

From the Divine Office for Pentecost

O Savior, You have shown us through the prophets the way of salvation, and the grace of the Holy Spirit has shone upon us through the Apostles. You are God from all eternity, our God, now and forever and ever. (Vespers)

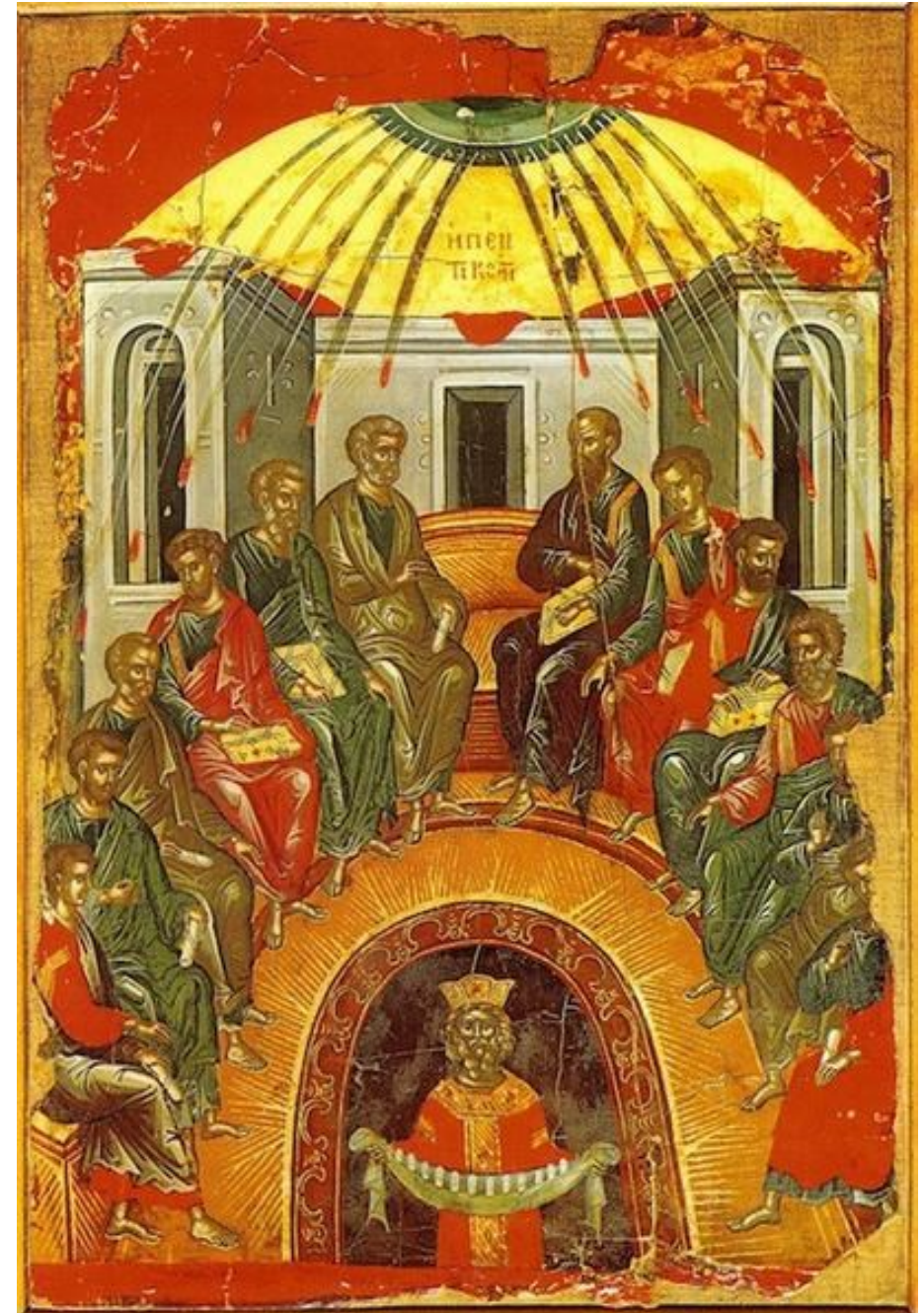
O All-Holy Spirit, who proceed from the Father and came to rest on the uneducated Disciples through the Son: save and sanctify all those who acknowledge You as God.

The Father is Light; the Son is Light; and the Holy Spirit is also Light, as He is sent upon the Apostles in the form of fiery tongues. Through Him, the whole world receives a baptism of light to worship the Holy Trinity! (Exapostilaria)



PENTECOST SUNDAY

MAY 28, 2023



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church
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Rev. Bryan McNeil, Pastor
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Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

Antiphon (Feast)

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 the Feast (8th Tone) 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 who through them, have caught in Your net the whole world, O Lover of mankind, glory to You.

