a Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406 stmichaelvannuys.org

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The Great Feast of Pentecost

Sunday, June 4, 2023

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 by the Deeb family for the five-year memorial of the servant of God, Caren Deeb Kouri (+2 June, 2018). Memory eternal.

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

for the well being of the servant of God, Sol Ajalat.

for Dominick Milkie celebrating his 22nd birthday today.

May God grant him many years!

Included in our prayers throughout the month of June are those celebrating their birthday: Issa Ababseh (6/1), Sophie Mary Moujaes (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), Xander Paul Fronoher (6/8), Diana Nasser (6/8), Noelle Sophia Sabbah (6/8), Andrew Dawud (6/9), Stephanie Haddad (6/12), Britton Luke McLinn (6/14), Michael C. Srour (6/14), Shylee Srour (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), Adele Tannous (6/20), Stephen Haddad (6/21), Najla Barakat (6/22), Cooper Rowe (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); Robert Webster (6/28), Hilalah Haddad (6/29), Malia Isabella Kence (6/29), Ava Obenhaus (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

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

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
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
Sara Coudsy, +2 June, 2001
Lut'fallah Esber, +20 June, 2001

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
Leon Saliba, +3 June, 2017
Benjamin Coudsy, +15 June, 2017
Caren Deeb Kouri, +2 June, 2018
Isabel Horaney, +22 June, 2018
Diane Wood, +4 June, 2019
Alan Malouf, +29 June, 2019
Richard Khoury, +27 June, 2020
Audree Yacoub, +27 June, 2020
Atif Asal, +18, June, 2021
Charles Thabet +28 June, 2022

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

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).

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.

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 5-9). **The Sunday of All Saints** is celebrated on the Sunday following Pentecost (June 11th). On Monday, June 12, 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. 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 Thursday, 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.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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

Day of the Holy Spirit – Monday, June 5

The Sunday of All Saints

Great Vespers – Saturday, June 10th, 5 p.m.

Orthros – Sunday, June 11th, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

The Fast of the Apostles

Monday, June 12th

[The traditional fasting discipline is observed this year from June 12-28th (the eve of Ss. Peter & Paul). We abstain from animal meat and dairy products.]

The Fast of the Holy Apostles (June 12-28, 2023)

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 one day or as long as forty-two days in duration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honoring our High School and College Graduates



Next Sunday, we will be honoring high school and college graduates at the Liturgy. Plan to join us for a pizza lunch following the service. A free-will offering will be received to benefit our Church School.

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Jun 11 - open
Jun 18 - open (Father's Day)
Jun 25 - open
Jul 02 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Graduation Lunch

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread or host the coffee hour.

Weekly Bible Study - Tuesday, June 6th at 7 p.m.

Our next Bible Study will be held on Tuesday evening, June 6th at 7 p.m. We will be continuing our study of The Book of Exodus. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out on Tuesday. Sessions are recorded for those unable to attend who may also request the link to the study.

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 24, 2023.

Upcoming Events

[Note: You may now access our Google Parish Calendar to your personal calendar. Here is the link: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWN0YWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmc>]

Honoring our High School Graduates — Sunday, June 11

Diocesan Parish Life Conference hosted by St. Luke Church (Garden Grove) June 28 to July 2, 2023; Irvine Marriott; www.lapl.org

St. Michael Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Monday-Friday, July 10-14, 2023; Ages Kindergarten to 5th Grade

56th Biennial Antiochian Archdiocese Convention hosted by St. George Church (Phoenix, Arizona); July 23-30, 2023

Go to: www.ac2023az.org

Sponsorships of Sanctuary Items

Sponsorships or dedications of items and iconography of our new church sanctuary are available. Please contact Father Timothy for more information and questions at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

Our 2023 Pledge Form Provided with this Bulletin

As a committed member of St. Michael Church, please complete a new 2023 form. An annual "Fair Share Contribution" is paid by St. Michael Church to the Archdiocese (\$50/adult; \$35/17 years of age or under). Everyone's financial situation is subject to changes from year to year. In the same way, our parish depends upon the financial pledge commitments of its members in order to meet its monthly expenses. Hardcopies will be mailed to you by request.

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church
16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406 Phone: 818-994-2313
Website: www.stmichaelvannuys.org

2023 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

- 1. All enrolled members must first fulfill a fair share contribution that is paid 100% by St. Michael Church to the Archdiocese annually (this does not include your family pledge obligation BELOW).**

Total number of baptized Orthodox persons (age 18 & above) in your household _____ \$50 each _____

Total number of baptized Orthodox persons (age 17 & under) in your household _____ \$35 each _____

(Please print all names with information in the section below)

- 2. In gratitude of God's blessings, I / we pledge to contribute St. Michael Church expenses.**

A total annual amount of: _____ (see Treasure self-assessment chart)

\$ _____ weekly \$ _____ monthly \$ _____ quarterly \$ _____ semi-annually \$ _____ annually

Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Phone number _____ E-mail Address _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- 3. How do you wish to pay? We accept personal checks or credit card payments. (See below)**

- a. You may write a check to "St. Michael Church" and mail it to the Church Office.
(see address above)
- b. You may process an "automatic bill pay" with your bank that will mail a recurring monthly hard-copy earmarked check to St. Michael Church.
- c. You may pay by credit card using our website donation page (a 3% processing fee will apply) at: <https://www.stmichaelvannuys.org/donate/> and we will be immediately notified.
- d. You may arrange for a recurring monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account using our church bank routing number and bank account.

