



## Weekly Bulletin

# Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

### **The Feast of Pentecost**

#### **Troparion of the Feast, 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; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Man, Glory to Thee! When

#### **Kontakion of Pentecost, Tone 4**

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!

#### **Thoughts for the work of the Holy Spirit...**

"Creation is a slave; the Spirit sets free. Creation stands in need of life; the Spirit is the Life-Giver. Creation needs instruction; the Spirit is the Teacher. Creation is sanctified; the Spirit is the Sanctifier."

*St. Basil the Great*

### **The Feast of Holy Trinity**

#### **Tone 7, June 23rd , Jn. 7:37-52; 8:12**

This feast was named Pentecost because commemorated on this day was an event in the Old Testament called the feast of Pentecost, and also because this feast necessarily comes 50 days after the Christian Pascha. Especially important is the concurrence of the time of the descent of the Holy Spirit with the time of the Old Testament feast of Pentecost. The descent of the Holy Spirit on the believers in Christ was the crowning of the redemption and salvation of man by God. During the time of Pentecost the disciples of the Lord have blossomed and have grown spiritually; then the fullness of the gifts of the Spirit of God descended on them, and they became the first fruits of the redemptive work of Christ. Together with these revelations, the Church of Christ began on earth.

The day of Pentecost was the day, when the Old Testament theocracy which began on Sinai and ruled the people through the written law, the law of slavery and of death, was replaced by the New Testament law, where the people are led by the Spirit of God, the spirit of adoption and freedom (Rom. 8). Thus, as the Pascha of Christ abolished the Old Testament Pascha, the New Testament Pentecost replaces the Old Testament one, from which life under the law began.

In the hymns of the church for the day of Pentecost the event, the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, and the beneficial fruits of this great event are praised.

"Today", - sings the Holy Church, - wondrous things were done before the face of all peoples "in the city of David, when the Holy Spirit came down as fiery tongues", upon the disciples of Christ; now "The Spirit of salvation, purifying the hearts of the apostles"; now, "the apostles clothed with the power from on high by Christ: for the Comforter revives them"; now, the Holy Spirit "revealed the unlettered to be orators", the fishermen, "bridling the mouths of sophists in abundance with a word, and raising from the deep night unnumbered people"; "they know in three persons One unerring, unapproachable, timeless Essence; for light has shone, the grace of the Spirit "; "When the power of the divine Spirit came down, it divinely united in one harmony the voice divided of old (i.e. the language of the people) of those who had wickedly agreed to Praising the Zion event and showing its fruits, the Holy Church lifts up our minds and hearts even to the knowledge of God's attributes and actions of the Heavenly Visitor, the Spirit of God.

In the words of St. Gregory the Theologian: "The Holy Spirit always was, and is, and will be; neither beginning nor coming to an end, but always ranked and numbered with the Father and the Son"; "He is the life and creator of life; He is the light and the

## **Announcements and Activities**

**Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost**— today, Sunday June 23, after Liturgy.

**Great Vespers— No Vespers Saturday.**

**Divine Liturgy** — Fr. John Finley will serve for Fr. Lawrence at the Liturgy next Sunday, June 30th at 10AM. Let's give Fr. John our best welcome.

**Coffee Hour**— This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Gan and Virginia and Kyle and Erika. Next week's coffee hour will be our monthly potluck. Let's be sure to bring our favorite dish as we will have guest clergy driving from down south.

**Church School/Adult Ed**— summer recess until October. Church School teachers and prospective teachers (much needed) will meet on July 7, after the Liturgy.

**July BBQ**— please distribute those flyers and be sure to plan on coming yourselves. More about that in the weeks to come.

**Consecration Committee**— things are going well in our plans. Our new altar arrived in to US Customs this past Wednesday. Pray that we'll get it through customs in a timely fashion. We have secured a block of rooms at the Radisson. Matushka, Sunday, Elise Laura Beth, Darryl and others have successfully prepared and sent out our RSVP cards for the banquet. Heather is working diligently in preparing the choir. We have set up refreshments to be served between the end of the Liturgy and the banquet, in the hall. Thank you to all who are working hard and accomplishing much. Fr. Lawrence is working with his son on a desire to have a livestream of the altar being consecrated on a large screen in the Nave, so those present can see this beautiful rite. We'll see if that comes about. We still have to prepare for off-site parking and, there's a good chance, a shuttle to bring people on site. We will meet in July, by zoom or in person, to take care of all remaining details and to be ready for the event.

