

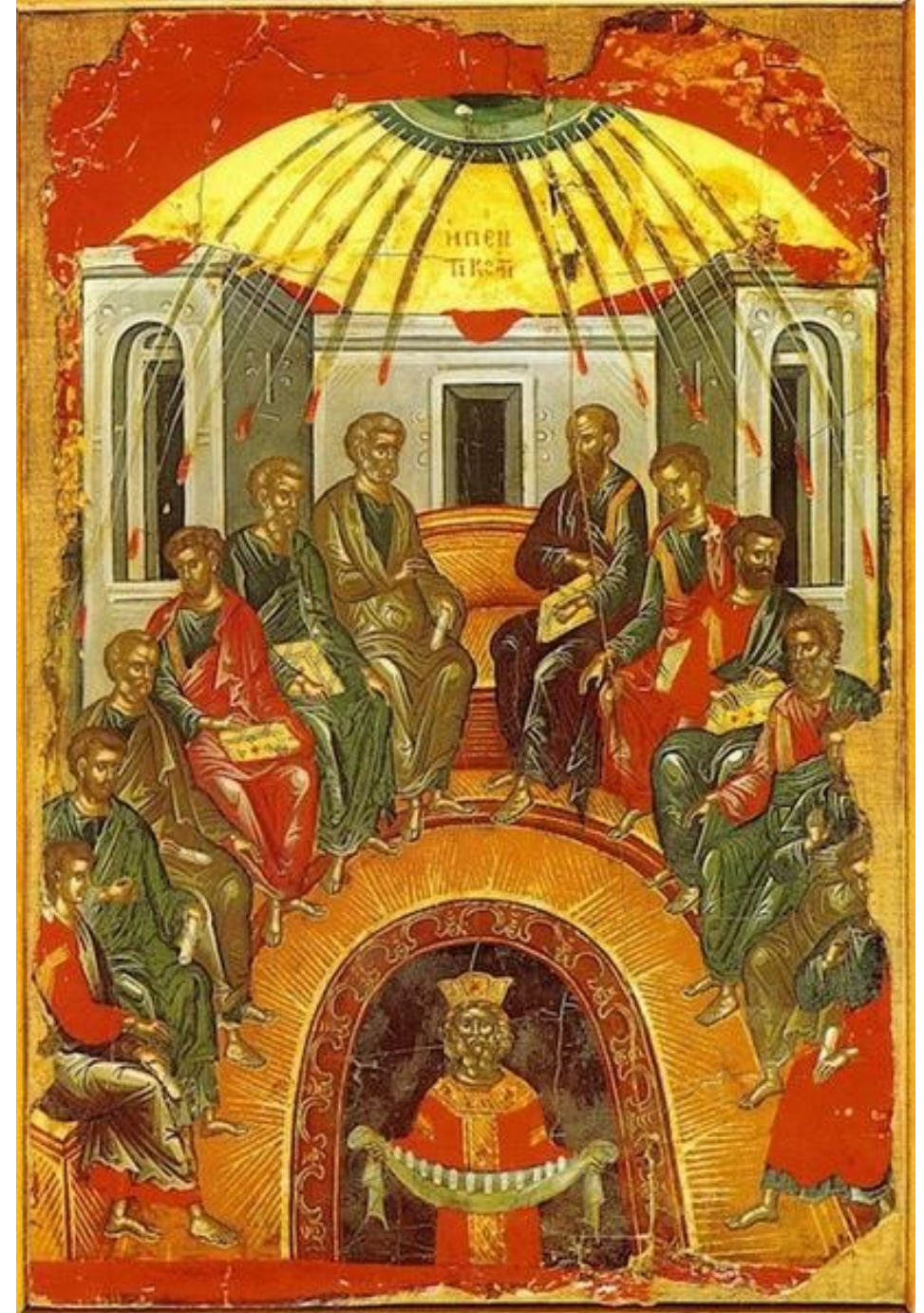
### From the Divine Office for Pentecost

*Behold, we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit, the fulfillment of the Promise and the realization of Hope. How noble and awesome is this great mystery! Wherefore, O Lord and Creator of All, we cry out, "Glory to You!" (Vespers)*

*The Holy Spirit always was and always shall be, for He is with the Father and the Son, One of the Trinity. He is both Life and Life-giving: He is Light, and by nature, the Giver of Light; He is All-Holy and the Source of Holiness. Through Him, we know the Father and glorify the Son, understanding that the Holy Trinity is a single Power, Three of equal rank and equally to be worshipped. (Orthros)*



### SUNDAY OF PENTECOST MAY 23, 2021



**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church**  
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Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

### **Antiphon of Pentecost**

1: May the Lord answer you in 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 your 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 fishermen with wisdom by sending down the Holy Spirit upon them, and through them have caught in Your net the whole world, O Lover of Mankind, glory to You.

