



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JUNE 15, 2008



Feast of Pentecost – Sunday, June 15th

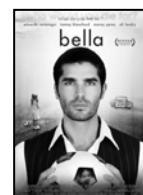
Today we celebrate the Descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, 50 days after Pascha. As a reminder, on this day we will have Vespers with the Kneeling Prayers immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

Fasting Notes

During the week following Pentecost, 6/15 through 6/22, we do not fast on any day, including Wednesday and Friday. Then we have a week of fasting, 6/23 through 6/28, in preparation for the Feastday of Ss. Peter and Paul, June 29th. As a reminder, fasting is not a legalistic endeavor, it is a spiritual one which helps purify ourselves to receive more of the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Orthodox Movie Night

This Thursday's movie will be *Bella*: Metanoia Films' award-winning first film about wounded hearts, family and a crisis pregnancy; celebrates love, life and understanding. All are invited. The film begin at 7:00pm.



Congratulations!

to all those who are celebrating the civil holiday of "Father's Day": fathers, grandfathers, fathers-in-law, godfathers. May God grant you many blessed years!

Baptism of Troy Duker – Saturday, June 28th

On Saturday, June 28th, at 5:00pm, we will welcome Troy Duker into the Orthodox Church through Holy Baptism. Please set aside this time to celebrate this special event!



The Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul – Sunday, June 29th

On this day we celebrate the memory of the foremost of the Apostles. The oldest of the Church's fasts, the Apostles Fast, which begins on Monday, 6/23, ends on this day with the reception of Holy Communion.

Open House at the Rectory – Sunday, June 29th

will be held on Sunday, June 29th, following a very brief coffee hour at the church. More info can be picked up at the candle stand. Everyone is invited!



Donors Sought: Two Important Projects

1) We are looking for donors for the new icons going into the altar. The icons have been completed and will be installed in the next few weeks. 2) We are also looking for donors for cabinets / counter tops / and a sink which are being installed into our coffee hour area. If you would like to make a donation towards either of these projects, please see Fr. John or Susan Pappas, our Treasurer. Thank you!

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 22nd

Jodi McElwee

Sunday, June 29th

Jen Alexion



THE UNBREAKABLE SPIRITUAL LAW

The Venerable Saint Seraphim of Sarov (+1834) was once asked what is lacking in a person that he fails in his spiritual efforts. The Saint responded, "Just one thing," he said, "a firm resolve." Yet, another great saint of the land of Rus, St. Theophan the Recluse (+1894) when asked the same question said:

"In every aspect of the spiritual life – prayer, fasting, reading the Scriptures, the keeping of the commandments, the discovering of the will of God, and all else – you will achieve nothing by your own effort alone; yet God will not give you anything unless you work with all your strength. This is the unbreakable spiritual law."

St. Macarius the Great (+390) says this about spiritual effort: "To struggle, yes, to continue to fight, to inflict blows, and to receive setbacks is in your power. To uproot, however, belongs to God alone. If you could have done it on your own, what would have been the need for the coming of the Lord? For just as an eye cannot see without light, nor can one speak without a tongue, nor hear without ears, nor walk without feet, nor carry on works without hands, so you cannot be saved without Jesus nor enter into the Kingdom of Heaven."



ON DEVELOPING THE HEART

By Saint Theophan the Recluse

Developing the heart means developing within it a taste for things holy, divine, and spiritual, so that when it finds itself amidst such things it would feel as though it were in its element. Finding them sweet and blessed, it would be indifferent to all else, with no taste for anything else; and even more -- it would find anything else revolting. All of man's spiritual activity centers in the heart. The truths are impressed in it, and good dispositions are rooted into it. But its main work is developing a taste for the spiritual, as we have shown. When the mind sees the whole spiritual world and its different components, various good beginnings ripen in the will. The heart, under their influence, should taste sweetness in all of this and radiate warmth. This delight in the spiritual is the first sign of the regeneration of a soul deadened by sin. Therefore the heart's development is a very important point even in the early stages. The work directed at it is all of our Church services in all forms -- common and personal, at home and in church -- and it is mainly achieved through the spirit of prayer moving within it. Church services, that is, all the daily services, together with the entire arrangement of the church's icons, candles,



censing, singing, chanting, movements of the clergy, as well as the services for various needs; then services in the home, also using ecclesiastical objects such as sanctified icons, holy oil, candles, holy water, the Cross, and incense -- all of these holy things together acting upon all the senses -- sight, hearing, smell, touch, and taste -- are the "cloths that wipe clean" the senses of a deadened soul. They are the strongest and the only reliable way to do it. The soul becomes deadened by the spirit of the world, and possessed by sin that lives in the world. The entire structure of our Church services, with their tone, meaning, power of faith, and especially the grace concealed within them, have an invincible power to drive away the spirit of the world. In freeing the soul from the world's onerous influence, it allows the soul to breathe freely and to taste the sweetness of spiritual freedom. Walking into church we walk into a completely different world, are influenced by it, and change according to it. The same thing happens when we surround ourselves with holy objects. Frequent impressions of the spiritual world more effectively penetrate within and more quickly bring about a transformation of the heart.



