

From the Divine Office for Pentecost Sunday

Come, all you nations of the world: let us adore God in three holy Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit - Three in One. From all eternity, the Father begets the Son, equal to Him in majesty and eternity, equal also to the Holy Spirit, glorified with the Son in the Father - Three Persons and yet a single Power and Essence and Godhead. In deep adoration, let us cry out to God: "Holy is God who made all things through the Son with the cooperation of the Holy Spirit! Holy the Mighty One through whom the Father was revealed to us and the Holy Spirit came into the world! Holy the Immortal One, the Spirit, the Counselor, who proceeds from the Father and reposes in the Son! All-Holy Trinity, glory to You!" (Vespers)

The fountain of the Spirit has come down upon men in rivers of flame, enlightening the Apostles as a spiritual dew. It became a cloud bearing fire for them, a flame of radiance and refreshment. In them, grace was given to us through fire and water. Behold the Light of the Paraclete, making the world radiant! (Orthros)



**PENTECOST SUNDAY
JUNE 5, 2022**

ASCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



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Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

Antiphon (Pentecost)

1: May the Lord answer in the time of distress; may the name of the God of Jacob defend you.

O Good Comforter, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

2: May He send you help from the sanctuary, from Sion may He sustain you.

O Good Comforter, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

3: May He remember all you offerings and graciously accept your holocaust.

O Good Comforter, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Entrance Hymn

Priest: Be exalted, O Lord, in Your strength, we will sing and chant the praise of Your might.

People: **O Good Comforter, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!**

Troparion of Pentecost (Tone 8) 3 times

Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who have filled the fisherman with wisdom by sending down the Holy Spirit upon them; and who through them have caught in Your net the whole world. O Lover of Mankind, glory to You!

Kontakion of Pentecost (Tone 8)

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 men to unity. Wherefore, we glorify the Holy Spirit with one accord.

Instead of Trisagion: All of you who have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia! (3 times)

Other gifts were bestowed upon the growing Church, as described in the epistles of St. Paul. Some of them are celebrated in a hymn repeated frequently during this feast:

“The Holy Spirit provides every gift: He inspires prophecy, perfects the priesthood, grants wisdom to the illiterate, makes simple fishermen become wise theologians, and establishes perfect order in the organization of the Church. Wherefore, O Comforter, equal in nature and majesty with the Father and the Son, glory to You!”

Releasing the Spirit’s Power

The fruit of these gifts have been with us for centuries. The result is often that we take them for granted and fail to see the power in them. The Lord does not try to scare us into faith by brandishing these gifts in our faces. Rather He waits for us to seek a relationship with Him in the Holy Spirit. Then the power in these gifts will be revealed.

In 1968 the late Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch, Ignatius IV, addressed these words to a meeting of the World Council of Churches. Quoted time and again since then, they testify to the Spirit’s power in these gifts, released when we seek to know Him, the Giver of them all.

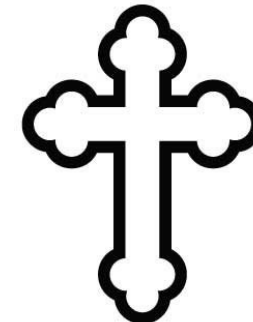
“Without the Holy Spirit: God is far away, Christ stays in the past, the Gospel is a dead letter, the Church is simply an organization, authority – a matter of domination, mission – a matter of propaganda, the liturgy – no more than an evocation, Christian living – a slave morality.

“But in the Holy Spirit: The cosmos is resurrected and groans with the birth-pangs of the kingdom, The risen Christ is there, The Gospel is the source of life, The Church shows forth the life of the Trinity, Authority is a liberating service, Mission is a Pentecost, The liturgy is both memorial and anticipation, Human action is deified.”

The River of Living Water

It is with an understanding like this that Christ describes the Holy Spirit in terms of living or flowing water:” “*If anyone thirsts let him come to me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit whom those believing in Him would receive, for the Holy Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified*” (John 7:37-39).

This living water – the Holy Spirit – is not meant simply to remain in the heart of the believer but to flow out to others. He quenches the thirst of the believer but also goes forth to nourish others. Our celebration of this feast, then, is a reminder that we are conduits, vessels for the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit we are empty vessels – with the Holy Spirit we water the world.



DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today +Loutfi Hajjar. Requested by Antoinette Arraj
 June 12 +George Chebib (40 Day). Requested by Jeanette Halal & Family
 June 19 +George Chebib. Requested by Antoinette Arraj

Today's Coffee Hr. is hosted by Eli Francis
 Next Sunday's Coffee Hr. is hosted by

Please Remember in your prayers: Susan Arraje, George Arraj, Jr., Robert Ghiz, Archie Opatka, Katherine Thomas, Charlotte Stockhaus, Ruth Welsh, James Rahall, Richard Abraham, Sr., Daneil Sarrouf, the people of Ukraine, those who suffered a loss as a result of the mass shootings in Buffalo, NY or Uvalde, TX .

If there are people for whom you would like me to pray, please reach out and give me their names. Part of our vocation as Christians is to pray for each other, especially when someone is sick or suffering in any way.

Last Week's Collection

Weekly	\$1,124
Candles	\$ 14
Coffee Hr.	\$ 20
Flowers	\$ 70
Diocesan	\$ 60
TOTAL	\$1,288

God bless you for your generosity!



