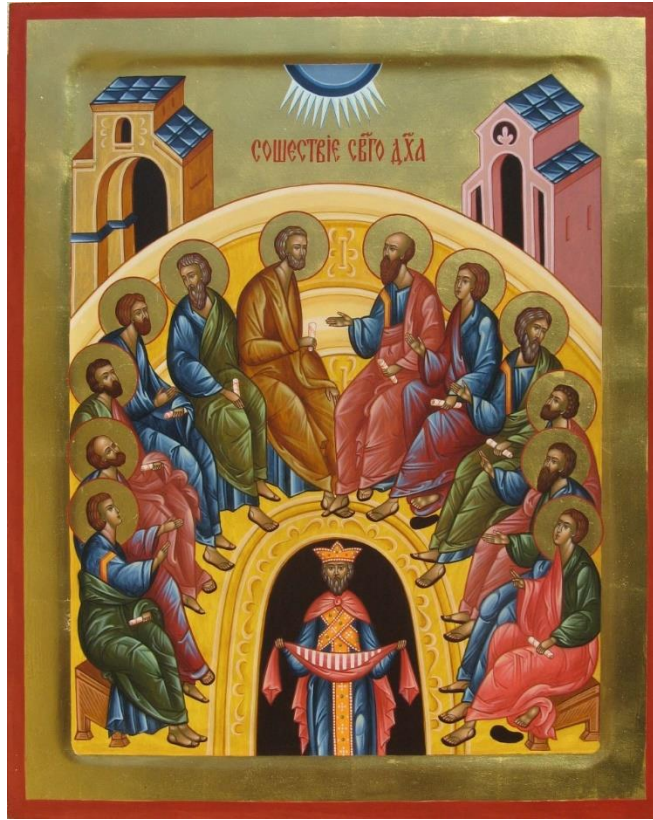


**St Ignatios of Antioch
Melkite Greek Catholic Church
1003 Merry Street
Augusta, Georgia 30904
706 364-6219**



**Sunday of Pentecost
28 May 2023**

SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



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.

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.

Behold, we celebrate today 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!"

(Sticheron at "Lord I Cry" Tone 1)

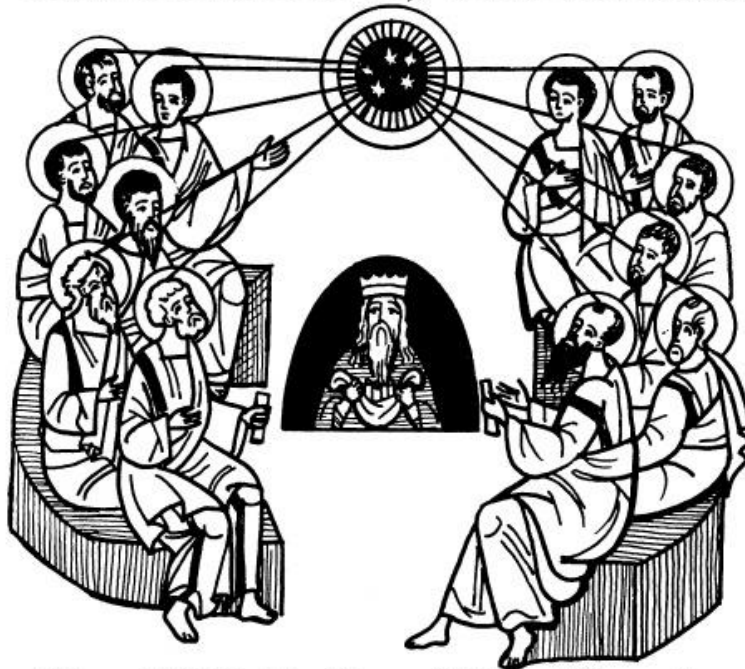
On this feast of fulfillment, O faithful, let us joyfully celebrate Pentecost, which is the end of the feast and the fulfillment of the promise of Christ. For today the Fire of the Paraclete comes down to earth in the form of tongues, enlightening the Apostles and making them wise in the things of heaven. Behold the Light of the Paraclete, making the world radiant!

(Kathisma Hymn, tone 4)

The Power coming down upon us today is the Holy Spirit, the Goodness and Wisdom of God. The Spirit which proceeds from the Father through the Son is revealed to us, the faithful: He communicates holiness to those whom He inhabits.

(Troparion from the Canon, Ode 5)

THE SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



The Fiftieth Day After Pascha

Sunday Collections

Attendance	Date	Collection
33	2 April 2023	1,060.00
40	9 April 2023	580.00
28	16 April 2023	10.00
30	23 April 2023	
30	30 April 2023	1,041.00
31	7 May 2023	552.00
	14 May 2023	
	21 May 2023	

Syrian Earthquake Relief \$ 775.00

Divine Liturgy Intentions: For the Living:

Bishop Francois, Fr. Eugene Mitchell, Fr. James Graham, David Mangelsdorf, Brian Frank, Maria Barklage, Nookid Graham, Ali de la Vega, Dn. Kent & Diana Plowman, A Special Parish Intention, Mandie, Stephanie, Nick Baiad, Debi Hull, Medical Personnel and First Responders

For the Dead:

Announcements

We are live-streaming on our Facebook page at the following days & times:

Friday – 6:00 PM Weekday Vespers

Saturday – 6:00PM Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00AM Orthros & 10:00AM Divine Liturgy

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND TOWN –Most Holy Trinity parish will be hosting a Men's Holy Hour every Friday morning from 6-7am. There will also be a coffee hour and reflection time afterwards – Men from all parishes are invited to attend for whatever portion of the time they are available. For the Ladies – St. Joseph's will be hosting a Women's Holy Hour on the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

**National Association of Melkite Youth
NAMY Conference 2023**

Our Melkite Mission: Becoming Disciples, Making Disciples

Who: Melkite Youth throughout the US, ages 13-18

When: Monday July 10th- Friday July 14th, 2023

Where: St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire

Why: Faith, Fellowship, Fun

For more information:

Please contact Fr. Thomas & Pres. Rebekah Moses at namy@melkite.org



Little Entrance Hymn



Be ex - al - ted, O Lord, in Your strength, we will



sing and chant the praise of Your might. O



Good Com - for - ter, save us who sing to



You: Al - le - lu - ia.

