

**St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley**  
**a Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America**  
**16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406** **stmichaelvannuys.org**

His Eminence, Metropolitan SABA, of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian

Archdiocese of North America

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# **The Great Feast of Pentecost**

**Sunday, June 8, 2025**

## **Apolytikion of Pentecost (Tone 8)**

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise, having sent upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them Thou hast fished the universe, O Lover of mankind, glory to Thee.

## **Kontakion of Pentecost (Tone 8)**

When the High One descended, confusing tongues, He divided the nations. And when He distributed the fiery tongues He called all to one unity. Wherefore, in unison we glorify the most Holy Spirit.

## **Daily Readings**

THE EPISTLE (for Pentecost)

*Their voice has gone out into all the earth.  
The heavens declare the glory of God.*

## **The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:1-11)**

When the day of Pentecost had come, the Disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

## THE GOSPEL (for Pentecost)

### **The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. John (7:37-52; 8:12)**

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his belly 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, many 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 the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd, who do not know the Law, are accursed." Nicodemus, 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."

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## **OFFERINGS**

Special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Leroy Simon (+30 May, 2025), beloved father of Mark, Cassandra and Nicole Simon; husband of the late Linda Simon (+14 September, 2021). Memory eternal

[Funeral Schedule: Sunday, June 22 - Visitation from 3 to 7 p.m. (Glendale Forest Lawn); Monday, June 23 - Funeral at 7 p.m. (St. Nicholas Cathedral); Tuesday, June 24, graveside Trisagion at noon followed by meal of mercy at St. Nicholas Heritage Hall.]

## **THE KNEELING PRAYERS OF THE FEAST OF PENTECOST**

*Immediately following the final prayer of the Divine Liturgy by the priest at the icon of Christ, the kneeling prayers are said. Note: This is a very short abridged segment of a full Kneeling Vespers Service that is normally done on the eve of the the Day of the Holy Spirit (Monday).*

DEACON: On bent knees, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

### **THE FIRST PRAYER**

PRIEST: O pure and blameless Lord, Who art without beginning, invisible, incomprehensible, unchangeable, immeasurable, unbounded, forbearing and alone immortal, who dwellest in unapproachable light, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea and all therein, Who grantest to all their petitions before asking, to Thee we pray and of Thee we ask, O Master who lovest mankind, the Father of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and of the ever-virgin Mary, the noble Theotokos; Who first didst teach us by word and then by deed, when He endured His saving Passion, giving us an example to offer Thee our supplications with bowed head and bended knee, for our sins and ignorance of the people. O most merciful Lord, who lovest mankind, hear us on whatever day we call upon Thee, but especially on this day of Pentecost, whereon, after our Lord Jesus Christ had ascended into heaven and sat on the right hand of Thee, O God and Father, He sent down the Holy Spirit to his holy Disciples and Apostles, Who alighted on each of them and filled them all with His inexhaustible divine grace; and they did speak in strange tongues, prophesying Thy great deeds. Hear us, who beseech Thee, and deliver our souls from the captivity of our sins by Thy loving help. Accept us, who kneel down before Thee and cry out: we are Thine, O Lord, though we have sinned, for from the womb of our mother Thou art our God. But as we have passed our life in idleness and vanity, we have been stripped of thine grace, and have become unable to pray as we ought. Yet do we trust in Thy compassion and cry unto Thee. Remember not the

sins of our youth and ignorance; cleanse us of our secret sins. Reject us not in our old age, and forsake us not when our strength fails. Before we return to the earth, prepare us to return to Thee. Measure our lawlessness with a measure of Thy generosity, and raise up against our many transgressions the bottomless abyss of Thy compassion. Look down from the height of Thy holiness upon Thy people who await from Thee abundant mercy. Visit us with Thy goodness and deliver us from the power of Satan. Establish our lives in obedience to Thy holy commandments. Commit unto Thy people a faithful guardian angel. Gather us all unto Thy kingdom. Forgive those who put their trust in Thee. Purify us by the operation of Thy Holy Spirit and remove from us the wiles of the adversary.

