

## Sunday of Pentecost



*Icon of Pentecost*

## May 31, 2020: Pentecost Sunday

Epistle: Acts 2: 1-11

Gospel: Jn. 7: 37-52 & 8:12

<b>Mon., June 1</b>	9:00	+ Diann Yuhnick (Nicholas & Joyce Spryn)
<b>Tues., June 2</b>	9:00	+ Evelyn Trently (Helen Hrycyshyn)
<b>Wed., June 3</b>	9:00	+ Gloria & Eugene Hughes (Lauren Telep)
<b>Thurs. June 4</b>	9:00	+ Judith Korischar (M/M Michael Grady)
<b>Fri., June 5</b>	9:00	Health & God's Blessing on Father Nestor (Morning Liturgy Ladies)
<b>Sat., June 6</b>	1:00	Confessions.
	3:00	+ Alex Muchisky & Family (Pauline Muchisky)
<b>Sun., June 7</b>	10:00	For Our Parishioners

### CHURCH REOPENING FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

It appears that Lackawanna County will be entering into the yellow phase on Friday, June 5, 2020. This means that Public Services will resume next Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Until further notice, on Saturdays there will be Confessions at 1 pm, with the



Divine Liturgy at 3 pm. On Sundays the Divine Liturgy will be at 10 am. This schedule has been made this way in order to allow us to properly sanitize the Church.

We remind our Parishioners that:

1. Everybody entering the Church is asked to wear a mask.
2. Social Distancing is to be kept between non-family people when in the pews, approaching to receive Holy Communion, or when moving around in the Church.
3. If you are sick, or do not feel well, PLEASE STAY HOME!
4. Everyone is reminded to open

their mouth wide and not bite down on the spoon when receiving Holy Communion. The spoon will be disinfected between Communicants.

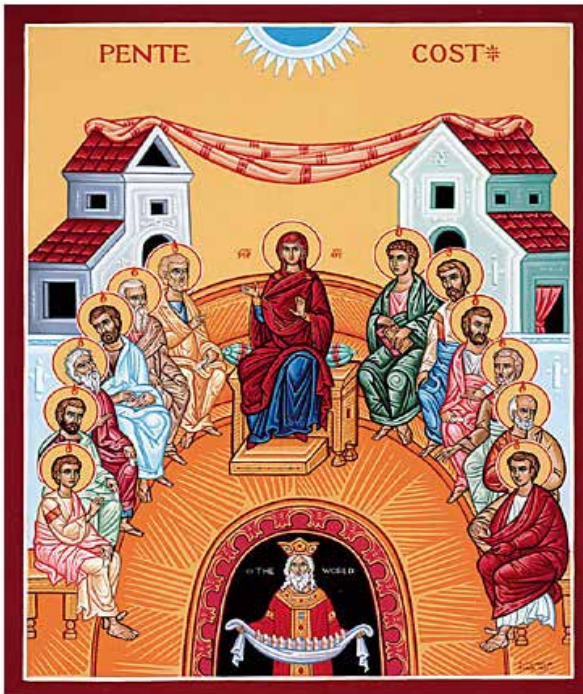
5. For those of you who are still not comfortable coming Church, or at high risk, the Dispensation from the Obligation to attend Church on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation remains in effect.
6. We will continue to LIVESTREAM

our services on Facebook and YouTube for a little while longer.

7. We ask that you make your Sunday Collection donation by placing your offering into one of the boxes in front of the Church by the candles. At this time, there will be no one collecting.

We are all in this battle with the Coronavirus. Together, if we do our part, we can defeat it!

## THE FEAST OF THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Resurrection) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

The story of Pentecost is found in the book of The Acts of the Apostles. In Chapter two we are told that the Apostles of our Lord were gathered together in one place. Suddenly, a sound came from heaven like a rushing wind, filling the entire house where they were sitting. Then, tongues of fire appeared, and one sat upon each one of Apostles. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as directed by the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).

This miraculous event occurred on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, celebrated by the Jews on the fiftieth day after the Passover as the culmination of the Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10). The Feast of Weeks began on the third day after the Passover with the presentation of the first harvest sheaves to God, and it concluded on Pentecost with the offering of two loaves of unleavened bread, representing the first products of the harvest (Leviticus 23:17-20; Deuteronomy 16:9-10). It commemorates the giving of the Law, the Torah, to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

Since the Jewish Feast of Pentecost

was a great pilgrimage feast, many people from throughout the Roman Empire were gathered in Jerusalem on this day. When the people in Jerusalem heard the sound, they came together and heard their own languages being spoken by the Apostles (Acts 2:5-6). The people were amazed, knowing that some of those speaking were Galileans, and not men who would normally speak many different languages. They wondered what this meant, and some even thought the Apostles were drunk (Acts 2:7-13).

