

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 Alexander Schmemmann (1974)

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin

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June 23, 2024

Sunday Holy Scripture Reading

Apostolic Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Gospel: St. John 7:37-52; 8:12

Services: *Sunday*-8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy, *Weekdays* 8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy when scheduled.

Saints of the Day: 8th Sunday of Pascha, and Pentecost. Martyrs Agripinna of Rome, Aristokleos, Eustochios, Demetrian, and Lollias; Venerable Barbaros Pentapolites; translation of the relics of Herman, archbishop of Kazan .

Order of Service

First Antiphon with festal verses

Second Antiphon with festal verses

Save us, O Good Comforter, we sing to You. Alleluia

Σῶσον ἡμᾶς, Παράκλητε ἀγαθέ, ψάλλοντάς Σοι· Ἀλληλούια.

Third Antiphon with Festal Verses (The Little Entrance)

Εὐλογητός εἶ, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός ἡμῶν, ὁ πανσόφους τοὺς ἀλιεῖς ἀναδείξας, καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον, καὶ δι’ αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην σαργνεύσας. Φιλάνθρωπε, δόξα σοι.

Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You sent down the Holy Spirit into the fishermen, and You gave them knowledge and wisdom in everything; and through them, as in a net You caught the whole world. O Lord who loves humanity, glory to You!

Instead of “Come let us worship . . .”

Be exalted, O Lord, in Your power; we will sing and praise Your mighty deeds. Save us, O good Comforter. We sing to You, Alleluia.

After the Entrance

Apolytikion of Pentecost Tone 8

Blessed are You, O Christ our God...

Kontakion for Pentecost Tone 8

When the Most High God came down and confused the tongues, * He di-

vided the nations. * When He distributed the tongues of fire, * He called all to unity. * And with one voice we glorify the all-holy Spirit.

Instead of Holy God we sing “Those who have been baptized . . .” (pg. 109)

Instead of “Axion Estin” we chant Tone 4

When you conceived, you experienced no deflowerment. * You lent your flesh to the Logos, through whom all things were made. * Therefore we magnify you, Virgin Theotokos, * Mother who knew no man, space and holder of your Maker, who is uncontainable and infinite.

The Communion Hymn:

Your good Spirit shall guide me in the land of uprightness. Alleluia.

Instead of Εἶδομεν το φῶς The Apolytikion for Pentecost

Divine Services

Kneeling Vespers: Immediately following the Divine Liturgy today we will have the service of Kneeling Vespers.

Mon June 24: Orthros 8am and Divine Liturgy 9am for Monday of the Holy Spirit/Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

Wed., June 26: Paraklesis 5pm

Sat. June 29: Orthros 8am and Divine Liturgy 9am for Saints Peter and Paul. Great Vespers 5pm

Stewardship 2024

Remember to be current with your stewardship. If you did not receive a 2024 packet, please see Ruxandra Georgescu.

Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church

Holy Communion of the Orthodox Church is the Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is “*With the fear of God, faith and love*” that we approach the Divine Mysteries. Therefore, Holy Communion is reserved only for those baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer and fasting, as prescribed by the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church. We ask that women, before approaching to receive from the Holy Cup, in respect of our Lord, to please remove lipstick.

Women’s Fellowship

The Women’s Fellowship has put together Blessing Bags with items to support and help others who are in need. These bags will be given to a center that works with the homeless in our community. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause or future charitable works, please see Elaine Cunningham. Thank you!

Bookstore and Library

Come downstairs and browse our wonderful selection of new books, Icons, and Orthodox gift items in our well-stocked bookstore. There is something for everyone! *Read often and insatiably the books of the teachers of the Church...* ~St. Isaac the Syrian

Coffee Hour Signup

Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour. Donations are welcome!

June 23: Sponsor Needed

June 30: Dabit Family

July 7: Sponsor Needed

July 14: Kaloroumakis Family

Capital Campaign

King Soopers Cards has a Loyalty Card Program that offers 5% of your purchase sent to a designated charity which Archangel Michael is an eligible recipient. You may sign up online or go to the customer service desk.

No Fasting This Week

The week following Pentecost is fast free including, all foods are permitted every day.

Greek Dance Group

We welcome children and adults to join our parish Greek dance group. Practice will be for a half hour to prepare for our Annual Greek Festival. Any interested children and adults are welcome to join, as well as help teach. Contact Constadina Vasiliades at: 808-373-0312 or constadina@shaw.ca if interested or for questions. For the month of **June** we are looking at **every Thursday at 6:30 pm** at Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church. We will begin this Thursday June 13, then June 20, then June 27.

Orthodox Catechism Class

Class will meet on Sunday, June 30 following coffee hour. *All are welcomed to attend!*

Special General Assembly

On Sunday, June 30, 2024 we shall gather after services to discuss the purchase of a new building. Notices went out to stewards with the agenda and a letter explaining the details. Please make sure your stewardship is up to date and you have filled out a card. Only those with a card may vote.

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