## **THE SECOND PRAYER**

DEACON: Again and again, on bent knees, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who hast given Thy peace to mankind, and art present with us in this life, ever granting the gift of the All-holy Spirit to the faithful, as an inheritance that can never be taken away, in a manner most clear Thou hast sent down today the divine grace upon Thy holy Disciples and Apostles, and didst open their lips with tongues of fire. Through them all mankind hath received the knowledge of God in their own languages. We have been enlightened by the light of the Spirit, emancipated from delusion as from darkness, and through the distribution of the perceptible tongues of fire and the wondrous action of the same, we have been taught the faith that is in Thee, and we have been illumined so as to praise Thee with the Father and the Holy Spirit, in one Godhead, Power and Authority. Wherefore, O Splendor of the Father, the express Image, inalterable and immovable, of His essence and nature, the Fountain of salvation and grace: Open my lips, sinner that I am, and teach me how and for what I must pray; for Thou dost know the multitude of my sins, but Thy tenderness doth overcome the enormity thereof. Behold, I come before Thee in fear and trembling, casting my despair into the depth of Thy mercy. Order my life, O Thou who dost order all creation with Thy word, and with the unutterable power of Thy wisdom, O calm Haven of the storm-tossed, make known to me the way wherein I should walk. Grant my reasoning the Spirit of wisdom, and the Spirit of understanding to my foolishness. Overshadow my acts with the Spirit of Thy fear; renew a right spirit within me. With Thy governing Spirit strengthen my

unstable mind, that I may be worthy each day to keep Thy commandments. Guide me by Thy righteous Spirit to do only that which is profitable, that may I be ever mindful of Thy glorious Second Coming, which will search out our deeds. Let me not be led astray by the corrupting pleasures of this world, but strengthen me to yearn for those treasures which are to come. For Thou, O Master, didst say, "Whatever ye ask in My Name ye shall receive" from Thy co-eternal Father. Therefore grant to our souls contrition, and to our thoughts solicitude over our accountability at Thy just and terrible judgment. Extend to us all Thine helping hand. Forgive us our offenses and accept our prayers offered on bended knees as incense, rising before Thy blessed Kingdom.

### **THE THIRD PRAYER**

DEACON: Again and again, on bent knees, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O Ever-flowing Fountain, life-giving, illuminating, creative Power, co-eternal with the Father, Christ our true God, Who hast most excellently fulfilled the whole salvation of mankind, and didst tear apart the indestructible bonds of death, breaking asunder the bolts of Hades and treading down the multitude of evil spirits; Thou didst offer Thyself as a blameless Sacrifice to the Father and offer us Thy pure, spotless and sinless body, and by this fearsome, inscrutable divine labor dost grant us life everlasting. Thou didst descend into Hades and demolish the eternal bars, revealing an ascent to those who were in the lower abode. With the lure of divine wisdom Thou didst entice the dragon, the head of subtle evil, and with Thy boundless power didst bind him in abysmal hell, in inextinguishable fire, and extreme darkness, delivering us from the same. O Wisdom of the Father, Thou great of Name Who dost manifest Thyself as a great Helper to those who are in distress and as a luminous Light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. Thou art the Lord of everlasting glory, the beloved Son of the Most High Father, eternal Light from eternal Light, Thou Sun of justice! Hear us who pray unto Thee, O Master, and accept our prayers, and grant repose to our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, children, relatives, and kinsfolk, and all those who are of the household of Faith who have fallen asleep, who have gone to their final rest in the hope of resurrection and life everlasting. Inscribe their names in the Book of Life; give them rest in the bosom of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the land of the living, the Kingdom of Heaven, in the paradise of delight, leading all into Thy Holy dwelling place by Thy radiant angels. Raise up their

bodies and ours with Thee on that Day which Thou hast appointed, according to Thine unfailing promise. For there is no death, O Lord, to Thy departing servants who cast off their bodies and come unto Thee, O God, but a transition from sorrowful things to things pleasant and sweet, to rest, joy, and expectation of resurrection. And though all have sinned against Thee, be Thou compassionate unto them and us, for there is none without sin, but Thou alone art without sin, O Lord Jesus Christ our God. Therefore, O Lord, through Thy grace and love for mankind, pardon, remit and absolve our sins, both voluntary and involuntary, which we have committed either with knowledge or through ignorance, openly or in secret, whether by word, deed, or thought, and by all our senses and actions, and to those who have preceded us, grant emancipation and repose. To those of us who are here, bless us, and give us and all Thy people a blessed and peaceful ending to our lives, and at Thy fearsome and dreadful Coming, open unto us Thy fathomless love of mankind, making us worthy of Thy Kingdom.

