

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, June 4, 2017 | **Holy Pentecost**

Eighth Sunday of Pascha! Feast of the Holy Spirit!

Tone 7 – St Metrophanes, first Patriarch of Constantinople (325-326)

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Pentecost Vespers with kneeling service immediately after Divine Liturgy. Then after Vespers, the Annual Pentecostal Dinner with Pascha food in the church basement.

A general dispensation from all fasting throughout the week (June 4 to June 11)

Saturday: June 10 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: June 11 – Sunday of All Saints!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: June 11 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement!

Monday: Beginning of the Apostles' (Saints Peter and Paul) Fast!
June 12 *(This fast is 17 days (June 12 to June 28) this year!)*

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 8)

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!

Kontakion (Tone 8)

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.

(In Place of the Trisagion, we sing:)

As many as have been baptized into Christ, / have put on Christ. Alleluia. (3x's)

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth / and their words to the ends of the universe!
v. The heavens are telling the Glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!

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.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

v. By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made; and all their host by the Spirit of His mouth. Alleluia (3x's)

v. The Lord looks down from Heaven and beholds the sons of men. Alleluia (3x's)

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 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."

Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:

Rejoice, O Queen! Glory of mothers and virgins! / No mouth, however sweet or fluent, / is eloquent enough to praise thee worthily! / Every mind is overawed by thy childbearing / Therefore with one voice we glorify thee!

Communion Hymn:

Let Thy good Spirit lead me forth on a level path. Alleluia (3x's)

Announcements

A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guest who worshiped with us today and who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

Announcements

The parish is asking if there is anyone who knows someone who has an extra “working” refrigerator that they are looking to dispose of that our church can use. Currently, our refrigerator is operational, but the freezer unit for some odd reason keeps turning itself on and off. This causes water to leak inside the refrigerator thereby causing a major puddle of water to accumulate on the bottom glass shelf and at the bottom of the refrigerator. It’s now gotten to the point where the water needs to be wiped up on a weekly basis. If you know of anyone, please inform a member of the parish council. Thank You!

If you haven’t been on the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania website recently, please check out the website where you can view pictures of our parish events from Pascha and from Dr. Maria C. Khoury Lecture. You can visit the diocese website address at www.doepa.org.

As of May 10, 2017, the parish now has an account on the You Tube website with videos from our monthly Church Life Class Discussions. Currently there are seven vidoes uploaded on the site. To view these videos, just go to www.youtube.com and type in search area for Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church and look for the picture of our parish Icon of Christ from our Facebook page.

A special Thank You goes out to Catherine Kavalkovich for printing and copying new versions of the Divine Liturgy booklets. Currently there are four booklets in each pew (two booklets per pew book shelf holders). The Divine Liturgy booklets are for the St John Chrysostom Liturgy along with the prayers for the Liturgy of St Basil.

On the eve of the 113th annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage to Saint Tikhon’s Monastery May 26-29, 2017, STM Press announced the debut of its first children’s book, *Be Yourself: Amim’s Great Discovery*.

Written by Stephen Muse and beautifully illustrated by Dimitra Psychogiou, the book features the story of a beloved boy, Amim, who finds himself in school in a different culture for the first time. When he is teased by the children, who discover ways that he is different from them, Amim tries to avoid the pain of loneliness and rejection by an all-too-familiar pattern as, little by little, he eliminates anything and everything about himself to which anyone might object. As he adapts himself in extraordinary ways in order to make friends with the children who tease him, he discovers the most important secret about the nature of love and being the person God created him to be.

“Be Yourself: Amim’s Great Discovery is a story that can be read purely for enjoyment,” said STM Press’ Innocent Neal. “But it also can serve as a springboard for discussion with parents, teachers and child therapists working with children with anxiety, friendship issues, the pain of being teased by classmates, and multicultural issues.”

