

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN MAY 23, 2010

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS

On **Memorial Day, Monday, May 31**, a Trisagion Service for all those fallen asleep in the Lord will be held at **12 noon at the altar in the Orthodox Section of Hope Cemetery**, Worcester. Fr. Nick will be available from 10:00 am prior to the service, to bless individual graves at Hope Cemetery. If you would like to make arrangements to visit a grave in another cemetery, please speak with him.

**Teen Meeting/Pizza Night, Friday, June 4th**, 6:30 - 8:30 PM at the Church. We'll make tie-dyed T-shirts to wear during the Car Wash.

On **Sunday, June 6th, from 1-4 pm**, our Church will host a **"Gold and Silver Party."** Genera Gold will pay you top dollar for old and broken gold and silver jewelry, and will offer 15% of their profits to the Church. Please take fliers here today and encourage friends and family to attend.

On **Sunday, June 13th**, we will host a **Parish Picnic** to celebrate **Godparents and Grandparents Sunday**, the end of the Sunday School Year, and to honor our graduates. The picnic luncheon will be held on the Church grounds after the Divine Liturgy. **Reservations are required**, and must be received by Sunday, June 6th. To make a reserva-

USHER TEAM 2:  
LISA MIELNICKI &  
JIM CHRISTO  
ALTAR TEAM A



## THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

EPISTLE: ACTS 2:1-11 ☩ GOSPEL: JOHN 7:37-53; 8:12  
EVERYTHING FROM THE FEAST

tion, speak with Eleanor Sedares during coffee hour, call the Church: 508-845-0088 or e-mail: Fr Nick.

We want to know about any **High School or College graduates in our Parish this year**, so they can be recognized at the Parish Picnic on Sunday, June 13th. If you know of a soon-to-be graduate, please inform Fr. Nick or Tim Rucho.

If you have not already done so, we ask you to consider your **Stewardship Pledge** offering prayerfully, fill out the pledge form, and submit it today. The 2010 Stewardship Pledge Form and other materials are available at the candle stand. For more information, contact Deb Sedares or Fr. Nick.

### PLANNING AHEAD

We will prepare food and serve the visitors at the **Mustard Seed**

**on Friday, June 18th.** The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. Help is needed during the day to cook and prepare food, and at 5:00 on Friday evening to transport and serve. Please contact Fr. Nick if you can help with this ministry.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sunday, May 23 Pentecost
- Monday, May 31 Memorial Day/Apostles Fast Begins
- Friday, June 4 Teen Meeting, 6:30-8:30 pm
- Sunday, June 6 Cash for Gold & Silver Party
- Saturday, June 12 Picnic Prep, 8 - noon
- Sunday, June 13 Parish Picnic
- Friday, June 18 Mustard Seed Meal
- Saturday, June 19 Electronic Recycle Day/ Car Wash
- Sunday, June 20 Treasurer's Mid Year Update
- Sunday, July 4 No Liturgy at St. Nick's
- Sunday 7/11 - 9/5 Summer Hours, Liturgy 9:30 am
- Friday, July 23 Parish Cookout / Bonfire

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*A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas*



## A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

**O**NLY 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.

Another popular “**E-Waste Recycling Day**” will also be held in conjunction with a car wash **Saturday, June 19th from 9-3** here at the Church. You can get rid of unwanted electronic appliances at a minimal cost and protect the environment too! More details are forthcoming.

On **Sunday, June 20**, there will be a brief mid-year **Treasurer’s Update** immediately following the Divine Liturgy. If you have any particular questions you would like addressed, please speak with **Evan Stamoulis**.

There will be **NO Divine Liturgy at our Church on Sunday, July 4**, because Fr. Nick will be attending the bi-annual Archdiocese Congress in Chicago.

From **Sunday, July 11 through Sunday, September 5** we will be on “**Summer Hours**.” Divine Liturgy will **begin at 9:30 AM, and should be finished by 11:00 AM**. Coffee Hour will also be suspended for these summer weeks, so the faithful crew of coffee-hour workers gets some time off from that responsibility.

**Save the Date** — On Friday evening, July 23, we will have a Parish cookout, bonfire, and talent show here on the Church grounds.

## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

**Did you Know?** If you are a Fallon Community Health Plan member, you are able to go to Holy Trinity for your rehabilitation if you let the case manager know as soon as possible that you are a member of the Orthodox Community. They will make the referral to Holy Trinity, and we will do the rest!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Our sister parish of **St. Parascheva in Wakefield** will be holding a **Summer Picnic on Sunday, May 30**, after the

## NAMEDAYS

**May 17**

**The Holy Apostle Andronicos of the Seventy**

Androniki Cheverevski  
Androniki Demake

**May 21**

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

Constantine Apostol  
Elaine Apostola  
Konstantin Charalambides  
Presvytera Eleni Christakos  
Amalia Helene Collins  
Ilene Cosmas  
Hannah Constance Datz  
Elena Galeriu  
Elaine Killick  
Kostika Lico  
Ileana A Nace  
Rev. Fr. Dean Paleologos  
Constanța Papit  
Constantine Pappas  
Eleni Polymeros  
Elena Prelipcean  
Elaine Rocheford  
Dina K. Salerno  
Eleanor Sedares  
Dean Valoras  
Elena Marie Zekos



Divine Liturgy on the Church grounds. Tickets are \$15 and may be reserved by e-mailing: **Beatrice Zaharian Yokoyama** at: bea1993@comcast.net.

Mark your calendars: The **2010 Grecian Festival will be held this year on the weekend of June 4, 5, & 6**. For more information, visit the Grecian Festival web site: [www.spyridoncathedral.org/grecianfestival/gfhome.asp](http://www.spyridoncathedral.org/grecianfestival/gfhome.asp)

LISTEN TO THE WEEKLY NATIONAL ORTHODOX RADIO BROADCAST “COME RECEIVE THE LIGHT”

BY WEB OR PODCAST: [WWW.RECEIVE.ORG](http://WWW.RECEIVE.ORG)

# 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, ends with the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is placed at the beginning of the second volume because while 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 gath-

ered 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 maidervants 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 12ff), 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.

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)

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA