

~ ~ OUR LORD HAS ASCENDED ~ ~

With the observance of the Ascension of Our Lord, we have come full circle with the life of Christ. He has completed the work for which He came. Now He returns in glory and triumph to the Father. Really, this can be described as a feast of completion.

Gathered with the ascending Christ, upon whom He is bestowing His blessing, are components of His Church. There is the Holy Virgin, in an attitude of prayer and intercession; there are the Apostles and members of the Church; there are the Angels attending to the Lord. They are all depicted in various positions and different gestures, suggesting the diversity of the Church in the ages to come.

The presence of the Angels remind us of the prophecy concerning the second coming of Christ. **“You men of Galilee,”** they said at the time of ascension, **“why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from among you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven . . .”** In this sense, the icon might be considered as one whose theme is the second coming of the Lord.

The rather sharp distinction between the two portions of the icon, top and bottom, are not to be interpreted to mean that Jesus is gone and has nothing furthermore to do with the Church. On the contrary, **“Lo, I am with you always, even unto the consummation of the world,”** the Lord said. The blessing of the ascending Christ continues to this day. The Figure of the Lord is depicted in such fashion as to indicate His **CONTINUOUS** Presence.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.



Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

A Gift of Blessing
Visit the Church Gift Shop.
See the Beautiful Icons, Crosses & Home Censers

2709 Washington St. Vicksburg, MS 39180
Parish Office: 601-636-2483 Fr. Gabriel's cell: 713-357-8871
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Church Calendar: Check the Link. <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/service.html>

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES SUNDAY MAY 31, 2026

THE GREAT FEAST OF PENTECOST

APOLYTIKION OF PENTECOST IN TONE EIGHT

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 IN TONE EIGHT

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 ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (*thrice*)

MEGALYNARION FOR THE FEAST IN TONE SEVEN

O thou who without experience of corruption wast found to be with child, and didst lend flesh unto the Word Who devised all things, O thou Mother who hast not known wedlock, O Virgin Theotokos, vessel of the Uncontainable One, dwelling place of thy boundless Fashioner, thee do we magnify.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) FOR PENTECOST IN TONE EIGHT

Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness. Alleluia.

We Celebrate Today

On this day, the eighth Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate Holy Pentecost.

Verses

In a mighty wind Christ distributeth the Divine Spirit

In the form of fiery tongues unto the Apostles.

In one great day, the Spirit was poured out on the Fishermen.

On this day—the fiftieth after Great and Holy Pascha—we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the holy Disciples and Apostles in the form of tongues of fire. Numbering about 120, they who followed the Master gathered in Jerusalem in the upper room of a house to await the Lord's promise to send the Holy Spirit. At about the third hour of the day, there came a sound from Heaven as of a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the house. Cloven tongues immediately appeared, like as of fire, and sat upon the head of each of them. The Apostles began to speak, not with the languages of their ancestors, but with other languages with which the Holy Spirit supplied them, as

He inspired them. After the Apostle Peter explained what had happened, 3,000 people joined the Church on the inauguration of the priesthood of grace. The objectives of Pentecost are, namely, the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world, the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus Christ, and the completion of the undefiled hope of the Apostles.

By the intercessions of the Holy Apostles, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Fr. Paul Yerger. Dea. Terry. Kh. Janet Henderson. Joy Logue. Dolores Nossier. Rick Collins. George Michael Nasif. Lynne Abraham. Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas. Michael Farris. Athena. Georgia. Andrea Simon. Chuck Abraham. Carla Leese. Rex Whiteaker. Drew Anderton.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries, June. Jeff & Lori West, (2), Melba Mitchell, Angela Wright Lovins, Walt Andrews, Bill & Aly White (3), Donna Hardy, Jimmy & Susie Angelo (4), Hannah Hull Bonelli (5), Kahlil Logue, Jori West Whitley (9). Lester & Lori Tzotzolas (10).

+Holy Bread & Coffee Hour are offered today by Sandra and Alan Evans.

+Keep in your prayers. Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, & John Morgan Mcright. Who are preparing themselves for the Holy Sacrament of Chrismation.

+Fast Free. Next week after Pentecost, June 01-06, is fast free on Wednesday & Friday.

+The Apostles Lent starts on Monday June 08 till Sunday June 28. During this lent we observe the traditional fasting discipline, with katalysis (permission) for seafoods, and wine on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

+Parish Council Meeting June 16th. @ 6 pm.

+Antiochian Men held an election for new officers. Robert Lutton President, Paul Boolos Secretary, and Lester Tzotzolas Treasurer.

+Diocese OF Miami & The Southeast 2026 PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE (PLC) *hosted by St. Nicholas Church of Springdale, Arkansas* **June 10 - 13, 2026** If you would like to register or have any questions about PLC, please get in touch with miamiplc@antiochianevents.com

The Church Fathers Teach

"The holy mystery of the day of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost, is to be understood in the following manner: the spirit of man must be completed and perfected by the Holy Spirit, that is, it must be sanctified, illuminated, and divinized by the Holy Spirit. This holy mystery is realized continually in the Church of Christ and because of this the Church is really a continuous Pentecost.... From Holy Pentecost, the day of the Holy Spirit, every God-like soul in the Church of Christ is an incombustible bush which continuously burns and is inflamed with God and has a fiery tongue within it."

St. Justin Popovich, Orthodox Faith and Life in Christ

"Brothers, we shall hymn with praise the tongues of the disciples, because, not with elegant speech, But in divine power they have revived all men. Because they took up His Cross as a reed, So that they might again use words as fishing lines and fish for the world Since they had speech as a sharp fishhook, Since the flesh of the Master of all Has become for them a bait, it has not sought to kill But it attracts to life those who worship and praise The All-Holy Spirit."

St Romanos the Melodist - On Pentecost

DIVINE LITURGY MAY 31, 2026

****DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM****

THE GREAT FEAST OF PENTECOST

THE EPISTLE

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

The Reading from the Holy Gospel 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."