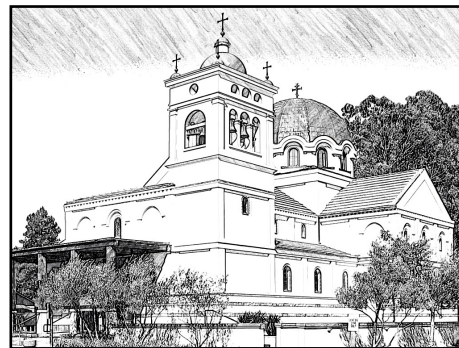


ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, June 12, 2022

Feast of Pentecost



- TROPARION OF PENTECOST, Tone Eight:

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast shown forth the fishermen as supremely wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net; O Lover of man, glory be to Thee.

- KONTAKION, Tone Eight:

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.

Epistle: The Acts of the Apostles 2: 1–11 **Gospel:** John 7:37–52; 8:12

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, June 11: 9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy (Protection Church)
 5 PM, VIGIL for Pentecost
- Sunday, June 12: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, *Vespers with Kneeling Prayers* to follow immediately
 Agape Meal
- Wed., June 15: FAST FREE WEEK
 5 PM, Daily Vespers
- Thurs., June 16: 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr. James
 6 PM, Parish Council Meeting
- Friday, June 17: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions (Fr. Nicholas)

- MEMORIAL SATURDAY:

On the Saturday before Pentecost we commemorate and pray for the repose of all departed pious Christians. This commemoration is a participation, here at the end of the Paschal season, that we are alive in the Lord, with none dead in the grave, spiritually renewed by the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is a sacred duty, in my opinion—compelled by love for those who have gone before us—to participate in Memorial Liturgies and memorials in general. A parish that cares for the dead, that is, prays for them actively in *Panikhidas*, at Funerals and on Soul Saturdays, is a healthy, loving parish, concerned for the eternal welfare of its loved ones, and of all mankind. Brothers and sisters, or as we say in the Liturgy—*Brethren*: Our infrequent Memorial Liturgies could be better attended. The Paschal season is now ending, so the Church calls us: “Come, rejoice in the resurrection of Christ, remembering that *there is not one dead*

in the tombs because of Christ. And gathering together for the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning—let Jesus Christ, the High Priest, offer us, our loved ones, and our departed ones, to His Father to be sanctified and glorified in the Heavenly Kingdom. The Church appeals to us, “Let all of us pray to Christ, today as we remember the dead of all ages.” —*Fr Lawrence*

- VIGIL IN SAN FRANCISCO:

Archbishop Benjamin and the faithful of Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco will celebrate their patronal feast day on Pentecost. Father Kirill, the Cathedral Dean, invites the Bay Area clergy and faithful to join them at the Pentecost Vigil, Saturday, June 11 at 6 PM. There will be a reception following.

- PENTECOST VESPERS to follow Liturgy:

The *Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost Day* is unique in that it has three lengthy prayers during which we kneel (this will be the first time since Holy Week that we kneel during prayer). These supplications are rich in meaning and inspiration. May the Lord to give us all strength, understanding and gratitude as we offer these prayers—letting the words enter into our hearts. “Grant the Spirit of Thy wisdom to my reasoning; give the Spirit of understanding to my folly. Overshadow my deeds with the Spirit of Thy fear, and renew an upright Spirit in my inmost parts. With Thy ruling Spirit make steadfast my fickle mind, so that each day, being led by Thy good Spirit toward whatever is profitable, I may be counted worthy to accomplish thy commandments and to keep always in remembrance Thy Glorious Coming, which searches out our deeds.” —*from the second Kneeling Prayer*

- PENTECOSTAL GRACE—Abbot George of Mount Athos:

At every Divine Liturgy of our Church we have Pentecost. How does the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ? Don't they become through the descent of the Holy Spirit? There is Pentecost! Every Holy Altar of the Orthodox Church is the Upper Room of Pentecost. At every Baptism we have Pentecost. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, a person becomes a Christian and becomes one with the Body of Christ. Every ordination of a Deacon, Priest and, of course, a Bishop, is a new Pentecost. The Holy Spirit descends and makes a person a co-worker with God. Every Confession of a Christian is again Pentecost. The moment the Christian kneels to his Confessor and with humility tells him his sins with repentance and the Confessor reads him the blessing of forgiveness, he is forgiven by the grace of the Holy Spirit. At every gathering and at every Mystery of the Church it is a continuation of Pentecost, because they are performed in the presence of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, all activities, prayers and the Mysteries of the Church begin with a prayer: “O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth...come and abide in us...” We ask the Comforter to come, the *Paraclete*, the Holy Spirit. And He comes. Wherever the Orthodox Church—the true Church of Christ—meets, there also is the grace of the Holy Spirit. Every Saint of our Church is a Spirit-bearing man or woman, full of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, a person of Pentecost.

- WELCOME BACK:

We welcome back Fr Theodor, Hanne, Simon and Filip Svane from Norway for an extended visit. Fr Theodor will be helping out here in the parish, but will also be part of the Life School team at the Monastery of St. John in Manton next week (as will Josef and Effie).

