

ICHC NTKA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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WHO IS SO GREAT A GOD AS OUR GOD?! THOU ART THE GOD WHO DOES WONDERS!

June 3, 2012	Holy Pentecost – Feast of the Holy Trinity Fast Free Week	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
June 9	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
June 10	Sunday of All Saints	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

This Bulletin is in memory of Vera, Frank and John Pawlocki, sponsored by Sonia Buttino.

Saints of the Day: Martyr Lucillian and those with him at Byzantium: four youths — Claudius, Hypatius, Paul, and Dionysius; and Virgin Paula (270). New Hieromartyr Cyprian (1934). New Hieromartyr Priest Michael (1938). Translation of the relics (1606) of the slain Crown Prince Demetrius of Moscow (1591). Hieromartyr Bishop Lucian, Presbyter Maxianus, Deacon Julian and Martyrs Marcellinus and Saturninus in Belgium (96). Venerable Athanasius, the Wonderworker of Cilicia. The Meeting of Venerable Demetrius, Monk of Priluki (Vologda) (1503). Saint Hieria, Widow, of Mesopotamia (312). Saint Clotilde, Queen of France (545). Venerable Kevin, Hermit and Abbot of Glendalough (618). Saint Meriasek, Bishop of Camborne. Venerable Monk Pappus. Saint Achilles, Patriarch of Alexandria (312). Monk-martyr Barsabus, Abbot of Ishtar, and ten companions in Persia (342). New Hieromartyr Joseph, Metropolitan of Thessalonica (1821).

Please remember in your prayers: Priest Sergius, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Norma, Connie, Michael, Ed, Maria, Michael, Mother Raphaela, Rea, Sister Veronica, John, Hilda, James, Ada, Nancy, Archpriest Jason, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Archpriest Vincent, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren, Archimandrites Alexander, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Christine and Rob Philips were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben for their wedding anniversary at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Father Sergius Willis were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben for his ordination anniversary at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Christopher Morbey were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of all Veterans who have served in the Armed Forces and gave their lives for their country were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Archpriest Frank Estocin were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of New York and New Jersey

Sunday, June 3, 2012

Beloved in the Lord:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Like the changing of the seasons, our liturgical calendar of feast days of the Church follows an orderly progression, each one leading to the next. Not long ago we celebrated the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ and then His Ascension into Heaven. Today we have reached the final grace – the actual fulfillment of the Lord's promise: the Descent of the Holy Spirit and the Birth of the Holy Church!

Indeed Pentecost is a great feast for us. Great beyond all description are the gifts which God gives to us in His love on this day. Let us then rejoice together and be glad as we give glory to our Lord for the fulfillment of His promise. We read in the Gospel of John that He said, *"I will not leave you as orphans ... if I go away, I will send you another Comforter."* Who cannot see His boundless love and care for us, His children? Yes, He ascended into Heaven to sit on His royal throne at the right hand of the Father ... but on this day, He has given to us the Holy Spirit and through Him sends us innumerable heavenly graces.

Saint John Chrysostom helps us to understand this ever more clearly when he writes in his commentary:

Indeed, which of the graces necessary for our salvation is not given us through the Holy Spirit?

Through the Holy Spirit we are freed from slavery and called to liberty; we are raised to the status of sons and daughters; we are in a sense recreated and we lay down the heavy and foul burden of our sins. Through the Holy Spirit we are given priests and teachers; from the same source come revelations and the gift of healing; and all the other adornments of the Church have their origin in Him.

The Golden-Mouthed orator reminds us of the words of the "saint he loved the most" the blessed Paul: *"It is one and the same Spirit who does all this ... He divides His gifts among us as He wills"* (I Cor. 12:11). Great

indeed is the power of the Holy Spirit, promised to us by Christ and fulfilled on Pentecost. Again, in the words of Saint John Chrysostom:

Through the Holy Spirit we have obtained the remission of our sins and we have washed away all defilement. By this gift, we who have had recourse to grace have been changed from human beings into angels. I do not mean that our nature has been changed, but something much more wonderful: while remaining human, we live the way the angels do.

Having received the gift of the Holy Spirit, granted to the Apostles on that first Pentecost and given to us at our Chrismation, let us re-affirm our faith in the Triune God and express it ever more perfectly daily in His Holy Orthodox Church. Let us fulfill our destiny, growing ever closer to Christ, living more and more like the Saints, becoming more and more like God -- true sons and daughters of the Father, through the grace of the Holy Spirit. Truly, He is the promise of Christ fulfilled for us on this day.

