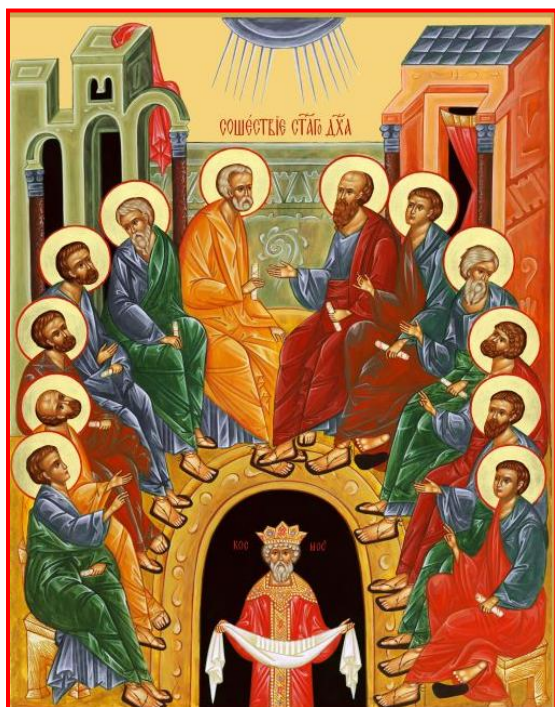


# Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church

1723 E. Fairmount Avenue, Baltimore, MD. 21231

410-276-6171 [www.HolyTrinityOrthodox.com](http://www.HolyTrinityOrthodox.com)



## Holy Pentecost Feast of the All-Holy Trinity Our Parish Altar Feast

June 3/16, 2019

Martyr Lucillian and those with him at Byzantium: four youths — Claudius, Hypatius, Paul, and Dionysius; and Virgin Paula (270); Hieromartyr Lucian the bishop, Maxianus the presbyter, Julian the deacon and Martyrs Marcellinus and Saturninus in Belgium (96); Translation of the relics (1606) of the slain Crown Prince Demetrius of Moscow (1591); Hieromartyr Cyprian (1934); Hieromartyr Michael priest (1938). Yugskaya Icon of the Theotokos.

**Today's Scriptural Readings:**  
Acts 2: 1-11 / John 7: 37-52; 8:12

### Great Vespers with Kneeling Prayers after Divine Liturgy Today

*We magnify Thee, O Life-Giving Christ, and we do homage to Thine All-Holy Spirit, Whom Thou didst send from the Father, upon Thy Disciples Divine.*

#### This Week's Liturgical Calendar

<i>Fast Free Week – No Fasting on Wednesday, (6/19)) or Friday (6/21)</i>	
Saturday, June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	No services
Sunday, June 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 10:00 AM <i>Private Confessions start at 9:15 AM</i>	Divine Liturgy in Church <i>Eve of the Apostles' Fast</i>

**Saints Peter & Paul Chapel**  
**Holy Trinity Orthodox Cemetery at Cathedral Gardens**  
**6480 Elibank Drive, Elkridge, MD. 21075**

**Divine Services at Holy Trinity are live-streamed at**  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HolyTrinitySermons>

**Please join us for the Father's Day Luncheon after services**  
Coordinated by the St. Catherine Sisterhood

#### Happy Father's Day

*All of us at Holy Trinity warmly wish the fathers, grandfathers and godfathers of our parish a very happy and blessed Father's Day. We are grateful for their love they give us and for the many sacrifices they make for us. And their devotion to our parish helps to maintain a strong foundation for future generations of faithful Orthodox Christians. May God bless them abundantly.*

#### Memory Eternal – Вечная Память !

May our Lord grant rest eternal to our departed Pastors, Grandfathers, Fathers, Uncles and Godfathers, who have departed in faith and hope in the Resurrection. May their memory be eternal.

#### God Grant Them Many Years

To all the members of our Brotherhood, our Grandfathers, Fathers, Fathers-to-be, Godfathers and Uncles of our parish, may God bless you with health, peace, love and grant you all Many Years !

