



“ORTHODOX 9” PARISHES BULLETIN

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN CANADA

Monthly Newsletter for the family of Orthodox Churches including:



St. Mary’s (the Nativity of the Holy Virgin) - NISKU

Sts. Peter & Paul - BONNYVILLE

St. John the Baptist - HOREN

Holy Ascension - CALMAR

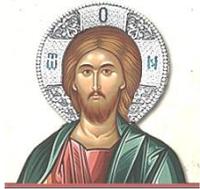
St. Onuphrius - FOAM LAKE (SK)

Whitsuntide (Holy Trinity) - THORSBY

Dormition of Theotokos -MACNUTT (SK)

St. John the Baptist - VEGREVILLE

Sts. Peter & Paul - INSINGER (SK)



Very Rev. Evheniy Protsenko, Parish Priest

10812 - 108 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 3A6

Home Phone: (780) 426-5163 Cell Phone: (780) 818-7343

Facebook.com/St. Mary's Russian Greek Orthodox Church;

pokrova70@gmail.com; web: <http://www.orthodox-canada.com>



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June 2023

The month of the Pentecost

During the days of the Holy Ascension, we have been also commemorating the highest calling, that St. Apostle Peter expressed in these words: “that... you may be partakers of the divine nature”.

And immediately he warns us, the readers of his epistle, what we should keep - to be “neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of the Lord”: stay away from the corruption and lust of the world, apply all diligence, temperance, perseverance, kindness, love, etc.

This is how we move to the Holy Spirit, while, these days of Pentecost – the days of reunion, *He* moves toward us, to come and abide in us, make us fruitful and save us!

First, we contemplate the Mystery of the **Descension of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles** and celebrate the Feast **on June 4th**. The Lord’s body, the Church, has become not quite of this world, showing this in Apostles speaking the tongue of the Holy Spirit, that people from all the nations understood, to join the Body of Christ and be saved!

And then, what the Church is doing the subsequent Sundays – she is calling us into the cleansing and saving realm of the Holy Spirit. Showing us the best affirmation, the best miracle – the lives of the Saints!

First, is **the Feast of All the Saints**, that we celebrate on **June 11** – the most prominent fruits of the Holy Spirit from all the times and nations!

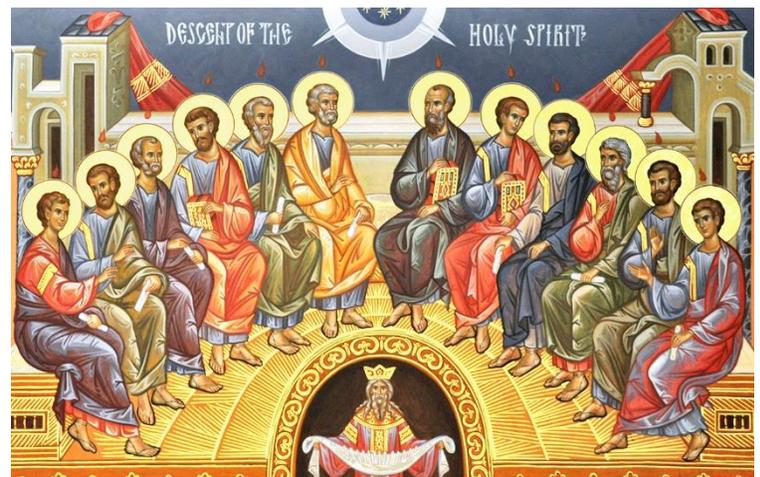
Then the Holy Spirit makes His way to the people of our nations, as on June 18 we celebrate the Spirit-bearing people of our nation or country! We see the examples of sanctity in the people that are very much like us!

And the last Sunday of the Pentecostal month is bringing to our attention those whom we call our local saints, even closer to every one of us!

Whatever place we are, whatever century we live in, neither the special cross that we carry, nor our special calling in this life can separate us from the love of God and from the life in Him.

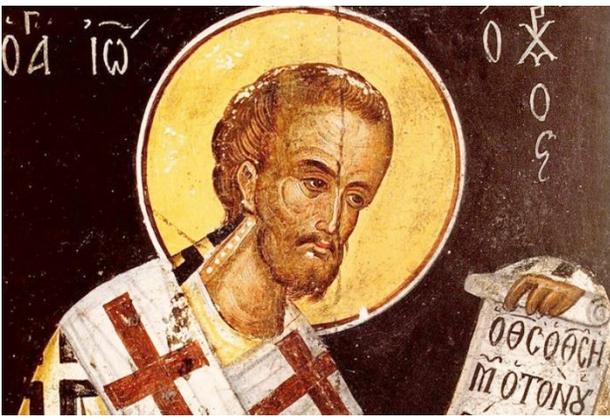
The Grace of the Holy Spirit is now reaching us, and figuratively speaking, we, starting from now, have the whole year of God’s goodness to make the Reunion fruitful:

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (Gal. 5: 22-23). Amen!



