

# Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

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HolyApostlesLansing.org

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## JUNE 4, 2017

**HOLY PENTECOST: FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY.** St. Metrophanes, First Patriarch of Constantinople (325–326). Righteous Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus (1st c.). Ven. Methodius “Peshnasha”, disciple of Ven. Sergius of Rádonezh (1392). Martyrs Frontasius, Severinus, Severian, and Silanus, of Gaul (1st c.). Martyr Concordius of Spoleto (ca. 175). Hieromartyr Astius, Bishop of Dyrrachium in Macedonia (ca. 110). Venerable Father Zosima the Bishop of Babylon (6th c.).

**EPISTLE: Acts 2:1–11:** The Holy Spirit comes upon the Apostles.

**GOSPELS: John 7:37–52, 8:12:** Jesus foretells the pouring out of the Holy Spirit.

**COFFEE HOUR: This week:** Johnson **Next week:** Potluck

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Oscar Philip Johnson, the “newly-enlisted warrior of Christ” baptized today, and to his family and godparents. May God grant you many years!

**KNEELING VESPERS:** Following a meal offered by the Jonhson family to celebrate Oscar’s Baptism, please stick around for the service of Kneeling Vespers. This service, marks the re-introduction of kneeling into our prayers after the festive season of Pascha. We continue to rejoice in the Lord in this great feast, but also must be “back to work” in our spiritual lives. The coming week is fast-free in honor of Pentecost, but is followed by the season of the Apostles’ Fast.

**MISSION RETREAT:** Fr Jonathan Ivanoff, head of Missions for the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, will be here with us the weekend of July 22–23. More details to come.

**ARCHPASTORAL LETTER:** Copies of Abp Michael’s Archpastoral Letter for Pentecost are available in the back, on our newly-installed library shelf. Pick one up today, and feel free to take a book while you’re at it!

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Abp. Michael will be at our church August 19–20, and will ordain Ivan Bazarov to the Holy Diaconate. Our parish will also be hosting the deanery picnic this weekend. Please plan to be here.

**KNOW YOUR FAITH:** Our “Know Your Faith” class is underway, discussing Serge Verhovskoy’s

*The Light of the World.* This book deals especially with the Orthodox understanding of Christ and His Church. It’s not too late to join; our next meeting will be June 13 at 7 PM. See Fr Joel for more details.

**UPCOMING FUNDRAISER:** On Saturday, July 8, we’ll be holding a chicken barbecue fundraiser. We’ll need volunteers for set-up, tear, down, and selling in the morning and early afternoon, and we’ll need some additional volunteers to prepare baked goods. Please see Bill if you’re able to help.

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We warmly welcome all of our visitors! Please know that we are glad to have you here praying with us, and we invite you to stay after the service to enjoy a meal and meet everyone in our community.

## PRAYER SCROLL

### LIVING:

Apr Timothy H  
Apr Herman S  
Apr Sergius K  
Apr Thomas E  
Apr Stephen M  
Apr John R  
Apr Patrick C  
Pr Adam S & Angie  
Mother Raphaela  
Mother Christophora  
Mat Joanna B  
Mat Katya  
Mat Mary G  
Kh Lynn  
Mat Rebekah  
Pani Amy  
Joshua  
Brittany  
Gretchen  
Marianne  
Terrence  
Helen  
Judy  
Mary & Susan  
John & Carmine

Nathan  
Leah  
Helen  
Lindsey  
Elizabeth  
Mary  
Joe A  
Daniel  
Andrew & family  
Carol  
Elizabeth  
David  
Shirley  
Christina  
Jim & Kim  
Rachel  
Constantine & Maria  
Gaetan  
Christine  
Samuel  
Lisa  
Lyudmila  
Nickolay  
Anetta  
Zachary  
Helena

Natasha, Lena, Vera,  
Sergei  
Caleb  
Danielle  
Larry, Mark, Katie  
Ann  
Dorothy  
Ronald  
Sheryl & Lacey  
Alexander, Angela,  
Anton  
Peter  
Gregory & Ann  
Raymond  
Vincent  
Photini  
Robert  
Steven, Stephanie,  
and family  
Diana  
Elizabeth  
John  
Felicia  
Tom  
Martha

