

*There is Life in the Church because in the Church is the Spirit*

My brothers and sisters, if you want the Holy Spirit to dwell in you, listen carefully. Our spirit, by means of which each individual lives, is called the soul. And look what the soul does in the body. It gives life to all the limbs. It sees with the eyes, hears with the ears, smells with the nose, speaks with the tongue, works with the hands, walks with the feet. It is present at one and the same time in all the limbs to make them live. It gives life to all the limbs and to each limb its function. It is not the eye that hears, not the ear that sees, not the eye or the ear that speaks. Yet they are nonetheless alive. The ear is alive, the tongue is alive. Their functions are different, the life is the same.

The Church of God is like that. By means of some believers she performs miracles, by means

of others she teaches the truth; by means of some she keeps virginity, by means of others she respects marital fidelity. The tasks are different, the life is the same. What the soul is to the body of a human being, the Holy Spirit is to the Body of Christ, the Church. The Holy Spirit does for the whole Church what the soul does for the body of the individual. Look then and see what you ought to fear and what you ought to avoid. If the body suffers an amputation (for example of a finger or a hand or a foot) does the soul go with the limb that has been cut off? While it was in the body, that limb was alive; when it is cut off it loses its life. It is like that with Christians. They are alive only while they are in the Body. If they are cut off from the Body, the Holy Spirit is no longer with them.

*St. Augustine of Hippo*

SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



*Icon of Pentecost*



Українська Греко-Католицька Церква Парафія Святих Йоакима і Анни  
**SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*A Mission Parish of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. All are welcome!*

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 ssjoachimandannaucc@gmail.com • (540) 551-3591 • In case of emergency: (202) 262-5040

Fr Robert Hitchens, Administrator    Fr Mykola Dziurakh, Parochial Vicar  
 Deacon Kyle Hayes                      Deacon David Wallace

**Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever! Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава на віки!**

**Divine Liturgy in English, Sundays 10:30am**  
**Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession): Sundays, 9:45am**

**MAY 24, 2026 – HOLY AND GLORIOUS PENTECOST –  
 THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA**



**GIVING REPORT** – The in-pew collection for May 14 (Ascension) was \$281, and for Sunday, May 17 was \$1,419. *Thank you for your financial support of the parish!*

**SPECIAL THANKS** – Special thanks to all parishioners and friends who helped with last week’s visit of Metropolitan Borys and the diaconal ordinations. Deacon Kyle and Deacon David are very grateful for the immense outpouring of love shown by those who prepared the church, the music, moved tables and chairs, organized the reception and food service – all those who gave of their time, talent, treasure, and tradition!

**WEEKDAY LITURGY** – Wed, May 27, 6:00pm. Confessions at 5:30pm.

**The Life-Creating Spirit is the Giver of Grace** (*Christ Our Pascha*, 266—270): The Source of all grace is God the Father. From the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit, the grace of God descends upon all creation and sustains its existence. By the power of grace, being has been wisely ordered, the laws of nature have been established, and the beauty of the universe and of humankind has been designed. Of all that was created, only humankind, called to life in God, has been granted the ability to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, the *Treasury of Blessings*, who grants God’s grace in a variety of gifts (see 1 Cor

12:4–13). In this cooperation (in Greek, *synergia*), the natural powers (in Greek, *energiai*) of humankind are united with the divine and uncreated gift of the grace of the Holy Spirit.

The bearer of God’s grace in the world is Christ’s Church. Through the ministrations of the Holy Mysteries, by means of sanctification and blessing, she apportions grace to those who believe in Christ. Through prayer, ascetical effort, and a life of virtue, Christians grow in the grace of the Holy Spirit to the fullness of divinization. Transfigured by grace, human nature abides in God’s nature, “without division or confusion.” At the same time, in humankind and through humankind, the nature of all creation is transfigured to its final consummation, as “a new heaven and a new earth” (Rev 21:1).

Through his Resurrection, Jesus Christ revealed new life, and in the Holy Spirit he grants this life to us. The Holy Spirit is “Life and Life-giver; Light and Light-giver; absolute Good and Spring of Goodness.” The Christian is a kind of “master” of creation who sanctifies and transforms it because of the grace of the Holy Spirit: “For after we have obeyed the Lord, and in his Spirit nurtured on earth the values of human dignity, fellowship, and freedom, and indeed all the good fruits of our nature and enterprise, we will find them again, but freed of stain, burnished, and transfigured.”

In the kneeling prayers of Pentecost, the Church invokes the Holy Spirit to descend upon all creation and upon all humankind, living and deceased. In the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ, who conquered death, now grants new life to all creation: “In the Holy Spirit all creation is renewed and presses forward to its original state; for he is equal in power to the Father and the Word.”

Within the life-giving Spirit, there is no death or division. Therefore, at the feast of Pentecost we visit the graves of the departed and prayerfully experience our living bond with them. “On this all-perfect and saving feast you have deigned to accept the supplicatory prayers of forgiveness for those who are held in Hades; you who grant us great hope that unto the departed, held in the bondage of grief, there be sent from you rest and refreshment.” On this feast, churches and homes are decorated with greenery, a sign of life. This is truly a feast of life—the Green Feast or ‘Feast of Greenery,’ known in Ukr. as *Zeleni Sviata*.

