



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox  
Shrine Church

May 31, 2026

Rev. Ekonomos Aristidis Garinis, Proistamenos  
Rev. Presbyter Alexandros Douvres

Office (718) 357-4200 - Email [info@stnicholasflushing.org](mailto:info@stnicholasflushing.org) - [www.stnicholasflushing.org](http://www.stnicholasflushing.org)

Κυριακή Η' τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς - Holy Pentecost

**Εἰσοδικόν**

Ἐνώθητι, Κύριε, ἐν τῇ δυνάμει σου, ἄσομεν  
καὶ ψαλοῦμεν τὰς δυναστείας σου. Σῶσον  
ἡμᾶς, Παράκλητε ἀγαθέ, ψάλλοντάς σοι,  
Ἀλληλοῦϊα.

**Ἀπολυτίκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς**

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ὁ  
πανσόφους τοὺς ἀλιεῖς ἀναδείξας,  
καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον,  
καὶ δι' αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην σαγηνεύσας,  
Φιλάνθρωπε, δόξα σοι.

**Κοντάκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς**

Ὅτε καταβὰς τὰς γλώσσας συνέχεε,  
διεμέριζεν ἔθνη ὁ Ὑψιστος· ὅτε τοῦ πυρὸς  
τὰς γλώσσας διένειμεν, εἰς ἐνότητα πάντα  
ἐκάλεσε· καὶ συμφώνως δοξάζομεν τὸ  
Πανάγιον Πνεῦμα.

**Entrance Hymn**

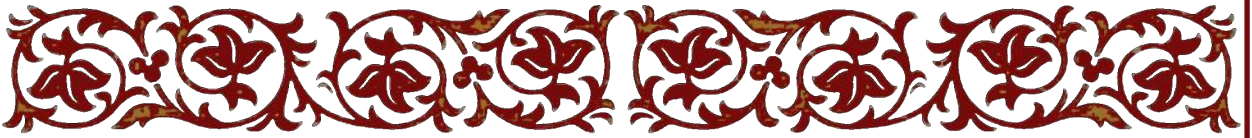
Be exalted, O Lord, in Your power; we will  
sing and praise Your mighty deeds. Save us, O  
good Comforter.

**Apolytikion of the Feast**

Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You sent  
down the Holy Spirit into the fishermen, and  
You gave them knowledge and wisdom in  
everything; and through them, as in a net You  
caught the whole world. O Lord who loves  
humanity, glory to You!

**Kontakion of the Feast**

When the Most High God came down and  
confused the tongues, He divided the  
nations. When He distributed the tongues  
of fire, He called all to unity. And with one  
voice we glorify the all-holy Spirit.



### ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟ ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΜΑ (Πράξ. 2:1 – 11)

Ἐν τῷ συμπληροῦσθαι τὴν ἡμέραν τῆς πεντηκοστῆς ἦσαν ἅπαντες ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτό. καὶ ἐγένετο ἄφνω ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἦχος ὡσπερ φερομένης πνοῆς βιαίας, καὶ ἐπλήρωσεν ὄλον τὸν οἶκον οὗ ἦσαν καθήμενοι· καὶ ὤφθησαν αὐτοῖς διαμεριζόμεναι γλῶσσαι ὡσεὶ πυρός, ἐκάθισέ τε ἐφ' ἓνα ἕκαστον αὐτῶν, καὶ ἐπλήσθησαν ἅπαντες Πνεύματος Ἁγίου, καὶ ἤρξαντο λαλεῖν ἑτέραις γλώσσαις καθὼς τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐδίδου αὐτοῖς ἀποφθέγγεσθαι. Ἦσαν δὲ ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ κατοικοῦντες Ἰουδαῖοι, ἄνδρες εὐλαβεῖς ἀπὸ παντὸς ἔθνους τῶν ὑπὸ τὸν οὐρανόν· γενομένης δὲ τῆς φωνῆς ταύτης συνῆλθε τὸ πλῆθος καὶ συνεχύθη, ὅτι ἤκουον εἰς ἕκαστος τῆ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ λαλούντων αὐτῶν. ἐξίσταντο δὲ πάντες καὶ ἐθαύμαζον λέγοντες πρὸς ἀλλήλους· οὐκ ἰδοὺ πάντες οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ λαλοῦντες Γαλιλαῖοι; καὶ πῶς ἡμεῖς ἀκούομεν ἕκαστος τῆ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ ἡμῶν ἐν ἧ ἔγεννήθημεν, Πάρθοι καὶ Μῆδοι καὶ Ἑλαμίται, καὶ οἱ κατοικοῦντες τὴν Μεσοποταμίαν, Ἰουδαίαν τε καὶ Καππαδοκίαν, Πόντον καὶ τὴν Ἀσίαν, Φρυγίαν τε καὶ Παμφυλίαν, Αἴγυπτον καὶ τὰ μέρη τῆς Λιβύης τῆς κατὰ Κυρήνην, καὶ οἱ ἐπιδημοῦντες Ῥωμαῖοι, Ἰουδαῖοί τε καὶ προσήλυτοι, Κρήτες καὶ Ἄραβες, ἀκούομεν λαλούντων αὐτῶν ταῖς ἡμετέραις γλώσσαις τὰ μεγαλεῖα τοῦ Θεοῦ;