Children: Anthony,  
Mia, Isabel, Bear,  
Victoria, Iva Bell,  
Panagiotis, Ada,  
Grace, Elias, Jack  
Seminarians: Rdrs  
Robert & Ivan  
Birthdays:  
Anniversaries:  
Namesdays:

REPOSED:  
Apr John U  
Priest Matthew  
Priest John  
Apr Alexander  
Dn Mark  
Rdr Gregory  
Daniel  
Ada  
Lillian  
Joseph  
Marie  
Joseph  
Laura  
Martha

Stanley  
Taissia  
Steluta  
Theophan  
Lynda  
Florence  
James  
James R  
Vasily  
Mordecai  
Alexandr  
Ron  
John  
Eleanor  
Harold  
Alfred  
Edward  
Michael  
Mat Julianna  
Mario  
Robert  
Newly Reposed:  
James, Pr Ronald, Pr  
William, Wilhelmina

**BY THE NUMBERS:** Last Collection: \$586.00. Building Fund: \$0.00. Weekly Budget: \$1150. MTD: \$4863.00. Monthly Budget: \$4600

The holy Spirit is light and life and living, spiritual spring. Spirit of wisdom, Spirit of understanding; good, right, spiritual, sovereign, cleansing faults. God and making divine; fire and proceeding from fire, speaking, working, distributing the gifts of grace; through whom all the prophets and Apostles of God with the Martyrs have been crowned. Strange tidings, strange sight: fire divided for the apportioning of gifts.

—From the *Pentecostarion*

## SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

*Confessions are heard before and after Vespers or by appointment.*

**Sunday, June 4:** 9:10 AM Hours, 9 AM Baptism, Divine Liturgy, Kneeling Vespers

**Monday, June 5:** 9AM Divine Liturgy (Day of the holy Spirit)

**Tuesday, June 6:** 8:30 AM Morning Prayer with Akathist

**Wednesday, June 7:** 8:30 AM Matins

**Thursday, June 8:** 8:30 AM Morning Prayer with Akathist

**Friday, June 9:** 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

**Saturday, June 10:** 6 PM Great Vespers

**Sunday, June 11:** 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

## PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that Thou wouldst renew us and this parish by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with love and longing for Thee. Grant that we would seek not our own will, but to do Thy will in all things and to be willing to lay down our lives out of love for Thee and for our neighbor. Draw thirsty souls to this place and remove their spiritual blindness, granting them through Thy grace to see the beauty of Thy Holy Glory in this place. Fill this community with new life, spiritual vigor, and an insatiable desire to live godly and holy lives. Forgive us all of our sins as we fall down before Thee. Bring us all to a greater repentance and to an amendment of our lives as we look to Thee, the only merciful and loving Lord, Who calls all to salvation. We beg Thee, our merciful Lord, hear us, grant all of these petitions and all of our requests unto salvation: we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

## FROM THE PENTECOSTARION

As he was well-pleased of his own authority  
The un-mastered Spirit comes down from the Father,  
Making the Apostles wise with tongues,  
Might of the Father, one in form, setting the seal  
Upon the life-bearing word, which the Saviour spoke.

God the Word, all-sovereign, healed the minds  
Of the Apostles of sin, and made ready  
An immaculate dwelling for himself;  
Now the light of the Spirit dwells in them,  
Equal in strength and consubstantial.

*Glory to God for all things!*

# HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH LANSING, NEW YORK



SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2017  
HOLY PENTECOST

## ON TODAY'S GOSPEL

### By St. Cyril of Alexandria

[Christ] shows that vast and ageless is the reward of faith, and says that he who does not disbelieve shall revel in richest graces from God. For he shall be so replete with the gifts through the Spirit, as not only to fatten his own mind, but even to be able to overflow into others' hearts, like the river stream gushing forth the God-given good upon his neighbour too. This very thing used He to enjoin the holy Apostles, saying, *Freely ye received, freely give* [Matt. 10:8]. And the wise and holy Paul too himself longing to be effectual unto this writes, *For I long to see you that I may impart some spiritual gift* [Rom. 1:11]. And one may see this most exceeding well in both the holy Evangelists and in the Evangelic teachers of the church, who on those who go to Christ through faith pouring forth most plenteous words of inspired teaching, spiritually delight them, no longer suffering them to thirst after the knowledge of the truth, with their wise soundings all but crying aloud into the heart of those who are being instructed. Wherefore the Psalmist rejoicing in spirit called out concerning them, *The rivers lifted up, O Lord, the rivers lifted up their voices* [Ps. 93:3]. Great and mighty sounded forth the word of the Saints, and *into all the earth went forth their voice*, as it is written, *and unto the ends of the world their words* [Ps. 29:4]. Such rivers did God, the God and Lord of all, promise to set forth to us, saying by the Prophet Isaiah, *The beasts of the field shall honour Me, the dragons and the daughters of the owl, because I have given water in the wilderness and rivers in the thirsty ground to give drink to My chosen generation, My people whom I formed for Myself to shew forth My praises* [Is. 43:20–21]. Very evident then it is that the Saviour says that out of the belly of him that believeth shall come forth the grace that through the spirit giveth instruction and eloquence, whereof Paul too maketh mention saying: *To one is given by the Spirit the Word of wisdom* [1 Cor. 12:8]...