### **THE DISMISSAL**

Priest: May Christ our true God, as good lover of mankind, have mercy on us and save us for the sake of Your goodness. For Thou emptied Thyself from the Father's bosom, assuming our human nature wholly and making it divine, and ascended at once into the Heaven and enthroned at the right hand of God the Father, then sent down the divine, holy, consubstantial, and coeternal Spirit, equal in might and glory, upon Thy holy Disciples and Apostles, and through Him, illumined them, and through them, the whole world, through the intercessions of Thy most pure and allblameless holy Mother, of the holy, glorious, Spiritbearing Apostles, and of all the Saints have mercy upon us and save us.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our god and our hope, glory to Thee!

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: A-men.

Priest: May He Who poured out the grace of the All-Holy Spirit from Heaven upon His holy disciples and apostles in the form of fiery tongues for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother, and of all the saints, have mercy upon us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and liveth mankind. Through the prayers

of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

People: Amen.

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

[NOTE: There is **no fasting** during the next week.]

**Day of the Holy Spirit** – Monday, June 9

**The Sunday of All Saints**

Great Vespers – Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 5 p.m.

Orthros – Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

The Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul - Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

**The Great Feast of Pentecost** (fifty days after the Feast of the Resurrection) is celebrated today. There is no fasting during the week following Pentecost (June 9-13). **The Sunday of All Saints** is celebrated on the Sunday following Pentecost (June 15<sup>th</sup>). The **Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul**, Patrons of the Patriarchate of Antioch, celebrated this year on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. Having rejoiced for the fifty days following Pascha (Easter), the Apostles began to prepare for their departure from Jerusalem to spread Christ's message. According to Holy Tradition, as part of their preparation, they began to fast with prayer to ask God to strengthen their resolve and to be with them in their missionary undertakings. Due to the late date of Pascha (Easter) on the calendar this year, there is no period of fasting in preparation for the Feast of Ss. Peter & Paul.

**Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.**

### **Holy Bread Offering List**

Jun 15 - (Father's Day) open

Jun 22 - open

Jun 29 - open

### **Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar**

Nicole Webster

**Please contact Father Timothy (818/219-3761; [frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org)) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread or to host the Coffee Hour.**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## **Metropolitan SABA's Weekly Teaching (in English and Arabic)**

View the weekly teaching from Metropolitan SABA here, available in English and Arabic titled, "Contemporary Luminous Faces: Metropolitan Anthony Bloom Part One:" <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2450>

## **Weekly Bible Study Tuesday Evenings at 7 p.m.**

Join us this Tuesday evening, June 10th, at 7 p.m. for our weekly Bible Study. We will examine the Orthodox practice of memorial services and its relation to the Feast of Pentecost. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out on Tuesday. Sessions are recorded for those unable to attend who may also request the link to the study.

**Thank you to our 2025 Golf Classic Co-Chairs,  
Don Meena, Fred Milkie and their Planning Committee Members,  
All of Our Participating Golfers, Donors and Sponsors!**

## **Congratulations to This Year's Award Recipients:**

**Putting Contest: Paige Khalajestani**

**"Closest to the Pin" - Ed Balian**

**"Closest to the Line" - Michael Guttila**

**First Place "Low Net" - Frank Skaff, Paige Khalajestani, Doug Hansford, Brandon Floyd**

**Second Place "Low Net" - Greg Safady, Cory Safady, Alex Safady, Ed Balian**

**Low Gross: Michael Guttila, Rick Stratton, Carlos Barrios, Conner Barrios**

**Golf Ball Raffle Grand Prize (Carnival Cruise View Cabin sponsored by Jay Coury) - Michael & Pat Malouf**



# ST. MICHAEL 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC WOOD RANCH GOLF CLUB, SIMI VALLEY

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025



With our sincerest gratitude and God's blessings to those who donated and made our event such a success:

