

# Sunday of Pentecost

Sunday, June 07, 2020

## St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



**SYNAXARION:** Pentecost; The Holy Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra; Our Righteous Father Panagis (Paisios) Basias; Tarasios & John the Martyrs; Sebastian the Wonderworker; Zenais the Marty

**Second Antiphon:** Save us O Good Paraclete, to Thee we sing: Alleluia.

**Entrance Hymn:** Be exalted, O Lord in Your Power; we will sing and praise Your mighty deeds. Save us o Good Paraclete, to Thee we sing: Alleluia.

**Apolytikion of Pentecost:** Blessed are You, O Christ our God, O Christ our God, who by sending down the Holy Spirit upon them, made the fishermen wise and through them illumined the world, and to You the universe was ever drawn, O Lover of Mankind, glory to You!

**Apolytikion of the Sunday of the Holy Fathers:** Supremely praised are You, O Christ our God, Who established on earth, our Fathers as luminaries; and through them You have guided all of us to the true faith, most Compassionate One, glory to You.

**Kontakion:** When the Most High God came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations. When He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. And with one voice we glorify the All-Holy Spirit.

**Trisagion Hymn:** All those who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

**Megalinarion:** You conceived and gave birth in virginity; the Word Who created all, through you became incarnate. O Mother who knew not man, Virgin Theotokos, the boundless One was held by you, the dwelling of your infinite Creator; we magnify you.

**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: George and Toula Tsaros, Fr. Pat Legato, Nellie Pringle, Robert Calbi, Yolanda Webb, Angela Bougas, Tony Ekonomou, Ron, Jason Vickers, Rex Garrison, Tina Chakonas, Ann Demas, Alex Martinez, Adriana Martinez, Aaron Martinez, Christina Noel Kouzes Houck, Evangeline Xeroteris, Nichole Ross, Daniel Ross, Daniella Ross, Ashley Henderson, Natalie Henderson, Chris, Debbie, James, Avery, Lily, Jacob, Jesse, Ann, Rosario, Antonia Caffentzis, Alissa, John, Angela, Joey, Christine Scourtes, Steven, Matthew & Family, Phyllis, John Zelatis, Reagan, Peter Zaharis, Alexandra Ferrarolis, Leon & Despina Botham, Cindy Xenick, Mary Ellen Evdemon, Marie Sofia Panagopoulos, Maria Hursey, Chris Vamvakias, John Myer, Mike Trimis, Robert and Alice Stoccardo, John Alexander, Michael Romero, George Hambos, Dean Kondilis and Family, Bill and Nancy Manikas, Patricia Costello, Anastasia Smyrnakis, Ekaterina & Anna Shushaalykova, Dora Koudouna, Ana Mourer, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Anne Sakellaris, Denise Badrane, Sia Blankenship, Don Payne, Zhana Temelkova, Stanislava Terzieva, James, Jude and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

# Readings for Sunday of Pentecost

## Epistle Reading is from Acts of the Apostles 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 Reading is from 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 priests 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."

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## Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project

*June 7-13*

*Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation, the spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak. Matthew 26:41*

Jesus said these words to His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was about to be betrayed, arrested and crucified. He was scared. He asked three of His disciples to "watch" while He prayed. He didn't need them to do anything in particular, just to be with Him, so He wouldn't feel alone. And I'm positive they wanted to comfort Him. It was late at night, perhaps they were tired, perhaps their anxiety got the best of them, and they fell asleep. They couldn't even stay awake and watch. There are times in our lives when our spirit is not willing. We willingly go and do things that are not nice or helpful. But there are many more times when we want to do the right thing, or even try to do the right thing and for some reason we cannot do the right thing, because our bodies won't go along with us. We try to do something with great intentions and hunger, or fatigue or illness or something else will not allow us to do what we want to do. In this time of covid-19, there are many things we want to do but all of a sudden can't do, either because we are sick or we fear being sick. What is most important to remember and do is that when our flesh is weak, keep our spirits strong. Because the spirit leads and the spirit is what God judges. He knows that our flesh is weak, He knows we will get sick or tired or hungry or anxious. But our spirits can still serve Him and one another regardless of how the flesh feels. We need to tell ourselves "The flesh may be weak but the spirit will remain willing."