And if you investigate the reason why not before the resurrection but after it did the pouring forth of the Spirit take place, you will hear in reply, Christ became then the firstfruits of the renewed nature, when making none account of the bands of death He lived again as we have just now said. How then should those be quickened before the Firstfruit who come after It? For as the plant will not shoot up from the earth, if it be not surely sprung from its own root (for thence is the beginning to it of growth): so it were impossible that we having for our root unto incorruption our Lord Jesus Christ, should be seen springing up before our root. But He shewing that the time of the Descent of the Spirit upon us was now come, after the revival from the dead, He *breathed on* His disciples, saying, *Receive ye the Holy Ghost* [Jn. 20:22]. For then was the time of the renewal indeed at the doors, yea rather within the doors. And let the searcher after learning again see whether what we say on these things too be not true. For in the beginning, as said the Spirit-clad, Moses, to us, the Creator of all, taking *dust of the ground* and having formed man, *breathed upon his face the breath of life* [Gn. 2:7]. And what is the breath of life, save surely the Spirit of Christ Who saith, *I am the Resurrection and the Life* [Jn. 11:25]? But since He fled away from the human nature, the Spirit which is able to gather us and to form us unto the Divine Impress, the Saviour gives us this [Spirit] anew bringing us

again unto that ancient Dignity and reforming us unto His own Image. For therefore does Paul too say to certain, *Little children of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you* [Gal. 4:19].

Let us consider... that in the holy Prophets there was a certain rich shining upon and torch-illumination from the Spirit, mighty to lead them to the apprehension of things to come and the knowledge of things hidden: but in those who believe on Christ, we are confident that not torch-illumination simply from the Spirit, but the Spirit Itself dwells and has His habitation. Whence rightly are we called temples too of God, though no one of the holy Prophets was ever called a Divine Temple. Since how shall we understand this, and what shall we say when we hear our Saviour Christ say, *Verily verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist, notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of Heaven is greater than he* [Matt. 11:11]? And what is *the kingdom of Heaven*? The gift of the Holy Ghost according to that which is said, *The kingdom of Heaven is within you* [Luke 17:21]: for the Spirit hath His habitation in us through faith. Seest thou then how He preferreth before every one born of a woman him that is in the kingdom of Heaven even if he be below the perfect? And let no one think that we make little of the glory of the virtue of those Saints or say that those even of least account are superior. For we say not so; for incomparable is the beauty of their conversation. But for clear understanding let us briefly interpret what has been said by our Saviour. Great in truth was the blessed Baptist and through all virtue most renowned, attaining at last to the very bounds of that righteousness which belongs to us, so that there is nought above it. Yet did he who was in this case beseech of Christ saying, *I have need to be baptized of Thee and dost Thou come to Me* [Matt. 3:14]? Seest thou how being perfect, as far as pertained to men and the born of women, he beseeches to be in a manner new-created and re-born through the Holy Ghost? Seest thou how he yields the greater to those new born, by his saying that himself has need of this? for if he were in better case not baptized, what persuaded him to beseech to be baptized? But if he knew that he would be in better case, when baptism came, how does he not yield the palm to those already baptized? Greater therefore than John himself does Christ say that he is who is lesser in the kingdom of Heaven, i. e. the new baptized, who has not as yet attained excellence in work; in this only that the blessed Baptist was yet born of a woman, but the other is *begotten of God* [Jn. 3:9] as it is written, and has become *partaker of the Divine Nature* [2 Pet. 1:4], having indwelling in him the Holy Ghost and already called a temple of God.