- TREES AT PENTECOST—The OAK TREE:

“The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.” (*Genesis 18:1*) Salvation is the work of the Holy Trinity— prefigured by the three angels at the “hospitality of Abraham” and portrayed in [Rublev’s famous icon](#)—the mystery of the Trinity is fully revealed at Pentecost.

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.” (*Isaiah 61:1-3*)



- PENTECOST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Today the New Israel—the Church—celebrates the Great Feast of Pentecost the world over. As a prefiguration of what was to come, the Old Israel also kept the feast of Pentecost, which took place 50 days after Passover/Pascha. Here are the names which the Jews used for this day:

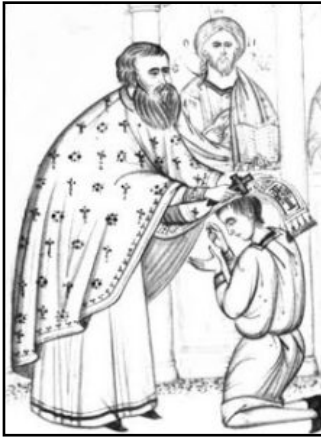
- “The Feast of Weeks”—*Shavuot*—since a week-of-weeks (7 weeks of 7 days + 1) divides Pascha, Passover, from Shavuot. The Eighth Day indicates the Eternal Day of God’s Kingdom, the day beyond the time of this world, which is represented by the number 7 (as in Genesis).
- “The Feast of First-Fruits”—*Hag ha-Bikkurim*—on which the first fruits of the early harvest were brought to be offered in the Temple. The seven weeks from Pesach to Pentecost are just enough for a new crop of wheat to be planted, nurtured and harvested in time to be offered. An ancient Christian prayer sees the grain gathered together and transformed into bread as a symbol of the Church, gathered into unity from all the nations.
- “The Feast of the Giving of the Law”—*Hag Matan Torah*—celebrating the giving of the Law. It celebrates the giving of the *Torah*/Law (not JUST the Ten Commandments). The Christian Pentecost celebrates the giving of the Spirit, poured out on the Disciples as tongues of fire descending from above. The old law could only “manage” sin, but could not save one from sin and death. The Holy Spirit, in baptism, unites us to God, the Trinity, sanctifies us, and enables us to share in the resurrection of Christ.

- FORT ROSS

Since 1925, the faithful from Bay Area parishes have made a pilgrimage to [Fort Ross](#) on the observed Independence Day Holiday. His Eminence will lead us in a Divine Liturgy at the Fort Ross chapel on Monday, July 4, at 10:30 am. Pack a picnic to enjoy after the Divine Liturgy.

- WATCHFULNESS LEADS TO CONFESSION:

The Holy Mystery of Confession is meant to be an encounter with God. “Behold, Christ stands here invisibly before us and hears your confession...” says the priest. What a great gift the Lord gives to us sinners!



Do you remember the last time you made Confession before God in Church? Perhaps too much time has gone by since your last Confession? Come, receive absolution, cleansing of your heart and soul, and God’s grace. St. Theophan the Recluse says “if you have sinned, acknowledge the sin and repent. God will forgive the sin and once again give you *a new heart...and a new Spirit* (Ez. 36:26). There is no other way: Either do not sin, or repent.” Confessions are heard on Saturdays just before and during Vespers or Vigil, on Fridays from 11:30 AM until 1 PM, or by appointment. Confessions are **not heard** on Sunday mornings.

- SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK:

A very enthusiastic “THANK YOU” to Emma Anderson and the volunteers for coordinating and organizing this year’s camp for the parish children. It’s been wonderful seeing our children have quality time with each other in organized church activities. Each day’s schedule began with a prayer and lesson from Fr. Lawrence, Fr. Nicholas or Fr. James, followed by some vigorous play-activities led by Emma Anderson, a music lesson (thank you, Catie DeCarlo), snacks, another craft activity taught by one of our teachers, and finally, at day’s end, a smorgasbord of craft activities for all children to choose from. A very big thank you to our *volun-‘teers’* who helped-out wherever needed, and were a great support: Sophia, Larissa, Lamar, Kalina, Rami, Ashley, Natasha, Linda, Christopher, Jupiter and Pella. Thank you.

- YOUNG ADULT GATHERING:

On Sunday, June 5th, our parish welcomed more than thirty young adults for a BBQ from parishes all over the Bay Area and who represented multiple canonical Orthodox jurisdictions. We prayed the Akathist together, Joe Anderson gave them a great talk, and most stayed late into the night enjoying good food and good fellowship and discussion around a campfire. Thank you to everyone who made this possible!

- REGARDING LIVE-STREAM:

The Livestream is not a replacement for regular worship in church but an aid to help those who—for reasons worthy of a blessing—cannot attend the divine services at church. The Livestream is offered with the intention of capturing the spoken and sung word of the services and the liturgical action of the celebrant and altar servers, only. The Livestream IS NOT trying to capture the faces or movements of our parishioners (any exposure would be incidental and not intentional or regular). —*Fr Lawrence*

- AWAY:

Matushka Ann and I will be in Maine visiting her mother and family from June 13–23. Fr Nicholas will be available for all pastoral needs and services. He can be reached at (707) 318-5391. —*Fr Lawrence*