**Pray for...** Sarah, the daughter of Fr. Lawrence's godfather. **Reposed**— Kalche. Eutychia's husband: **Stephen— battling cancer.** **Barbara H.** health issues. **Archbishop Benjamin**— our Vladyka, parkinsons. **Luci F.** recovering from knee procedure. Fr.'s grandson, **Christian, joint pain and problems from an inherited gene.**

bestower of light; He is the pouring out of goodness and source of goodness"; "through Whom the Father is known and the Son (John 16:14) is glorified, and by all is known"; "He is the Spirit of wisdom, understanding"; "He is God and deifier." "He distributes the gifts " (1 Cor. 12:11), "crowns the prophets, apostles and martyrs ".

Glorifying the Holy Spirit, the solemn Worship of the actual day also includes within itself the thanksgiving glorification of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Who on this final great and saving day of Pentecost revealed to us the mystery of the Holy, Consubstantial, Coeternal, Undivided and Uncompounded Trinity", and "poured out the Comforter upon the disciples, as was promised", and "setting them as Evangelists of our true faith, revealing them as confessors and heralds of true theology".

"In your courts", exclaims the Holy Church, "I will sing your praise, as the Savior of the world, and bending the knee I will worship your invincible power, at evening and morning and midday, and at every moment I will bless you, O Lord."

The Holy Church uplifts also the general doxology to the Most Holy Trinity and inspires us, that we, "bending the knee of souls and body", praise you "the Father without beginning, and the Son, likewise without beginning, and Co-eternal and All Holy Spirit", "the Trinity One in Essence", "Identical in power and Coeternal ". ... "Come, you people," the Church appeals to its children, "let us worship the Godhead in three persons, the Son in the Father, with the Holy Spirit; for the Father timelessly begot the Son, co-eternal and co-reigning, and the Holy Spirit was in the Father, glorified with the Son; one power, one essence, one Godhead."

But that our glorifications do not remain fruitless, the Holy Church often appeals to the very Spirit Comforter with the prayer: "O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth who art everywhere and fillest all things. Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of life: Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One. "(1967 OCA translation).

(taken from, *The Year of the Grace of the Lord*, by A Monk of the Eastern Church)

### **From the Lives of the Saints... THE HOLY FEMALE-MARTYR AGRIPPINA**

Saint Agrippina was born and educated in Rome. From her childhood she trained herself to live according to the Gospel, driving away the stench of passions from her heart and filling her heart with the sweet-smelling fragrance of purity, virginity and chastity. She was betrothed to Christ the Lord and suffered as a bride of Christ during the reign of Emperor Valerian. She endured flogging with rods until her bones were crushed. An angel of God appeared to her and strengthened her. Under further tortures St. Agrippina gave up her soul to God. Her companions, Vassa, Paula and Agathonica, took her relics to the island of Sicily and buried them there with honor. A church was later built there in St. Agrippina's honor. Countless miracles were wrought through her relics. By the power, even the Hagarenes were turned away from the town where her relics lay. St. Agrippina reposed in the year 275 A.D. and was crowned with glory.

### **THE HOLY MARTYRS EUSTOCHIUS AND GAIUS, AND THOSE WITH THEM**

Eustochius was a pagan priest during the reign of Emperor Maximian, but, witnessing the heroism of the Christian martyrs, he rejected paganism and was baptized. Eudoxius, the Bishop of Antioch, personally baptized him. After that, Eustochius gradually converted his relatives to Christianity. His relative Gaius was baptized along with three children: Probus, Lollias and Urban. All of these, and others with them, were brought before the court, tortured and beheaded in Lystra for the sake of their faith in Christ the Lord. Their souls took up their habitation in the Immortal Kingdom of Christ.

Taken from, *The Prologue of Ochrid*, by St. Nikolai Velimirovich

*"There do not exist many or few, nor small or great problems. The only problem is the absence of Christ from our lives " (From the life and teachings of Elder Epiphanius Theodoropoulos)*