

If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain... 1 Corint. 15:14



# ST. NICHOLAS

Serbian Orthodox Church

971 St. Clair Road, Johnstown, PA 15905 ■ 814-255-1853; Parish Priest : *Rev. Dragan Zaric*



## *Holy Pentecost*

*Prayer of the Holy Spirit* Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: come and abide in us, cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Weekly Bulletin - Sunday June 4, 2017*

## **Sunday, May 21/June 4, 2017. Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles - Pentecost (Trinity Sunday)**

• **Liturgical Readings:** *Gospel St. John ( 7:37-52; 8:12).*

*Epistle: Acts. (2,1-11).*

### • **Donations Received Sunday May 28, 2017**

Offering \$910.00 Candles \$52.00 Dues \$45.00 Charity \$39.00

Building Fund Donations \$50 in memory of Dorothy Smrzlich from William and Amelia Coyle.

\$25 in memory of Alex S Majher from Richard & Olga Lucas

Large Candle donations in memory of Donna Trbovich Wharton, Benjamin Kaseler , Nancy Adams , Mildred Krzanowsky and Nikola, Milka & Nick Jr Todorich

**\*\*\* Next Fish Fry is June 9<sup>th</sup>\*\*\***

• **Holy Pentecost** -*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." Nikodemus, 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."

● **Introduction** - The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

**Hymns of the Feast** • Troparion - Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fisherman all-wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them, drawing all the world into Your net. O Loving One, glory be to You.

Kontakion - When the Most High came down and confounded tongues of men at Babel, He divided the nations. When He dispensed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity, and with one voice we glorify the Most Holy Spirit.

St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church School, June 4, 2017 • ***How should I live my life?***

***(Article by Carlos Garcia )***

*On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified...." The Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life." John 7 & 8.*

Jewish tradition had 3 great feasts when the people of Israel went to Jerusalem to worship at the Temple. These feasts were Passover, Pentecost, and the feast of Tabernacles. The feast of Tabernacles occurred in autumn and lasted for eight days. The purpose of the feast was to remember the walk of the Israelites in the wilderness for forty years, when they lived only in tents and were totally dependent upon God to provide for them. On the final day of feast of Tabernacles, water was taken from one of the pools of the Temple, mixed with wine, and poured at the foot of the altar to remember the time when Moses struck rock in the wilderness and water flowed for the people to drink. Thus it is in this setting that the Lord Jesus Christ stands before the people at the temple in Jerusalem and teaches about the flow of living waters through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thus it is in this



setting that the Lord Jesus Christ stands before the people at the temple in Jerusalem and teaches about the flow of living waters through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The topic of the Holy Spirit can be found in the Old Testament.

If we go back in time to the land of Israel, approximately, 750 BC, the land of Israel is facing hardships from military threats from its enemies and threats from a plague of locusts. The prophet Joel stands firm and tells Israel to turn to God with their whole heart, *“with fasting and wailing and with mourning”* and the prophet tells Israel that God will not abandon them. Lastly, the prophet Joel tells Israel, *“After this it shall come to pass that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophecy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. And in those days I shall pour out My Spirit on My servant and on My handmaids....”* and it shall be that whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord Himself said, and there shall be proclamation of the good news to those whom the Lord Himself called.”

Returning to the time of Jesus, one day, fifty days after the feast of Passover and only several days after our Lord had ascended to heaven, the Apostles and other individuals including the Mother of our Lord, were gathered in the upper room where they had been staying, when *“suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and on sat upon each of them.”* And thus, God’s promise that he would pour His Holy Spirit unto His people came true. With the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles began their teaching.

When we pray and give glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we honor the same Holy Spirit that “was hovering over the face of the water,” in the beginning when God made the heaven and the earth. We honor same Holy Spirit, called the Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Helper, the Spirit of Truth, Who is present everywhere, and the Giver of Life. We receive the Holy Spirit during Chrismation, when holy oil is placed upon the forehead, eyes, nostrils, lips, ears, chest, arms, and legs in conjunction with the prayer *“The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

You may ask, how does Pentecost pertain to me? First, remember that with the gift of the Holy Spirit, God is with you. Second, remember that the gift of the Holy Spirit is a sign of God’s promise of our Heavenly inheritance from Him. Third, remember that in your times of hardships, you are not alone, for you have the Comforter. Fourth, with the Holy Spirit, remember that even in your darkest times, serve others. You may say, say that again. Yes, even in your darkest times, serve and love God and serve and love others, and from this, God shall bless with you with a river of flowing water from your heart that will satisfy your thirst and remove the emptiness from your heart, filling you with love, joy, and peace, and the strength to continue in this earthly journey. Serve others by praying for them and serve others by even doing the simplest tasks for them, expecting nothing in return. Lastly, remember that the Holy Spirit will guide you to the truth that our Lord Jesus Christ, Who had no sin, became sin, so that in Him, we may receive His righteousness for eternal life. In Him, I live, love, hope, and believe. Amen!