

JUNE 12, 2022



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert,

CA.92261

Tel: (760) 568-9901

or: (760) 880-5869

–Fr. Theodore Pantels,
Proistamenos (Pastor)

–Deacon Euthym Kon-
taxis, M.D.

Holy Communion Or-
der

1. Please remain standing while following the directions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly remove lipstick before receiving.
3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name), and naturally receive as if being fed.
4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
5. All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Com-

THE LADDER

PENTECOST SUNDAY



PRAYER FOR READING HOLY SCRIPTURES

"Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us, also, reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all these things that are pleasing to You. For You are the Light of our souls and bodies and to You we give glory together with Your Father Who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen."

EPISTLE: Acts 2:1-11 -- 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. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

GOSPEL: St. John 7:37-52; 8:12 --On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.' " Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. The officers then went back to the chief priest and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

THE FEAST DAY OF PENTECOST

The Holy Spirit that Christ had promised to his disciples came on the day of Pentecost (Jn 14.26, 15.26; Lk 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**.

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 (Rom 8; 1 Cor 2-3, 12; 2 Cor 3; Gal 5; Eph 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 men. 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.

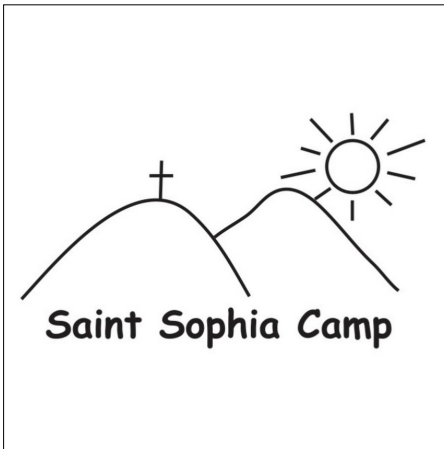
--Taken and excerpted from : “Pentecost: The Descent of the Holy Spirit” posted on the website of the Orthodox Church in America: <https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/>

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, June 13th.....FEAST DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 14th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.
AHEPA Meeting - 6:00 p.m. (Bible Study); 6:30 p.m. Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ST. SOPHIA SUMMER CAMP

2022 Camp Registration is now open!

Week 1: July 25th - July 29th - Camp Cedar Lake in Big Bear Lake, CA. Week cost: \$565 (online)/ \$550 (check)

Week 2: August 2nd - August 7th -- Camp St. Nicholas in Frazer Park, CA . Week cost (\$665 online)/ \$650 (check)

SPECIAL COFFEE HOURS IN CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST & FATHER’S DAY

Today, everyone is invited for a special coffee hour today featuring coffee and cake in commemoration of Pentecost Sunday

Next Sunday, June 19th, our coffee hour will be dedicated to honoring fathers, grandfathers and Godfathers in celebration of Father’s Day

ANNOUNCEMENT - UPDATED PARISH DIRECTORY TO BE DISTRIBUTED SOON

We are currently updating the Parish's Directory and we will publish it shortly. If you prefer your name not to be included, please email us at pdofficestgeorge@gmail.com by **no later than July 1, 2022**. Thank you very much in advance.

NOTES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY:

1. The Hymn of Pentecost is sung at the conclusion of the Doxology: *"Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fishermen all-wise, sending upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, netting the world. O Loving One, glory to You."* (Taken from the *Orthros Book* published by Narthex Press.)
2. Instead of the Hymn, *"Save us, O Son of God Who arose from the dead..."* the following is chanted: *"Save us, O Good Paraklete.." (The Holy Spirit), as we sing to You, Alleluia."* (Fr. Ted's note)
3. Instead of chanting, *"Come let us worship and bow down before Christ..."* the following is chanted: *"Be exalted, O Lord, in Your power; we will sing and praise Your mighty deeds. Save us, O good Comforter..."* (Fr. Ted's note)
4. The Hymns at the Small Entrance are: 1) The Hymn of Pentecost (above) and, 2) the Kontakion Hymn as follows: *"When the Most High came down and confounded tongue of men at Babel, He divided the Nations. When He dispensed the Tongues of Fire, He called all to unity, and with one voice we glorify the Most Holy Spirit."* (Taken from the *Liturgikon* published by Narthex Press.)
5. Instead of the Hymn, *"Agios O Theos..."* the following is sung: *"As many as have been baptized in Christ, have put on Christ, Alleluia."* (Fr. Ted)
6. Instead of *"Axion Estin,"* there is a hymn that notes that the Theotokos lent Her flesh to the Word of God, through Whom all things were made and, therefore, we magnify Her.
7. Communion Hymn: *"Your good Spirit will lead...to the land of uprightness..."*
8. After Holy Communion: The Hymn of Pentecost is sung.
9. The Dismissal Prayer begins as follows: *"May Christ our true God, who sent the All-holy Spirit from Heaven, as tongues of fire upon His Apostles and Disciples..."* (Taken from the *Liturgikon* published by Narthex Press)