Note: Each donation to St. Michael Church should be earmarked, i.e., "Building Fund," "Pledge," etc.

Print names of baptized Orthodox persons in your household.

Name Age

Name Age

Name Age

Name Age

**REGISTER
NOW!**

**10-14
JULY**



SUPER SAINTS
LITTLE LIGHT OF CHRIST

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



9am-12pm
PRE-K
THROUGH 5TH



**ST. MICHAEL ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406



COST
\$50
Per Child

\$40 per child
if registered
before June 10



FAITHTREE
RESOURCES

Pastor's Sermon
The Sunday of Pentecost
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
June 4, 2023

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.

BEWARE

There are identifiable fraudulent e-mails that are not from Father Timothy. They should be deleted and not responded to at any time.

THE GREAT FEAST OF PENTECOST

عيد العنصرة العظيم

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس يوحنا
الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر.

وفي اليوم الأجر العظیم من العید وقف ینوح ونادی قایلاً: «إن عطش أحد فلیقبل الی ویشرب. من آمن بی، كما قال الکتاب، نخري من طیبه أنهار ماء حی». قال هذا عن الروح الی كان المؤمنون به مؤمعین أن یقبلوه، لأن الروح القدس لم یكن قد أعطی بعد، لأن ینوح لم یكن قد مجد بعد. فکتیرون من الجمع لما سمعوا هذا الكلام قالوا: «هذا بالحقیقة هو النبی». آخرون قالوا: «هذا هو المسیح». وآخرون قالوا: «العل المسیح من الجلیل یاتی؟ ألم یقل الکتاب إنه من نسل داود، ومن بیت لحم، القرية الی كان داود فیها، یاتی المسیح؟» فحدث الشقاق فی الجمع لبشیه. وكان قوم منهم یریدون أن یمسكوه، ولكن لم یلق أحد علیه الأیدی. فجاء الخدام الی رؤساء الكهنة والفریسیین. فقال هؤلاء لهم: «لماذا لم تأتوا به؟» أجاب الخدام: «لم نتكلم قط إنسان هكذا مثل هذا الإنسان!». فأجابهم الفریسیون: «العلكم انتم ایضاً قد ضللتهم؟ العل أحدنا من الرؤساء أو من الفریسیین آمن به؟ ولكن هذا الشعب الی لا یفهم الشانوس هو مملون». قال لهم نیفودیوس، الی جاء الیه لیلا، وهو واحد منهم: «العل فاشوستنا یدین انساناً لم یسمع منه أولاً ویعرف ماذا فعل؟». اجابوا وقالوا له: «العلك انت ایضاً من الجلیل؟ فقتن وانظر! إنه لم یفم نبي من الجلیل». ثم كلمهم ینوح ایضاً قایلاً: «أنا هو نور العالم. من یتبعنی فلا یمشی فی الظلمة بل یكون له نور الحیاة».

أبولیتیکون العنصرة بالحن الثامن

مبارك انت أيها المسيح الهنا، يا من أظهرت المتأدين غزيري الحكمة، إذ سكبت عليهم الروح القدس، وبهم امتلأت المسكونة، يا موجب البشر، المجد لك.

القداق للعنصرة بالحن الثامن

عندما نزل العلي ملبلاً الألسنة، كان للألم مقسماً. ولما وزع الألسنة النارية، دعا الكل إلى اتحاد واجد، لذلك باتفاق الأصوات، تمجد الروح الكلي قدسة.

الرسالة

الی كل الأرض خرج صوتهم.

السماوات تذبذبت مجد الله.

فصل من أعمال الرسل القديسين الأطهار

لما حل يوم الخمسين، كان الرسل كلهم معاً في مكان واحد. * فحدثت بعثة صوت من السماء، كصوت ریح شديدة تخصف، ومأ كل البيت الذي كانوا جالسين فيه. * وظهرت لهم ألسنة مضممة كأنها من نار، فاستقرت على كل واحد منهم. * فامتثلوا كلهم من الروح القدس، وطفقوا يتكلمون بلبغات أخرى، كما أعطاهم الروح أن يطفقوا. * وكان في اورشليم رجال يهود أتقياء، من كل أمة تحت السماء. * فلما صار هذا الصوت، اجتمع الجمهور، فتحذروا، لأن كل واحد كان يسمعهم يطفقون بلبغة. * فذهبوا جميعهم، وتعبوا قائلين بعضهم لبعض: أليس هؤلاء المتكلمون كلهم جليليين؟ * فكيف نسمع كل منا لغة التي ولد فيها؟ * نحن الفريسيين، والمدايين، والعلاميين، وسكان ما بين النهرين، واليهودية، وكبادوكية، ولبطس واسية، وفريجة، وبمفيلية، ومصرة، ونواحي لبيبة عند القبروان، والرومانيين المستوطنين، * واليهود، والذخلاء، والكرنيتين، والعرب، نسمعهم يطفقون بألسنتنا بعتادهم الله.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعني عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوي العقيدة الواحدة، إلا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقصود على أعضاء الكنائس الأرثوذكسية والذين يحضرون انفسهم بالصدالة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريبة وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذي يوزع عند انتهاء مراسم القديس. الرجاء مراجعة الكاهن إدارت أن تصبح عضوا في الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية.

Father's Day - June 11, 2023

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.