From the Sermon on the Feast of Pentecost

by St. John Chrysostom



Let us spiritually extol the grace of the Holy Spirit in spiritual hymns, since spiritual grace has on this day shown upon us from heaven. Though our words are too weak to express adequately the greatness of this grace, we shall praise its power and activity to the extent of our abilities; *for the Holy Spirit probes all things, even the depths of divinity.*

We are celebrating the day of Pentecost, the day of the Descent of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, the day of the hope of perfection, the end of expectation, the longing for salvation, the fulfillment of prayer and the image of patience. Today the Spirit Who acted to scatter the nations in the time of Heber has formed tongues of fire among the Apostles. His action of old led to the confusion of the nations, in order to restrain the will of man from its brazenness and consequent chastisement; on this occasion, however, amidst fiery tongues, the deeds wrought by the activity of the Holy Spirit served to preserve us as recipients of preaching, in fulfillment of the will of God.

In the beginning the Spirit of God moved over the water, and later, in the time of Christ, the same Holy Spirit of God rested upon him. Then He moved, and now He rested, as being one in essence, equal in honor, ever-existent and unoriginate together with the Father and the Son.

He Who by the flight of a dove over the waters of the Flood heralded fair weather to Noah, the same Holy Spirit, by the sight of a dove at the waters of the Jordan, showed the world the Sonship of Him Who was baptized.

David, declaring his desire for this Holy Spirit, prayed to God, saying: "Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me."

As is well known, where He is absent, every sort of corruption sets in. Thus, the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit entered into him, wherefore David said, "*Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.*"

This same Holy Spirit of God came to dwell in the holy Virgin Mary, embracing her with the communion of the Divine Word at the good pleasure of the Father, and making her the Theotokos. Elizabeth, being filled with this same Holy Spirit, understood that the Lord had come to her by means of the Virgin; wherefore she said, "*And whence is this to me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?*"

Zachariah, the father of John, was filled with the same Holy Spirit, whereby he declared that the son born to him would be the prophet and forerunner of the King Who was to come. John himself was also filled with the same Holy Spirit; the eyes of his intellect were given light, and he beheld the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit hovering over Him Who was being baptized, Him Who baptized with the Spirit and fire.

By the action of the same Holy Spirit, the Lord Himself, when He was giving His Apostles His teaching in detail and strengthening their minds for the time of His Passion, said to them: "*If I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you.*" Moreover, revealing to them the Spirit's consubstantial power, He said: "*When the Holy Spirit is come, Which proceeds from the Father, He will guide you into all truth.*"

The holy Apostles waited expectantly for the coming of the power of this same Holy Spirit; they waited together to be clothed with power from on high, according to the commandment of the Lord, Who had said: "*Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high; for, behold, I shall send the promise of My Father upon you.*"

And, as it is written, "*when the day of Pentecost was fully come, all the holy Apostles were assembled with one accord in one place, and the Paraclete was sent to them under the appearance of tongues of fire.*"

Having received the abundant promise of the Father and the Holy Spirit, they were strengthened, and they manifested Him Who was sent to them, His grace and His power. The martyr and protodeacon Stephen, filled with the same Holy Spirit, Whom he received by the laying-on of hands of the Apostles, did great wonders and miracles among the people. Being full of the Holy Spirit, he saw the doors of heaven opened and the Only-begotten Son and Word of God standing in the flesh at the right hand of the power of God. Filled with this same Holy Spirit, Paul became the preacher of divine mysteries. As Ananias said to him: *“The Lord, even the Savior, hath sent me to thee, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”*



This Holy Spirit also ordains priests, consecrates churches, purifies altars, perfects sacrifices and cleanses people of their sins. This Holy Spirit abides with the godly, refines the righteous and guides kings. This same Holy Spirit preserved the soul of Simeon, lengthening the time of his life and reversing the rules of death, until the day when he beheld Him Who is the Redeemer of life and death; for it had been promised unto him by the Holy Spirit, that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.

This Holy Spirit enlightens souls and sanctifies bodies. It was the same Holy Spirit Who descended upon the Apostles and filled them with divine wisdom. Having received His gifts, they were all filled with the knowledge of God; not only were they given divine knowledge, but also spiritual gifts.

Therefore, beloved, let us strive to keep our bodies uncorrupted; for one who has acquired a new body, which is a temple of the Holy Spirit, has become a true victor over the devil. What the Spirit of God has said, may it be done unto me!