Peter, hearing these remarks, stood up and addressed the crowd. He preached to the people regarding the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Holy Spirit. He spoke about Jesus Christ and His death and glorious Resurrection. Great conviction fell upon the people, and they asked the Apostles, "What shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38-39).

The Bible records that on that day about three thousand were baptized. Following, the book of Acts states that the newly baptized continued daily to hear the teaching of the Apostles, as



the early Christians met together for fellowship, the breaking of bread, and for prayer. Many wonderful signs and miracles were done through the Apos-

les, and the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2: 42-47).

## LITURGICAL TERMS THAT WE SHOULD KNOW.

- **LITURGY:** The Eucharistic Service of the Church, usually called the Divine Liturgy. The Liturgy most often used is the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. The Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great is used ten times a year, notably on the five Sundays of Great Lent.

- **LITANY:** A set of petitions offered to God by the Deacon (or the Priest if there is no Deacon). The faithful respond with either “Lord, have mercy!” or “Grant this, O Lord!”

- **MITRE:** The jeweled crown worn by Bishops, Archbishops, Archimandrites, and Mitered Archpriests during Divine Services.

- **MYSTERY:** the term in the Eastern Catholic Church for “Sacrament,” the means by which God’s grace is imparted to us.

- **NARTHEX:** The western section of the Church. Also called the Vestibule. Some services begin in the Narthex.

- **NAVE:** The large center area of

the Church where the Faithful stand and pray worshipping the Lord God.

- **OBLATION TABLE:** The table located on the northern wall of the altar. Here the Holy Gifts are prepared during the Service of the Proskomedia.

- **ORARION:** the stole worn by the Deacon over his left shoulder.

- **PANAGIA:** The oval Icon worn by Bishops. The term means “All-Holy” and refers to the Mother of God.

- **PASCHA:** the Greek word for “Passover,” commemorating Christ’s Resurrection from the dead. Pascha ranks above all Holy Days and is termed “The Feast of Feasts.”

- **PECTORAL CROSS:** The cross worn by Priests and Bishops. The style of a Priest’s cross represents his rank within the Church.

- **PHELON:** The outer garment of the Priest.

- **PRIEST:** The second rank of the Ordained Clergy.

- **PROCESSION:** The liturgical movement of the Clergy, Altar-Servers,

Choir and Faithful usually around the outside of the Church. Processions are held during Holy Week, Pascha, Bright Week, and on Parish Feast Days or Anniversaries.

- **PROKIMEN:** These are verses from the Psalter sung immediately

before Scripture Lessons, primarily at Liturgy.

- **PROSKOMEDIA:** The first part of the Divine Liturgy, preceding, “Blessed is the Kingdom...” The Proskomedie is performed on the Table of Oblation.

### SOME HUMOR...

An old priest was dying.

He sent a message to the parish Banker and Lawyer, to come to his home.

When they arrived, they were ushered up to his bedroom. As they entered the room, the priest held out his hands and motioned for them to sit on each side of the bed.

The priest grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled, and stared at the ceiling.

For a time, no one said anything.

Both the banker and lawyer were touched and flattered that the preacher would ask them to be with him during

his final moments.

They were also puzzled; the priest had never given them any indication that he particularly liked either of them.

They both remembered his many long, uncomfortable homilies about greed, covetousness, and avaricious behavior which made them squirm in their seats.

Finally, the banker said, “ Father, why did you ask us to come?”

The old priest mustered up his strength and then said weakly, “Jesus died between two thieves, and that’s how I want to go.”

### HOLY DORMITION PILGRIMAGE CANCELLED

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate announce that the 66<sup>th</sup> Holy Dormition Pilgrimage, which

was scheduled for August 8 & 9, 2020 in Sloatsburg, NY has been cancelled.

### SUMMER RAFFLE

Please make sure that you make you

Raffle Returns as soon as possible,

or by June 21st at the latest since the drawing will be on June 28, 2020. You can still mail your Returns to the

Rectory or place them in the Sunday Collection Box in Church.

## REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH

Jesus asks us to commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent and our treasure as an outward sign of the love and gratitude we have for Him.

We all are going through an unique and difficult time in our

world and in our Parish. As we still need to keep the church running, please consider your support for the church and send your tax-deductible donations to us by mail or drop them off at the office. I pray I will see you soon. Until we meet again, let us keep praying for each other.

## ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion means uniting one's self in prayer with Christ's sacrifice and worshipping Him in His Body and Blood. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend the Divine Liturgy. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy

Communion worthily. When unable to receive Holy Communion, pray the following prayer:

*"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen."*

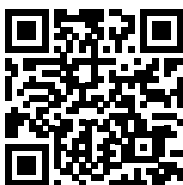
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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### ***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*