

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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### Sunday, May 27, 2018 | Holy Pentecost

Eight Sunday of Pascha! Feast of the Holy Spirit!

Tone – 7 Hieromartyr Therapon, Bishop of Sardis (3<sup>rd</sup> c.)

St John the Russian (Confessor), relics on Island of Euboia (1730)

### V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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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.

*General dispensation from all fasting throughout the week (May 27 to June 3)*

Saturday: June 2 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: June 3 – Sunday of All Saints!

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: June 3 – Spring General Parish Meeting immediately following Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

Much to be discussed regarding the status of the Parish properties (Church, Hall, and both houses)!!!!

## **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 & guests** 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**

Last week we reported about the water damage that has occurred on the north side (street side) of the building where the iconostas is located. Here is a brief summary of what has occurred this past week.

Paul Filanowski and Matt Andrews journeyed up to the church roof to observe the area in question. The downspout 90 degree elbows were clogged and cleaned out, however, this was considered not the problem with the leak. Cracks and holes in the landing area that is part of the roof is where the water leaked in between the outside brick wall and the drywall and sheetrock. The water is not accumulating in the walls but ran along the duct work of the heating unit which runs under the altar steps in front of the iconostas. Paul patched and coated over the cracks and holes to prevent any more water from entering.

A few parishioners ripped up the carpet and carpet padding inside the church area since the water damaged the carpet area in front of the icons of Saint Olga and Saint Nicholas; the whole carpet area where the choir currently stands which stretched out to the icon stand of the Theotokos; and continued to damaged the carpets covering the first four pews. These carpets were shop vac as dry as possible and then placed on pews and chairs to air dry. The carpet padding was thrown out. Fans were brought in to dry the floors and carpets.

As luck would have it, after the carpets were pulled but before Paul was able to patch the holes on the roof, a quick heavy downpour occurred. Those in the church were able to see how the water was entering the church through the heating ductwork on the altar stage. However, with no carpet or carpet padding to absorb this latest rainfall, this water began dripping profusely down into the church basement in the coffee station area, the first table where people sit (water was actually dripping where the light fixture is above said table) and up on the stage area. In addition, this rain water is also dripping down in the storage room from the same heating ductwork mentioned above.

During the week, we had a few people take a look at the roof, the outside of the church wall, the inside of the church and the basement in hopes of obtaining estimates for repair work that needs to be performed. In addition, we filed a claim with our insurance carrier and a representative from the insurance company came out to assess the damage and take pictures of the church and the roof.

As you read above, much work was done but even much more needs to be discussed when we hold our Spring Parish Meeting next Sunday, June 3.

**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

All Parishioners offered by Joseph Rabik

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino (retired); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Remember the 10 victims and the 10 additional injured in the senseless atrocity against humanity at the Santa Fe High School (located in south-east Houston, Texas) tragedy on Friday, May 18.

**ATTENTION ALL READERS OF THE PARISH.....**

A Reader's Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 17 after Divine Liturgy for those who read the Hours and the Epistel. Thank You!!!

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

## Announcements (cont.)

### **Coffee Hour / Cleaning and Epistle / Hours Reading Schedule.**

We now have an established full rotating schedule for the Coffee Hour & Cleaning, and the Hours & Epistle Readings. The Reading schedule sheets will be posted quarterly on the bulletin board in the church basement. The Coffee Hour/Cleaning schedule is in a binder located on the display case.

**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 (2016-18)
- 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 14 to May 20</u>	<u>May Month-to-date</u>
Attendance:	27	38 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 714.00	\$ 5,251.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,708.38	\$ 5,248.58
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 994.38)	\$ 2.42

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

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

### **The 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage to St Tikhon's Monastery**

The Annual Pilgrimage to St Tikhon's Monastery is scheduled for May 25 through May 28, 2018 (Pentecost Weekend). Once again, Pilgrims will be especially graced by the presence of the Myrrhstreaming Hawaiian Iveron Icon of the Mother of God and by the participation and presence of numerous hierarchs, clergy, faithful, and friends from the Orthodox Church in America and other Orthodox jurisdictions from America and beyond.

Pilgrimage information and schedule for the weekend events are posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule area.

**Spring General Parish Meeting - Sunday, June 3, 2018 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #3 of 3.** According to Article IV, Section 2, Subsection A. of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Annual and General Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the amvon on three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the Meeting. Discussions will include events since the Annual Parish Meeting. The meeting should take about an hour but should not exceed past 90 minutes.

**Sunday, June 10 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month)!** All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-ups from the previous meeting; Church status from the recent water damage on north side of building; Hall status update; tenant situation at 2109 house; the work performed on 2111 house; and any additional action(s) that need to be taken as a result of deliberations that occurred during the Spring General Parish Meeting.

**Cleaning Teams:** Today (May 27): Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre (John Spack, Justine Spack and Julia Fagbo).  
Next Week (June 3): Blessed Olga (Debbie Kavalkovich, Anastasia Kavalkovich and Martha Palubniak).



## Holy Pentecost [May 27<sup>th</sup>]

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 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 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 Alexandar Schmemmann (1974)*