### **Congratulations, Graduate!**

We offer our warmest congratulations to this year's parish graduate – Anastasia Volkova who received a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Maryland. May God bless her with wisdom, many talents and much success in her career. She begins work at a prestigious architectural firm in Baltimore. Many Years! Многая лета!

### **Cleaning Groups – Group #6 & #7 / Join a Group – Help your brothers and sisters**

**Groups #6 & #7** will clean this week June 17-22: **#6:** Adele and Drew Pastor, Dan Walsh, Lidiya and Aleksey Potapov and **#7:** Anna-Zumrat and Dmitriy Shkurba, Olga Mychko, Margarita Vinogradova, Tatyana Kalish. Please join a group. We always need more members. Thank you!

### **Cleaning Groups Need More Volunteers...please help!**

We need more volunteers for our cleaning groups. Only 38 individuals work in eight groups. With a new floor the cleaning responsibilities have changed. Please help you fellow brothers and sisters; join a group. Please contact Larisa Hidar for more information: 443-986-0047

### **Challenge Grant – Matching Donations**

Three families in our parish have pledged to match all donations for the flooring and altar icons on a 1:1 ratio. For every dollar you donate, they will match one dollar, up to \$30,000, towards the Church Restoration Fund. Double the value of your donation: \$20 becomes \$40, \$50 becomes \$100, and \$100 becomes \$200! Special donation forms are on the candle stand in the vestibule of the church.

### **International Coffee Hour – June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

In our parish, we are blessed to have 10 different languages spoken. What a rich culture our many parishioners bring to our church! What interesting histories from their native lands! What delicious and unique cuisine! Our Orthodox faith unites us! Our love for God nourishes our friendships! And, in many ways, such richness is also expressed through food. To celebrate this, a few times during the year, our Sisterhood will conduct International Coffee Hours, when the cuisine of certain countries will be prepared for us. On Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> our second International Coffee Hour will feature the delectable cuisine of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Don't miss it! For more information please contact Larisa Hidar at 443-986-0047.

### **Convocation of the Patriarchal Parishes**

The next Convocation of the Patriarchal Parishes is scheduled for September 30 – October 3, 2019 at Antiochian Village in Western PA. At this conference we will discuss plans for celebrating in 2020 the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA. All parishes are requested to present proposals on how best to mark this milestone. Please discuss your ideas with any member of the parish council. Contact Fr. John for more information.

### **Sunday, June 30 – “O Jerusalem...!”**

Sunday, June 30, during coffee hour, we will make a presentation of the many photos and videos recorded by our parishioners on the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land this past March. You will hear about our many impressions and moments of inspiration, and you will see so many places connected to Holy Scripture.

### **Submit your questions by June 27**

On Sunday, June 30 Fr. John will customize a sermon to answer questions that you submit to him. Questions about church etiquette, lighting candles, preparation for communion, confession, veneration of icons, etc. are welcomed. Please send Fr. John your written questions in person or email by June 27 – [frjohnv@verizon.net](mailto:frjohnv@verizon.net).

### **Please join the WhatsApp group!**

As many of you know, the Jerusalem pilgrimage group of 2019 created its WhatsApp group. It was a great decision promoting our Christian unity, human connections, allowing memories and information exchange, and simply bringing us a lot of joy. We stay in touch continuously to this day. During the Centennial celebration of our parish, the incredible feeling of unity of our church family gave birth to the idea- to create our own, independent, church WhatsApp group. We hope that this mode of communication will bring us all even closer together, and the multi-lingual beauty of our unique parish will continue to grow and blossom! Open this link to join the Holy Trinity WhatsApp Group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/LCMO7XxsMgfBEDIwaHY13L> We sincerely thank Nikolai Shashev and Natalia Gerachenko for creating this for us! O Lord bless!

### **Parish Picnics at 'Cathedral Gardens' / Ray Zaitin Pavilion**

On the following days, Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at Sts. Peter & Paul Chapel located at Cathedral Gardens, our parish cemetery. Afterwards, we will conduct picnics at the Ray Zaitin Pavilion.

**Sunday, July 14** – Liturgy at the Chapel (10:00 AM) and Mid-Summer Picnic. Menu: Shashlik, hamburgers, hot dogs and picnic fare. We need donations of salads, side dishes and homemade desserts. To help contact Albert Blaszak 410-799-3226 or Vadim Radchenko 410-465-6172.

