

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

MAY 27, 2018

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**MEMORIAL DAY** is Monday, May 28th. Fr. Nick will be at Hope Cemetery from 10:00 am. The common Memorial Service will be at noon at the Altar in Hope. If you would like Fr. Nick to visit a grave in another cemetery, please contact him to make arrangements: 508-335-7378.

**AN "E-WASTE RECYCLING DAY"** will be held on **Saturday, June 2nd, from 9-2 here at the Church.** You can get rid of unwanted electronic appliances at a minimal cost and help protect the environment. **A few folks are needed to help** direct traffic into and out of the church parking lot. Please see Gerry Belba during coffee hour if you can help.

**OUR NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL** is **Friday, June 15th.** We'll need help cooking and serving. **Prep** help needed on Thursday (3 persons). **Prep** help needed (2 persons), noon Friday. **Serving** help needed (5 persons), 5:30pm Friday. **We are also looking for donors to cover the cost of the meal—around \$400.00 for the 200 meals we usually serve.** If you'd like to help, please talk to Fr. Nick.

**GREETERS TEAM 3:**  
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

**COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW A:**  
MARGARITE LANDRY,  
CHRISTINE MASTERJOHN

**ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED**



### THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

APOSTOLIC READING: ACTS 2:1-11 ☩ GOSPEL: JOHN 7:37-53; 8:12  
EVERYTHING ACCORDING TO THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

**LOOKING FOR THIS YEAR'S HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE GRADUATES** in our Parish so they can be recognized. If you know of a soon-to-be graduate, please inform Fr. Nick or Tim Rucho.

**COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS ARE NEEDED** for the next weeks. Please speak with or contact **Presvytera Maria** if you and your family would like to sponsor one.

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR** is sponsored by the **Zecheru family.**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**GRECIAN FESTIVAL** this coming weekend! St. Spyridon Cathedral, Worcester.

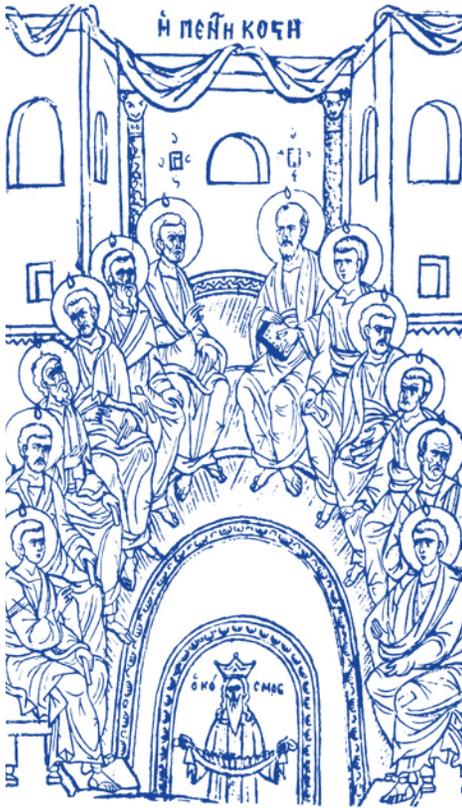


### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat, May 26 Saturday of Souls, Liturgy at 10 am
- Sun, May 27 Pentecost
- Mon, May 28 Memorial Day
- Sat, June 2 e-Recycling 9am - 2pm
- No Food Pantry this Saturday
- Fri-Sat, Jun 1-3 Grecian Festival
- Mon, June 4 Apostles' Fast Begins
- Fri, June 15 Mustard Seed Meal, 5 pm
- Sat, July 7 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
- Aug 6-8 Vacation Church School

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas



## NAMEDAYS

May 21

### *The Holy Equals to the Apostles Constantine and Helen*

Constantine Apostol  
 Elaine Apostola  
 Konstantin Charalambides  
 Presvytera Eleni Christakos  
 Amalia Helene Collins  
 Hannah Constance Datz  
 Dina Entwistle  
 Iliana Victoria Fahey  
 Elena Galeriu  
 Ileana A Nace  
 Rev. Fr. Dean Paleologos  
 Constanța Papit  
 Eleni Polymeros  
 Elena Prelipcean  
 Elaine Rocheford  
 Dina K. Salerno  
 Eleanor Sedares  
 Elaine Tanacea  
 Dean Valoras

## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**O** ONLY TRUE GOD, known by reason to be one and by faith to be three, one God in three Persons; O eternal Father, who sent your only Son for our salvation, without ever being diminished by your love; O only Son, who came and took on our nature to save us, without ever being diminished by your self-sacrifice; and you, O all-holy Spirit, consoler, who share your gifts with us, without ever being diminished by your generosity! O divine Trinity: As we celebrate this feast of Pentecost, we beseech you to manifest your power in our lives by the growth that always heralds your presence. Undo and uproot all that is wrong with us. Refashion our minds and hearts with your wisdom and love, and enable us to labor unceasingly to banish all evil from our lives. By your gentleness make our minds and hearts supple and pliant, open and responsive to you in every moment that confronts us, and perfect and enrich our lives moment by moment, that we may reach the glory of eternal life.