Be Yourself: Amim’s Great Discovery will be available at the Monastery Bookstore throughout this weekend’s Pilgrimage. The book is also available at Saint Tikhon’s Monestary Press website at www.stspress.com.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Ronald Kavalkovich offered by M/M Herbert
Olga Macalush, Joseph Herbert offered by M/M Herbert
Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Nina Patterson
Ronald, Marc, Albert, Catherine, Patricia, Steven, Linda, Barbara, Norman, Lorraine, William,
Joseph offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich
Marc Ferguson (to receive a kidney), Katherine Wanenchak, and Catherine and their unborn
children offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Helen Riley and Kathy Joyce offered by M/M Herbert
Helen Riley, Helen Gerisamoff, Andrew Gerisamoff, Vito Matouro, Anne Ashmore, William
Ashmore Sr, Carmen offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: Helen Riley (***newly departed***); Cantrell Family; Grace
Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Helen
Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino; Father John Bohush and the parishioners of Saint Nicholas
Eastern Orthodox Church in Philadelphia; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Building Fund – In Memory of Helen Riley

* M/M Ken Kavalkovich * M/M Noel Kelly

**Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on
vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!**

Announcements (cont.)

Sign up sheets for Coffee Hour, Cleaning and Epistle & Hours Reading. Sign up sheets for the above items are posted on the bulletin board in the church basement. Please be considerate and volunteer to assist with some of the parish responsibilities. Your time is very much appreciated!

Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon. In addition to our general collection, the parish takes a special collection each week to fund certain parish projects. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. The special collections are as follows:

- First Sunday of every month – Kitchen Fund Project
- Second Sunday of every month – Icon Fund (2016-17)
- Third Sunday of every month - Restoration/Maintenance Fund
- Fourth Sunday of every month – Charity Giving

Note: if there is a Fifth Sunday during a month, the special collection is earmarked for the Kitchen Fund Project, unless otherwise noted and stated by the Parish Council.

Cash Flow Activity (May)

	<u>Week of May 23 to May 28</u>	<u>May Month-to-date</u>
Attendance:	34	37 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 931.00	\$ 5,920.00
Funds Out:	\$ 112.00	\$ 5,089.09
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 819.00	\$ 830.91

Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!

Shop Rite Gift Cards: If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see David Pellack to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card is an additional fundraising project that helps support the church at no additional expense to the purchaser.

Calendar of Events

1st Sunday of each month – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Liturgy.
2nd Tuesday of each month – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
2nd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy.
3rd Sunday of each month – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
4th Sunday of each month – Church Life Discussion Class after Liturgy.

TODAY - Annual Pentecost (Pascha) Dinner after Vespers in the church basement. The parish will hold its annual Pentecost Dinner with Pascha food. The dinner will be a free will offering and any monetary donations towards the dinner are always appreciated! Thank You!

Sunday, June 11 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2nd Sunday of each month)! All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-ups from the previous meeting; Hall status rental update; prioritize additional work that needs to be done over at the Hall now that the tenants have officially moved into the Hall; and any additional action(s) that need to be taken as a result of deliberations that occurred during the Spring General Parish Meeting.

Bible Study – Tuesday, June 13 at 6:30pm in the church basement.
The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and continue reading and discussing the Book of Leviticus.

Sunday, June 25 - Church Life Discussion after the Divine Liturgy and Fellowship hour in the church. The Topic – History of the Divine Liturgy. Please note the Church Life Discussion on the History of the Divine Liturgy is held on the **4th Sunday** of each month.

Wednesday, June 28 – Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul (June 29th) at 6:30PM!
On the eve of the Feast Day of The Holy Glorious and All Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul, Vespers Divine Liturgy will be served that evening starting at 6:30PM. This service is being scheduled to accommodate those parishioners who are unable to attend Divine Liturgy in the morning during the weekdays due to their work schedule.



Holy Pentecost [June 4th]

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 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 fullness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fullness 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 fullness 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 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 fullness, 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 Alexandar Schmemmann (1974)*