

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN JUNE 16, 2019

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

**TODAY** is the Feast of **PENTECOST**, the Descent of the Holy Spirit!

**THE PARISH COUNCIL** will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, June 20th at 6:30PM**. Parish Council Members, please let George Demake know if you are unable to attend.

**OUR NEXT MUSTARD SEED MEAL** is this coming Friday, June 21st. We'll need help cooking and serving. **Prep** help needed (3 persons), **NOON** Thursday. **Prep** help needed (2 persons), **NOON** Friday. **Serving** help needed (5 persons), **5:30PM** Friday. If you'd like to help, please talk to Fr. Nick.

**DOUGH ROLLING: Saturday, June 29TH, 9:00AM to NOON.** We need 12-15 people, so that the work is evenly distributed and we can finish with prep and clean-up in 3 hours. All help appreciated. No experience necessary — there's a job for everyone. If you'd like to participate, contact Chris Toda at: [thetodas@msn.com](mailto:thetodas@msn.com), or 508-832-6271.

**RELIGIOUS ED WILL TAKE A BREAK FOR THE SUMMER** with a prayer and a blessing **NEXT Sunday, June 23RD**. The students will be offering

**GREETERS TEAM 2:**  
DAN MANESCU AND CHRIS SEITH

**COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP:**  
**HELP NEEDED**  
PICK UP A CUP - LEND A HAND  
**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

an Ice Cream Sundae Social to **benefit the IOCC** during Coffee Hour. **A beautiful way to start the summer!**

**GREETER AND COFFEE HOUR TEAMS** are being organized. There is a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board, or you can talk to **Chris Seith**: 978-257-2765 or email: [cbseith@gmail.com](mailto:cbseith@gmail.com). This is a great opportunity to contribute to welcoming parishioners in our St. Nicholas parish.

**COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS** are needed for the coming weeks. Please speak with Presvytera Maria if you are interested in sponsoring one.

## UPCOMING

**PARENTS PLEASE TAKE NOTE!** Vacation Church School this summer will be **August 5-7**. We will again be holding it in conjunction with

Sts. Anargyroi in Marlborough. Please keep these date in mind when scheduling other summer activities for your children. Questions? see or e-mail: Valarie Stamoulis: [valarie.stamoulis@gmail.com](mailto:valarie.stamoulis@gmail.com); cell: 617-803-3798.

## 70TH ANNIVERSARY

**SAVE THE DATE:** The weekend of **December 7 - 8, 2019** our Parish Feast

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, June 15	Saturday of Souls, Liturgy, 10:00AM
Sun, June 16	PENTECOST
Thurs, June 20	Parish Council Meeting, 6:30PM
Fri, June 21	Mustard Seed Meal, 5:00PM
Sun, June 23	Last Day of Religious Ed Ice Cream Sundae Social - benefit IOCC
Mon, June 24	Apostles Fast Begins
Sat, June 29	Pita Dough Rolling, 9AM-NOON
Aug 5-7	Vacation Church School

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*A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas*

Day will have special significance as we celebrate our 70th Anniversary as a church community.

A few people are needed to serve on a committee to plan for the 70th Anniversary Festivities. Please speak with Tim if you have it in your heart to help plan that celebration.



## NAMEDAYS

June 23

*The Sunday of All the Saints*

Amalia Polymeros

June 27

*The Holy Myrrh-bearer Joanna*

Joanne V. Prizio

June 29

*The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul*

Patrick Disho

Petraq Dragoti

Paul Dymek

Petrika Lolo

Paul Soter

Peter Toda

Peter Demetri Tsongalis

### 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.

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

**FIRST COOKOUT FOR THIS SUMMER!** Thursday June 27th at 11:30 AM. Our Residents and their families look forward to these happy and joyful events held outdoors on the grounds of Holy Trinity. We would like to have 2 cookouts per month this Summer. If you would like to sponsor a cookout event or donate towards the cost, call Malka at Holy Trinity Nursing 508-852-1000. We do accept all major credit cards. The cost of a cookout event is \$1000. Making our residents happy is our first priority!

We will have **Board Member Elections in September**, if anyone is interested in becoming part of the Board of Holy Trinity please contact **Carol Fotos** at [carol.fotos.47@gmail.com](mailto:carol.fotos.47@gmail.com)

**THE LATEST ISSUE** of the *Holy Trinity Times* is available for download. Click the link: [www.htnr.net](http://www.htnr.net) to view it.

**SAVE THE DATE** for Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center **25TH Anniversary Dinner Dance Celebration on Saturday, August 24, 2019** at St. George Cathedral Anna St., Worcester.

**HOLY TRINITY** is a non-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation center and a project of the Council of Orthodox Churches of Central MA. Please keep Holy Trinity in your prayers and in your charitable plans. Contributions to the Treasured Generations Annual Fund can be made at [www.htnr.net](http://www.htnr.net) and volunteers are welcome to be a part of Holy Trinity by contacting: **Dana Spinney**, Activities Director, at 508-852-1000 or e-mail: [dspinney@htnr.net](mailto:dspinney@htnr.net)

**DIVINE LITURGY** is celebrated every Wednesday morning at 9:30AM. And please always keep Holy Trinity Nursing Home, it's staff, directors, residents, and families in your prayers.

# 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, in a sense, 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 climaxes 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 answered 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 coöperating; it was how they were coöperating. Their coöperation 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 peoples 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)



## 2019 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 and recognize the achievements of the members of our parish community who are celebrating a graduation.

### HIGH SCHOOL

**Natalia Karadimitriou**, daughter of Kosmas Karadimitriou and Maria Kalpidou, was graduated from Shrewsbury High School. She received the 2019 President’s Education Award and the Shrewsbury High School Achievement Medal and is a member of the National Honors Society. Natalia will be attending Boston University to study Marine Science and Environmental Analysis and Policy.

**William Rucho**, son of Chris & Julie, grandson of Florence Rucho, was graduated from Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School in the field of plumbing and has been employed by Andrew A. Beardsley Plumbing Company.

**Nicholas Soter**, son of Paul & Kiki, grandson of Carol Soter, was graduated from Doherty Memorial High School and will attend Worcester State University to pursue a degree in Education.

**Kylee Soter**, daughter of Matt and Kate, granddaughter of Carol Soter, was graduated from David Prouty High School and will attend Merrimac College to pursue a degree in Nursing.

**Louis Stamoulis**, son of Evan & Valarie, grandson of Jim & Argie Vlamis, was graduated from Algonquin Regional High School and will attend Elon College in North Carolina to pursue a degree in Exercise Science.

### COLLEGE

**Nicholas Johnson** was graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology of athletic training from the University of Rhode Island.

**Matthew Moore**, son of Sharon & Charles, grandson of Janet Samara, was graduated, *cum laude*, from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth with a degree in Bio-medical Engineering and a fellowship from NASA. He will pursue a Master’s Degree.

**Gabrielle Sedares**, daughter of Peter, granddaughter of Eleanor Sedares, was graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Health-care Administration from Arcadia University in PA.

**Eric Soter**, son of Mark & Stacey, grandson of Carol Soter, was graduated with honors from Bryant University with a degree in Accounting. He will pursue a Master’s Degree.

### GRADUATE SCHOOL

**Sarah Bourisk**, daughter of Diane and George, great-niece of Lillian Chachi was graduated from the University of New Haven with a Master’s Degree in Forensic Science.

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