




Parish Information Bulletin

Program for 8—14 June 2025

SUNDAY 8 JUNE	PENTECOST SUNDAY, John 7: 37-52, 8:12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
2025 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES (A free voluntary program organised by the Church) Lessons take place in the building behind the church and begin at 10.30am until Church dismissal. We have classes for ages ranging from 5yrs to teenage years. Lessons are taught in a relaxed, friendly environment. Please bring your children along to learn of their rich Orthodox faith and come close to God and His Love.	
MONDAY 9 JUNE Monday of the Holy Spirit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy• 10.00am Meeting of Elderly Citizens in Church Hall
WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE <i>Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas, Revelation of Axion Esti, St Luke the Surgeon, Holy Martyrs of China</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.30am Orthros and Divine Liturgy• 5.00pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos
THURSDAY 12 JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8.00—9.00pm <div>TEENAGE YOUTH GROUP ALL TEENAGERS WELCOME Join the group and learn about your faith, make friends, enjoy refreshments, in a friendly, relaxing environment. * In downstairs classroom behind the Church building</div>
SUNDAY 15 JUNE	GOSPEL READING: Matthew 10: 32-33, 37-38, 19: 27-30 EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 11: 33-40, 12: 1-2

Telephone Contact Numbers

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Fr Athanasios and
Fr Ephraim are available
at the Church every
Monday to Friday
between 4.00 and 6.00pm
for Holy Confession and
any spiritual need.

Apostles Saints Bartholomew and Barnabas

Apolytikion

You were shown to be divine instruments of the Paraclete, and revealers of the Word of God, seers of God, O Apostles, Bartholomew, companion of the Twelve, and Barnabas, as a son of consolation. But intercede with Christ our God, O all-praised ones, to grant us great mercy.

Revelation of Axion Esti

It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God. More honourable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, Without defilement you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos we magnify you!

St Luke the Blessed Surgeon

Apolytikion

O Physician and Shepherd, let us all honour Luke, as Simferopol's Shepherd and a radiant Archpriest, who bore Christ's Divine marks, exiles, dangers, being locked within prisons, tribulations and persecution, for in the last days has shown forth, in Russia a new Saint.

The Holy Martyrs of China

Kontakion

In recent times you imitated the martyrs of former times in your victorious contests, O blessed Saints, for you competed valiantly for Christ. Watering the holy Church of the great land of China with your blood, you have received a crown from Lord's hand.

As you are standing near Him in the heights, commemorate us who honour your martyrdom.

**The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.**

Galatians 5: 22,23



*Blessed are You, Christ our God,
who have shown the fishermen to be all-wise,
sending upon them the Holy Spirit and through them
drawing into the net of the Gospel all people.
Loving Lord, glory to You.'*

Dismissal Hymn, Sunday of Pentecost



PENTECOST SUNDAY, John 7: 37-52, 8:12

On today's great Feast of Pentecost, we celebrate the fulfillment of the deepest desires of those who bear the divine image and likeness to participate personally in the eternal life of God. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes upon on the Apostles as they are gathered together in obedience to the command of the risen Lord. The same divine breath which first gave us life from the dust of the earth now comes as a mighty, rushing wind. The divine glory beheld by Moses in the burning bush now rests upon each one personally as flames of fire. The divided speech of the tower of Babel is now overcome by the miracle of speaking in different languages as a sign that everyone is invited to share in the life of the Lord. This great feast manifests the fulfillment of God's gracious promises for the entire world and every human person in the Body of Christ, the Church born at Pentecost. Today we celebrate the restoration of our true unity in God through the unifying power of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter sent by the risen and ascended Savior Who is seated at the right hand of the Father in heavenly glory.

The sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit empowers the Church as a living icon of the common life of humanity in which our petty divisions are healed. He enables us to become persons in communion united organically as members of the one Body of Christ instead of isolated individuals obsessively choosing sides over against one another due to the fear of death. The Persons of the Holy Trinity share a common life of love, unity, and holiness; by the power of the Holy Spirit manifested at Pentecost, we participate by grace in Their eternal communion. Our journey to *theosis* calls us to nothing less than being united in and with God such that we become radiant with the divine energies in every dimension of our being, like an iron left in the fire of holy glory.

As those who bear the divine image and likeness, we become both more truly human and more like God as we find healing from the passions that divide and separate us, and instead embrace our life together. That is why St. Paul wrote, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Gal. 5:22-23) That is why St. Silouan the Athonite taught, "One can only love one's enemies through the grace of the Holy Spirit." And "He who does not love his enemies, does not have God's grace." [1]

The Lord said, "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.'" He uses the image of living water to describe what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit, even as He did with St. Photini, the Samaritan woman at the well. Our risen and ascended Lord did not send mere theological ideas, moral instructions, or spiritual practices to His followers. He did not limit His salvation to any particular group of people. After His Ascension, the Saviour sent the Holy Spirit to quench the deep thirst, the primal longing, of all the broken, confused, and alienated people of the world for sharing personally in the eternal life of God, for nothing else can truly satisfy us as those who bear the divine image and likeness.

As everyone who pays attention to the weather knows, wind, fire, and water are powerful realities that escape our control. At Pentecost they convey the profound mystery of what it means to participate in the divine life in ways that transcend even the best rational definitions: As living members of the Body of Christ, we may truly know and experience God from the depths of our hearts and in our common life as did the Apostles.

In order to celebrate this great feast with integrity, we must mindfully open ourselves as fully as possible to the sanctifying presence of the Holy Spirit. In order to do that, we must live faithfully each day through the spiritual strength that we gain from participating in the sacramental and ascetical life of the Church. The Holy Spirit came upon Christ's followers as they were gathered together in obedience to the Lord's command, and we must never fool ourselves into thinking that the spiritual life is an individualistic endeavour that caters to our preferences, prejudices, or feelings, no matter what they may be. Pentecost calls us to get over the pride that divided the tongues of humanity in the first place and to gain the humility to find our true personhood as members together of the Body of Christ, where the distinctive beauty of our souls will shine evermore brightly as we partake of the same living water as did the Apostles.

Indeed, Pentecost is a time for becoming so receptive to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit that we overflow with His living water, becoming channels of blessing that enable our neighbours and world to flourish with the peace, joy, and holiness of God's Kingdom. For that to happen, we must turn away from all that separates us from full participation in the life of our Lord in His Body, the Church. For that to happen, we must kneel in prayer before God and live in humility as we forgive our enemies, share our resources with the poor, and take up the daily struggle to purify our hearts. That is the only way for us to overflow with the gracious divine energies poured out abundantly for the salvation of the world on this great Feast of Pentecost.

- Father Philip LeMasters