### **Kondakion 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.

### **At the Trisagion**

All of you who have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!

***Our Ability to Serve in the Church*** – “There are different gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different ministries, but the same Lord; there are different works but the same God who accomplishes all of them in everyone. To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one, the Spirit gives wisdom in discourse, to another, the power to express knowledge. Through the Spirit one receives extraordinary faith; by the same Spirit, another is given the gift of healing; and still another, miraculous powers. Prophecy is given to one; to another, power to distinguish one spirit from another. One receives the gift of tongues, another, that of interpreting the tongues. But it is one and the same Spirit who produces all these gifts, distributing them to each as He wills” (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

When we were chrismated at our baptism, we were anointed with the anointing of Christ, becoming sharers in His royal priesthood. As Jesus is the Christ (the Anointed One), because He is penetrated by the Spirit of God, we too become *other christs* – other anointed ones – when we are chrismated. We believe that we received the gift of the Holy Spirit then, as the Fathers teach. St Cyril of Jerusalem, for example, insists, “See that you do not mistake the chrism for mere ointment. For, just as the Eucharistic Bread is not ordinary bread after the invocation of the Holy Spirit, so also this holy chrism is now longer simple ointment after the invocation, but the gift of Christ, bringing about the presence of the Holy Spirit by a divine operation” (*Mystagogic Catechesis*, 3,3).

Nevertheless, as the years go by, we must still ask ourselves if and to what degree this relationship with the Holy Spirit has become a conscious focus in our life, for it is possible to have received this gift of the Holy Spirit and never to have truly realized the greatness of that gift, or to have lived in His light. Thus St Simeon the New Theologian maintains that the greatest misfortune which can befall us as Christians is not to know consciously that God is truly living within us. Many believers, he asserts, “say they have the Spirit of God, without experiencing Him, and believe that they possess the Spirit within them from Holy Baptism and will argue that they have this treasure, knowing that in reality they are utterly devoid of the Spirit.” In fact, he says, they do not know what it means to have this gift. Simeon compares the believer who has been filled with the Spirit to a woman pregnant with a child. Both must surely be aware of what has taken place within them.

Like many of the Fathers, St Simeon recognizes that the gift of the Spirit is given when we are christened, but also that we must develop a conscious awareness of the Spirit’s presence in our own life.

Those who truly radiate the life of the Spirit are those who are deeply aware of His inner presence. It is for each of us to pray regularly that our hearts be open to the presence of the Spirit, that we be receptive to His guidance, and that we be moved to act in accordance with His leading.



### DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Today** +Stanley & Michalina Tencza. Requested by Zenon & Marilyn Tencza  
**June 27** +Nicholas & Theodora Barouk. Requested by Michael & Virginia Mischitelli and Antonio & Karen Solitro

#### Last Week's Collection

<b>Regular</b>	<b>\$ 855</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>\$ 41</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$ 225</b>
<b>Stole</b>	<b>\$ 20</b>
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,191</b>



As you may have heard, the mask requirement has been changed by both the CDC and the Commonwealth of MA. Those who are **fully** vaccinated (which means that your final vaccination shot was at least **two weeks ago**), are no longer required to wear a mask in most settings. I am not going to make you prove your vaccination status, but please, if you are not fully vaccinated, keep your mask on for your safety and that of your parish family.

On May 29, the Commonwealth will end most of the remaining covid-19 restrictions. That allows us to have 100% capacity in the church. We will remove the ropes on the pews currently blocked off. We can also begin to have a coffee hour once again. That will start on **June 6**.

If you are comfortable taking off your mask, do so. If you aren't, feel free to keep it on. If you haven't been to the church during this time, please come and join us for the Divine Liturgy and coffee. You have been missed! Fellowship is part of our Christian life! I hope to be able to start home visits again soon. Even though we couldn't do home blessings at Theophany, I am happy to come bless your home now. It gives us a chance to sit and talk in a more intimate setting. Please call or email if you would like to have me bless your home.

In Christ,  
Fr. Bryan

### **Light, Radiance and Grace are in the Trinity and from the Trinity St. Athanasius, Archbishop of Alexandria (+373 A.D.)**

It will not be out of place to consider the Ancient Tradition, teaching, and faith of the catholic Church, which was revealed by the Lord, proclaimed by the Apostles and guarded by the Fathers. For upon this faith the Church is built, and if anyone were to lapse from it, he would no longer be a Christian in fact or in name.

