

JUNE 7, 2020

BULLETIN – 50TH DAY AFTER PASCHA – GREAT FEAST OF PENTECOST

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Deadline for Bulletin Submissions – 10:00 am Wednesday ♦ church website: <https://ssppaoc.org/>

Many Years – Birthday

Kh. Mandy Thompson – Belated June 6
Adessa Lewis June 12

Many Years – Anniversary

Roger Sack & Lynne Moritz June 10

EXCERPT FROM METROPOLITAN JOSEPH'S MAY 29, 2020 LETTER TO THE FAITHFUL

“Beloved Clergy, please note that the last few weeks have seen increasing amounts of bitterness and animosity tearing at the fringes of the wider society. Our people need the healing presence of Christ, and we ask you to preach love and mercy, peace and reconciliation. The bishops and I have been working diligently to make informed and reasonable decisions, and we ask you to help our faithful in patiently working with us towards our shared telos of a fully restored liturgical life. Let us increase our prayers that [the] Lord will hasten that day!”

ONLINE DONATING

To donate online, go to <https://ssppaoc.org/#>. When the home page comes up, at the top right, you will see “Support Our Parish”. Select “Donate Online” and that will take you to a page with a list of possible donations and a place to pay tithe. If you have trouble with the online donating, please contact Linda Young, our webmaster, at (831) 359-3011.

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE

If you collected funds in your FFHP alms box during Lent, please count the money at home and either donate via the church website, mail or bring in a check to the church office made out to Ss Peter & Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church with FFHP in the memo.

JUNE CALENDARS

Pick up a June calendar flyer when you pass through the Narthex on Sunday. We are not using the parish hall now and no calendars will be in your church mailboxes. The calendar is also posted on the church website.

HOMILY DIGEST FROM LAST SUNDAY

On this leave-taking of the Ascension it is worth noting the largest icon in our church is the Ascension. Twelve Apostles, two angels, and the Theotokos herself looking and pointing up.

Looking up is a good way to summarize the spiritual significance of the Ascension. Human events, if we are not careful, tend to trap us in cycles of looking **down** or **sideways** at others.

The Ascension reminds us just as we’ve joined Christ in Baptism, Crucifixion and Resurrection, we are destined to join Him in Ascension. And not just after death. We’re meant to start now.

In Colossians 3:1-17 our Patron Saint Paul gives us four steps to take toward Ascension **today**:

1. **Seek things above where Christ is!**
(v. 1) Not things that quickly evaporate.
2. **Set your mind on things above!** (v.2)
Life teaches us to set our minds far lower!
3. **Confess (and kill) the sins that trouble us!** (v.5) Instead of just living with them.
4. **Put on virtue!** (v. 12-15) Compassion, kindness, forbearance, forgiveness, love, thankfulness....How many right in front of us need compassion and patience? And we need to give it.

An old friend of our parish, the late Fr. Thomas Hopko, was fond of saying something like this: “The basic question is always the same, namely what do I really, really want?” Every Feast, each Sunday, calls us to let go of what separates us from Christ and others to want and pursue Him.

Ascension invites us to look up, not down on human weakness, or sideways at what distracts! What do I really, really want?

**Many thanks to the Community Dinner
Ministry Team for a successful dinner
last Sunday.**

This Week @ Ss. Peter & Paul—June 8-14, 2020

6/10 Wed 6:00 pm – Vespers
6/13 Sat 6:00 pm – Great Vespers
6/14 Sun 8:20 am – Orthros
9:30 am – Divine Liturgy – All Saints

Looking Ahead –

June 17 Vespers
June 20 Great Vespers
June 21 Orthros & Divine Liturgy – 2nd Sunday
after Pentecost

June 7

From the Synaxarion

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

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 50th 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.

Pentecost Reopening of Our Church

Dear Parish Family:

We have received double confirmation from Sayidna's office; we are **“good to go!”**

What does that mean? Let me be specific.

1. We are free to reopen to the degree local government permits. We are allowed to use up to **25%** of the available seating/standing capacity of the various usable areas of the church: narthex, nave, altar, amvon, vesting area, balcony. Our best calculation is that we will be able to accommodate **100 or more** if families sit close together. Please come to this Great Feast!
2. We **must** follow six foot social distancing, except family groups, indoors and out.
3. We are to wear masks indoors, use gels/wipes, be cautious in touching surfaces.

Why? Just because government officials happen to say so? No! Christ says so three ways.

1. In scripture there are clear exhortations for Christians to obey government.
2. Christ has taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves.
3. Christ has spoken directly to us through Sayidna JOSEPH telling us to obey them.

Remember that passage from Philippians 2:3 I harp on? “Let each one of you with humility of mind regard the other person as more important than himself!”

The rubber meets the road here in creating and sustaining enriching parish life. Not other people demanding that I defer to them and their preferences. Rather, Christ demanding that I join him in self-sacrificing love for others. I Cor. 13:1-3 says if I don't love, I am nothing, and then goes on to list the practical ways a Christian loves.

For those of us who do not feel an inner compulsion to follow the norms, or prefer not to, let's hear Christ Himself call us to practice self-sacrifice for the sake of community building. There are people among us who **feel health vulnerabilities and very much appreciate the willingness of their brethren to defer to them in Christ's name. We can do it!**

Love,
Father George