## Auction Items

Dr Caslyn Hauck (Naturopath Package) • Dr. Nicholas Kambourakis and Marcelle Chaffin (Functional Medicine Package)  
Tanya and Fred Milkie (Dinner with Fr. Timothy) • Tyne Stecklein (Painting) • Denise Cruz (Universal Studios Hollywood)  
The Abraham's & Milkie's (Whiskey Tasting) • Wood Ranch Golf Club (Golf Foursome) • Sal Chala (MP Bicycle) • Connie Barilla (USC Football)

## Gift Baskets

Amy Castillo (Tequila Basket) • Lisa Safady (Apres Golf Basket) • Enjoy Haircare (Holistic Line and Regular Line Baskets)  
Connie & James Barilla (Fast Food Gift Cards & Tequila Basket) • Terese Tintocalis and Joan Tintocalis (Lebanese Wine Basket)  
Constantine & Mandy Nasr (Movie Basket) • William Nehme (Orthodox Gift Basket) • Lola Pina (Spa Basket) • Maria Safady (Gardening Basket)  
Jan Craft & David Dawud (Swag from Movies and Box Nut Baskets) • Mike & MaryAnn Mitchell (Movie Night Basket)  
Robert & DeAnne Abraham (Disney Baskets) • Carolyn Sadd, Leila, Daniel & Gabriella Lewin (Coffee & Tea Basket) • Chrisa Sadd (Italian Basket)  
Ron & Mary Kay Nichols (BBQ Basket) • Fred & Barbara Nicola (Pickleball Basket)  
Sean & Robin O'dea (Trader Joe's baskets) • Mary Ann Coury (Money Tree)

## \$50 Golf Ball Raffle

Dino & Cindy Tamoush • Richard & Kayla Ajalat • Samia Habib • Nicole & Robert Webster • Minnie Lush • Rima Hage • Frieda Kabash  
Britton McLinn • Charlotte Murr • Daphne Thabit • Ron & Kathy Zraick • Don Meena • Mike Meena • Greg & Maria Safady • Joe Ayoub  
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Sharon Katerelos • Tanya & Fred Milkie • Natalie Roser • Joe & Christine Kouri • Vanessa & David Obenhaus • Rami & Yuriko Yanni  
GRAND PRIZE (\$1200): Jay Corey

## Hole Sponsors:

### HOLE 1

Fr. Timothy Bacig  
Enjoy! Gloria Mittry, Lisa, Craig, Matthew, John  
In Loving Memory of Ramona Darmour By Charmaine E. Darmour

### HOLE 2

In Memory of Mike, Frieda and Darryl Maloof from Cousins George,  
Isabel, and Linda  
In Memory of Salim K. Srour & Elaine Srour By the Srour & Cruz  
Families

### HOLE 3

Michael & Pat Malouf  
St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church of Irvine

### HOLE 4

Fred, Barbara, Ricky, Dena & Paige Nicola  
Fred & Tanya Milkie, Dominick, Alek & Elisa

### HOLE 5

Jim and Connie Barilla  
Vermont Outlet True Value Home Improvement Center  
Avasco Medical Supply

### HOLE 6

Wishing you a successful event. Carole Wong Nassief, Trustee to the  
Estate of Adele Soffa  
Ron & MaryKay Nichols & Family  
Rivendell Films – The Nasr Family

### HOLE 7

In Loving Memory of Carrie and Emile Skaff  
The Skaff and DeSousa Families. Go Bruins!  
US WEALTH - Bob Crawford

### HOLE 8

Acts & Prayers – Joyce Salamy  
The Yanni Family

### HOLE 9

In Memory of Lillian Meena By Don Meena and Family  
In Memory of Lucas James Scott By Ron & Kathy Zraick

### HOLE 10

Margaret Abdun-Nur  
In Memory of Neda Toomey with our Love Kenneth & Danielle  
Jonathan, Nicholas, Anthony, James, Lily Toomey & Ned Toomey

### HOLE 11

St. Luke Christian Church  
The Farr Family

### HOLE 12

Umpqua Bank  
St. Simeon Orthodox Church

### HOLE 13

In Loving Memory of Julie Annett By Curt Annett & Family  
Tom & Lynn Homsy

### HOLE 14

Danny Andrews Farms LLC Bakersfield, CA  
In Memory of Nazira and Carim Rihbany by the Srour and Cruz Families

