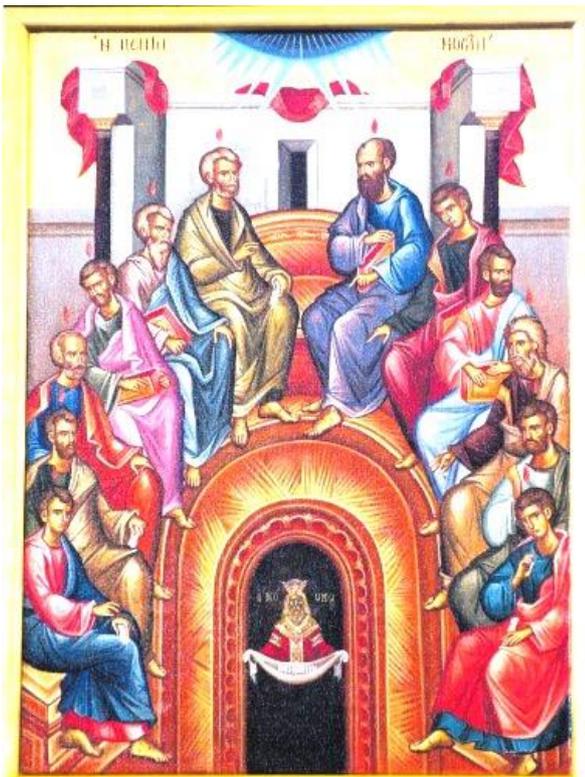




PARISH BULLETIN

HOLY ARCHANGHEL MICHAEL'S ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

No. 166/16 June 2019



Holy Pentecost

Apolytikion of Pentecost. Mode Pl. 4.

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

Seasonal Kontakion. Mode Pl. 4.

*Once, when He descended and
confused the tongues, the Most High
divided the nations; and when He
divided the tongues of fire, He called
all men into unity; and with one
accord we glorify the All-holy Spirit.*

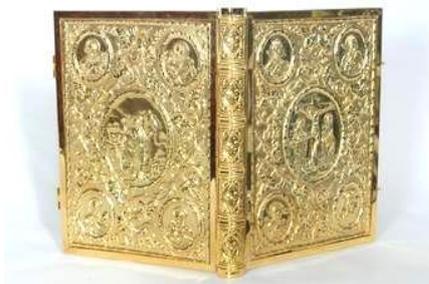
Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4. Psalm 18.4,1

*Their voice has gone out into all the earth.
Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.*

The 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, Pontos 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."



The Gospel According to 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."



Word of the week – Reflection

On Holy Pentecost

Today neither manna nor fire nor rain came down, but a spiritual storm of good things. A heavenly rain came down, not to cause the fruitfulness of the earth, but to convince the human race to offer the fruits of the virtues to the tiller of mankind. And those who received a drop of this rain from heaven immediately forgot themselves and suddenly the whole earth was filled with angels, not heavenly angels, but those who reveal in their human body the virtues of the bodiless powers.

- *St. John Chrysostom*

If [the Holy Spirit] takes a tax-collector that will believe, He will make him an evangelist like the Apostle Matthew; a fisherman, He will make a theologian, like the Apostle Peter; a repentant persecutor, He will make into a preacher to the nations and chosen vessel, like the Apostle Paul.

- *St. Basil the Great*

But how can we acquire a pure heart? How can we refrain from shameful sins? How can we refrain from the temptations of the enemy of our salvation, from the temptations of the world? How can we guard ourselves from them? We need to tirelessly, always, throughout our days and every hour remember that the Holy Spirit does not live in an impure heart. We must not succumb to temptation, and when the unclean spirit, the enemy of our salvation whispers in our ear the

longing for earthly prosperity, when he draws us a picture of a glorious, comfortable life, when he arouses our pride, a desire for honor and glory, we must not accept these devilish whisperings, we must not accept the temptations of the world. When these temptations come to the heart we should understand right away that this is a temptation. We should immediately, with all the strength of our minds and hearts reject these temptations, not look at the seductive pictures that the unclean spirit draws for us to tempt us; we should not succumb to his suggestions. And if we fail to do that, if we look at these picture of glory and earthly prosperity, if we think more and more about them, then woe to us—for then the temptation will take possession of our hearts.

- *St. Luke of Crimea*

In fact, every holy mystery and holy virtue is a little Pentecost; in them, the Holy Spirit descends upon us, into us. He descends in His energies, He, “the richness of the Godhead,” “the grace of the open seas,” “from Him come grace and life for every creature.”

- *St. Justin Popovich*

This feast prompts the following questions: Do I desire to become a container of the grace of the Holy Spirit? Do I want to hand over the wheel of my life to the governance of the grace of God? Am I able to be a servant of the Comforter?

- *Metropolitan Seraphim of Kastoria*



Liturgical Schedule for this week

Monday <i>June 17</i>	9:00 am 10:00 am	Matins Divine Liturgy – Monday of the Holy Spirit
Wednesday <i>June 19</i>	6:00 pm	Paraklesis
Friday <i>June 21</i>	5:30 pm	Akathist
Saturday <i>June 22</i>	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Apostles' Fast Begins Divine Liturgy & Memorial Vespers
Sunday <i>June 23</i>	8:30 am 9:30 am	Matins Divine Liturgy – Sunday of All Saints



Announcements:

- **The Apostles' Fast** begins on Saturday, June 22. No meat, cheese or dairy is permitted. Please see the calendar concerning fish and shellfish.
- **Morris Street Yard Sale** – Saturday, June 22, 9am. Please see Sandra Nasto.
- **Coffee hour** sponsor is to be announced.
- **Don't forget the Albanian Orthodox Festival:** June 30th



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