... The Spirit came to be in the Prophets for the need's sake of prophesying; He indwelleth now through Christ in believers, having begun in Him first when He was made Man. For as God He has unceasingly the Spirit Who is Essentially of His Nature and His own. He is anointed for our sakes and said to receive the Spirit as Man, not for Himself bringing in the participation of the Divine good things, but for the nature of man as we have already taught. When then the Divine Evangelist says to us, *For the Spirit was not yet because that Jesus was not yet glorified* [Jn. 7:39], let us understand him to mean the full and complete habitation in men of the Holy Ghost.

# WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 28

## The First Antiphon

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## The Second Antiphon

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

*Refrain:* O Good Comforter, save us who sing to You: "Alleluia!"

May He send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!

May He remember all your offerings, and fulfill all your plans!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## The Third Antiphon

In Your strength the king rejoices, O Lord, and exults greatly in Your salvation.

*Refrain:* Troparion of the Feast

You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips.

For You meet him with goodly blessings; You set a crown of fine gold upon his head.

## Troparion, Tone 8

Blessed are You, O Christ our God;

for You have shown the fishermen to be most wise

by sending down on them the Holy Spirit

and through them catching all the world in Your net.//

Glory to You, O good God Who love mankind!

## Kontakion, Tone 8

When He came down and confused the tongues, the Most High divided the nations;

but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all people to unity.//

Therefore, with one voice we glorify the most-Holy Spirit.

## Instead of the Trisagion

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia.

## Prokeimenon, Tone 8

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

v: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

## Alleluia, Tone 1

v: By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made; and all their host by the Spirit of His mouth.

v: The Lord looked down from heaven, and saw all the sons of men.

**Instead of "It is truly meet..." (See opposite)**

Rejoice, O Queen, glory of mothers and virgins! No tongue, however sweet or fluent, is eloquent enough to praise you worthily. Every mind is overawed by your childbearing. Therefore, with one voice, we glorify you.

## Communion Hymn

Let Your good Spirit lead me on a level path! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## A Sermon of the Holy Spirit

by Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Surozh

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Today we are keeping the Feast of the Holy Spirit. What do we know about Him? We heard wonderful words of prayer about Him yesterday on Trinity Sunday, but let us think of Him, of the name He is given in the Gospel, which is translated 'The Comforter' in English, in other translations 'The Advocate'. He is the One Who is the Comforter indeed, the One Who consoles us for our separation from Christ, Who consoles us who are like orphans, who long to be with Christ our God, our Saviour, and who know that as long as we are in the flesh - and these are the words of St. Paul - we are separated from Him. But for Him to be our Comforter, to be our consolation, we must first be aware of the fact that we are separated and this is the first question we must ask ourselves: are we aware of it, or do we live in the delusion that we are in God and God in us, and that nothing more is needed? How much more is needed!

He is also the One Who, as the Comforter, gives us strength, strength to live despite the separation, strength to stand fast and to be the doers of the Will, the fulfillers of the Commandments of God, the One Who can give us vigour of soul, determination, power to act. But this, again, only if we turn to Him and say, Come! Come and abide in us! Cleanse us! Be not only our Comforter but our strength also.

Lastly, He is the One Who gives us, already now, the joy of knowing how close we are despite what seems to be an infinite distance between God and us, the One Who, in unutterable groanings, speaks to God from the depths of our being; the One Who, because we are Christ's own people, His brothers and sisters in humanity - and these are His own words - that we are the children of the Father. The joy of this, the wonder of this, the dignity of this! Indeed also, the responsibility of this...

If we think of our world which is to such a great extent alien to God, the Spirit is already the beginning of eternal life. His presence is a decisive fact. He beats against the rocks like the sea, He breaks resistances. He is the joy of eternity knocking at our door, forcing Himself into our lives, reminding us of God our Father, of Christ our Saviour and of our greatness and dignity before God, showing us that all things are possible in the power of Christ Who sustains us.

Let us therefore responsibly and gratefully keep this Feast. And may the Spirit of God Who came in tongues of fire upon the Apostles, come to us also - perhaps like a fire that sets us aglow and makes us like a Burning Bush, or touches us like the still, small voice which the Prophet heard in the wilderness in which God was, in His quiet humility, in His surrender to us, in His love for us. Amen.