### HOLE 15

The Nassief Family  
In Memory of Mariana Gantus Wall and Founder Jacob Thomas  
John and Jo Ann Gantus and Family

### HOLE 16

In Memory of Diana Nasser  
Nelson & Jerri Lynn Mamey

### HOLE 17

The James & Regina Roum Family  
The Panga Family  
Orthodox Vision Foundation led by Charles & Marilee Ajalat

### HOLE 18

St. Nicholas Cathedral  
In Loving Memory of Emil Ayoub and Gretta Ayoub Casalnuovo  
From the Mitchell and Ayoub Families  
George and Tina Younes



## Annual Parish Life Conference

**Host: St. Nicholas Church; San Francisco, California, June 25-29 2025**

Go to: <https://www.antiochianevents.com/los-angeles> to register for your hotel room (\$179/night) at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport.



## DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES & THE WEST PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE

JUNE 25 - 29, 2025

HOSTED BY:

ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH,  
SAN FRANCISCO  
[WWW.LAPLC.ORG](http://WWW.LAPLC.ORG)

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- His Grace Bishop ANTHONY's first PLC as our Diocesan Bishop
- Morning & Afternoon Workshops
- Young Adult Dinner
- Taco Thursday Welcome Reception
- Organization Meetings
- Bible Bowl
- Ice Cream Social & Teen Dance
- Brunch with Bishop ANTHONY and Awards Presentation
- Oratorical & Choir Festival
- Middle Eastern Dinner and Dance (Hafli)

### HOTEL:

- Hotel Group Rate: \$179/night plus local taxes/fees
- Group rate available 3 days before/after Conference
- Complimentary shuttle to & from San Francisco airport
- 10% discount at all hotel food outlets



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE  
BY USING THE QR CODE  
BELOW OR VISITING  
[LAPLC.ORG](http://LAPLC.ORG)



## 57th Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese Convention in Chicago

Host: St. George Church; Cicero, Illinois; July 20-27, 2025

Go to: <https://www.ac2025chicago.org/hotel/> to register for your hotel room (\$189/night) at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago. For a view of the Convention Schedule, click here: <https://www.ac2025chicago.org/schedule/>

### **Raies-Murr Educational Trust Scholarship**

Only members, in good standing of St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church (Van Nuys) or St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral (Los Angeles) and who have been accepted to or are currently enrolled in a **publicly supported** (not private) institution of higher learning, including eligible **publicly supported** vocational, technical and trade schools, are eligible to apply for a Raies-Murr Scholarship. Applications can be obtained by e-mailing Mallory Murr or Vanessa Obenhaus at: [raiesmurscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:raiesmurscholarship@gmail.com) The applications must be returned by August 4, 2025.

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### **Pastor's Sermon** **The Sunday of Pentecost** By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig June 8, 2025

On this day, the fiftieth day after Easter, we celebrate the Feast of Holy Pentecost. The descent of the Holy Spirit occurred ten days after the Ascension following a period of time when the Disciples, in obedience to the instructions of our Lord, waited for Him while praying and fasting. As the fiftieth day after the Jewish Passover, the Feast of Pentecost is a remembrance of the Old Law. The Israelites received the Ten Commandments after a period of fifty days from the time of the crossing of the Red Sea. And so, we also celebrate fifty days after Pascha, receiving the One who gives us the Law, the All-Holy Spirit; He who guides us in all truth and teaches us what is pleasing to God.

The Holy Spirit's descent in the form of tongues of fire upon the Apostles is a demonstration that He is not separate from the living Word; also to empower the Holy Apostles with the use of words in teaching the multitudes as they brought them to Christ. **The descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of fiery tongues was to show, on the one hand, that God is a consuming fire, while on the other hand, our need of purification.** His grace rested upon the Apostles in tongues so that they could gather those of different languages who were scattered throughout the world. This all took place on the Day of Pentecost because it was fitting that the grace of the Spirit be poured out at the same time that the Old Law had been received, just as Christ was the new and true Pascha in place of the old Passover.