Many are the gifts of the Holy Spirit; many and all-powerful are His gifts.

As it says in a certain place: By the Word of the Lord were the heavens established, and all the might of them by the Spirit of His mouth. And Isaiah says: *“The Spirit of God shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and godliness.”*

And Paul adds, *“The Spirit of adoption and of grace.”*

In the same way, the Lord said to Nicodemus: *“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”*

Thus, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of sonship and the Spirit of grace; for grace and truth came by Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, for those who have been born by the power of God.

Moreover, the Spirit is called the Comforter, because He is also our advocate with the Father. And not only is He with the Father, but He is always with us also as a gift. *“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever,”* comforting your hearts and making them steadfast in divine patience and trust in Christ.

Whereas the holy Apostles received this testament after Christ’s holy Rising from the dead, and were sent forth to teach and to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and whereas we have already been vouchsafed this true washing by the Holy Spirit, let us strive to keep our souls and our bodies undefiled as we glorify the Most holy and consubstantial Trinity, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

During the Archpastoral Visitations of the Patriarchal Parishes in Canada in May 2023 His Grace Bishop Matthew of Sourozh performed the minor Consecration and headed the Liturgy at the Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul in Bonnyville



A Great Renovation of the oldest in town Orthodox Church of Peter and Paul, the account of which we gave in the bulletin of August 2022, was recognized and completed on May 20, 2023 by the Archpastoral visit and minor consecration, and the Archpastoral Divine Liturgy.

At the divine service, His Grace was assisted by Archpriest Igor Kisil, Dean of the Patriarchal Parishes in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and Archpriest Yevgeny Protsenko, Secretary of the Patriarchal Parishes in Canada, Rector of the Church.

An experienced church choir from Ukraine, Andrew, Irina and Katherine decorated the service with their singing and reading.

The altar helpers from St. Barbara Cathedral came to help at the historical event.

Quite a lot of, for a small church, praying people filled the new and shining church building to proclaim the Paschal Troparion in the church that has also 'raised from the dead'.

The Archpastor addressed the clergy and parishioners with words of sermon and spiritual edification. He noted that the last hierarchical service in this church was celebrated more than 20 years ago by Archbishop Mark of Kashira (Petrovtsiy).

In commemoration of the strong Christian resolution and the hard work on the major repairs of the church building, which was carried out from 2018 to 2022, Stefania Zhuk, the Secretary of the parish council, Nicole and Erik Sample, Nester and Linda Zuk, and Louis and Paulette Levasseur were awarded Bishops' blessing Gramotas (the special Letters of Recognition).

In addition, to recognize all the people (since there were many of them who have laboured diligently) a special common Certificate of Recognition was issued for the whole Parish.

Untouched by the renovation remained only the inside of the walls! Four generations, inspired by their Mother Stephania Zuk, laboured selflessly – at the same time giving and raising the funds and donations, involving a lot of local people in the godly work, re-establishing the Holy Faith in people!

May the Lord God remember in His Kingdom Stephania's belated husband Walter, and their sons, William and Joseph, and her godly parents, in whose memory it also was done with the God's help!

After the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, His Grace and the clergy visited the Orthodox parish cemetery on the western outskirts of Bonnyville for the commemoration service.

The Archpastor served panikhidas and prayed for the repose of the parishioners, founders and worshipers of St. Peter and St. Paul Church, who had been buried in the cemetery since its creation.



Grave Yard Service and the Bazaar at St. Mary's Church at Nisku

On May the 7th St. Mary's Church at Nisku had our annual Eastern event of the Paschal commemoration of the departed parishioners. The Divine Liturgy was served with a lot of praying and the blessed communicants of the Lord's Sacraments, and the extended panikhida with the Paschal hymns and readings.

Then we were serving at the cross at St. Mary's grave yard, and went to visit all the graves of our departed forefathers and mothers, brothers and sisters.

Every year we are adding more joy and significance to this event by organizing in the open air at the church building the tent and bake sale - the Bazaar.

The treats and friendly communication for people, and the fundraising for the church building and hall, with our ladies always supplying this event with smokies, hot dogs, as well as the traditional cabbage rolls and perogies, and a lot of different home-made bakery.

But this year the menu was especially generous and plentiful! In addition to the significantly larger assortment of the mentioned before, the hostesses organized the whole festive potluck table in the church vestibule with various dishes and sweets! May they and their families be given generously by God many good, happy and healthy years!

May the Lord remember all our departed parishioners in His Kingdom, and give us strength to continue and successfully complete our Christian life!



Fresh paint for St Mary's Church main windows

On May 13 another great improvement was done for the Church building. The funds having been donated by the people and the job, time and necessary equipment of our parishioners were again applied for the good look and stability of the holy temple.