**MEMORIAL DAY 2026** – May 25. We remember our fallen heroes, and we honor all the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country, both during wartime and during peacetime. Everlasting memory! *Vichnaya pamyat!*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Nancy & Jon Anderson, Julie, Lisa Behnke, Alison Bernhoft, Yevhenia Borys, Robert Matthew, Carrie Chuff, Arthur Dhanagom, Elizabeth Deegan, Clara Anne Duda, Fr Michael Duesterhaus, Robert Dulaine, Pat Fagan, Danylo (Neyko) Fedoryka, Fr Mark Fesniak, Emma Flournoy, Katie Flynn, Lilian Garland, Jerry Gawron, CR Gauth, Samuel Gauth, Josie Hacker, Brigid and Marlena Hess, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Fr Robert Hitchens, Oksana Horszynska, Ihor Hulawyy, Walter Janaro, Sarah Kelt, Dixie Lane, Catherine Luckey, Destiny Makins, Michael Marshner & Family, Bridget McDonald, Laura McMahan, Vince McLaughlin, Thomas Pavick, Phillip Rexrode, Ivanna Richardson & Family, Chris Saboe, Betsy Sayre, Truman L Sayre, Jr, CJ & Theresa Sidrow, Amy Smith, Karena Tapsak, Fr George Worschak, and Éamonn Yockey. *Teresa Fedoryka is our prayer coordinator; please email bulletin prayer requests to ssjoachimandannaucc@gmail.com*

**Holy and Glorious Pentecost – The Descent of the All-Holy Spirit**  
**(Propers pp. 563–570)**

**After “Blessed be the Kingdom,” we kneel and sing (p. 570):** Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth,\* who are everywhere present and fill all things,\* Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life,\* come, and dwell within us;\* cleanse us of all that defiles us,\* and O Good One, save our souls.

**Antiphon 1 (p. 563)** -The heavens tell the glory of God, and the firmament declares the work of his hand. *Through the prayers of the Mother of God,\* O Saviour, save us.*  
-Day to day pours forth the message and night proclaims this knowledge to night.  
-Their utterance has gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

**Antiphon 3 (p. 563)** -O Lord, by Your power the king shall rejoice and greatly exult in Your salvation. **Troparion, Tone 8 (p. 564).** Blessed are You, O Christ our God who revealed the fishermen as most wise\* by sending them the Holy Spirit;\* through them You caught the entire world.\* Loving Master, glory to You.  
-You gave him his heart’s desire and did not deny the request of his lips.  
-For You have gone before him with gracious blessings, you have placed upon his head a crown of precious stones.

**Entrance.** Be exalted, O Lord, in Your strength; we will sing and make music to Your might. **Repeat Troparion.** *Glory...now...Amen. (p. 565)* **Kontakion, Tone 8 (p. 565).** When the Most High came down and confused the tongues,\* He parted the nations.\* When He divided the tongues of fire,\* He called all to unity;\* thus with one voice\* we glorify the all-Holy Spirit.

**Instead of ‘Holy God’:** All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia! (p. 566)

**Prokeimenon, Tone 8 (p. 567).** Their utterance has gone forth into all the earth,\* and their words unto the ends of the world. | *verse:* The heavens tell the glory of God, and the firmament declares the work of His hand.

**Epistle: Acts 2:1-11.** When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear,

each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, 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 Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”

**Alleluia, Tone 1 (p. 332).** *verse:* By the Lord’s words the heavens were established, and by the Breath of His mouth all their host. | *verse:* The Lord has looked down from heaven and beheld the whole human race.

**Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12.** On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, “This is really the prophet.” Others said, “This is the Messiah.” But some asked, “Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he? Has not the scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?” So there was a division in the crowd because of him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. Then the temple police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why did you not arrest him?” The police answered, “Never has anyone spoken like this!” Then the Pharisees replied, “Surely you have not been deceived too, have you? Has any one of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, which does not know the law—they are accursed.” Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and who was one of them, asked, “Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?” They replied, “Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you? Search and you will see that no prophet is to arise from Galilee.” Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

**Hymn to the Mother of God (p. 568).** O my soul, magnify the one Divinity in three Persons. **Irmos:** Rejoice, O Queen, boast of the virgins and mothers, for every tongue, though capable and eloquent, cannot hymn you as is your due, and every mind is confounded in seeking to comprehend the way in which you gave birth. Wherefore with one accord we glorify you.

**Communion Verse.** Your good Spirit will lead me\* to the land of righteousness.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia.

**Alternate Ambo Prayer (p. 569).**



SS JOACHIM AND ANNA COMMUNITY

# PENTECOST PICNIC

Sunday, May 24th after  
Divine Liturgy

See sign up genius to  
rsvp and select dishes to  
share and ways you can  
help!