FINANCIALS

<u>5/2022</u>		<u>YTD (10/2021-5/2022)</u>	
Income	\$6,301	Income	\$56,597
Expenses	\$7,899	Expenses	\$51,596
Net	(\$1,598)	Net	\$5,001

Welcome to any visitors we may have with us this morning! We are happy to have you worship with us.

Please join us downstairs in the church hall for the coffee hour so that we can get to know each other better and answer any questions you may have about the parish or the Melkite Church.



PICNIC PLANNING MEETING

Our annual Family Picnic will be September 11, 2022 from noon to 6 PM.

Our next planning meeting is today June 5 after the Divine Liturgy. All are welcome. The success of the picnic depends on your participation in whatever way you can. There are plenty of tasks to accomplish. I'm sure that at least one of them will make use of your talents!

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

As most of you know, next year (2023) is the one-hundredth anniversary of the parish. I would like to form a committee to explore how we want to mark the occasion. If you are interested in being on the committee or have some ideas about how to celebrate this milestone in the life of the parish, please contact me. We will have an initial meeting in the next month or so.

May Thy grace
 reap a good harvest
 on the field of my heart:
 humility, reverence,
 sanctity, and all that
 is ever pleasing to Thee.

St. Ephraim the Syrian



The Promise Fulfilled

SEVERAL HYMNS OF PENTECOST allude to promises made by Christ concerning the coming Holy Spirit. He would be “another Paraclete” (Comforter or Advocate), Jesus Himself being their first Paraclete. The Holy Spirit, being immaterial, would “*abide with you forever*” (John 14:15). He would be “*everywhere present and filling all things,*” as we say in the hymn to the Holy Spirit which begins most of our services. The Lord Jesus, took on our humanity to be like us in all things except sin. His earthly life, like ours would be limited to a certain time and a certain place so that we could be glorified like Him forever in His glory.

According to Christ the first work of the Holy Spirit would be to help Jesus’ followers understand God’s plan for us. “*He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you*” (John 14:26). “*He will testify of Me*” (John 15:26), guiding you “*into all truth*” (John 16:12).

More than Understanding

The Scriptures read at the Divine Liturgy on this feast show us another dimension of the Spirit’s presence among us. He would impart spiritual power to the Church by His presence. Before His ascension Christ promised His followers, “*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth*” (Acts 1:8). This power would give the courage to speak the Good News of Christ to men who, before the Spirit’s coming, had been hiding in an upper room for fear of the Jewish authorities. The Spirit’s presence brought clarity to their message as well as the boldness to transmit it to their disbelieving countrymen.

The Acts of the Apostles gives several instances of how the Holy Spirit’s power worked among the apostles. It lists:

The Gift of Tongues (Acts 2:4-11) – The ability to proclaim the Gospel and to be understood in a number of languages otherwise unknown to the speaker.

The Gift of Teaching (Acts 2:14-36) – The ability to express the mystery of the Gospel with clarity despite their humble background and lack of education.

The Gift of Healing (Acts 3:1-10) – The ability to heal the physical illness of people and even, as in the case of Tabitha, to raise the dead.

The Gift of Discernment (Acts 4:36- 5:11) – The ability to distinguish between spiritual truth and delusion, as when Peter detected the deceitful hearts of Ananias and Sapphira.

The Gift of Passing on the Spirit (Acts 8:14-17) – The ability to confer the Gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying-on of hands.

The Gift of Exorcism (Acts 16:16-18) – The ability to drive out evil spirits.

All these gifts have been manifested throughout the life of the Church over the centuries with the exception of the first of these gifts, the multiplicity of tongues. According to St Augustine and St John Chrysostom, the purpose of the gift of tongues was to affirm “that the Gospel of God was to be proclaimed over the entire earth in all languages” (St Augustine, Homily on 1 John 6:10). That universal proclamation began almost immediately, fulfilling the purpose of the gift of tongues which ceased.

Prokimenon

Reader: Through all the earth, their voice resounds, and to ends of the world their message.

People: Through all the earth, their voice resounds, and to ends of the world their message.

Reader: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

People: Through all the earth, their voice resounds, and to ends of the world their message.

Reader: Through all the earth, their voice resounds,

People: And to ends of the world their message.

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Alleluia Verses

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their hosts.

Verse: From heaven the Lord looks down. He sees all the children of men.

Gospel: Jn 7:37-52 & 8:1-12

Hirmos of Pentecost (Tone 7)

You conceived in virginity, lending a body to the Word, the Creator of all, O Virgin Mother. O Theotokos, receptacle of the uncontainable God, Abode of limitless Maker, we magnify you.

Kinonikon

Your Good Spirit shall guide me on level ground. Alleluia!

After Communion - Troparion of Pentecost

From the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, who bestowed Your peace upon the world, and while we were still on earth procured for us the gift of the Holy Spirit as an inheritance that shall never be taken from us: today You sent in an invisible manner upon your disciples and Apostles this same grace by which You placed tongues of fire in their mouths and upon their lips. And all of us, and all mankind, receive the seed of the knowledge of God on our own tongue and in our own mind. We have become enlightened with the radiance of the Spirit who delivered us from error as from total darkness. Through the distribution of visible tongues of fire, and through their mysterious action, we have learned the Faith, and how to glorify You: for together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, You are our God, our Light and our Majesty.