**Sunday, August 18** – Liturgy at the Chapel (10:00 AM) and our Annual 'Spas' Fish Fry – An expanded menu of various grilled fish and fish kabobs will be offered. More information to come...

### **Birthday / Anniversary Celebrations: June 16-22**

We offer our best wishes and birthday congratulations to Brian-Seraphim Cardell (6/18) and Rachel Pastor (6/19). May God bless them with health, prosperity and many years. To include your birthday / anniversary in the bulletin please call Fr. John.

### **Water Park Trip – For ages 6 - 99**

Again this summer we will conduct a Sunday School trip to Guppy Gulch <http://guppygulchcamp.com> a water park north of Bel Air on a **Saturday in July or August**. Everyone in the parish is invited. We ask for your suggestions on convenient days. Please contact Olga Hansen 410-967-6738.

### **Brotherhood Crab Fest – Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM**

The St. Alexander Nevsky Brotherhood will sponsor a **Crab Fest on Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 6:30 PM at Cathedral Gardens Ray Zaitin Pavilion. All-you-can-eat fresh steamed crabs, corn on the cob and soft drinks will be served. **Reservations are strongly recommended.** Prices will be announced soon. For reservations/information, call Albert Blaszak: 410-799-3226.

### **Special Petitions for the Unity of the Orthodox Church**

Again we pray to the Lord and our Savior to preserve the Orthodox Church abiding in the whole world in unity and right belief, and to grant her peace and tranquility, love and consent, let us all say, Lord, hearken and have mercy.

Again we pray to look upon the Holy Orthodox Church with the goodness of heart and with mercy, and to preserve her from divisions and schisms, from hostility and disorder, so her unity will not be diminished or shaken, but Thine Thrice-Holy name be glorified in her, let us all say, Lord, hearken and have mercy.

### **Vigil Candles: On the Altar and near St. Barbara**

**June 16-22:** Candles offered by Eka Chighladze for the repose of the souls of the servants of God: +Lili, +Jemali, + Mariam. A \$15 donation will keep all three candles lit for one week. Please schedule your candle offering with Elena Loyko 443-537-8978.

### **Submit your 2019 Pledge**

The mission of our parish is to spread the Word of God, to grow, to expand, to improve and not just to preserve our traditions. Our parish shouldn't become stale, but pursue holiness. We strive to fulfill the mission of our parish, through prayer, work and sacrifice. Prayer – because we are called to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17); work – because we are taught to increase the talents given to us (Matt. 25: 14-30); and sacrifice – because "everyone to whom much is given, from him will much be required" (Luke 12:48).

### **Please Remember in Your Prayers...**

**Archpriest Michael** Hatrak; **Deacon Michael** Bishop; **Mat. Myra** Kovalak; **Mat. Klavdiya** Burbelo; **Kh. Frederica** Mathewes-Green; **Nun Elizabeth**; **Nun Magdalena**; **Mat. Natalia** Kosich; **Priest Gregory** and **Mat. Diane** Winsky; **Mat. Catherine** Kowalchik; **Marie** Vass; **Charles** Snipes; **Arthur-Stephen** Lisowsky; **Yelena** Radchenko; **Lydia** Zorina; **Tatiana**; **Katherine** Plaskowitz; **Philip** Plaskowitz; **Bernadine** Borawick; **Julia** Aymold; **Lilli Ann** Hoffman; **Lara** Marinich; **Oleg** Marinich; **Ioann** and **Galina** Zernetkin; **Monika-Anastasia** & **Stephanie** Handley; **Blanche-Julia** Stolkovich; **Ekaterina** Koroleva; **Nina** Lewis; **Maryann** Black; **Lyudmila**, **Anton** & **Aleksander** Karnup; **John Alexander** Bylen; **Katherine** Garrett; **Stephen** Kaminitsky; **John-Thomas** Planinshek; **Kenneth** Pukita; **William** and **Ann** Ferkile; **Irina** Kononova; **Petr** and **Lyudmila** Borodkin; **Anthony** Bakie; **Svetlana** & **Aleksey**; **Nina**; **Alla**; **Anna**; **Alla**; **Raisa**, **Zinaida**; **Joseph** Germano; **Pavel**, **Vladimir**, **Valentina**, **Nina**, and **Maria**; **Maria** Pappas; **Bonnie** Duke; **Joseph** Lacomy; **Diana** Radchenko; **Aleksey** & **Lidia** Potapov; **Oleg** and **Andrei**; **Vitaliy**, **Tatiana**, **Olena** & **Nicholas** Berchuk; **David**, **Selina-Sophia**, **John**, **Maryann**, **David**, **Joseph**, **Lisa Ann**