Kontakion of the Feast (8th Tone)

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.

Trisagion

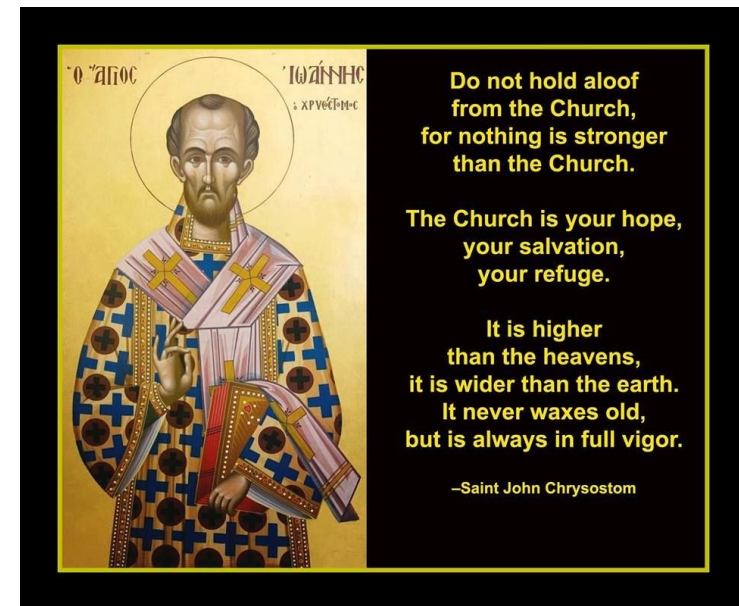
All of you who have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!

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 no 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 **Our Friends and Families**
 +Our Friends and Families

Today's Coffee Hr. is hosted by Houda Daou

Next Sunday's Coffee Hr. will be hosted by

Please remember in your prayers: Lorraine Lian, George Arraj, Jr., Ron Abraham, Peter Abraham, Robert Ghiz, Sadie Mirante, Archie Opatka, Anthony Poti, Katherine Thomas, Charlotte Stockhaus, Ruth Welsh, Richard Abraham, Sr., Frank Boyda, Carol Boyda, Bob Lynch, Joe Najemy, Michael Mooradian, Michael McNeil, Jeff McNeil, Wyatt William Rahall, Lauren Abraham, Nicholas Haddad, Elaine Foley, David Ahlin, Elio Kanaan, all those affected by the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, and the people of Ukraine.

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	\$1,146
Candles	\$ 30
Coffee Hr.	\$ 35
Stole	\$ 10
Flowers	\$ 45
Hall Rental	\$ 300
Memorials	\$ 100
TOTAL	\$1,666

God bless you for your generosity!



Welcome to any visitors we 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.

MIDDLE EASTERN FESTIVAL

St. George Orthodox Cathedral is having a Middle Eastern Festival June 9-11. Please plan to attend and support our brothers and sisters! See the sign in front of the church for more details.

SAVE THE DATE

As you may know, 2023 is the 100th anniversary of the parish. We will mark the occasion on **November 4-5**. We will celebrate Great Vespers followed by a banquet on November 4. On November 5, we will celebrate a hierarchal Divine Liturgy followed by lunch in the parish hall. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. More information will be forthcoming. Please contact Fr. Bryan if you would like to help with the planning and preparation for the occasion. Our next planning meeting will be **Wednesday June 14 at 6:30pm**.

NEW WEBSITE

We have a new website: olphworchester.org

It is still a work in progress. Take a look and let us know what you think.

NEW COMMUNICATION TOOL

You may have recently received emails that look a little different. We are now communicating with the parish via a program called Flocknote. It is used by all the parishes in the Eparchy. It allows us to send emails and texts with the click of a button. If you are not getting these emails and texts, please reach out to Fr. Bryan and provide your email address and cell phone number so that you don't miss out!

Thanks for your cooperation!

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

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 *paracletos* 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 is 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 the Son of God incarnate, His earthly presence was limited. 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 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 of creation God’s plan was to dwell with His creation forever. This goal was frustrated by the fall, but not defeated. The incarnation of Christ was God’s response to His broken creation. The Son of God becomes man so that mankind 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 we are meant to have in glory.

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 – and still works – in individual believers 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 groanings 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 the ends of the world, their message.

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

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

People: Through all the earth, their voice resounds, and to the 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 host.

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

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

Hirmos of the 9th Ode (Tone 4)

Hail, O Queen, glory of virgins and mothers: for your praise is beyond the eloquence of the most cultured tongues, and the wonderful manner in which you gave birth to Christ throws every intelligence into amazement. Wherefore we the faithful magnify you with one accord.

Kinonikon

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

After Communion

Troparion of Pentecost