For yours it is to have mercy on us and save us, O God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## 2018 GRADUATES

*“He has filled them with the spirit of God,  
with skill, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft.” (Exodus 35:31)*

We want to acknowledge members of our Church community who are celebrating a graduation and recognize their achievement.

### HIGH SCHOOL

**Rose Salerno** is graduated from Tahanto Regional High School and will attend the University of New Hampshire in the fall.

### COLLEGE

**Elias Christo** is graduated from Roger Williams University with a Bachelor of Science in architecture, and a minor in Business Management. He will be working in the field and attending graduate school in Bristol, RI.

**Peter Tsongalis** is graduated from Virginia Tech, *magna cum laude*, with a Bachelor of Science in computer engineering. He will be working for a software firm in Raleigh, NC.

*May our loving Lord continue to bless their efforts and grant them a long life, health, prosperity, and many, many years!*

# THE RUSH OF WIND AND TONGUES OF FIRE

**T**HIS is the eighth Sunday of Pascha, the day of Pentecost. It is also the Fiftieth Day after Pascha. In Biblical imagery infinity is usually described as seven times seven, because seven is considered the number of perfection. Seven times seven is perfection squared. Fifty is beyond perfection; it is God's time.

The Holy Spirit comes to us in God's time not only as a sign, but as the actual reality of the promised Kingdom. He comes as wind and fire (cf. Act 2:2,3). His presence fills the space, while also resting on each one individually. He makes God known to us and enables us to proclaim Him to the world.

The principle text for the Feast is Acts 2:1-11. Even though the Pentecost event is the final chapter in the whole story of God's economy (His plan of salvation), St. Luke places it at the beginning of the second volume of his Gospel (i.e. Acts). What began with the Birth of the Savior, now ends with the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is placed at the beginning of the second volume because even though it may be the final chapter of one story, it is also the beginning of another. The coming of the Holy Spirit to 'rest' on us (v. 3) is the birth of the Church. The Apostles' missionary activity described in the Book of Acts requires the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Just as the Christian Feast of Pascha has roots in the Old Testament Feast of Passover, so too the Christian Feast of Pentecost has a Jewish antecedent. It was approximately fifty days after the Children of Israel had left Egypt that they arrived at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:1ff). There Moses ascended to God who revealed Himself by fire and smoke and wind (cf. Exodus 19:18, also Isaiah 66:15ff). Moses ascends the mountain to meet God and descends with the Tablets of the Law.

God fulfills His Law in the New Covenant with the outpouring of the Spirit. When the people ran and gathered to find out what was causing the sound of rushing wind, St. Peter an-

swered them with words from the Prophet Joel: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ... And I will give portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke (Joel 2:28-30, Acts 2:14-20).

When the Holy Spirit descended on those assembled in the upper room, tongues of fire appeared and were distributed and rested on each one there (v. 3), not just the Apostles, but everyone. As the Prophet Joel said, "Even upon the menservants and maidservants in those days, I will pour out my spirit" (Joel 2:29). The Holy Spirit is a gift to the whole Church. The gifts of the Spirit are distributed to each one (cf. Ephesians 4:11) for the building up of the Body of Christ. We have been given these gifts in Baptism and Holy Anointing (Chrismation).

When the Spirit had been given to them they all began to speak in tongues. Some commentators think this might have been *glossolalia* (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:1ff), what Pentecostal Christians call 'speaking in tongues,' but St. Luke says, "other tongues," and records how Jews from all over the world who were in Jerusalem at the time were amazed and said, "how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?" (v. 8) So, while some may have been 'speaking in tongues,' the Spirit had also given them the power to speak in languages so that everyone could understand.

The Church has always understood the Pentecost event as a remedy to the division of humanity into languages and nations following the sin of Babel. In Genesis (11:1-9) we read that in the beginning everyone spoke one language. This enabled people to begin to build a tower "with its top in the heavens." They said that they wanted to "make a name" for themselves. The problem was not that they were cooperating; it was how

they were cooperating. Their cooperation led them to believe arrogantly that they could challenge God. Seeing how their arrogance was bringing them to evil purpose, God "confused their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." Unable to communicate with one another, they scattered throughout the world abandoning their Tower.

The Tower of Babel divided humanity. The Holy Spirit restored that unity on the day of Pentecost. However, the unity we have in the Holy Spirit is different than the pre-Babel unity in one very important respect. The unity of Babel was predicated on a uniformity of language, and one can presume, culture. The unity that the Holy Spirit brings preserves our particular and distinctive characteristics. It is unity in diversity and diversity in unity. The Church sees the Pentecost event as a way to understand how diverse people can be one in Christ. Historically, unity of faith has not necessitated one language or even one uniform practice throughout the Church. We can share one faith and be one Church even as we acknowledge our ethnic and cultural diversity, our individuality.

When St. Peter had finished speaking to the assembled crowd on Pentecost day, people asked him what they should do. He said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him" (Acts 2:38-39).

"And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (v. 21)