

PASTORAL VISITATIONS

Please inform the Church Office 301-469-7990 (ext 300) of any loved ones who are hospitalized or "shut-ins," so they may be visited and receive the grace of Holy Communion.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

GREEK SCHOOL FOR PRESCHOOLERS: Space still available for 3-4 year old classes! Morning 2 year old class full. We are trying to gather enough children to create an afternoon 2 year old class to potentially be held Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30pm-2:30pm. If interested please contact Christina Stayeas at cstayeas@yahoo.com or Vasilia Contos at contosgeorge@hotmail.com.

SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Camp Good Shepherd, which is the summer camp of the Metropolis of New Jersey and located in Branchville, NJ, will be holding two sessions for GOYA aged persons (12-18) and one session for JOY aged children (7-11). The first GOYA session is from July 11-17 and the second session is from July 18-24. The JOY session is from July 25-31. For further information and for registration forms, please visit the Metropolis of New Jersey website: www.nj.goarch.org, or contact Fr. George: frgeorge@stgeorge.org.

Ionian Village, the official summer camp of our Archdiocese, will be holding two summer sessions for GOYA aged youths. Session 1 will be held from July 1-20 and session 2 from July 25 through August 15. For further information and registration forms, please visit the website www.ionianvillage.org, or contact Fr. George: frgeorge@stgeorge.org.

Orthodox Youth Day will be held at Paramount's Kings Dominion on Thursday, June 24th. All GOYA groups from the Greek Orthodox parishes in DC, Maryland, and Virginia will be participating. What a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and fun. If you are interested in attending, please contact Fr. George ASAP at frgeorge@stgeorge.org

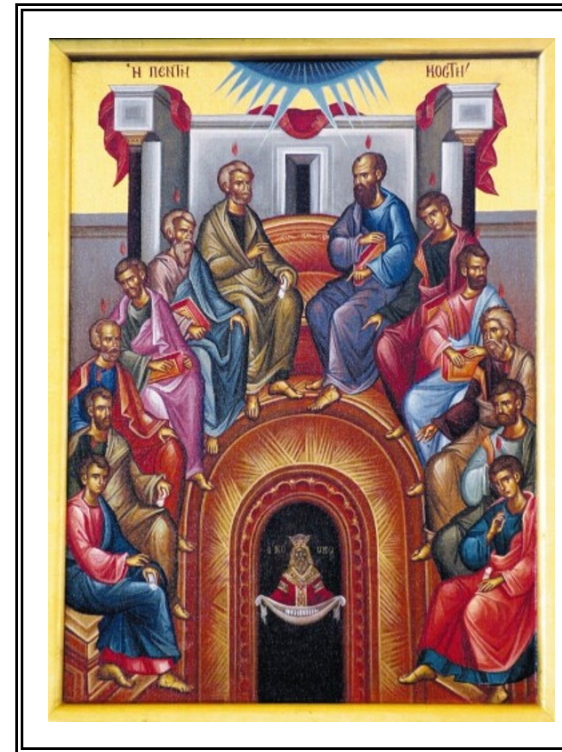
PRAY FOR THE ORTHODOX BISHOPS THIS WEEK IN NEW YORK



More than 50 hierarchs will take part in the first Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in North and Central America, to be convened by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America in New York City, May 26-28. This Assembly is the result of the decision of the Fourth Pre-Conciliar Pan-Orthodox Conference, which met in *Chambésy* Switzerland in June of 2009, after the extraordinary *Synaxis* of all the Heads of the Autocephalous Churches convened by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. This Assembly, one of twelve that will be convened around the world in regions where there is no single Orthodox presence, will consist of the active canonical bishops who reside in the region designated as North and Central America. In every Assembly, the chairman will be the senior bishop of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The meeting is preparatory to facilitate the process of an ecumenical council (in the future) that will decide the final form of the existence of the Church in a particular country. ***Please keep these Hierarchs in your daily prayers that the Holy Spirit may instill in them wisdom and grace so as to shepherd Christ's flock in peace.***

ST. GEORGE BULLETIN HOLY PENTECOST

MAY 23, 2010



Today we celebrate the Great Anointing of the Church. We recall how the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles with fire and wind, power and light. We remember how that anointing moved them to preach with ever more energy, motivation, and zeal. The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost signals to us that OUR faith must be so energized. Our witness to the Gospel cannot be a timid one. As the Apostolic Church we share the Great Anointing that came to the Twelve. Let us look into our own hearts to see if our faith is one of fire, conviction, and witness. Is our life motivated by our belief in Christ? Do we have the courage to spread that faith by the manner of our living and by open witness? *Think...*

APOLYTIKION OF HOLY PENTECOST

Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fishermen all-wise, sending upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, netting the world. O Loving One, glory to You.

KONTAKION OF HOLY PENTECOST

When the Most High came down and confounded tongues of men (Babel), He divided the Nations. When He dispensed the Tongues of Fire, He called all to unity, and with one voice we glorify the Most Holy Spirit.