Eichelberger; **Cynthia and Bill (Basil)** Popomaronis; **Andrei, Marina, Valentina and Vladimir**; **Archpriest Cezar, Mat. Christina, Cezara–Maria, Darius, Justina, Christian**; **Victoria** Lardiero; **Richard** Wright; **Valentina** Shultieva; **Shanna, Stephen, Trent-Michael, Grant-Alexander, Adalynn** Lisowsky; **Julie** Smith; **Tayisia** Solvieva; **Lubov** Pavuk; **Leonid and Zoya**; **James** McAteer; **Jayne** Sudol; **Rita** and **Richard** Herber; **Svetlana, Mary** Orzolek, **Shane-Michael** Sierakowski; **George** Matassov; **Janice** DesLauriers; **John** DesLauriers.

**Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 7:00 PM in the Church Hall**

<b>Fr. John Vass, Rector</b> 443-527-7067	Fr. Deacon Michael Bishop: 410-563-0472
Victor Marinich, <i>Council President</i> : 443-512-0985	Vadim Radchenko, <i>Vice President</i> : 410-465-6172
Andrei Burbelo, <i>Recording Secretary</i> : 443-567-6031	Albert Blaszak, <i>Treasurer</i> : 410-799-3226
Oxana Chumak-Strianese, <i>Stewardship Chair</i> : 831-673-1937	Anna-Zumrat Shkurba <i>Member-At-Large</i> : 443-857-8541
Natallia Makarava <i>Sisterhood President</i> : 443-625-8470	Michael Mickel, <i>Cemetery Manager</i> : 410-666-2870

**Pentecost - Trinity Sunday**  
**by Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko (+2015)**

*"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 it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and was confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs; we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:1-11).*

Tradition says that to fulfill the prophecy of Joel (Joel 2: 28-29), the Holy Spirit descended not only on the twelve chosen Apostles, but also upon all those who were with them "with one accord in one place" (Acts 2:1), that is, on the whole Church. This is why in Icons of Pentecost there are represented Apostles not belonging to the twelve - Apostle Paul (sitting with Apostle Peter at the head of the circle of Apostles), and among the seventy, Luke the Evangelist and Mark the Evangelist (Ouspensky and Lossky, *The Meaning of Icons*, Rev Ed, SVS, NY, 1982, p208).

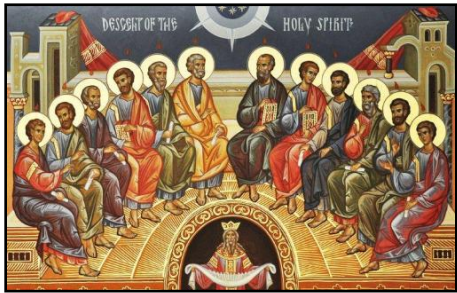
***And there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire ... and they were filled with the Holy Spirit***

So that by gradual increase ... and progress from glory to glory, the light of the Trinity might shine upon the more illuminated ... for this reason it was, I think, that He gradually came to dwell in the disciples. He measured Himself out to them according to their capacity to receive Him: at the beginning of the gospel, after the Passion, after the Ascension, making perfect their powers, being breathed upon them and appearing in fiery tongues ... You see lights breaking upon us, gradually, and knowledge of such order of theology, as is better for us to maintain, neither proclaiming things too suddenly nor yet keeping them hidden to the end ... He said that all things should be taught us by the Spirit Himself, made clear at a later time, when, such knowledge would be seasonable and capable of being received after our Savior's restoration; when it would no longer be received with incredulity because of its marvelous character. For what greater thing than this did either He promise, or the Spirit teach ... If He is not to be worshiped, how can He deify me by baptism?... And indeed from the Spirit comes our new birth, and from the new birth our new creation, and from the new creation our deeper knowledge of the dignity of Him from whom it is derived ... Look at these facts: Christ is born; the Spirit is His forerunner. He leads Him up. He works miracles; the Spirit accompanies them. He ascends; the Spirit takes His place (St. Gregory the Theologian, *Fifth Theological Oration*, 26-29).