With my prayers, my blessing and my love,
+ MICHAEL, Bishop of New York and New Jersey

Sanctity is the reality of communion with the Holy Spirit. For this reason, the whole question of the Church comes down to its sanctity, its being filled with the Holy Spirit, the individuals of whom the Church consists, being filled with the Holy Spirit. (Sergei Fudel, At the Walls of the Church)

The Feast of Pentecost draws together many of the most important themes of scripture and also of our own spiritual life. On the one hand, it shows the Mystery of the Church as the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation. On the other it grounds our life - the lives of believers - in the reception of - and the striving for - the acquisition of - the Holy Spirit and our conscious entry into the world of Divine Grace.

Old Testament prophecies strain towards their fulfillment in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Lord promises to speak to his people (Isaiah 28:11) by means of strange men - disciples, now apostles - and in new, stammering tongues. Stammering? Perhaps flickering, like flame? Stammering - such that observers thought the apostles drunk? In the rushing mighty wind we remember the movement of the Spirit of God upon the waters, the breath of God in the creation of Adam, the east wind that divided the Red Sea so that God's people could pass over 'dry-shod'. That the house into which the Pentecostal energy erupts is 'filled with the Spirit' - this reminds us of the Tabernacle and Solomon's Temple, filled with the Glory, the Divine Presence or *Shekinah*, of which the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel also speak. The flames of fire sitting on the heads of the apostles remind us of the fire maintained in the Tabernacle and Temple (Exodus 40:38; 2 Chronicles 7:3). The Pentecostal flames signify the fulfillment of the prophecies of the restoration of Solomon's Temple: here in the gathering of the disciples is to be found the new, true and spiritual Temple, the Presence of God. The new assembly of the People of God *is the Church*. Keeping with this temple theme, with the disciples turned apostles is the fulfillment of the Ark - the heart of the Temple - in the person of the Mother of God, the Mother of the new and living Covenant, before whom the Forerunner leaped and danced in his mother's womb, like David before the Ark (Luke 1:41; cf. 2 Samuel 6:14,16).

Remember those 'dry bones' on Holy Friday evening? That reading anticipates the Resurrection, *Pascha*, but it also anticipates Pentecost. The Lord's promise to give a new heart and a new spirit to His people (Ezekiel 36, 37) is realized in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Hebrew feast of the giving of the Law, the establishment of the old covenant, is fulfilled in the new Pentecost, for the Spirit poured out writes the law on the heart and makes the new, renewed, covenant an inner, personal reality, as Jeremiah foretold: *I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people* (Jeremiah 31:33). Moses had sighed: *Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his spirit upon them* (Numbers 11:29). We were as dry bones, abandoned in the grave, but *in Christ* by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are clothed in a new humanity, made alive by Grace, raised up, gathered, sanctified.

We sing at Pentecost: ... *now harmony is restored...* The gathering in Jerusalem at Pentecost of pilgrims arriving from many nations, speaking many different languages, is the reversal of the destruction of Babel (Genesis 11: 1 - 9). There, in that story, mutually unintelligible tongues and the fragmentation and dispersal of the people were the result and punishment for overweening arrogance. The coming of the Spirit undoes the confusion, enabling the word of God to be spread to the ends of the earth, creating a new unity, a harmony, among all peoples tuned into the Gospel.

Do we seek the grace of the Holy Spirit? Do we desire to learn, to be illumined, to be filled with the Spirit, to open ourselves to holiness? To have Christ formed in us? With the feast of Pentecost we begin to pray the great prayer for the Holy Spirit which we had laid aside for the Paschal season, while the Bridegroom was still with us. We pray: *O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth; who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of blessings, and giver of life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.* From the texts for the feast we can also pray, as Fudel notes: *O Comforter, having washed away the defilement of my mind, in that Thou art good, show me forth as full of Thy holiness* (Canon to the Holy Spirit, Tone 1. Ode 1, Troparion 2); *O Holy Spirit...grant holiness unto all who believe on Thee* (Ode 8, Troparion 1); *Come Thou unto us, O Holy Spirit, causing us to partake of Thy holiness, of never-waning light, divine life and most fragrant effusion; for Thou art a River of divinity proceeding from the Father through the Son* (Ode 6, Troparion 2).

Come, O Holy Spirit!

Father Andrew Morbey, Minneapolis, Minnesota

FOR YOUR CALENDAR June 23 Diocesan **Parish Council Conference**, Endicott, NY – all day
July 7 Parish Picnic on our Parish grounds in beautiful East Herkimer, from 11:30 am
August 25/26 Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery Anniversary
September after Labor Day Church School begins
September 23, 2012 Perohi and Polka Fest, Herkimer VFW Hall, 4 – 8 pm