### EPISTLE READING (Acts 2:1 – 11)

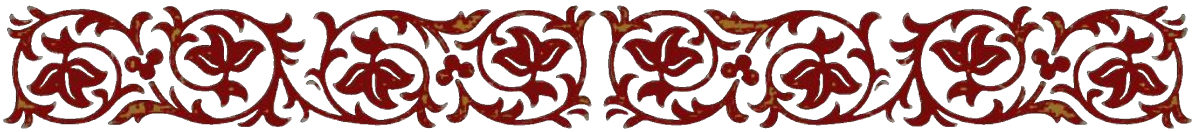
When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were 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."



## ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΚΟ ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΜΑ (ΙΩΑΝ. 7:37 - 52, 8:12)

Τῇ ἐσχάτῃ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ μεγάλῃ τῆς ἐορτῆς εἰστήκει ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔκραξε λέγων· ἐάν τις διψᾷ, ἐρχέσθω πρὸς με καὶ πινέτω. ὁ πιστεύων εἰς ἐμέ, καθὼς εἶπεν ἡ γραφή, ποταμοὶ ἐκ τῆς κοιλίας αὐτοῦ ρέουσιν ὕδατος ζῶντος. τοῦτο δὲ εἶπε περὶ τοῦ Πνεύματος οὗ ἔμελλον λαμβάνειν οἱ πιστεύοντες εἰς αὐτόν· οὐπω γὰρ ἦν Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον, ὅτι Ἰησοῦς οὐδέπω ἐδοξάσθη. Πολλοὶ οὖν ἐκ τοῦ ὄχλου ἀκούσαντες τὸν λόγον ἔλεγον· οὗτός ἐστιν ἀληθῶς ὁ προφήτης· ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ Χριστός· ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· μὴ γὰρ ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας ὁ Χριστὸς ἔρχεται; οὐχὶ ἡ γραφή εἶπεν ὅτι ἐκ τοῦ σπέρματος Δαυὶδ καὶ ἀπὸ Βηθλεὲμ τῆς κώμης, ὅπου ἦν Δαυὶδ, ὁ Χριστὸς ἔρχεται; σχίσμα οὖν ἐν τῷ ὄχλῳ ἐγένετο δι' αὐτόν. τινὲς δὲ ἠθέλον ἐξ αὐτῶν πιάσαι αὐτόν, ἀλλ' οὐδεὶς ἐπέβαλεν ἐπ' αὐτόν τὰς χεῖρας. Ἦλθον οὖν οἱ ὑπηρέται πρὸς τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ Φαρισαίους, καὶ εἶπον αὐτοῖς ἐκεῖνοι· διατί οὐκ ἠγάγετε αὐτόν; ἀπεκρίθησαν οἱ ὑπηρέται· οὐδέποτε οὕτως ἐλάλησεν ἄνθρωπος, ὡς οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος. ἀπεκρίθησαν οὖν αὐτοῖς οἱ Φαρισαῖοι· μὴ καὶ ὑμεῖς πεπλάνησθε; μὴ τις ἐκ τῶν ἀρχόντων ἐπίστευσεν εἰς αὐτόν ἢ ἐκ τῶν Φαρισαίων; ἀλλ' ὁ ὄχλος οὗτος ὁ μὴ γινώσκων τὸν νόμον ἐπικατάρατοί εἰσι! λέγει Νικόδημος πρὸς αὐτούς, ὁ ἐλθὼν νυκτὸς πρὸς αὐτόν, εἷς ὢν ἐξ αὐτῶν· μὴ ὁ νόμος ἡμῶν κρίνει τὸν ἄνθρωπον, ἐὰν μὴ ἀκούσῃ παρ' αὐτοῦ πρότερον καὶ γινῶ τί ποιεῖ; ἀπεκρίθησαν καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· μὴ καὶ σὺ ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας εἶ; ἐρεύνησον καὶ ἶδε ὅτι προφήτης ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας οὐκ ἐγήγερται. Πάλιν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐλάλησε λέγων· ἐγὼ εἰμι τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου· ὁ ἀκολουθῶν ἐμοὶ οὐ μὴ περιπατήσει ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ, ἀλλ' ἔξει τὸ φῶς τῆς ζωῆς.





