

SUNDAY OF PENTECOST  
TRINITY SUNDAY



*Icon of Pentecost*

*May 23, 2010*  
**Sunday of Pentecost – Descent of the Holy Spirit**

*Festal Tone*

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 24 – MAY 30**

**MONDAY, MAY 24 – PENTECOST MONDAY**

**9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY**

**SATURDAY, MAY 29 – THEODOSIA, MARTYR**

**9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY**

✠ NATALIA OZARKO, REQ: MARIA LOZOVIJ

**6:00 PM GREAT VESPERS**

**SUNDAY, MAY 30 – SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS**

**9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY**

FOR ALL PARISHIONERS



*Remember in your prayers*



Please remember in your prayers those members of our parish, our family and friends who are ailing, are in hospitals, nursing homes and those who are not able to join actively in their community. Remember especially the

following: Katherine Andrus, Walter & Isabella Bachynsky, Susie Boyko, Sonya Cronin, Helen Davis, Stephen Hricko, Lorene Lagrone, Maria Laszok, Maria Leskiw, Lesya Loznycky, Sophia Skop and Ariadna Wall. Please let Fr. James know if there is anyone else who should be remembered.

*Remember Those In The Armed Forces*



Let us especially remember in our prayers those family members and friends who are actively serving their countries in the Armed Forces: Luke and Slavamira Haywas, Elizabeth Heltsley, Oksanna Hirniak, Andrew Hryniw, Zenon and Susan Keske, Michael Lopes, VasyL Lylak, Thomas Orr, Paul Richelmi and Brian Tuthill. Please give any names of those you would like remembered in the *Liturgies* to Fr. James.

**50th Anniversary**

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration will take place on the weekend of November 20 – 21. Bishop Richard has confirmed his attendance so planning is underway. Do you have any photos from the life of our parish? I ask you to loan them to the church in order to scan them and to make a slide show that will chronicle the past 50 years. Please see Fr. James.

**Furnace**

Thanks to the generous donation of \$1000 by the Gonzales family who visited us from St. Augustine High School last week, we have reached our goal of \$3,500.00 to pay for the new furnace and Air Conditioner. Thanks also to Yaroslav Pikolycky (\$1000), Andrei Hrykiw (\$1000), Marko Slyz (\$300) Mary Kitt (\$100), and Lubumyra Yoldas (\$100.) God grant you many blessed years! Многая Благая Літа!

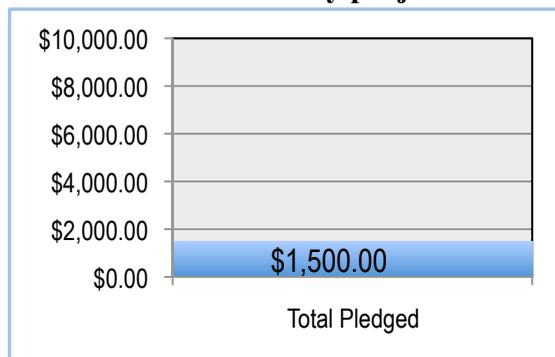


## **Thank You!**

To all those who helped to set up, man the tables and then clean up at yesterday's Rummage Sale. May God bless your generosity!



### **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary project**



As part of our 50th anniversary celebration we are commissioning icons for the iconostas.

From left to right:

- ❖ St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
- ❖ St. Michael the Archangel (who guards the door to heaven)
- ❖ The *Theotokos* with the Lord (Indicates the beginning and the end of time)
- ❖ The Four Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- ❖ Our Lord the *Pantocrator* (All-Ruler) the just judge of all our works
- ❖ St. Gabriel the Archangel (who announced the incarnation – our entry into heaven)
- ❖ The John the Baptizer – Patron of this Holy House

We are looking for donors for these icons. May God bless the iconographer, Michael Kapeluk of Pittsburgh, for his devout service in beautifying the Lord's House! The projected cost of this project is \$10,000. If you would like to make a donation towards this project, please see Fr. James.

## **The Celebration of Pentecost**

The Feast of Pentecost is one of the greatest and most joyous of the Church year. On this day we once again start using the prayer, “O Heavenly King” with our prayers. And from Pentecost through All-Saints Sunday we do not fast, even on Wednesday and Friday. This is in celebration of the fact that God has made us sharers in His Kingdom through the descent of His Holy Spirit.

### **Kneeling Prayers**

After Liturgy today we will pray the “Kneeling Prayers” from Vespers of Pentecost (technically Monday, liturgically). This reintroduces kneeling into the public prayer of the church. However, the prohibition of kneeling on ALL Sundays of the year is still in effect. Kneeling is once more allowed on all days except Sundays. We should seek to be faithful to the ancient directives of the church and obedient to the wishes of the church to recover our authentic traditions.

### **Chrism Conference**

Fr. James has just returned from the annual “Chrism Conference.” The presentations by Fr. Daniel Gurovich, Canon Lawyer for the Metropolia of Philadelphia, dealt with Canonical procedure that parishes encounter. He also gave a presentation reiterating the directives from the Pope and our Synod of Bishops dealing with the application of the Liturgical Canons and the restoration of our proper Liturgical practices (such as no kneeling on Sundays, Infant Communion, restoration of the Parastas funeral service, full adherence to the Liturgical texts, etc...)