PENTECOST – THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE APOSTLES

The tenth day after the Ascension of Jesus Christ was the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Christ. It was the Jews' great feast of Pentecost, which commemorated the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai.

All the Apostles, the Mother of God, and the other disciples of Christ and other of the faithful, were all together in one room in Jerusalem. It was the third hour of the day by the Hebrew reckoning of hours, according to our system – nine o'clock in the morning. Suddenly a sound came from Heaven, like a rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. There descended on them tongues that looked like fire, which rested on each one of them. There were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, previously unknown to them. Thus the Holy Spirit, according to the promise of the Savior, descended on the apostles in the form of tongues of fire, as a sign that He gave the apostles the ability and zeal to preach the teachings of Christ to all peoples. He descended in the form of fire as a sign of the power to cleanse sins, to sanctify and warm souls.

On the occasion of the feast of Pentecost, there were in Jerusalem many Jews who had come from various nations. Hearing the noise, a great multitude of people came together around the house where the disciples of Christ were. They were all bewildered and asked each other, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? How is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? How are they able to tell in our languages the mighty works of God?" In disbelief they said, "Thy are filled with new wine." Then the Apostle Peter, standing with the eleven, said that they were not drunk, but that the Holy Spirit had descended upon them, that it has been prophesied by the Prophet Joel, and that Jesus Christ, Whom the Jews had crucified, had risen from the dead, ascended into Heaven and poured out on them the Holy Spirit. Finishing this sermon about Jesus Christ, the Apostle Peter said, "Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus, Whom you crucified."

The sermon of Peter so moved those who heard it that many more believed in Jesus Christ. They

asked Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; then you shall also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." So those who believed in Christ readily accepted baptism, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. Thus began the building of the Kingdom of God on earth, the Church of Christ.

From the day of the descent of the Holy Spirit the Christian faith quickly spread with the help of God, and the number of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ multiplied. Instructed by the Holy Spirit, the apostles preached boldly to all about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, about His suffering for us and resurrection from the dead. The Lord helped them with many great miracles which were performed by the apostles in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. At first the apostles preached to the Jews, and then dispersed to various countries to preach to all the people. To perform the sacraments and to preach Christianity the apostles established, by the laying on of hands, bishops, presbyters, and deacons. This grace of the Holy Spirit, which was clearly conferred on the apostles in the form of tongues of fire, is now conferred in our Holy Orthodox Church invisibly in its sacraments, through the successors to the apostles, the pastors of the Church, its bishops and priests.



Troparion – tone 8

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

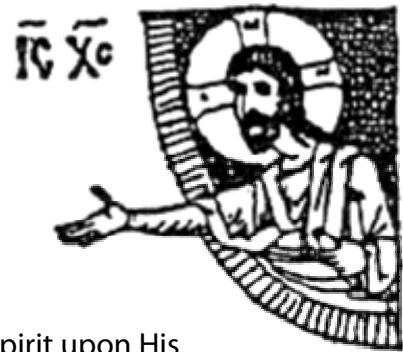
Kontakion – tone 8

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!

THE HOLY SPIRIT

- ❖ is God, the third Person of the Holy Trinity;
- ❖ proceeds from the Father;
- ❖ is sent into the world by Jesus Christ;
- ❖ inspires God's People to speak God's truth and to do His will; and
- ❖ is the Giver of Life who upholds and sustains creation in its existence, life, and growth.

Fifty days after His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ sent the Holy Spirit upon His disciples. What does the Lord Jesus Christ say about the Holy Spirit?



If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, so that He may be with you forever, the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see Him nor know Him. But you know Him, for He dwells with you and shall be in you.

– John 14:15-17

But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

– John 14:26

When He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth. For He shall not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears, He shall speak. And He will declare to you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and will declare it to you.

– John 16:13-15

CONTEMPLATION – THE DESCENT OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE APOSTLES

- ❖ How the Apostles stood in one mind at prayer.
- ❖ How, there came a sound from heaven as a rushing mighty wind.
- ❖ How there appeared fiery tongues, one on each of the Apostles.
- ❖ How the Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in various tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance.
- ❖ How some mocked them saying, "They have had too much new wine."
- ❖ How the rest wondered and marveled, hearing the Apostles speak to them of the wonderful works of God in their own languages.
- ❖ How the small are made great by God the Holy Spirit.
 - ❖ How the fearful are made fearless by Him.
 - ❖ How He makes the simple wise.
 - ❖ How He makes the inarticulate eloquent.
 - ❖ How, from fishermen, He makes fishers of men for the Kingdom of God.
 - ❖ How, from shepherds of an irrational flock, He makes shepherds of a rational flock – the true sheep of the House of Israel.
 - ❖ How the Apostles, led by the Holy Spirit, traveled throughout the world without means and without friends.
 - ❖ How, through the Holy Spirit, the Apostles proclaimed the Lord's Gospel.
 - ❖ How, through the Holy Spirit, the Church continues to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