GOSPEL READING (JN. 7:37 – 52; 8:12)

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, “If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me as the scripture has said, out of his heart 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 Holy Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some 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 priest 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 of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed.” Nikodemus, 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.”



# ΕΟΡΤΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ

JUNE 2026

June 1  
MON  
**Monday of the Holy Spirit**  
Του Αγίου Πνεύματος  
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 a.m. Liturgy

June 7  
SUN  
**Sunday of All Saints**  
Κυριακή των Αγ. Πάντων  
7:30 a.m. / 8:45 a.m. Liturgy  
**General Assembly**

June 8  
MON / ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ

+The fast of the Holy Apostles begins +  
+Αρχεται η νηστεία των Αποστόλων+

June 11  
THU  
**St. Bartholomew the Apostle**  
Αγ. Βαρθολομέου  
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 a.m. Liturgy

June 14  
SUN  
**Second Sunday of Matthew**  
2η Κυριακή Ματθαίου  
7:30 a.m. / 8:45 a.m. Liturgy  
**Sunday School Graduation**

June 21  
SUN  
**3rd Sunday of Matthew**  
3η Κυριακή του Ματθαίου  
7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 a.m. Liturgy

June 24  
WED  
**Nativity of St. John the Baptist**  
Γενέσιον του Αγ. Ιωάννου Βαπτ.  
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 a.m. Liturgy

June 28  
SUN  
**4th Sunday of Matthew**  
4η Κυριακή του Ματθαίου  
7:30 a.m. Orthros / 8:45 a.m. Liturgy

June 29  
MON  
**SS. Peter and Paul**  
Των Αγ. Πέτρου και Παύλου  
8:00 Orthros / 8:00 a.m. Liturgy

June 30  
TUE  
**Synaxis of the Holy Apostles**  
Σύναξις των Αποστόλων  
8:00 a.m. Orthros / 9:00 a.m. Liturgy

**Great Vespers of the Holy Anargyroi**  
Μ. Εσπερινός των Αγ. Αναργύρων  
7:00 p.m.





Dear Parish Family,

As we approach the summer months, we ask you to prayerfully remember your stewardship commitment to our parish. While many families travel and schedules change during the summer season, the ministry and daily expenses of the church continue without pause. Our parish remains active in worship, outreach, maintenance, and service to our community throughout the year.

If you have not yet made your 2026 stewardship commitment, or if you are able to offer an additional gift, we humbly ask that you do so before summertime. Every offering, no matter the size, helps sustain the life and mission of our church.

As Holy Scripture reminds us:

*“Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase.”*  
— Proverbs 3:9

And:

*“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* — 2 Corinthians 9:7

We are deeply grateful for your continued love, generosity, and faithful support of our parish family. May God bless you abundantly for all that you give and do in His name.

For online giving- <https://onrealm.org/StNicholasShrine/Give>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Aristidis Garinis'.

Rev. Economos Aristidis Garinis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Demetrios Athanasopoulos'.