## GIVE ME HEAVEN – BUT NOT YET

OrthodoxyToday.org – an article by John Kapsalis

*Paradise delighted me as much by its peacefulness as by its beauty: in it there resides a beauty that has no spot; in it exists a peacefulness that knows no fear. How blessed is that person accounted worthy to receive it, if not by right, yet at least by grace; if not because of good works, yet at least through mercy.*

St. Ephrem the Syrian, "The Hymns on Paradise"

French scientist and philosopher Blaise Pascal believed that there is a God-shaped vacuum in all of us that can only be filled by God. In other words, there exists at the very core of our being a sense of eternity, (cf. Ecclesiastes 3:11) a yearning for something that will last beyond our temporary life here on earth. But what is it? We all talk about living forever and going to heaven, but most of us hardly know how to get there. All we know is that there has to be more to our existence than the daily troubles and anxieties of living. If we are hardwired to need God and to long for the eternal, how does that help us get through the mundane duties of our life now. Can heaven help us?

### **Clinging to the Old, Hoping for the New**

We are anchored to the earth beneath our feet. We come from it and it cannot be any other way. Most us want to get to heaven, but not yet. Even with all its miseries, this life is hard to let go of. Life is like that. We know of the awesome promises of God for a life that will have indescribable and eternal joy, yet we hang on to any shred of happiness here on earth. We tend to forget

God and rely too heavily on a life that is only fading away. But God wants us to ache for the permanent, unseen hope of life to come. You see, once Adam and Eve messed everything up by their disobedience, God allowed things to deteriorate. Pain, suffering and death seeped into our world, not because God is some sadistic being, but because He wants us to desire a better life—a new home, the one He intended for us from the beginning. But this is so hard to do.

The ancient Church writers often spoke of the need for detachment from this life. We need to be weaned off of life on earth, so that we can begin to savor life in God's kingdom. The setbacks we face are a reminder for us not to store up treasures here on earth. God allows things to go wrong so that we can remove ourselves from our attachment even to life itself. Otherwise we would be content to spend eternity separated from God in a decaying world.

St. Theognostos writes "the longing for transient things will not drag you earthwards if you keep your mind on the things in heaven; but when you are shackled by an attachment to earthly things you are like an eagle caught in a trap by its claw and prevented from flying. Regard all you possess as trash in the hope of better things. Shake off even your body when the time comes, and follow the angel of God that takes you from it."

Weaning ourselves off this life though isn't easy. Unfortunately, most of the time we can't even handle the minor inconveniences of life. We throw our hands in the air and wonder why God allowed us to have a fender-bender or why our vacation

plans were ruined or how come we lost out on yet another promotion. How hypocritical we have become! God has to pry our tight grip off the stuff of this life to bring us to His kingdom. Our faith is nothing more than an opiate to quench our selfish wants. Our desire is not for God but for what He can do for us. And so until our love for God is more valuable than everything else, we will continue to fight to the death to remain in this life and let heaven wait.

So does this mean that we forget about our families, our jobs, the mortgage and the roof that needs repairing? No, of course not. We can't sit around with Bibles in our hands, being busybodies and lazy waiting for God to bring us home. We are expected to work for the kingdom come and for food to put on the table, providing not only for our families but also for those in need. God created the heavens and earth for our enjoyment. God gives us life to savor His great glory now. It is the way we live our lives faithfully and in obedience to God now that glorifies God's kingdom come.

### **Never Satisfied, Always Hopeful**

This life is designed in such a way not to satisfy. Perfect security and peace of mind cannot be found on this earth. We expect to receive every-thing we long for now. But we don't. We still get sick, everything still breaks down when we can least afford it, and anything that can go wrong usually does. Frustration seems permanent at times. The good news is that none of these things, not even death, can keep us from God when we live according to His will.

The amazing irony is that the moment we learn to leave this life is when we begin to actually enjoy it and live it to the fullest. St. Maximos the Confessor says that when we understand that this life is nothing but a rehearsal for death, we stop being greedy for the things of this life and start tasting the blessings of eternal life now.

### **Paradise Lost, Eternity Found**

We live our lives always thinking of the future and it is no different with our belief in a heaven. Except God wants us to be heavenly-minded while we are still on earth because the Kingdom of God begins now. God wants us to know the life-giving Christ while we are still alive because it is in Christ that the Kingdom is revealed: "This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3 NASB).

Heaven is where we get to see God face to face and that is the most awesome treasure we could ever find. Christ compared the kingdom of heaven to a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field (cf. Matthew 13:44). The joy of knowing we will be in God's kingdom should trump anything and everything else in this life. Everything else should be counted as a loss compared to the knowledge that we will be with Christ in his kingdom forever. Heaven can help us.

*John Kapsalis has an M.T.S from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. OrthodoxyToday.org offers commentary on contemporary social and moral issues.*

**Святкуємо 50-років!**

**Celebrating 50 Years!**

**Українська Католицька Церква Святого Йоана Хрестителя  
St. John the Baptizer Ukrainian Catholic Church**

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**Website:** [stjohnthebaptizer.org](http://stjohnthebaptizer.org)

**Pastor:** Fr. James Bankston

**Парох:** о. Яків Бенкстон

[frjames@mac.com](mailto:frjames@mac.com)

Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

*Come Dwell Within Us ...*

Come, true light;

Come, eternal life;

Come, hidden mystery;

Come, treasure without name;

Come, incessant joy!

Come, light unfading;

Come, hope which will save all.

Come, resurrection of the dead;

Come, O powerful one, who fulfills, transforms and changes all things by your will alone;

Come, garland never withered;

Come, breath of life, consolation of my lowly heart.

Come, fill us with God's presence.

Come, make our bodies temples of God;

Come, fill us with the power to overcome.

Come, restore the image of God in us.

Come, strengthen our faith.

Come, empower us to speak and work for You in the world. Come, forgive our sins. Come, breathe into us the life of God, immortal, everlasting. Come, Holy Spirit, come! As the parched earth craves the rain, so we crave Your Presence. Amen.

*St. Symeon, The New Theologian*