THE HOUSE OF GOD'S WISDOM

The Grace of the Holy Spirit is given for us to live in the glory of Christ. God created us in such a way so that we could only find true happiness, which we so ardently seek, by living our lives according to the words of Holy Scripture, which are inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The best way to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost is to enter into the full life of the Church and to bring others with us. In fact, in thanksgiving to God's love, we are obligated to offer the Gospel to others by virtue of our own conversations and the example of the Christian way of life that we offer to the world. Only in this way will people turn to the Church and we will safely reach Paradise. Example speaks louder than simple words.

In his book, *Functional and Dysfunctional Christianity*, the Orthodox theologian, Fr. Philotheos Faros, writes the following: "[In today's society], we have the feeling that the more is said, the less we communicate; the more things we discover, the deeper our darkness becomes...Is it possible that the time for silence has come?... Perhaps we should repeat the last phrases of the prayer of the Canon to our Lord Jesus Christ: 'Bring me back to Your flock and include me among those in the 'Ship' of Your select flock and feed me with the verdure of Your Sacraments, by the intercessions of Your All-Pure Mother and all Your Saints.'" (pgs. 132).

The hope for our salvation in this life and in the next is "in the Ship" (i.e., the Church) of Christ's flock, where we are fed the "verdure" of Christ's Sacraments, which are imbued with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, Who constantly points us to Christ. Sacramental life is the life of *living the Bible*.

The Hymn of the Day (*Apolytikion*) for Pentecost Sunday reminds us that we are to emulate the Apostles, who received God's Wisdom in the Holy Spirit: "Blessed are You, O Christ our God, (because) You revealed the fishermen (i.e., the Apostles) to be most wise." As the successors of the Apostolic Church, we, too, are to seek and use the blessing of God's Wisdom in order to bless others. This is the very essence of Christ-like love – i.e., to serve God so that all may be granted Eternal Life in God's Kingdom.

+FR. THEODORE

Η Χάρις του Αγίου Πνεύματος δίνεται για να ζήσουμε στη δόξα του Χριστού. Ο Θεός μας εδημιούργησε με τέτοιο τρόπο ώστε να μπορούμε να ευρούμε μόνο την αληθινή ευτυχία, την οποία με τόσο ζήλο αναζητούμε, ζώντας τη ζωή μας σύμφωνα με τα λόγια της Αγίας Γραφής, τα οποία είναι εμπνευσμένα από το Άγιο Πνεύμα.

Ο καλύτερος τρόπος για να εορτάσουμε την Πεντηκοστή είναι να εισέλθουμε στην πλήρη ζωή της Εκκλησίας και να φέρουμε άλλους μαζί μας. Στην πραγματικότητα, με ευγνωμοσύνη προς την αγάπη του Θεού, είμεθα υποχρεωμένοι να προσφέρουμε το Ευαγγέλιο στους άλλους χάρη στις δικές μας συνομιλίες και το παράδειγμα του Χριστιανικού τρόπου ζωής που προσφέρουμε στον κόσμο. Μόνο έτσι θα στραφούν οι άνθρωποι προς την Εκκλησία και θα φθάσουμε με ασφάλεια στον Παράδεισο.

Ο Ορθόδοξος θεολόγος π. Ο Φιλόθεος Φάρος, γράφει τα εξής: «[Στη σημερινή κοινωνία] έχουμε την αίσθηση ότι όσο περισσότερα λέγονται τόσο λιγότερο επικοινωνούμε. όσο περισσότερα πράγματα ανακαλύπτουμε, τόσο βαθύτερο γίνεται το σκοτάδι μας...Είναι δυνατόν να έχει έρθει η ώρα της σιωπής;... Ίσως θα έπρεπε να επαναλάβουμε τις τελευταίες φράσεις της προσευχής του Κανόνα προς τον Κύριό μας Ιησού Χριστό...» *Functional and Dysfunctional Christianity* (σελ. 132). Σε αυτήν την προσευχή (ή «Λειτουργική Κανόνα») που προσφέρουμε προς τον Χριστό, προσευχόμεθα να μας φέρει στο «Πλοίο» Του και να μας συμπεριλάβει με τους εκλεκτούς στους οποίους έχει παραχωρήσει να κατοικούν σε αυτό το «Πλοίο» -- δηλ., Εκκλησία -- όπου τρέφουμε τους καρπούς των Μυστηρίων του Χριστού, που είναι εμποτισμένοι με τη Χάρη του Αγίου Πνεύματος.

+ Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