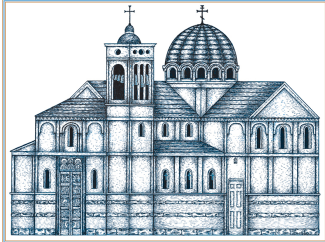


ST. SERAPHIM OF SAROV



ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN CHURCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 24, 2026, The Sunday of the Holy Fathers
of the First Ecumenical Council

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Six:

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hades, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee.

- TROPARION OF ASCENSION, Tone Four:

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

- TROPARION OF THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:

Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast established the Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth, and through them didst guide us all to the true Faith. O Most Merciful One, glory be to Thee.

- KONTAKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:

The preaching of the Apostles and the doctrines of the Fathers confirmed the one Faith in the Church. And wearing the garment of truth woven from theology on high, she rightly divideth and glorifieth the great mystery of piety.

- KONTAKION OF ASCENSION, Tone Six:

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake and unite earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from them that love Thee, but remaining with them and crying: "I am with you, and no one will be against you."

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, May 23: 5 PM, Vigil / Confessions
- Sunday, May 24: 8 AM, Divine Liturgy
9 AM, Choir Rehearsal
9:40 AM, Reception of new catechumens*
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School / Noon, Agape Meal
- Monday, May 25: 11:30 AM, Panikhida for Memorial Day at SR Memorial Cemetery
- Tues., May 26: 6 PM, Parish Council Meeting
- Wed., May 27: 4 PM, Diaper Bank Distribution
5:30 PM, Akathist
6 PM, Vespers

Thurs., May 28: 7 PM, Online Bible Study
Fri., May 29: 8 AM, Matins
11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
Sat., May 30: 5 PM, Vigil for Pentecost

Welcome Guests and Visitors. We are delighted to have you join us at our service today in worshipping the Holy Trinity. You are cordially invited to join us for lunch and fellowship in the Parish Hall after the service!

We are honored to welcome Archpriest Justin Patterson and his son Ian. Fr. Justin is the rector of St. Athanasius the Great Orthodox Church in Nicholasville, KY, and serves as the Project Manager for the [Departments of the Church](#) for the OCA, and is a member of the Metropolitan Council.

* **Many years to those** being enrolled as Catechumens on Sunday: the Laws family—Shilo, Orissa and baby Lilly, as well as Oliver Nunez and Stephanie Caron. Please extend to them a warm welcome.

The Genesis Study Class, led by Fr Daniel, will be held every other week, starting June 3. During June we will also have, by request, a *Q&A for Inquirers and Catechumens* on Saturdays at 4 PM, meeting in the Parish Hall.

The seventh Sunday of the Feast of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the *Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council*. This day commemorates the “318 God-bearing Fathers who gathered in Nicaea” in 325 AD at the request of the Emperor, Saint Constantine, to address the heresy of Arianism together with other issues that concerned the unity of the Church. Arius was a protopresbyter of the Church of Alexandria, and in 315, he began to blaspheme against the Son of God saying that He was not the true God, but rather a “divine being” created by God. The Bishop of Alexandria, Alexander, attempted to correct Arius through admonitions, cut him off from communion, and finally deposed him in 321 through a local council. Arius continued with his heretical teachings, creating controversy and division in the churches of other cities, which led to a theological and ecclesiastical crisis throughout the Christian East. Moved with divine zeal and concern for unity, the Emperor Constantine the Great, summoned the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325. The Holy Fathers composed the *Symbol of Faith*, the Nicene Creed: “We believe in one God. The Father Almighty...And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten not made; *of one essence with the Father*; by whom all things were made...” The Church has appointed this present Sunday after Ascension for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto their praise and honor. Today’s feast affirms that the One Who rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven, is truly God and truly man.