**The Promise of Pentecost**

*"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "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. Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet". Others said, "This is the Christ", but some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed". Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?" They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee" (John 7:37-52). Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12).



***If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink...***

Those who come to the divine preaching and give heed to the faith must manifest the desire of thirsty people for water, and kindle in themselves a similar longing; so they will be able, very carefully, to retain what is said ... For to show that we ought ever to thirst and hunger, He said 'Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness' (Matt.5:6) ... Elsewhere He calls it, 'eternal life,' but here, 'living water.' He calls that 'living' which ever works: for the

grace of the Spirit, when It has entered into the mind and has been established, springs up more than any fountain, does not fail, never becomes empty ... He has represented its abundance by the expression 'springing' ... Consider the wisdom of Stephen, the tongue of Peter, the vehemence of Paul: how nothing bore, nothing withstood them, not the anger of multitudes, not the risings up of tyrants, not the plots of the devils, not daily deaths, but as rivers borne along with a great rushing sound, so they went on their way hurrying all things with them ... When He was about to send them (after the crucifixion) He said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit' (John 20:22) ... and then they wrought miracles (St. John Chrysostom, Homily 51 on John 7).

### **In Praise of Salvation and Creation**

*"O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. Because your loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed. I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me" (Psalm 63:1-8).*

The Holy Spirit provides every gift: He inspires prophecy, perfects the priesthood, grants wisdom to the illiterate, makes simple fishermen to 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... (from *The Bible and Holy Fathers for Orthodox* ed. J. Manley, Monastery Books, Menlo Park, 1990, pp. 136-9).

In the days of old, pride brought confusion of tongues to the builders of the tower of Babel, but now the diversity of tongues enlightenend the minds and gave knowledge for the glory of God. There, God punished infidels for their sin, while here Christ enlightened fishermen through the Spirit; there the confusion of tongues was for the sake of vengeance, while here there was variety so that voices could be joined in unison for the salvation of our souls (Stichera of Pentecost for Vespers, pp. 891, 894).

### **Pentecost - The Descent of the Holy Spirit**

In the Old Testament Pentecost was the feast which occurred fifty days after Passover. As the passover feast celebrated the exodus of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt, so Pentecost celebrated God's gift of the ten commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

In the new covenant of the Messiah, the passover event takes on its new meaning as the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection, the "exodus" of humanity from this sinful world to the Kingdom of God. And in the New Testament as well, the pentecostal feast is fulfilled and made new by the coming of the "new law", the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ.

*"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. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed as resting upon each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:1-4).*

The Holy Spirit, that Christ had promised to his disciples, came on the day of Pentecost (see John 14:26, 15:26; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5) The apostles received "the power from on high", and they began to preach and bear witness to Jesus as the risen Christ, the King and the Lord. This moment has traditionally been called the birthday of the Church.

In the liturgical services of the feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit is celebrated together with the full revelation of the divine Trinity: Father and Son and Holy Spirit. The fullness of the Godhead is manifested with the Spirit's coming to humanity, and the Church hymns celebrate this manifestation as the final act of God's self-disclosure and self-donation to the world of His creation. For this reason Pentecost Sunday is also called Trinity Sunday in the Orthodox tradition. Often on this day the Icon of the Holy Trinity - particularly that of the three angelic figures who appeared to Abraham, the forefather of the Christian faith - is placed in the center of the church. This Icon is used with the traditional Pentecostal icon which shows the tongues of fire hovering over the Virgin Mary and the Twelve Apostles, the original prototype of the Church, who are themselves sitting in unity surrounding a symbolic image of "cosmos" (the world).