In festal hymn of the *Kontakion* we hear: *When the High One descended, confusing tongues, He divided the nations. And when He distributed the fiery tongues He called all to one unity. Wherefore, in unison we glorify the most Holy Spirit.*

The image that this hymn presents us with is the event of the building of the Tower of Babel by a people who were of one mind and one language; a people whose aim was “making a name for themselves” (Genesis 11:4). In verses 6-9 of Genesis 11 it is recorded: *The Lord said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible to them. Come, let **us** [Note: God is spoken of in the plural] go down and confuse their language so that they will not understand each other.”* So the Lord scattered them over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world...[scattering] them over the face of the whole earth.

In the Vespers service of Pentecost we hear a commentary on this passage with a verse from the *Aposticha*: *Of old there was confusion of tongues because of the boldness of the tower-builders. But those tongues have not uttered wisdom for the glory of divine knowledge. There God condemned the infidels to punishment, and here with the Spirit Christ illuminated the fishermen. At that time, the confusion of tongues was designed for vengeance, and now the unison of tongues hath been renewed for the salvation of our souls.*

You may recall that at the “Vespers of Love” on Holy Pascha the Gospel is intentionally read in many languages to also signify how the message of the forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to all nations. Similarly, on Holy Pentecost, we hear the account in today’s Epistle that all who gathered in the international city of Jerusalem heard the good news in their own language as the Apostles were given utterance by the Holy Spirit.

**Pentecost is the Feast that is the culmination of Holy Pascha (Easter).** It is the completion of God’s plan of salvation. For you and me, the working of the Holy Spirit in our life brings about many things. First and foremost, **the Spirit reveals Christ, deepens and renews our commitment to Christ and his teachings. The Spirit of God also illumines and brings back to one’s remembrance the teaching of Christ and His Apostles.** The descent of the Holy Spirit brought illumination. The Spirit of Truth aided the Apostles in their reflection and remembrance our Lord’s teaching. Moreover, the Spirit enabled them to perceive things differently. Their lives not only took on a new sense of purpose, death itself acquired a new meaning.

Second, **the Holy Spirit is a sanctifying power.** He enables a Christian to remain steadfast in truth and to earnestly desire purification of sins, by a living a repentant life. It is what empowers one to remain faithful. The Spirit’s coming also motivated and empowered the believers to do many things that they otherwise would not thought of doing by themselves or of their own strength. However, the Holy Spirit that came upon them was not a force that was imposing or intrusive. He empowered them to demonstrate initiative with humility. The All Holy Spirit transcended, transformed, and even dissolved any might that was opposed to love, bringing an end to any animosity and contention. There was unity among the Apostles with a bond of peace. And the power that was manifested through them was the power of forgiveness; a forgiveness that they experienced and began to proclaim.

Third, **life in the Spirit manifests the fruit of the Spirit, namely, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, patience, kindness, goodness, meekness, and self-control.** The Spirit enables a Christian to practice forgiveness from the heart, as

one having experienced the forgiveness of sins. It is the central message of the Gospel at Easter, the message that Christ proclaims to the Apostles at the Ascension, and today, it is the message that is heard by the Disciples by the many who heard it in their own language. In the words of the Holy Apostle Peter in verse 38 of chapter 2 in the Book of Acts, he proclaims to all who curiously gathered in Jerusalem having heard the noise in the upper room: *Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* And so, finally, **the Holy Spirit whose work is to glorify Christ empowers a Christian to be a strong witness to Jesus as Lord, as a living example by word and deed.**

## Prayer

May the All-Holy Spirit, Christ's own Spirit, sent from the Father illumine us with the light of piety and understanding that we may all remain steadfast in His love.

### الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس يوحنا  
الإنجيلي التبشير والتلميذ الطاهر.

وفي اليوم الأخير العظيم من العيد وقفت يسوع ونادى قائلا: «إن عطش أحد فليقبل إليّ ويتشرّب من آمن بي، كما قال الكتاب، تجري من بطنه أنهار ماء حي». قال هذا عن الروح الذي كان المؤمنون به مؤمّنين أن يقبلوه، لأن الروح القدس لم يكن قد أُعطي بعد، لأن يسوع لم يكن قد مُجدّ بعد. فكثيرون من الجمع لما سمعوا هذا الكلام قالوا: «هذا بالحقية هو النبي». اخرون قالوا: «هذا هو المسيح». واخرون قالوا: «ألعّل المسيح من الجليل يأتي؟» ألم يقل الكتاب إنه من نسل داود، ومن بيت لحم، القرية التي كان داود فيها، يأتي المسيح؟ فحدث انشقاق في الجمع لستببه. وكان قوم منهم يريدون أن يمسكوه، ولكن لم يلق أحد عليه الأيدي. فجاء الخدام إلى رؤساء الكهنة والفريسيين. فقال هؤلاء لهم: «لماذا لم تأتوا به؟» أجاب الخدام: «لم نتكلم قط إنسان هكذا مثل هذا الإنسان!». فأجابهم الفريسيون: «العلّكم أنتم أيضا قد صللتم؟» ألعّل أحدنا من الرؤساء أو من الفريسيين آمن به؟ ولكن هذا الشعب الذي لا يفهم التاموس هو ملعون». قال لهم نيقوديموس، الذي جاء إليه ليلا، وهو واحد منهم: «ألعّل تاموس ندين إنسانا لم نسمع منه أولا ويغرب ماذا فعل؟» أجابوا وقالوا له: «العلّك أنت أيضا من الجليل؟ فتنّ وانتظر! إنه لم يبق نبي من الجليل». ثم كلمهم يسوع أيضا قائلا: «أنا هو نور العالم. من يتبعني فلا يمشي في الظلمة بل يكون له نور الحياة».

### ملحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعني عومية المشاركة فيه لذوي العقيدة الواحدة، إلا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقصورة على أعضاء الكنائس الأرثوذكسية والذين يحضرون انفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريبة وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذي يوزع عند انتهاء مراسم القداس.

الرجاء مراجعة الكاهن إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضوا في الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية.

### THE GREAT FEAST OF PENTECOST

### عيد العنصرة العظيم

#### أبوليتيكون العنصرة بالبحن الثامن

مبارك أنت أيها المسيح الهنا، يا من أظهرت الصّابدين غزيري الجمّة، إذ سكّبت عليهم الروح القدس، وبهم اصطدّت المسكونة، يا مَجِبَ البشر، المَجْد لك.

#### القنداق للعنصرة بالبحن الثامن

عندما نزل العليّ مُبَلِّيا الأليسة، كان للأمم مَقْصِما. ولما وُزِعَ الأليسة النارية، دعا الكلّ إلى إتحاد واحد، لذلك باتفاق الأصوات، تَجَدَّدَ الروح الكلّي قدسة.

### الرسالة

إلى كل الأرض خرج صوّثهم.

السموات كُتِبَ مجد الله.

فصل من أعمال الرسل القديسين الأظهر

لَمَّا حَلَّ يَوْمَ الخمسين، كان الرسل كلُّهم معاً في مكان واحد. فحدث بغتة صوّث من السماء، كصوّث ريح شديدة تعصف، ومأ كل البيت الذي كانوا جالسين فيه. \* وظهّرت لهم أليسة مُقسّمة كلها من نار، فاستقرّت على كل واحد منهم. فامتلاوا كلُّهم من الروح القدس، وطفقوا يتكلّمون بلغات أخرى، كما أعطاهم الروح أن ينطقوا. \* وكان في اورشليم رجال يهود أتقياء، من كل أمة تحت السماء. \* فلما صار هذا الصوّث، اجتمع الجمهور، فتحذّروا، لأن كل واحد كان يسمعه ينطقون بلغته. \* قدّهشوا جميعهم، وتعلّبوا قائلين بعضهم لبعض: أليس هؤلاء المتكلّمون كلُّهم جليليين؟ \* فكيف نسمع كلّ ملاً لغته التي ولد فيها؟ \* نحن الفريسيين، والمدايين، والعيلاميين، وسكان ما بين النهرين، واليهودية، وكبادوكية، وبطرس وأسيّة \* وفريجية، وبغليّة، ومصر، وناحي لبيّة عند القبروان، والرومانيين المستوطنين، \* واليهود، والسّلاّ، والكريتيين، والعرب، نسمعهم ينطقون باللسنة بعضهم الله.