Demetrios Athanasopoulos



<b>BRONZE DEDICATION LEAF</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>SILVER DEDICATION LEAF</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>GOLD DEDICATION LEAF</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>BENEFACTOR DOVE</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>GREAT BENEFACTOR STONE</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

**Please consider supporting our Renovation For Our Future project to continue passing the torch of Orthodox faith and Hellenism to our future generations.**

BRONZE LEAF \$2,000

SILVER LEAF \$5,000

GOLD LEAF \$10,000

DOVE \$25,000

STONE \$50,000

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT INSCRIPTION CLEARLY. 3 LINES (33 CHARACTERS MAX)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

"SO LET EACH ONE GIVE AS HE PURPOSES IN HIS HEART; NOT GRUDGINGLY OR OUT OF NECESSITY; FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER"



# ST. NICHOLAS

## ★ ★ ★ SUMMER GAMES ★ ★ ★

*A Parish Youth BBQ*



Date

**June 14**

Sunday, 2026

Festivities

**Post Church-3:30**

Lunch - DJ - Games

Where

**St. Nicholas**

Back Lot - Gym - Hall

### The Feast

- ★ Burgers
- ★ Hotdogs
- ★ Souvlakia
- ★ Ice Cream



### The Games

- ★ Basketball
- ★ Races
- ★ Disc Toss
- ★ and More!!!

*All Families Welcome - Bring an Appetite, Bring Your Spirit*



Register

**SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

NURTURING FAITH, HELLENIC HERITAGE, AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church  
**GEORGE & EVLAVIA DOULAVERIS PRESCHOOL**

*Building Foundations for Life*



**OUR CORE VALUES**

Welcome to a family-oriented community where children are lovingly nurtured in the Christian Faith and our rich Hellenic Heritage.



**2-YEAR OLD PROGRAM**

We provide a structured environment that honors faith and tradition while challenging young minds to grow and excel.



**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

Our accelerated curriculum integrates Hellenic language and values, ensuring students are fully prepared for the transition to primary education.

Call or Email to secure your child's spot

**REGISTER TODAY**

Ready to ignite your child's imagination? Enroll today!.



**EARLY  
DROP-OFF &  
AFTER SCHOOL  
AVAILABLE**

Contact Us: 718-357-0800

Our Location: 43-09 196 Street, Flushing

Email: [StNicholasDoulaVeris@gmail.com](mailto:StNicholasDoulaVeris@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stnicholasdoulaVeris.org](http://www.stnicholasdoulaVeris.org)



 @DoulaVeris\_Preschool

Certified by the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

# LITTLE ANGELS MOMMY & ME PROGRAM

For Children Ages 0-2.5



## About the Program

Program Director Margarita Eleftheriadis

Our "Little Angels" program is a vibrant, faith-centered ministry designed for our youngest parishioners (infants through Pre-K) and their caregivers.

It's more than just a playgroup—it's a place for moms, dads, and grandparents to connect, share experiences, and build lifelong friendships within our St. Nicholas family.

## Classes

- Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

## Featuring:

- Creative Music and Movement
- Arts and Crafts
- Greek songs and themes
- Early Social Interaction
- Sensory Stimulation
- Great opportunity to meet other families.

Email: [SaintNicholasLittleAngels@gmail.com](mailto:SaintNicholasLittleAngels@gmail.com)

718-357-4200 - [www.stnicholasflushing.org](http://www.stnicholasflushing.org)




ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

ADVERTISE IN  
THE ARK

The St. Nicholas Parish community relies on The Ark as its communication hub, offering your business a direct, established path to a loyal local audience.



Get Noticed in June! 

Want to reach our community? Advertise in the upcoming June 2026 issue of The Ark! Whether you're promoting a local business, a summer event, or a personal milestone, our quarterly parish newsletter is the perfect place to be seen.

Space is limited! Contact us by Jun 2nd to secure your spot.

Inquire at: Email or QR code below.



Contact [StNicholasArk@gmail.com](mailto:StNicholasArk@gmail.com) with any questions.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church of Flushing will hold its **General Assembly meeting on June 7th**. All parishioners are encouraged to attend this important meeting to discuss the ongoing life and future of our community. Please mark your calendars and join us in Sarantakos Hall.

ST. STEPHANOS YOUNG ADULTS

# *Wine and Cheese*

# NIGHT

JOIN US FOR A WINE AND CHEESE NIGHT  
UNDER THE STARS!

WE WILL BE  
STREAMING  
THE KNICKS  
GAME

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>  
7:00-10:00PM

\$15 PER PERSON

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH  
4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR BALCONY





ST. STEPHANOS YOUNG ADULTS

# *A Day in the Park*

—◆—

*Sunday, June 7th*

2pm to 5pm at Bowne Park

BRING YOUR FAVORITE GAMES &  
BLANKETS TO ENJOY A DAY OF  
FELLOWSHIP IN GOD'S CREATION!





## KIDS BULLETIN PAGE

Once, fifty days after Easter, Jesus' disciples and His mother, Mary, were all gathered together in a room, praying quietly.

Suddenly, a loud sound filled the whole house! It sounded like a strong, rushing wind blowing through the room. Then, something amazing happened. Little tongues of bright fire appeared, gently resting above each of their heads, but it didn't burn them at all.

This was the Holy Spirit coming down to them, just as Jesus had promised!

Right away, the disciples felt filled with peace, joy, and courage. They walked outside and began to talk to the big crowds of people visiting the city. Even though the visitors came from many different countries and spoke different languages, a miracle happened: everyone could understand the disciples perfectly!

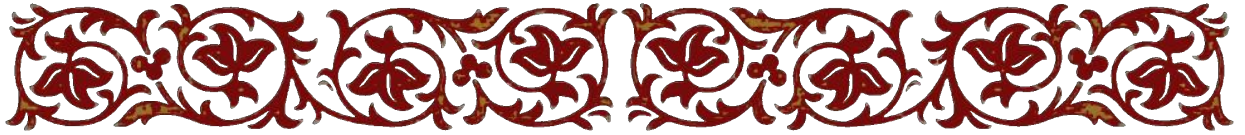
The disciples told everyone about God's great love. That wonderful day is called Pentecost, and it is known as the very first birthday of the Church!

Wind | Languages | Fifty | Holy Spirit | Fire | Apostles

1. The word "Pentecost" means \_\_\_\_\_, because it took place 50 days after Christ's Resurrection.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ and the Theotokos were gathered together praying in the upper room.
3. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like a rushing, mighty \_\_\_\_\_ that filled the whole house.
4. Divided tongues, as of \_\_\_\_\_, appeared and rested on each of them.
5. They were all filled with the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The disciples began to speak in different \_\_\_\_\_ so that people from many different nations could understand them.

*Unscramble the letters to reveal words related to the Feast of Pentecost.*

1. V E O D \_\_\_\_\_ (A symbol of the Holy Spirit)
2. H C U R C H \_\_\_\_\_ (Pentecost is known as the birthday of the...)
3. E G N E R \_\_\_\_\_ (The liturgical color used on Pentecost, representing new life)
4. E L E S K N I G \_\_\_\_\_ (The special prayers we say on this afternoon)
5. A C T E O M R F R \_\_\_\_\_ (Another name Jesus used for the Holy Spirit)



**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Son of  
Anastasios Kess & Dalila Valle  
Saturday, June 6th  
12:00 P.M.

Daughter of  
George & Lisamarie Gizas  
Saturday, June 6th  
3:00 P.M.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Join us for Fellowship and Breakfast!**

Please join us in the parish hall immediately following the Divine Liturgy this Sunday for a delicious breakfast in honor of the Feast of Pentecost, graciously sponsored and hosted by our St. Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos society.

In addition to sharing a festive meal together, we will take time during the fellowship hour to honor our youth with a special scholarship presentation.