Troparion of Pentecost

(Tone 3)



Bles-sed are You, O Christ our God, who have filled



the Fi-she-men with wis - dom by sen-ding down



the Ho-ly Spi - rit up - on them, and Who through them



have caught in Your net the whole world, O Lo-ver of



man-kind, glo - ry to You.

Kondakion of Pentecost

(Tone 8)



When the Most High came down and con-fused the



tongues, He di - vi-ded the na - tions, but when He dis-



- tri-bu-ted the tongues of fire, He called all men



to u - ni - ty. Where - fore, we glo - ri - fy the



Ho - ly Spi - rit, with one ac-cord.

Hirmos of Pentecost

(Tone 7)



You con-ceived in vir-gi-ni - ty, len - ding a bo-



- dy to the Word, the Cre - a - tor of all, O Vir-gin



Mo-ther, O The-o-to - kos, Re - cep-ta-cle of the



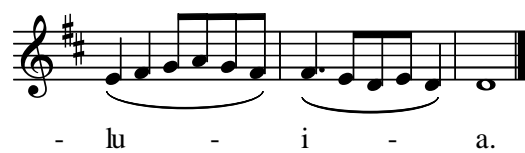
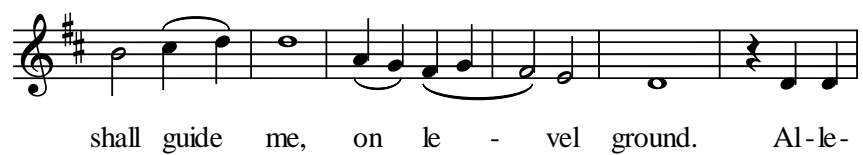
un-con-tain - a-ble God. A-bode of your li - mit -



- less Ma - ker, we mag-ni-fy you.

Kinonikon

(Tone 8)



Prokimenon

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

All: 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!

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

Reader: Through all the earth, their voice resounds,

All: And to the ends of the world, their message.

Readings for the Week:

Monday:	Eph 5:8-19	Matt 18:10-20
Tuesday:	Rom 1:1-7 & 13-17	Matt 4:23-5:13
Wednesday:	Rom 1:18-27	Matt 5:20-26
Thursday:	Rom 1:28-2:10	Matt 5:27-32
Friday:	Rom 2:14-28	Matt 5:33-42
Saturday:	Rom 1:7-12	Matt 5:42-48

Saints of the Week:

May 28: Pentecost; Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Eutyches, Bishop of Melitene
May 29: Commemoration of our Holy Woman Martyr Theodosia of Tyre; and of the Martyr Theodosia of Constantinople
May 30: Commemoration of our Holy Father Isaac, Hegumen of the Monastery of Dalmatia
May 31: Commemoration of our Holy Martyr Hermias
June 1: Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Justin the Philosopher and his companions
June 2: Commemoration of our Holy Father Nicephoros the Confessor, Archbishop of Constantinople
June 3: Holy Martyrs Lucillian and his companions
June 4: Holy Father Metrophanes, Bishop of Constantinople

Word Search

B	T	H	G	I	L	Y	X	C	K	N	I	R	D	F	F	Q
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Bethlehem
Christ
Crowd
David
Division
Drink
Feast

Fooled
Galilee
Glorified
Jesus
Light
Nicodemus
Pharisees

Priests
Prophet
Rivers
Scripture
Spirit
Thirsts
Water

Parish Information:

Rt. Rev. Michael Skrocki, JCD
Pastor

abounamike@aol.com

Knights of Columbus **JFK Council**

1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm.

Odd-numbered months at St. Ignatios

Even-numbered months here at Most Holy Trinity

4th Degree Assembly

2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Odd-numbered months at Most Holy Trinity

Even-numbered months here at St. Ignatios

Publicans Prayer Group

Postponed until Further Notice

New Parishioners:

Please register with Fr. Michael.

Mystery of Holy Confession

Please contact Fr. Michael to set up a convenient time.

Mystery of Christian Initiation

Expectant parents should notify Fr. Michael prior to the birth of the child. Adult converts should contact Fr. Michael so arrangements may be made for any necessary instruction and sacraments.

Mystery of Holy Crowning

Those planning to marry should notify the Fr. Michael at least six months prior to the desired Wedding date.

Mystery of Holy Anointing

Please notify Fr. Michael when you or a family member is in need of anointing.

To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers of the Eparchy of Newton, please call the **Victim Assistance Coordinator** at 1-800-479-5910.

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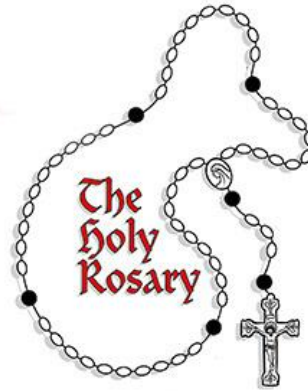
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