

Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

June 4, 2023



8th Sunday of Pascha

HOLY PENTECOST
Feast of the Holy Trinity

Divine Liturgy Readings

(Readings on Back)

- ♦ Acts 2:1-11
- ♦ John 7:37-52, 8:12

Announcements:

Parish Council Meeting

The June Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, at 6:00pm in the church hall.

Food Festival Committee

With our Annual Food Festival rapidly approaching, we are looking for individuals to volunteer in a variety of roles. This is our largest fundraiser, and everyone is encouraged to help any way they can. If you would like to serve on the Food Festival Committee, please see Sam Jacob.

Festival Preparation Dates

Sunday, June 11: Following Coffee Hour - peel, boil & mash potatoes for the pierogies.

Monday, June 12: 1:00pm - Pinch Pierogies.

Sunday, July 9: Following Coffee Hour - peel, boil & mash potatoes for pierogies.

Monday, July 10: 1:00pm - Pinch Pierogies.

Monday, July 24: 9:00am - Boil Cabbage, 12:30pm - Roll Cabbage

Wed, August 16: 9:00am - Boil Cabbage, 12:30 - Roll Cabbage

Thurs, August 17: Noon - Hall setup / Cabbage & Noodles / Beef Stroganoff

Friday, August 18: Tent / Bar Setup. Festival Beings (time TBA)

Sat, August 19: 2nd Day of Festival.

Our festival is a lot of work, but also our largest fundraiser. Please plan on helping out as much as you can! Teamwork makes the dream work!

This Week

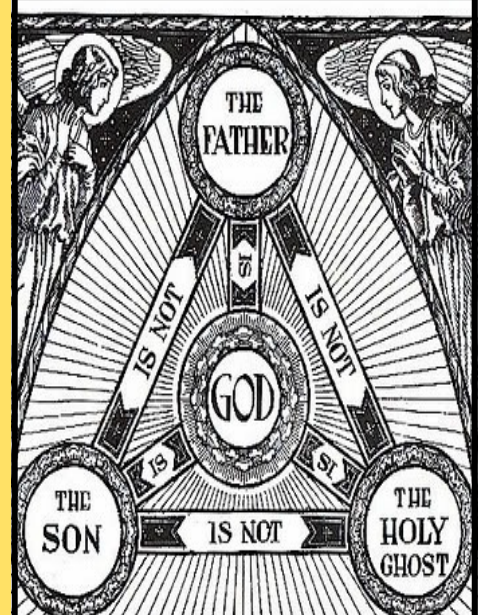
Saturday, June 10

6:00pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, June 11

9:00am - 3rd & 6th Hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy



Meditation on Today's Great Feast

On today's great feast of Pentecost, we celebrate the Holy Spirit coming upon the followers of the Risen Jesus, which is the birthday of His Body, the Church. After the Savior's resurrection, He ascended into heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to His disciples so that they would not be cut off from the new life that He has brought to the world. The Holy Spirit is, of course, the third Person of the Holy Trinity, fully divine and eternal as are the Father and the Son. By being filled with the Holy Spirit, the Lord's followers participate personally and communally in the unity, power, and blessing of the very life of God by grace.

Unlike the period before Christ's Passion, the disciples now no longer think of themselves as students of a mere teacher, prophet, or king. They no longer struggle to accept the good news of His resurrection. Instead, they experience the new life of the Kingdom as "rivers of living water" flowing from their hearts. By the Spirit, they participate by grace in the life of the Holy Trinity. God is not remote, distant, or removed from them, but present in their souls. By God's presence in their hearts, they become truly who He created them to be in the divine image and likeness.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles as a group who were gathered together in obedience to the Lord's command. The divine breath which first gave life to humanity comes upon them as a mighty wind. The divine glory beheld by Moses in the burning bush now rests upon each of them personally as flames of fire. The divided speech of the tower of Babel is now overcome by the miracle of speaking in different languages so that everyone can hear and understand the praise of the Lord. Not the possession of any nation or group, this great feast manifests the fulfillment of God's promises for the entire world and every human being.

