

THE TROPHYBEARER

Pastoral Thoughts

Today, the Spirit breathes. Today, the Church sings. Today, heaven and earth rejoice.

As we begin to celebrate the great and holy feast of Pentecost, we see the fulfillment of the Lord's promise, the birth of the Church, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh. Fifty days after the glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and ten days after His Ascension into heaven, the Comforter has come — not to a chosen few only, but to all who would receive Him.

As we heard in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, "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 there appeared to them tongues as of fire... and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:1-4). This was not merely a symbolic moment. It was a real and fiery descent of divine grace upon humanity and changed everything.

First, Pentecost is the reversal of Babel. At the tower of Babel, human pride scattered the nations by confusing their tongues. But today, the Spirit speaks through many tongues to unite all nations into one Body — the Body of Christ. The Church is not built upon language, culture, or earthly power, but upon the unifying fire of the Holy Spirit. As St. Paul teaches, "There is one body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph. 4:4-5).

Second, the Holy Spirit renews us personally and inwardly. The Psalmist cries, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me... Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me" (Ps. 50). This is our constant prayer. The Holy Spirit is not a vague force but the very Breath of God who dwells in us through baptism and chrismation. He is the Giver of life, the One who teaches, sanctifies, convicts, and comforts. Without Him, we can do nothing.

But how often do we forget Him? We say our prayers, go through our routines, perform duties — yet without invoking the Spirit, our hearts can remain cold. Let us, therefore, cry out today with sincerity, "O Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who art everywhere present and fills 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!"

Finally, brothers and sisters, let Pentecost become a way of life for us. The Holy Spirit did not come for a single moment or for a yearly celebration only. He came to dwell within the Church until the end of the age. He comes to transform us into living temples of the living God. Let our homes, work, and relationships be filled with the light and fruit of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23).



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PARISH NEWS

Epistle Readers

Anyone wishing to become an Epistle Reader, Please
Contact Father Michael

Sunday, June 1, 2025: Sunday of Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council:
Aletheia Hadjis

Sunday, June 8, 2025: Pentecost: Loukia Constantinides

Sunday, June 15, 2025: All-Saints: Harry Coin

Sunday, June 22, 2025: 2nd Sunday of Matthew: Kim Eastland

Sunday, June 29, 2025: The Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul: Scott Florence

Evening Meal Volunteers

June 25, 2025: Father Michael, Presbyteria Maria and Patti Kenyon

July 23, 2025: Penny McGimpsey and Angela Spurgetis

August 27, 2025: Mary and Kim Winters and George and Diane Karoules

September 24, 2025: Dena Manta and Alexa Florence

October 22, 2025: Randy and Chris Smith

November 20, 2025: (Thursday) Ted Pitsoulakis and Jimmy Pliakos

December 18, 2025: (Thursday) Deacon Paul and Deaconess Romilie Speed

Anyone interested in taking part in this worthwhile ministry should contact
Mary Winters at 563-726- 2880

Parish Council Sunday Duty Schedule

Sunday, June 1, 2025: Tom Bakeris, Nick Coin, Mariellen Crosson, and Pete
Hadjis

Sunday, June 8, 2025: Kim Eastland, Mary Kay Eckert, Gus Pappas, and Ted
Pitsoulakis

Sunday, June 15, 2025: Kathy Begyn, Joe Burmeister, Dennis Spurgetis, and
Mary Rankin

Sunday, June 22, 2025: Tom Bakeris, Nick Coin, Mariellen Crosson, and Pete
Hadjis

Sunday, June 29, 2025: Kim Eastland, Mary Kay Eckert, Gus Pappas, and Ted
Pitsoulakis

Parish Registry

The Servant of God David Jestel was Baptized in the Orthodox Faith on May
4, 2025. His Sponsor was Yianni Laros

PROSPHORA MAKERS

Sunday, June 1, 2025:
Open

Sunday, June 8, 2025:
Open

Sunday, June 15, 2025:
Open

Sunday, June 22,
2025: Open

Sunday, June 29, 2025:
Open

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Sunday, June 1, 2025:
Nick and Nancy Coin

Sunday, June 8, 2025:
Mariellen Crosson

Sunday, June 15, 2025:
Marina Yokas-Reese

Sunday, June 22, 2025:
Candice Kalman

Sunday, June 29, 2025:
John and Darcy Callas

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council (June 1)