## Upcoming Services & Events

- Sunday, June 7**      **Pentecost**  
*(via Live-stream, and via reservation with Sign-up genius)*  
Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m.  
Kneeling Service 11:00 a.m.
- Monday, June 8**      **Holy Trinity**  
*(via Live-stream, and via reservation with Sign-up genius)*  
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study (via Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 9**      Women's Bible Study      10:00 a.m. via zoom
- Wednesday, June 10**      Holy Unction 6:00 p.m.  
*(via Live-stream, and via reservation with Sign-up genius)*
- Thursday, June 11**      **Sts. Bartholomew and Barnabas**  
*(via Live-stream, and via reservation with Sign-up genius)*  
Orthros 5:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 13**      *(via Live-stream, and via reservation with Sign-up genius)*  
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, June 14**      **All Saints**  
*(via Live-stream, and via reservation with Sign-up genius)*  
Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  
Men's Group 5:00 p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday, Sunday, June 7 - Pentecost** This feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles fifty days after Pascha, filling them with power, strength, wisdom and courage to spread the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ to the entire world. Pentecost is the celebration of the birth of the Christian Church!!!. A special Vespers Service will be held after Divine Liturgy on Pentecost (June 16), where three prayers will be offered, asking for the Holy Spirit to descend upon us as we mark this feast day. As a reminder, we do NOT kneel in church until AFTER the Divine Liturgy on Pentecost (we do not kneel at the Divine Liturgy on Pentecost) at the Vespers of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, when the priest says "Again and again ON BENDED KNEES let us pray to the Lord." There is no fasting the week after Pentecost. However, there is a fast for the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul which lasts from the Monday after all Saints Day (June 15 this year) - June 28. So there is a 13-day fast before the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. The length of the fast period is determined by the date of Pascha each year.

**Monday, June 8 – Feast of the Holy Trinity-** The day after Pentecost is known by two names, either the Feast of the Holy Trinity, or the Monday of the Holy Spirit. Because Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit, the day after Pentecost commemorates the Holy Trinity. Normally, our church is closed for this feastday and we worship at Holy Trinity in Clearwater, as they celebrate their feastday. With the current rules of the coronavirus, we will celebrate this service at St. John on Monday, June 8.

**Thank you John Kokenis-**John Kokenis, one of our pastoral assistants, will be leaving us on June 15 to move back closer to family in Chicago. We thank John for his service to our parish this year. Though he was only with us ten months, he contributed a lot to the life of our parish, particularly to our youth. He did a great job chanting, with technology, made some significant upgrades to our website, did a great job with our publications and we were definitely blessed to have him with us, even for a short time. We wish John and his wife Dina well in their new ventures.

## Paypal project—Let's raise \$2,000

to feed the hungry this week. The character of our generosity is reflected not in times of abundance but in times of scarcity. While there may be concerns about the financial well-being of our community and of our own families, it makes an important statement to show generosity, right now. With this in mind, I would like to ask our community, those who can afford it, to donate \$5 by Monday, June 15. This donation will go directly to Matthew 25, our Community Outreach partner and will allow them to purchase food for those who have no food to eat in our city. We have 430 families that call our church home.

I challenge us to raise \$2,000 to send away from our community to those in need. So that as we celebrate our return to worship, and as we seek to keep our own parish afloat, along with our own homes, that we remember the others, our neighbors, who are less fortunate. Please join me in donating \$5 to this charitable cause today. ***CLICK [HERE](#) OR USE THE QR CODE TO DONATE.***



**SignUpGenius** for the rest of the June services. Click [HERE](#). The services for the rest of June will be unveiled on SignUpGenius and through a constant contact on Tuesday June 9. Please be looking out for that. We ask that those who wish to worship on Sunday only sign up for one of the two remaining Sundays of June—June 21 or June 28. You may sign up for as many of the weekday services as possible. If the Sundays liturgies are filling too quickly and people cannot attend who wish to attend, we will consider asking people to attend only once every three Sundays, but for now, it is once every two Sundays. Divine Liturgy will be held each Saturday and on some weekdays to afford people who wish to worship more often to do so. If you are able to worship not on Sundays, we encourage you not to come on Sundays. However, our goal is to have as many as 65 worshippers at every service, so if you see on a Saturday or even a Sunday morning that that liturgy is not full, please feel free to add your name at the last minute.

**Looking for “Testimonials”** about your first time back in church—We’re looking for as many people as possible to write a paragraph about their experience of worshipping after being away for 2.5 months. If you’d like to submit something, please send it to Fr. Stavros at [frstav@gmail.com](mailto:frstav@gmail.com) by the end of business on Wednesday, June 10.

To read our **“Joyful Coming Back to Church”** protocol, please go [HERE](#).

To watch a helpful video about things to expect on your return to church, please go [HERE](#).

***The Sunday school lesson for adults and teens is [HERE](#).***