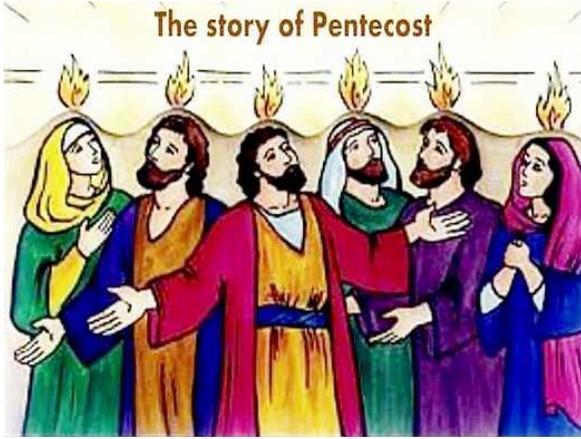
The big church windows from the southern part were cleaned, prepared for and given the new painting.

The parish is thankful to Darcy Doblanko, Tony Jacula, Daniel Borys, Kevin Wasiluk, Darrell Lecapoy for ascending the high church windows on that very warm day!

Now, after caulking the windows and window frames from the northern side, there will be a second and final step in their restoration.

If anyone has an experience in that kind of job, please join us, and may God bless you!





The Pentecost - which is the descending of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles - is described in the Book of Acts of the Apostles in the 2nd chapter.

The disciples and other followers of the Lord Jesus Christ were together to celebrate the Old Testament Pentecost, and were also waiting for the Holy Spirit, that the Lord had promised before His Ascension.

A loud wind came through the house, and tongues of fire appeared over their heads. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in languages they did not know. This made a lot of people - the whole crowd - to come closer to the Apostles.

Some people in the crowd were amazed that they were speaking their languages, that they could not know; others made fun of them.

Peter spoke to the people and explained what was going on. He told them to be baptized!

PENTECOST

NAME:

DIRECTIONS: USE THE ANSWER KEY TO FILL IN THE MISSING WORDS.

ANSWER KEY		
Wind	baptized	Holy Spirit
Speaking	Pentecost	languages
Peter	fire	
Miracles	made fun	

1. The believers were together on the day of _____.
2. A violent _____ blew into the house where they were.
3. The believers were filled with the _____.
4. Tongues of _____ appeared over each believer.
5. The believers were able to speak in different _____.
6. The crowd was amazed because the believers were _____ their languages.
7. Some of the crowd _____ of them.
8. _____ stood up and talked to the crowd.
9. He told them to be _____.
10. After Pentecost, they were able to perform _____.

Did you see the picture in the story of the Pentecost? The pieces of fire, like the ones we can see in burning candles are over the heads of the Holy Apostles! They reveal the descending of the Holy Spirit on them.

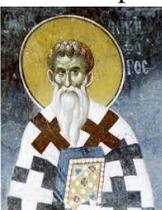
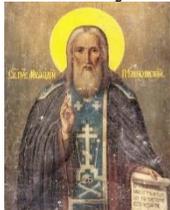
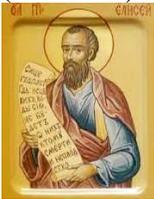
Today we suggest give colors to the picture below, giving special attention to these tongues of fire!

Pentecost Acts 2



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June 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> Constantine and Helen 
<u>4</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – Patronal Feast – THORSBY – Blessing of water Holy Trinity Day 	<u>5</u> <i>First Week after Pentecost is a fast-free period</i>	<u>6</u> St. Symeon Stylites 	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> Apostles Carpus of the Seventy and Alphaeus 	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> St. Nicetas the Confessor, bishop of Chalcedon 
<u>11</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – NISKU 1st Sunday after Pentecost. Sunday of All Saints	<u>12</u> APOSTLES FAST BEGINS	<u>13</u> Apostle Hermes of the Seventy 	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> St. Nicephorus the Confessor, patriarch of Constantinople 	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> St. Methodius, founder of Peshnosh Monastery 
<u>18</u> 10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy – NISKU 2nd Sunday after Pentecost. Sunday of All Slavic and North American Saints	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> St. Ephraim, patriarch of Antioch 	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> Hieromartyr Timothy, bishop of Prusa 	<u>24</u> 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy - Grave Yard Service - MACNUTT 5:00 pm - Grave Yard Service - INSINGER
<u>25</u> 09:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy - Patronal Feast (Blessing of water) and Grave Yard Service – FOAM LAKE	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> Prophet Elisha (9th c. b.c.) 	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u> St. Tikhon, bishop of Cyprus 	<u>30</u>	