On Pentecost we have the final fulfillment of the mission of Jesus Christ and the first beginning of the messianic age of the Kingdom of God (mystically present in this world in the Church of the Messiah). For this reason the 50th day stands as the beginning of the era which is beyond the limitations of this world, fifty being, that number which stands for eternal and heavenly fulfillment in Jewish and Christian mystical piety: seven times seven, plus one.

Thus, Pentecost is called an apocalyptic day, which means the day of final revelation. It is also called an eschatological day, which means the day of the final and perfect end (in Greek eschaton means the end). For when the Messiah comes and the Lord's Day is at hand, the "last days" are inaugurated in which "God declares: ... I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh". This is the ancient prophecy to which the Apostle Peter refers in the first sermon of the Christian Church which was preached on the first Sunday of Pentecost (see Acts 2:17, Joel 2:28-32).

Once again it must be noted that the feast of Pentecost is not simply the celebration of an event which took place centuries ago. It is the celebration of what must happen and does happen to us in the Church today. We all have died and risen with the Messiah-King, and we all have received His Most Holy Spirit. We are the "temples of the Holy Spirit". God's Spirit dwells in us (see Romans 8; 1 Corinthians 2-3, 12; 11 Corinthians 3; Galatians 5; Ephesians 2-3). We, by our own membership in the Church, have received "the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit" in the sacrament of chrismation. Pentecost has happened to us.

The Divine Liturgy of Pentecost recalls our baptism into Christ with the verse from Galatians again replacing the Thrice-Holy Hymn. Special verses from the psalms also replace the usual antiphonal psalms of the liturgy. The epistle and gospel readings tell of the Spirit's coming to humanity. The kontakion sings of the reversal of Babel as God unites the nations into the unity of his Spirit. The troparion proclaims the gathering of the whole universe into God's net through the work of the inspired apostles. The hymns 'O Heavenly King' and 'We have seen the True Light' are sung for the first time since Easter, calling the Holy Spirit to "come and abide in us", and proclaiming that "we have received the heavenly Spirit". The church building is decorated with flowers to show that God's divine Breath comes to renew all creation as the "life-creating Spirit". The word for Spirit, breath and wind in Hebrew is ruah.

*Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit: through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Mankind, Glory to Thee (Troparion).*

*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 to unity. Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the All-Holy Spirit! (Kontakion)*

The Great Vespers of Pentecost evening features three long prayers at which the faithful kneel for the first time since Easter. The Monday after Pentecost is the feast of the Holy Spirit in the Orthodox Church, and the Sunday after Pentecost is the feast of All Saints. This is the logical liturgical sequence since the coming of the Holy Spirit is fulfilled in the faithful by their becoming saints, and this is the very purpose of the creation and salvation of the world. "Thus says the Lord: Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I your God am holy" (Leviticus 11:44-45; I Peter 1:15-16). *SOURCE: [orthodoxchristian.info](http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/62262.htm) <http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/62262.htm>*

*When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations (kontakion of Pentecost)... The Lord confused the languages of those nations that were building the Tower of Babel... People had conceived the plan of reaching the heavens through this building... They wanted to be comparable to God in power, to elevate themselves... The Lord defeated this plan, for pride lay at the foundation of it... When on the day of Pentecost He divided the tongues of fire over the heads of the apostles, the entire Christian world was called to unity... To what unity does the Lord call us? To the unity of faith, of truth, of sanctity, and to the highest form of unity—unity in Love. **Holy Hierarch Luke (Voino-Yasenetsky)***

And then the soul enlivened and cleansed by the Holy Spirit shines with the Trinitarian unity... We cannot fathom how this wondrous work of goodwill takes place, but the Word of God is true... Here is the path by which the Spirit of God leads to perfection those who receive Him ... The beginning of it all is repentance, the middle of this work and ascetic struggle is cleansing of the heart from passions and its saturation with virtues, and the end is the holy mystery of communion with God... Where there is no communion with God, there is no Spirit... *For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting* (Gal. 6:7-8).

**Holy Hierarch Theophan the Recluse**