

next few weeks to come to know one another. Again, I look forward to hearing your stories and to praying with you!

Announcements?

Do you have any announcements for the parish that you would like to see included in the weekly bulletin? If so, please email or call Fr. Matthew by Tuesday.

Weekly Schedule

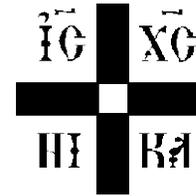
Saturday Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m.
Confessions following Great Vespers

Sunday Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy

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 King-



HOLY ASSUMPTION ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Rev. Matthew Cantrell, Pastor

Call to arrange sacraments, services, instruction, counseling, home visits, sick calls.

Troparion

Blessed art You O Christ Our God/You have revealed the fishermen as most wise/By sending down upon them the Holy Spirit/Through them You drew the world into Your net/O Lover of Man, Glory to You!

Kontakion

When the most High came down and confused the tongues,/He divided the nations;/But when he distributed the tongues of fire/He called all to unity./ Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the All-holy Spirit!

Prokeimenon

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth,//and their words to the ends of the universe! (Ps 18/19:4)

v: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. (Ps. 18/19:1

Communion Hymn

Let Your good Spirit lead me on a level path! (Ps 142/143:10)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

June 7, 2009
8th SUNDAY OF PASCHA, Tone 7.
PENTECOST — FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

Altar Candles and Bulletin Sponsors

Altar candles for this week are for all the parishioner at Holy Assumption Orthodox Church and for Fr. Sergius. **May God Grant Them Many Years!**

Bulletins for this week are for the memory of all the beloved departed servants of God of Holy Assumption Orthodox Church. **May Their Memories Be Eternal!**



Epistle Reading

Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost had come, they 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."

Gospel Reading

John 7:37-25; 8:12

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart 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, some 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 priest 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 of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, 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."

Welcome Visitors and Guests!

A warm welcome to all our visitors and guests who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us for our Fellowship Hour in the Church Hall . **Please note: Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, and confession of sins may approach the Chalice to receive Holy Communion.**

Announcements

An Introduction

Thank you already to all of you who have welcomed Matushka Jennifer, Joachim, and me to Holy Assumption Orthodox Church. We certainly look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you. Over the next few weeks I will take time to introduce myself and to present some of my goals for our parish in South Philadelphia. I am certain that we can accomplish great things at Holy Assumption if we were to allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us. Already we are preparing an introductory booklet for our beloved visitors and are going to soon publish a web site online, but for just two examples. I would encourage all of you to contact anyone you know who once attended our parish and invite them to "Come and See"—to pray with us. They are most welcome to join us in prayer! Do know as well that you are free to ask me any questions that you might have. It's important these