God creates us all in His image with the calling to grow in His likeness, actually to become like Him in holiness. As those corrupted by sin and death, however, fulfilling that vocation is beyond our ability. Only God is God, and our only hope is to share by grace in His eternal life. This glorious participation in the divine life is made possible to us at Pentecost. Human distinctions of every kind become irrelevant here, for all that matters is that we respond with faith, humility, love, and repentance as we receive the Spirit poured out on the whole world and on every generation.



Coptic Orthodox icon of Pentecost, with the Virgin Mary and Myrrh-bearing women present.

With the Holy Spirit present in our hearts, linking us together organically as one, our fallen, divided humanity is restored. Just as Father, Son, and Spirit share a common life of love, unity, and holiness, we share a common life in Christ's Body, the Church. As particular people, we have the responsibility to believe, repent, and obey the Lord as we participate in the ministries of the Church and live faithfully each day. As members of Christ's Body, we are nurtured by worship, the sacraments, and spiritual instruction in our common life. The holy Tradition of the Church is the presence of the Holy Spirit, guiding the Body into ever greater knowledge of and participation in the life of the Holy Trinity.

For we receive the Holy Spirit not as isolated individuals, but as persons in communion, in loving relationship with Christ and with one another in His Body, the Church. The only proper way to celebrate Pentecost is to open ourselves as fully as possible to God's healing, transforming power in all areas of our lives. That is how we may become radiant with the divine glory as we celebrate this great feast of our salvation as living temples of the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Icon *Descent of the Holy Spirit*

The icon of the Feast of Pentecost is known as "The Descent of the Holy Spirit". It is an icon of bold colors of red and gold signifying that this is a great event. The movement of the icon is from the top to the bottom. At the top of the icon is a semicircle with rays coming from it. The rays are pointing toward the Apostles, and the tongues of fire are seen descending upon each one of them signifying the descent of the Holy Spirit.

The building in the background of the icon represents the upper room where the Disciples of Christ gathered after the Ascension. The Apostles are shown seated in a semicircle which shows the unity of the Church. Included in the group of the Apostles is Saint Paul, who, though not present with the others on the day of Pentecost, became an Apostle of the Church and the greatest missionary. Also included are the four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, holding books of the Gospel, while the other Apostles are holding scrolls that represent the teaching authority given to them by Christ.

In the center of the icon below the Apostles, a royal figure is seen against a dark background. This is a symbolic figure, Cosmos, representing the people of the world living in darkness and sin, and involved in pagan worship. However, the figure carries in his hands a cloth containing scrolls which represent the teaching of the Apostles. The tradition of the Church holds that the Apostles carried the message of the Gospel to all parts of the world.

In the icon of Pentecost we see the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, sent down upon the Apostles who will teach the nations and baptize them in the name of the Holy Trinity. Here we see that the Church is brought together and sustained in unity through the presence and work of the Holy Spirit, that the Spirit guides the Church in the missionary endeavor throughout the world, and that the Spirit nurtures the Body of Christ, the Church, in truth and love.

Tropar of the Feast: Blessed are Thou O Christ Our God / Thou hast revealed the fishermen as most wise / by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit / through them Thou did draw the world into Thy net / O Lover of Man, Glory to Thee!