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EPISTLE Acts 2:1-11

WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

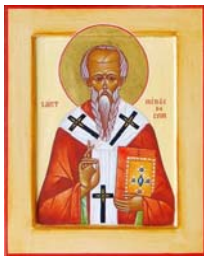
TODAY'S READER: ROBYN ANDRIS

GOSPEL John 7:37-52; 8:12

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. The officers then went back to the chief priest and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

THE ANOINTING BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

By St. Irenaeus of Lyons



The Holy Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and strength, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of God came down upon the Lord, and the Lord in turn gave this Spirit to his Church, sending the Advocate from heaven into all the world into which, according to his own words, the devil too had been cast down like lightning. If we are not to be scorched and made unfruitful, we need the dew of God. Since we have our accuser, we need an advocate as well. And so the

Lord in his pity for man, who had fallen into the hands of brigands, having himself bound up his wounds and left for his care two coins bearing the royal image, entrusted him to the Holy Spirit. Now, through the Spirit, the image and inscription of the Father and the Son have been given to us, and it is our duty to use the coin committed to our charge and make it yield a rich profit for the Lord.

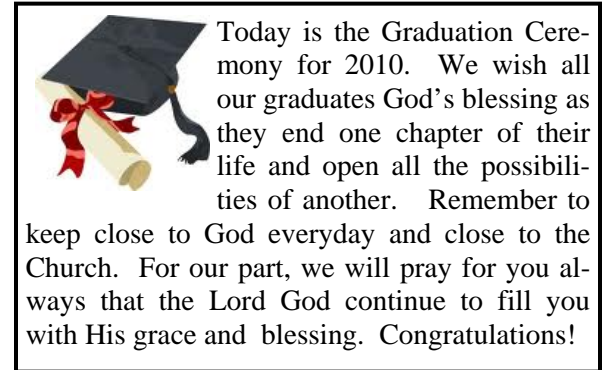


ACQUIRING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Pentecost sees the Apostles waiting. If Christianity were simply a man-made religion, even if it were the best and most beautiful man-made religion, there would be no need for the disciples to tarry in Jerusalem these days awaiting Pentecost. Why would they need to? They had for years lived in close contact with Christ, and had been His most intimate students. They could have simply begun to write and teach and pass on what they had learned. They had been fully trained, and so it is time to start training. This is how it is with every other of the world's religions. Not so with Christianity. Christianity is not about ideas, moral guidance, ethical norms, social structures, etc.. Christianity, of course, is not free from these things, but this is not what Holy Orthodoxy is about. Holy Orthodoxy is about the coming of the Holy Spirit into man. It is about human transformation and deification, not ideas. There is no Christianity without Pentecost. Orthodoxy without the Holy Spirit is not Orthodoxy. There is no prayer without the Holy Spirit praying in us. There is no church without the Holy Spirit. There is no Church Temple without the Holy Spirit. This is why when we erect a true church temple the bishop chrismates the altar and the temple itself. The Temple has its own Pentecost for it truly becomes not simply a functional gathering place, but the House of God and Temple of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives there. In fact, **our Goal is to acquire the Holy Spirit.** In the light of truth we see then that our holy father St. Seraphim was correct when he

PRAYER LIST: Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaos, Katherine Panagakos, Priscilla Preuss, George Virvan, Sylvia Basdekas, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Stephanie Skanderis, Michael Giatzis, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, Theodosia Karmiris, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Maj. Sydney Pennix, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, and 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios

was asked by someone "What is the purpose of this life?", and he answered, "The acquisition of the Holy Spirit." All of our Christian effort and struggle is guided toward this one thing: obtaining an increase of the Holy Spirit, to realize the image of God within us, to achieve deification. This is what it means to become *spiritual*. This is the goal of Christianity: the union of man with God by the Holy Spirit.



Today is the Graduation Ceremony for 2010. We wish all our graduates God's blessing as they end one chapter of their life and open all the possibilities of another. Remember to keep close to God everyday and close to the Church. For our part, we will pray for you always that the Lord God continue to fill you with His grace and blessing. Congratulations!

THE KNEELING PRAYERS OF PENTECOST

The "Kneeling Prayers" ask God to send the Holy Spirit to empower us to do His will in all aspects of our lives. These prayers are called "Kneeling Prayers" because they mark the first time we kneel after the 50-day celebration of the Feast of Feasts Holy and Glorious Pascha. The priest, cantor, and people do not kneel until the beginning of the first "Kneeling Prayer". The priest says "Again and again on bent knees let us pray to the Lord." Everyone kneels. After the kneeling prayer, everyone stands for the short prayers between each "Kneeling Prayer". This process is done three times. There are several prayers after the "Kneeling Prayers" Some parishes do the "Kneeling Prayers" at the end of the Divine Liturgy on the Great Feast of Pentecost.