The heresiarch Arius was a Libyan by race and a protopresbyter of the Church of Alexandria. In 315, he began to blaspheme against the Son and Word of God, saying that He is not true God, consubstantial with the Father, but is rather a work and creation, alien to the essence and glory of the Father, and that there was a time when He was not. This frightful blasphemy shook the faithful of Alexandria. Alexander, his Archbishop, after trying in vain to correct him through admonitions, cut him off from communion and finally in a local council deposed him in the year 321. Yet neither did the blasphemer wish to be corrected, nor did he cease sowing the deadly tares of his heretical teachings; but writing to the bishops of other cities, Arius and his followers requested that his doctrine be examined, and if it were unsound, that the correct teaching be declared to him. By this means, his heresy became universally known and won many supporters, so that the whole Church was soon in an uproar.

Therefore, moved by divine zeal, the first Christian Sovereign, Saint Constantine the Great, the equal to the Apostles, summoned the renowned First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was there that the shepherds and teachers of the Church of Christ gathered from all regions in the year 325. All of them, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God, and they composed the holy Symbol of Faith up to the seventh article (since the remainder, beginning with "And in the Holy Spirit," was completed by the Second Ecumenical Council). Thus they anathematized the impious Arius of evil belief and those of like mind with him, and cut them off as rotten members from the whole body of the faithful.

Therefore, recognizing the divine Fathers as heralds of the Faith after the divine Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honour, and unto the strengthening of the true Faith.

Saint Justin Martyr (June 1)

This Saint, who was from Neapolis of Palestine, was a follower of Plato the philosopher. Born in 103, he came to the Faith of Christ when he was already a mature man, seeking to find God through philosophy and human reasoning. A venerable elder appeared to him and spoke to him about the Prophets who had taught of God not through their own wisdom, but by revelation; and he led him to knowledge of Christ, Who is the fulfillment of what the Prophets taught. Saint Justin soon became a fervent follower of Christ, and an illustrious apologist of the Evangelical teachings. To the end of his life, while preaching Christ in all parts, he never put off his philosopher's garb. In Rome, he gave the Emperor Antoninus Pius (reigned 138-161) an apology wherein he proved the innocence and holiness of the Christian Faith, persuading him to relieve the persecution of Christians. Through the machinations of Crescens, a Cynic philosopher who envied him, Saint Justin was beheaded in Rome in 167 under Antoninus' successor, Marcus Aurelius (reigned 161-180). Besides his defense of Christianity (First and Second Apologies), Saint Justin wrote against paganism (Discourse to the Greeks, Hortatory Address to the Greeks), and refuted Jewish objections against Christ (Dialogue with Trypho).

ALL SAINTS (JUNE 15)

Honouring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honourable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the divine Apostle, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs: to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood.

Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we the pious honour all the Saints, the friends of God, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honour the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world: it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Saviour" (Sunday of All Saints, Doxasticon of Vespers).

In this celebration, then, we reverently honour and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honour today, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede in our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen.

The Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles (June 30)

The names of the Twelve Apostles are these: Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew, the Firstcalled; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John, who was also the Evangelist and Theologian; Philip, and Bartholomew (see also June 11); Thomas, and Matthew the publican, who was also called Levi and was an

Evangelist; James the son of Alphaeus, and Jude (also called Lebbaeus, and surnamed Thaddaeus), the brother of James, the Brother of God; Simon the Cananite ("the Zealot"), and Matthias, who was elected to fill the place of Judas the traitor (see Aug. 9)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	2	3	4 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	5 7:00 p.m. Book Study: Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology by Christos Yannaras (join us either in person (in our parish library) or via zoom.	6 Fast Day	7 Saturday of Souls 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy @ Assumption
8 Pentecost 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	9 Fast Free	10 Fast Free	11 Fast Free 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	12 Fast Free 7:00 p.m. Book Study: Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology by Christos Yannaras (join us either in person (in our parish library) or via zoom.	13 Fast Free 9:00 a.m. Women's Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	14 Fast Free
15 All-Saints Graduate Sunday 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	16 Fast of the Apostles Begins Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted	17 Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	18 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	19 Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed 7:00 p.m. Book Study: Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology by Christos Yannaras (join us either in person (in our parish library) or via zoom.	20 Fast Day	21 Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed
22 2nd Sunday of Matthew Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy +Sacrament	23 Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted	24 Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted	25 Fast Day	26 Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted 7:00 p.m. Book Study: Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology by Christos Yannaras (join us either in person (in our parish library) or via zoom.	27 Fast Day	28 Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted
29 Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	30					