

Saints of the Day

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 Alexander Schmemmann (1974)

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin

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June 20, 2021

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, Pentecost. Hieromartyr Methodios, bishop of Patara; Kallistos Xanthopoulos, patriarch of Constantinople; Venerable Nahum of Ochrid.

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 (The Little Entrance)

Εὐλογητός εἶ, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός ἡμῶν, ὁ πανσόφους τοὺς ἀλιεῖς ἀναδείξας, καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τό Πνεῦμα τό ἅγιον, καί δι' αὐτῶν τήν οἰκουμένην σαγηνεύσας. Φιλάνθρωπε, δόξα σοι.

Blessed are You, • O Christ our God, • Who has shown forth • the fishermen as all wise • by sending down upon them • the Holy Spirit, • and through them • did draw the world into Your net • glory to You Who loves mankind.

Instead of “Come let us worship . . .”

Be exalted, O Lord in Your strength; we will sing and chant of Your mighty acts. 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

Once, when He descended and confounded the tongues, the Most High divided the nations; and when He divided the tongues of fire, He called

all men into unity; and with one accord we glorify the All-holy Spirit.

Instead of Holy God we sing “Those who have been baptized...”

Instead of “Axion Estin” we chant Tone 4

O Mother who did not know man, who conceived without experiencing corruption, giving flesh to the creating Word: we magnify you, the virgin Mother of God, receptacle of the uncontainable and abode of the infinite Creator.

The Communion Hymn:

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

Instead of Εἶδομεν το φως The Apolytikion for Pentecost

Divine Services

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

Mon., June 21: Orthros 8am and Divine Liturgy 9am for Monday of the Holy Spirit.

Wed., June 23: Great Vespers for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist 5pm
(please note new time)

Thurs., June 24: Orthros 8am and Liturgy 9am for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

Sat June 26: Great Vespers 5pm

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.

No Fasting This Week

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

Coffee Hour Signup

Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour. Donations are welcome!

June: 20: LaBrie Family and Topakas Family

June 27: Vasiliades Family

Christians Around the World

Please remember to keep Christians around the world in your prayers. Many

are being persecuted and even killed for their faith in Jesus Christ. Remember also the two kidnapped Orthodox bishops from Syria.

Greek Festival

We are planning to have our festival on the weekend of August 20, 21, 22, 2021, please mark the dates and kindly volunteer. *OPA!*

Capital Campaign

Amazon Smile: You may support Archangel Michael GOC through Amazon Smile. Please make sure you sign in at: <https://smile.amazon.com/>

King Soopers Rewards: Please continue to input your King Soopers Rewards number when shopping there. We receive a percentage of the amount you spend. You must register for the program in order to activate this benefit for us.

St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Lubbock, TX Vandalized

Last Sunday, St. Andrew Church was vandalized early in the morning prior to services. We have received word that damages are at least \$100,000. While a GoFundMe page has been established, we would like to take a collection from our community and send it to them.

Stewardship 2021

Please support our parish with your time, talent and treasure. Remember to send in your stewardship card. See Ruxandra Georgescu for more information.

Potted Lilies

There are three plants left for those who would like to plant the bulbs at home. Feel free to take them today-they are on the stairwell.

Bookstore and Library

We have close to forty new books in the bookstore; there is something for everyone! Please come by and feel free to browse. If you have any questions, please see Olga Sonnenburg or email her at osonnenburg@comcast.net. *All that are careful for this life, procure books that will be medicine for the soul.* -St. John Chrysostom

Greek Store

Visit our Greek Store in the church hall. We have food items for sale and specialty items can be ordered. Please see Connie Leonard for more information

Imporant Dates to Remember

Saints Peter and Paul Fast begins on June 28 and ends on their feast day, June 29.