A Panikhida will be served on Memorial Day, May 25, at 11:30 AM, at Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery. I invite all of you to join me in praying for those who laid down their lives for their country, and as a public witness of our Orthodox Faith in prayerful action. —*Fr Lawrence*

In the Church’s annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is “the last and great day.” It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as *The End*—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation... With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ’s disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to “appropriate” these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants

and citizens of His Kingdom. In the three Scripture readings at Vespers ([Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29; Joel 2:23-32; Ezekiel 36:24-28](#)) we hear the prophecies concerning the Holy Spirit [**Vigil will be celebrated Saturday, May 30 at 5 PM**]. We are taught that the entire history of mankind was directed towards the day on which God “would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh.” This day has come! All hope, all promises, all expectations have been fulfilled. ...for the first time since Easter we sing the hymn: “O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of the Truth...” the one with which we inaugurate all our services, all prayers, which is, as it were, the life-breath of the Church, and whose coming to us, whose “descent” upon us in this service, is indeed the very experience of the Holy Spirit “coming and abiding in us.” The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself [**served at 1 PM, on Sunday**]. The service begins as a solemn “summing up” of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the *prokeimenon*: “Who is so great a God as our God?” Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful *End*, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation. All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him.

In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God. In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love. The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day.

Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory. Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter “the ordinary time” of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called “after Pentecost”—and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches—for the Church “never grows old, but is always young.” It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit—“the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life—comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity,” and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope. —*Father Alexander Schmemmann*

June is month of renewal of the spiritual life, *Holiness Month*, we might call it, and a time of the Apostles Fast, when we strive to increase our prayer, alms and worship: We begin with Pentecost, then the Day of the Holy Spirit on Monday, June 1, followed by many well-known and much venerated saints: St. Dorotheos of Gaza, the Sunday of All Saints and the Sunday of All Saints of America and Russia, the Sunday of all Saints under the Turkish Yoke, St. Cyril of Alexandria, St. Columba of Iona, St. Luke the Surgeon, the Apostle Jude, St. John the Baptist, Sts. Peter and Paul, and many more. We admire, venerate, sometimes emulate, and frequently call upon them in prayer.

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

JUNE 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 31 – Pentecost • 8 AM & 10 AM, Liturgy • Noon, Potluck Agape Meal • 1 PM, Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost	1 – Holy Spirit Day • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, <i>Feast of St. Justin Martyr</i>	2	3 • 5:30, Akathist • 6 PM, Vespers • 6:45 PM, Genesis Study	4 • 7 PM, Online Bible Study	5 • 8 AM, Matins • 11:30–1 PM, Confessions	6 • 4 PM, Q&A for Catechumens and Inquirers • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
7 – All Saints Day • 8 AM & 10 AM, Liturgy • 9:20 AM, <i>Akathist Nurturer of Children</i> • 11:30 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal • 4 PM, <i>Cantiamo Concert</i>	8 The Apostles’ Fast Begins today and concludes on June 29	9	10 • 5:30, Akathist • 6 PM, Vespers	11 • 7 PM, Online Bible Study	12 • 8 AM, Matins • 11:30–1 PM, Confessions	13 • 4 PM, Q&A for Catechumens and Inquirers • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
14 – All Saints of North America • 8 AM & 10 AM, Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal	15	16	17	18	19 • 8 AM, Matins • 11:30–1 PM, Confessions	20 • 4 PM, Q&A for Catechumens and Inquirers • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Vacation Bible School, daily from 9 am until 12 pm* </div>						
21 – Martyrs of the Turkish Yoke • 8 AM & 10 AM, Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal <i>Departure for Church Camp</i>	22 <i>Fr Lawrence and campers gone until Saturday afternoon</i>	23 • 6 PM, Vigil for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist	24 – St. John the Baptist • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy • 4 PM, Diaper Bank	25 • 7 PM, Online Bible Study	26 • 11:30–1 PM, Confessions	27 • 4 PM, Q&A for Catechumens and Inquirers • 5 PM, Vespers/Confessions
28 – St. Sergius and Herman • 8 AM & 10 AM, Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 4 PM, Vigil for the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul	29 – Sts. Peter and Paul • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy	30	JULY 1 • 5:30, Akathist to St John of SF • 6 PM, Vespers • 6:45 PM, Genesis Study	2 • 7 PM, Online Bible Study	3 • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy at Fort Ross	4 Feast of St. John of SF at the Geary St Cathedral • 5 PM, Vespers/Confessions

• Choir Practice: The Sunday Cathedral Choir rehearses each Sunday at 9 AM. Please be prompt

* [LINK HERE](#) for to register for the Vacation Bible School