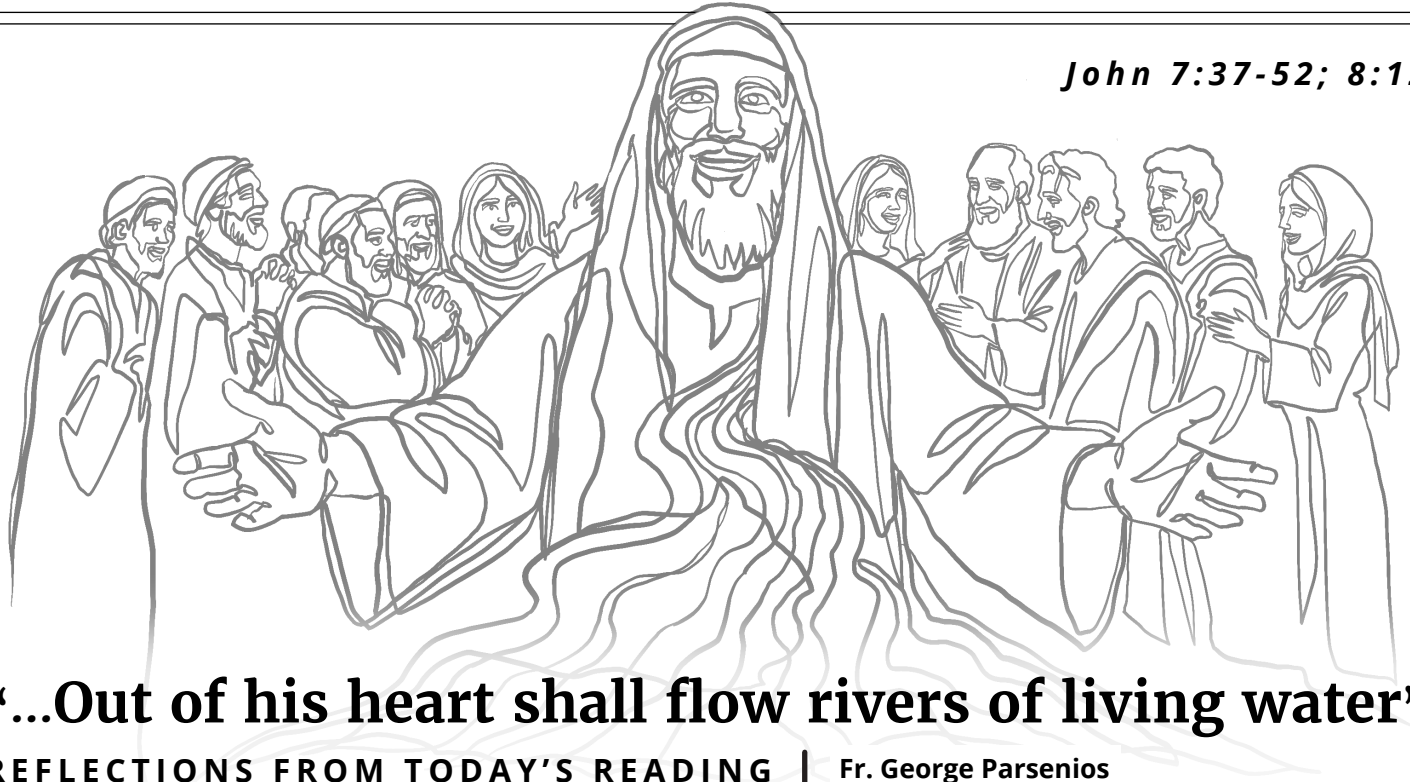
Come enjoy great food, celebrate our students' achievements, and support the wonderful work and philanthropic ministries of our Philoptochos sisterhood. We look forward to seeing you there!



# DIAKONIA

A National Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

John 7:37-52; 8:12



## “...Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water”

REFLECTIONS FROM TODAY'S READING | Fr. George Parsenios

Today's Gospel reading refers to the gift of the Spirit, which had not yet been given during Jesus' ministry because Jesus had not yet risen from the dead. That gift was bestowed upon believers on the day of Pentecost, the great feast that we celebrate today. And the gift of the Spirit changes the disciples. Only after Pentecost did the disciples fully understand the mission of Jesus and become fully empowered to share the Gospel throughout the world. Every Christian is given this same gift of the Spirit in our baptism. Like the disciples at Pentecost, we must ourselves come to understand more fully the mission of Jesus and we must share his Gospel in our own lives. And this requires effort. We are given the Spirit at baptism, but we must receive it through our own decisions and actions. Church history is littered

with Christians who did not make this effort. When St. Paul writes First Corinthians, he tells the Christians in Corinth that he cannot address them as people who have received this Spirit (1 Cor 3:1) but as infants in Christ and as people who do not understand their Christian identity. How do we avoid their immature fate? We can do three things. First, we must guard our words carefully. If we watch what we say, we ensure that we say things that draw ourselves and others closer to God. Second, we must continue to live ascetical lives. By fasting and praying and giving generously to others, we arrest our own selfish wills and ensure that we subject our will to the will of God. Finally, we must study our faith so that we understand not only who God is, but what his purpose is for our lives.

Fr. George Parsenios is Professor of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. [www.hchc.edu](http://www.hchc.edu)

*L100*

Diakonia is made possible by a generous grant from Leadership 100

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## FROM THE ORIGINAL GREEK: Pentecost (Πεντηκοστή) What does “Pentecost” mean?