Prayers Appreciated for:

Living:

Mat. Priscilla
Priest Ian
Dn. Doug, Mat. Kathy
Dawn, Katherine,
Sam, Lisa, Paula,
Marianne, Molly,
Suleiman, Jayden
Steve

Departed:

Tall Candles

Are available to sponsor.
\$15ea. See Fr Joseph to re-
serve for your loved ones.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday, June 5

Hieromartyr Dorotheus
Ephesians 5:9-19
Matthew 18:10-20

Tuesday, June 6

Ven. Bessarion,
Wonderworker of Egypt
Romans 1:1-7, 13-17
Matthew 4:25-5:13

Wed, June 7

Venerable Daniel of Sketis
Romans 1:18-27
Matthew 5:20-26

Thurs, June 8

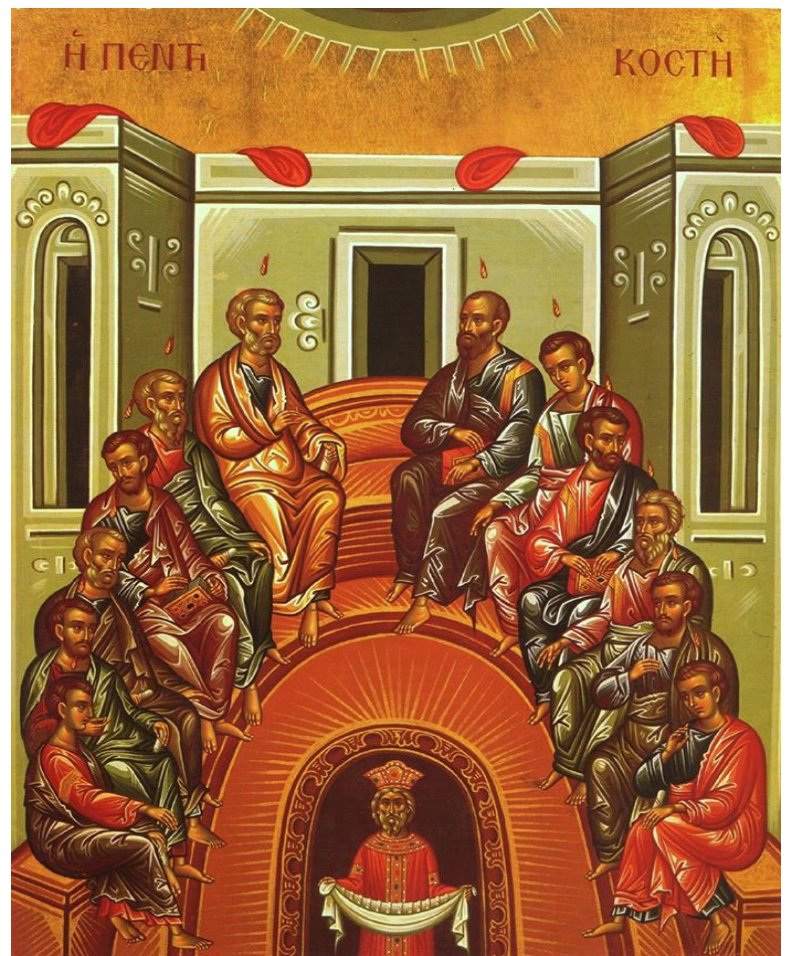
Ven. Zosimas of Phœnicia
Romans 1:28-2:9
Matthew 5:27-32

Friday, June 9

St. Columba of Scotland
Romans 2:14-29
Matthew 5:33-41

Saturday, June 10

St. Neaniskos
Romans 1:7-12
Matthew 5:42-48



Today's Scripture Readings

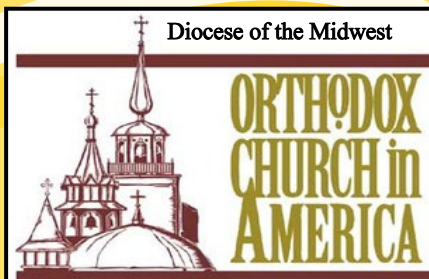
Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

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."

Gospel: 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." Nikodemos (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."

Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!



Ss Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

2238 E. 32nd St

Lorain, OH 44055

www.OrthodoxLorain.org

Archpriest Joseph McCartney, Rector

440-668-2209 (cell)

FrJosephMcCartney@gmail.com