



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ 8th Sunday of Pascha + Sun, June 12, 2022 + The Great Feast of Holy Pentecost: Feast of the Holy Trinity +



## Hymns for Holy Pentecost

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!

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.

## Epistle Reading - 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 Reading - 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." Nicodemus (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

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**DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS:** A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting. If you have questions please let us know!

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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.”

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## This Weeks Schedule Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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### THIS WEEKEND - HOLY PENTECOST OUR PARISH FEAST DAY

Saturday, June 11th

5 PM: 9th Hour, Great Vespers w/ Litya, Confessions

Sunday, June 12th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours

9 AM: Divine Liturgy for Pentecost

10:30 AM: Pentecost (Kneeling) Vespers

**11:00 AM: Potluck for the Feast**

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### THIS WEEK

**WED @ 11 AM:** NO Private Prayer this Week.  
Father will be at a Continuing Education Seminar

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### NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, June 18th

5 PM: Great Vespers w/ Litya, Confessions

Sunday, June 19th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours

9 AM: Divine Liturgy

10:30 AM: Coffee Hour

11:30 AM: Parish Council Meeting



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### & Upcoming Parish Events

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**Bazaar/Foodfest:** Summer is fast approaching & so is our annual bazaar. The dates for this year's event will be Friday & Saturday, July 29 & 30. In addition to the sale of the usual favored foods we will again be offering music, beer & wine, our bake sale and some games of chance (basket raffle and instant bingo). We will also be offering

dine-in service this year. The organizing committee recently met and although we have many who have stepped up to help we are still in need of someone to take charge of the potato pancake sale. Anyone who is willing to help should contact Jason for additional information. As our major annual fundraiser, we hope each parishioner will give freely of their time prior to and during the event. Contributions in the form of merchandise (for the basket raffle) or monetary donations will also be appreciated.

Additional information will be forthcoming by way of the bulletin and also on the information stand in the vestibule. Should you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact Sandy or Jason.

**TODAY - Parish Feast Day Celebration:** Please plan to stay for our Pentecost Coffee Hour & Potluck to celebrate the Feast. We have a TON of very delicious food planned so don't miss it. We will also have a special Acknowledgement of our Sunday School Students and Presentation of Certificates and Gifts.

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## Congratulations

to our recent graduates

*Jordan Dutko*

*Michael Polk*

*May God grant you many years!*

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**WEEKLY GIVING UPDATE:** We thank you for your continued giving in gratitude for all that our loving God does for each of us, for His Holy Church, and all the blessings we receive through her.

**Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open:** \$2,840

**Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open:** \$12,305

**Collections last Sunday:** \$5,376.85

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## Birthdays & Anniversaries

**June Birthdays:** Anna Cardoni (6/2), Rose Kennedy (6/2), Marlene Latzman (6/3), Noelle Flis (6/6), Fr. Innocent Neal (6/7), Doreen Cherkis (6/10), Rebecca Willis (6/12), Christopher Polk (6/12), Melanie Flis (6/13), Symeon

Clark (6/17), Eric Zbegner (6/18), Stephen Serafin (6/19), Zoryana Duda (6/20), Aimee Austin (6/20), Amy Rubino Welgus (6/23), Peter Welgus Jr. (6/24), Laura Polk (6/28), Gregory Stankiewicz (6/30), Emily Willis (6/30)

**Anniversaries:** Eleanor & Ted Sovyrda (6/2), Tom & Joan Austin (6/5), Donna & Jerry Stankiewicz (6/6), David & Deborah Mills (6/16)

**This Week's Birthdays:** Rebecca Willis (6/12), Christopher Polk (6/12), Melanie Flis (6/13), Symeon Clark (6/17), Eric Zbegner (6/18), Stephen Serafin

**Anniversaries:** David & Deborah Mills (6/16)



## Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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### Why do we celebrate Holy Pentecost?

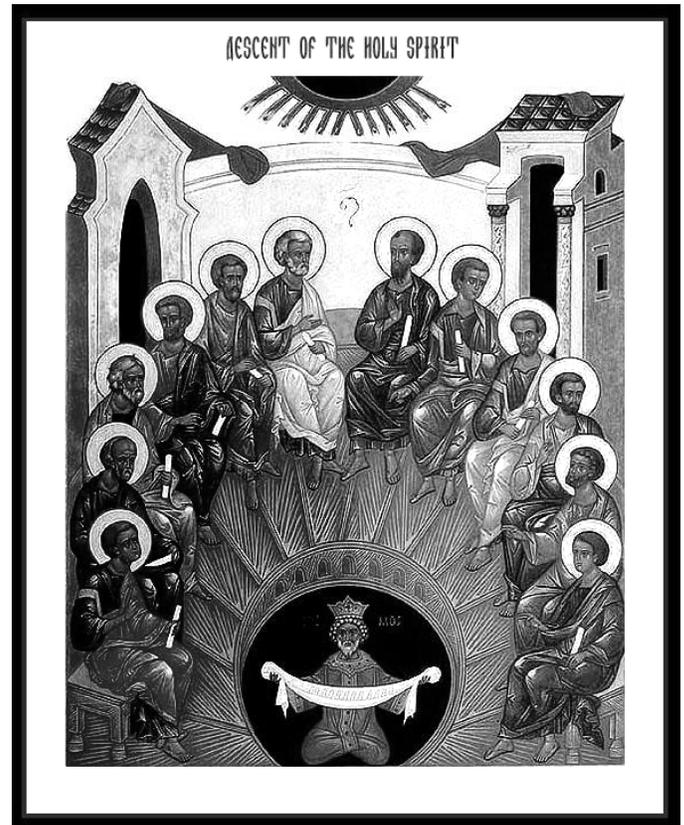
In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: 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

**PARISH PRAYER LIST Living:** Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nadine Breisch, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Peter Holoviak & Family, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Mary Ann Lepa, Mat. Delores Donlick, Fr. Vladimir Fetchko, Deborah, Reader Matthew, Vladimir Dutko **Departed:** Bernard Golubiewski

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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)*

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*“And my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.’ My friends, consider the greatness of this solemn feast that commemorates God’s coming as a guest into our hearts! If some rich and influential friend were to come to your home, you would promptly put it all in order for fear something there might offend your friend’s eyes when he came in. Let all of us then who are preparing our inner homes for God cleanse them of anything our wrongdoing has brought into them.”*

— *St. Gregory Dialogos*

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