

IC XC NI KA HOLY ASSUMPTION Orthodox Church In America

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Festal antiphons are on p. 203 of the old liturgy book, and p. 306 of the new liturgy book.

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 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 fullness 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.

"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."

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

Today's commemorated feasts and saints

8th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — **Tone 7. HOLY PENTECOST: FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY.** Translation of the Relics of the Greatmartyr Theodore Stratelates (319). St. Theodore, Bishop of Rostov and Suzdal' (1023). Finding of the Relics of Ss. Basil and Constantine, Princes of Yaroslavl' (13th c.). St. Ephraim, Patriarch of Antioch (545). Ven. Zosimas of Phœnicia (Syria—6th c.). Glorification of St. John of Kronstadt (1990).

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)



Announcements:

For anyone wishing to help brand-new parents **Bailey and Andrew Archer** with meals and say hello to little Adelaide, it's really easy to sign up for a day to bring them a meal! Here is a link to a convenient website, set up by family: <http://www.takethemameal.com/meals.php?t=ELRD8623> If you just want to call Andrew instead of using the website, his number is (330) 990-4421.

Praying for a Blessed Pentecost!

The staff, missionaries, and board of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) pray that you have a blessed Feast of Pentecost. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came down like tongues of fire upon the Apostles, empowering them to preach the Gospel and establish Christ's Church. May the gifts of the Holy Spirit enable you and your community to continue this work by sharing the Orthodox Faith with people around the world!

The **Coffee hour** signup sheet has been posted on the bulletin board, please sign up!

Fr Stacey's Articles:

I have written a number of articles lately. All of them should now be available on the website, and we are hoping to also have them all available on facebook too. More are on the way! I am hoping to have my next one available for next Sunday. **I really want to stress that you all read them.** I am not a natural writer. I am not a blogger. These are not Fr Stacey's writing for the fun of it, or just general things about Orthodoxy or because I just like to write. It is none of that. It is hard work for me, and everything I write to the parish is personalized for Holy Assumption. Some of them may be decent articles – but they are not at all meant for everyone. **I only wrote them because I felt God wanted me to write about these things to the parish. If God wanted me to write them for you, it seems likely that he would also want you to read them!**

Vacation Church School for ages 5-12 will be held this year at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church from June 16-20 from 9 am to 12 pm . There is no cost for this. Please register soon! Registration forms must be in by June 9. Fr. Stacey has registration forms, and there is more information on the bulletin board in the hall.

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed in your time with us! Regarding participation in the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion is treated with the utmost respect and reverence in the Orthodox Church, and it is the rule that only practicing Orthodox Christians may receive it. Our non-Orthodox guests are welcome, however, to participate with us in any other way they may desire, and are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Please Join us for Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy in the Social Hall!



If this is your first visit to our parish, we welcome you and invite you to return as often as you are able. For those interested in learning more about Orthodox Christianity please ask any of our church community – or feel free to contact Fr Stacey. Our parish library is available for your reading interests. Children are welcome to join church school classes after liturgy.

CONFESSIONS

Fr Stacey can usually hear confessions after any weekday service or after Saturday Vespers. He is also available by appointment, or during his regular office hours.

Our Vision:

To know and love Christ, sharing His love with others

Mission Statement:

Bringing the love of Christ to our community through prayer, worship, fellowship, discipleship, service, and outreach within the tradition of historic Orthodox Christianity.

This Week:

Today

Hours	9:10 AM
Divine Liturgy & Kneeling Prayers	9:30 AM
Coffee Hour	11:30 AM

Monday

Parish Council	7:00 PM
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Tuesday

Office Hours	1:30 PM
	4:30 PM

Wednesday

Daily Vespers	6:30 PM
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Friday

Office Hours	10:30 AM
	1:30 PM

Saturday

Great Vespers	5:00 PM
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Next Sunday

Hours	9:10 AM
Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Coffee Hour	11:30 AM

Upcoming

Children's Festival	Aug 17
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Going to miss a service? Listen online to our Divine Liturgy and other Orthodox Christian Teachings INBN.net

Coffee Hour Schedule

JUNE 8 HAYWOOD , CROSTON , FRISCHKORN , TAPYRIK
JUNE 15 KRAJCI , BLANCHARD , BYRNES , LEWIS
JUNE 22 CONDO , MATHEWSON , RICHTER
JUNE 29 ROMANO , KOSITA