We acknowledge the Trinity, holy and perfect, to consist of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. In this Trinity there is no intrusion of any alien element or of anything from outside, nor is the Trinity a blend of creative and created being. It is a wholly and energizing reality, self-consistent and undivided in Its active power, for the Father makes all things through the Word and in the Holy Spirit, and in this way the unity of the Holy Trinity is preserved. Accordingly, in the Church, One God is preached, one God who "is above all thing and through all things and in all things." God is "above all things" as Father, for He is the principle and source; He is "through all things" through the Word, and He is "in all things" in the Holy Spirit.

Writing to the Corinthians about spiritual matters, the holy Apostle Paul traces all reality back to one God, the Father, saying, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and varieties of service, but the same Lord - and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone."

Even the gifts that the Spirit dispenses to individuals are given by the Father through the Word. For all that belongs to the Father belongs also to the Son, and so the graces given by the Son in the Spirit are true gifts of the Father. Similarly, when the Spirit dwells in us, the Word who bestows the Spirit is in us too, and the Father is present in the Word. This is the meaning of the text, "My Father and I will come to him and make Out home with him." For where the light is, there also is the radiance; and where the radiance is, there too are its power and its resplendent grace.

This is also St. Paul's teaching in his second letter to the Corinthians, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." For grace and the gift of the Trinity are given by the Father through the Son, in the Holy Spirit. Just as grace is given from the Father through the Son, so there could be no communication of the gift to us except in the Holy Spirit. But when we share in the Spirit, we possess the love of the Father, the grace of the Son, and the fellowship of the Spirit Himself.



## The Promise Fulfilled

FROM TODAY TO PASCHA NEXT YEAR, practically every church service and formal prayer in our tradition will begin with the invocation, “O Heavenly King.” The presence of the Holy Spirit, whom the first Christians received on Pentecost, is called upon whenever we pray – whenever we do anything as Church – because the Spirit is the “soul” of the Body of Christ. The Spirit is the “living water” promised by Christ to refresh and enliven believers as we live our lives in service to the Lord.

In the Gospel of St John, we see Christ saying, as His passion was about to begin, “*I will ask the Father and He will give you another Paraclete to be with you always: the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, since it neither sees Him nor recognizes Him...*” (Jn 14:16, 17). In this promise the Spirit is called by another image. The Greek word *paraklitos* meant a helper or an advocate, specifically someone who could guide you through the maze of the Roman legal system. This word is sometimes translated as comforter or consoler, a specific type of helper leading the believer along the path of this life. This image appears in the prayer mentioned above: O heavenly King, Paraclete, Spirit of truth...”

The Spirit is portrayed as ‘another Paraclete,’ implying that there was a first one whom we know. That Paraclete is the Lord Jesus, who was the guide and advocate of His followers on earth and is our advocate before the throne of the heavenly Father. Because Christ was *incarnate* (made man), His earthly presence was limited. As a man, He lived in a certain place, in a specific time, and His earthly life came to an end. The Holy Spirit, however, is not incarnate. His presence is spiritual and so is not bound by those earthly limitations. He is, as the prayer we have been quoting says, “present in all places and filling all things.”

From the beginning, God’s plan was to dwell with His creation forever. This goal was frustrated, but not defeated, by the Fall. The incarnation of His Son was God’s response to His creation’s broken state. The Son of God becomes man so that humanity can be divinized. As St Athanasius the Great is to have said, “God became man so that we might receive the Holy Spirit.” Now, with the coming of this Spirit-Paraclete, that plan has been fulfilled, insofar as is possible in this life.

Our experience of the Holy Spirit is not the end of the story, however. The Spirit, says St Paul, “...*is the pledge of our inheritance, the first payment against the full redemption of a people God has made His own, to praise His glory*” (Eph 1:14). The Holy Spirit, as we experience Him now, is merely a down-payment of the experience of God that we are meant to have in the future.

### How Does the Spirit Enliven Us?

When the first believers received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, there were some dramatic results: where before they were afraid, they now preached Christ boldly. They spoke in tongues, they healed the sick, they gave their lives rather than deny Christ. But the Spirit also worked in individual believers – and still works – in less spectacular but equally remarkable ways. The Scriptures indicate several ways in which the Spirit of God activates our Christian life by His presence:

***Our Ability to Believe*** – “*No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit* (1 Corinthians 12:3).

***Our Ability to Pray*** – “*The Spirit too helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning that cannot be expressed in speech*” (Romans 8:26).

***Our Confidence in God’s Love*** – “*All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God... The Spirit Himself gives witness with our spirit that we are children of God*” (Romans 8:14-16).

***The Growth of Our Inner Selves*** – “*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patient endurance, kindness, generosity, faith, mildness and chastity*” (Galatians 5:23).

### 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.

**Verse:** 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 breathe 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 your limitless Maker, we magnify you.

### Kinonikon

Your good Spirit shall guide me on level ground. Alleluia.

### After Communion

Troparion of Pentecost