Fr. George Parsenios



The word Πεντηκοστή/*Pentecost* means “fiftieth” in Greek, and the feast of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after Pascha, when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples in Jerusalem. Before Pentecost became a Christian festival, however,

it was celebrated by Jews as the 50th day after Passover. The Hebrew name for the feast was *Shavuot*, which means “weeks,” because the feast was celebrated after 7 weeks (49 days) had elapsed from Passover. *Shavuot/Pentecost* commemorated the gift of the Law that God gave

to Moses on Mt. Sinai, and it was one of the three great pilgrimage festivals, when pious Jews traveled from around the world to be in Jerusalem. When the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles at Pentecost, it inspired them to speak miraculously in foreign languages. These languages were understood by the pilgrims who had traveled from distant lands to observe the Jewish feast (Acts 2:8). But if the original feast of Pentecost celebrated the Mosaic Law as God’s gift to the Jewish people, the Christian feast celebrates the even greater gift of the Holy Spirit, indicating that we are no longer guided by the letter of the Law, but by the Holy Spirit of God who writes God’s will in our hearts (Ezekiel 11:19, Jeremiah 31:33).

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### THIS WEEK’S LOOK AT CHURCH HISTORY

## The Greek War Relief Efforts of World War II



*An unidentified schoolboy in Patras, Greece waits with his tin dish under his arm for his school lunch. Ca 1945  
Harry S. Truman Library and Museum public domain*

During World War II and the years that followed, the Greek Orthodox Community in America organized to provide critical aid to people in Greece and all of Europe. Our communities did all they could to support both the War Bond initiative and the Greek War Relief Association. Fundraisers were held by Archbishop Athenagoras with the assistance of the Catholic Archbishop of Boston who encouraged his congregation to support the effort. Spyros Skouras, a prominent film executive, organized events and premieres featuring well-known actors to raise funds for the cause.

As a result of the Greek War Relief Association’s efforts, hundreds of thousands of packages containing food, clothing, medicine, blankets, and medical equipment were shipped to Greece. Between the early 1940’s and the mid-1950’s, more than \$300 million (adjusted for inflation) were raised by Greek Orthodox in America from within and from outside the Greek Orthodox community.

## THE SUNDAY OF Holy Pentecost

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The Feast of Holy Pentecost, celebrated fifty days after Pascha and ten days after the Ascension, is a great feast of our Church. It is not merely the commemoration of a past event, but the living manifestation of God's presence among us. We celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, the revelation of the Holy Trinity, and the Church as the living Body of Christ.

As we hear in the Book of Acts, the Apostles were gathered as Jesus had directed them. Suddenly, a sound like a rushing wind filled the house, and tongues of fire rested upon each of them. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in different languages. This was the transformative presence of God, sanctifying the Apostles and empowering them to proclaim the Gospel to all nations.



This took place during the Jewish Feast of Pentecost (50 days after Passover), when many people from across the known world had gathered in Jerusalem. Hearing the Apostles speak in their own languages, the people were astonished. Some were confused, others doubtful. Yet through the preaching of the Apostle Peter who boldly proclaimed Christ Crucified and Risen, the hearts of many were moved. When they asked, "What shall we do?" Peter called them to repentance, baptism, and the reception of the Holy Spirit. On that day, thousands entered the life of the Church.

Church lives today as a communion rooted in the Apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of the bread, and prayer. This life continues today in the Divine Liturgy, the sacraments, and the unity of the faithful. Pentecost reminds us that the Church is sustained by the presence and action of the Holy Spirit, who guides us in truth and unites us in love.

The icon of Pentecost proclaims this reality. The Holy Spirit descends upon the Apostles, while below the world awaits the light of Christ. This mission of the Church continues, and we are called to participate. We are not spectators of Pentecost. We have received the Holy Spirit in our baptism and chrismation. We are called to grow in repentance and prayer, bearing witness to Jesus in our daily lives.



### PERSONAL ACTION ITEM

This week, commit to living your Orthodox faith intentionally. Let us set aside 10 minutes each day for prayer and reflection, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you from passive belief into active, living faith.



## Holy Pentecost

Pentecost is a special day that celebrates when the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, 50 days after Easter. The Holy Spirit came like a strong, rushing wind and looked like flames of fire resting on the disciples and the Virgin Mary. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages. People from many countries were there in Jerusalem and heard about Jesus in their own language. About 3,000 people believed and were baptized that day

**Just For Kids!**  
*(...and the young at heart)*



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z



ANSWER KEY: A term found in ACTS 2:3 "TONGUES OF FIRE"