

Holy Apostles Orthodox Christian Church

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



HOUSE BLESSINGS

All who reside in the household should make every effort to be present for the Blessing. In anticipation of the arrival of the Priest to the house, the lampada, hand-censer and incense in the family's icon corner should be prepared. If there is no icon corner, a small table should be placed on the eastern wall of the main room of the dwelling; the table, covered with a white cloth, should be set with one or more icons standing upright, a candle in a candle stand, a hand-censer and incense. A small bowl along with several sprigs of evergreen bound together with a ribbon should also be placed in the icon corner (or on the table), along with a clearly printed list of the Baptismal names of the members of the household. Upon the arrival of the Priest, he is to be greeted by all of the family members, each of whom asks the Priest's blessing and reverences his right hand. Then a family member lights the lampada (or candle) and hand-censer and turns off all televisions, radios, phones, etc. in the home. Lights should be turned on in all the rooms of the house that are to be blessed. Then the entire family gathers with the Priest before the icon corner (or table) to begin the Theophany House Blessing.

HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX MISSION

3214 N St, Vancouver, WA
[www. Holy12.org](http://www.Holy12.org)

For Current Calendar of Services
and Office Hours Visit:
<https://holy12.org/calendar>

Fr. Michael Rozdilski, Rector
425-999-0407



UPCOMING EVENTS, FEAST DAYS AND SERVICES

6.2.22
Office Hours - 1:00 pm

6.4.22
Great Vespers - 6:00 pm

5.6.22
Divine Liturgy
Potluck Lunch and Sunday School

Holy Pentecost

Commemorated on June 12

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7×7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: $49 + 1$,



this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.

UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

6.9.22

Office Hours - 1:00 pm

6.11.22

Great Vespers - 6:00 pm

6.12.22

Divine Liturgy

Potluck Lunch and Sunday School

6.16.22

Office Hours - 1:00 pm

6.18.22

Great Vespers - 6:00 pm

6.19.22

Divine Liturgy

Potluck Lunch and Sunday School

6.23.22

Office Hours - 1:00 pm

6.25.22

Great Vespers - 6:00 pm

6.26.22

Divine Liturgy

Potluck Lunch and Sunday School

6.30.22

Office Hours - 1:00 pm

7.2.22

Great Vespers - 6:00 pm

7.3.22

Divine Liturgy

Potluck Lunch and Sunday School

7.7.22

Office Hours - 1:00 pm

7.9.22

Great Vespers - 6:00 pm

7.10.22

Divine Liturgy

Potluck Lunch and Sunday School

The Vigil of Pentecost

The all-night Vigil service begins with a solemn invitation:

“Let us celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, The appointed day of promise, and the fulfillment of hope, The mystery which is as great as it is precious.”

In the coming of the Spirit, the very essence of the Church is revealed:

“The Holy Spirit provides all, Overflows with prophecy, fulfills the priesthood, Has taught wisdom to illiterates, has revealed fishermen as theologians, He brings together the whole council of the Church.”

In the three readings of the Old Testament (Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29; Joel 2:23-32; Ezekiel 36:24-28) we hear the prophecies concerning the Holy Spirit. We are taught that the entire history of mankind was directed towards the day on which God “would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh.” This day has come! All hope, all promises, all expectations have been fulfilled. At the end of the Aposticha hymns, for the first time since Easter, we sing the hymn: “O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth...,” the one with which we inaugurate all our services, all prayers, which is, as it were, the life-breath of the Church, and whose coming to us, whose “descent” upon us in this festal Vigil, is indeed the very experience of the Holy Spirit “coming and abiding in us.”

Having reached its climax, the Vigil continues as an explosion of joy and light for “verily the light of the Comforter has come and illumined the world.” In the Gospel reading (John 20:19-23) the feast is interpreted to us as the feast of the Church, of her divine nature, power and authority. The Lord sends His disciples into the world, as He Himself was sent by His Father. Later, in the antiphons of the Liturgy, we proclaim the universality of the apostles’ preaching, the cosmical significance of the feast, the sanctification of the whole world, the true manifestation of God’s Kingdom.

UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

7.12.22

Vigil - 6:00 pm

7.13.22

Divine Liturgy - 9:00 am

7.14.22

Office Hours - 1:00 pm

7.16.22

Great Vespers - 6:00 pm

7.17.22

Divine Liturgy
Potluck Lunch and Sunday School

July 18th - 22nd

Father Michael at AAC

7.23.22

Great Vespers - 6:00 pm

7.24.22

Divine Liturgy
Potluck Lunch and Sunday School

7.28.22

Office Hours - 1:00 pm

7.30.22

Great Vespers - 6:00 pm

7.31.22

Divine Liturgy
Potluck Lunch and Sunday School

The Vespers of Pentecost

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately the Divine Liturgy, is “added” to it as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn “summing up” of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. We hold flowers in our hands symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon:

“Who is so great a God as our God?”

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God.



In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter “the ordinary time” of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called “after Pentecost”—and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches—for the Church “never grows old, but is always young.” It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit—“the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life—comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity,” and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope.

Father Alexander Schmemmann (1974)

ПРАЗДНИК ПЯТИДЕСЯТНИЦЫ. ДЕНЬ СВЯТОЙ ТРОИЦЫ. ГЛАВА ИЗ ЗАКОНА БОЖИЯ СЕРАФИМА СЛОБОДСКОГО

День празднования: 30 мая



Сошествие Святого
Духа на апостолов

Праздник Святой Троицы называется Пятидесятницею потому, что сошествие Святого Духа на Апостолов совершилось в пятидесятый день по Воскресении Христовом. Праздник христианской Пятидесятницы включает в себе двойное торжество: – и в славу Пресвятой Троицы, и в славу Пресвятого Духа, видимо сошедшего на Апостолов и запечатлевшего новый вечный завет Бога с человеками.

Первый день Пятидесятницы, т.е. воскресенье, Церковь посвящает преимущественно в славу Пресвятой Троицы; и этот день в народе называется Троицыным днем, а второй, т.е. понедельник – во славу Духа Пресвятого, отчего и называется Духовым днем.

Празднование Святому Духу Церковь начинает, по обыкновению, вечерним Богослужением в Троицын день. На сем Богослужении с коленопреклонением читаются три умилительные молитвы Василия Великого, в которых мы исповедуем грехи наши пред Отцом Небесным и, ради великой жертвы Сына Его, испрашиваем помилования; просим также Господа Иисуса Христа даровать нам Божественного Духа, в просвещение и утверждение душ наших, и, наконец, молимся об усопших отцах и братьях наших, да упокоит их Господь в месте светле, злачне и покое.

В Праздник Пятидесятницы принято украшать храм и свои жилища древесными ветвями и цветами, и самим стоять в храме с цветами в руках. Украшение храмов и жилищ в этот день зеленью и цветами бывает, во-первых, исповеданием зиждительной силы Животворящего Духа; а во-вторых, – должным посвящением Ему начатков весны.

Apostles Fast

Commemorated: June 20/June 7

The Orthodox year has a rhythm, much like the tide coming in and going out – only this rhythm is an undulation between seasons of fasting and seasons (or a few days) of feasting. Every week, with few exceptions, is marked by the Wednesday and Friday fast, and every celebration of the Divine Liturgy is prepared for by eating nothing after midnight until we have received the Holy Sacrament.

It is a rhythm. Our modern world has lost most of its natural rhythm. The sun rises and sets but causes little fanfare in a world powered and lit by other sources. In America, virtually everything is always in season, even though the chemicals used to preserve this wonderful cornucopia are probably slowly poisoning our bodies.

The Scriptures speaks of the rhythms of the world – “the sun to rule by day... the moon and stars to rule by night...”



The rhythm of the Church does not seek to make us slaves of the calendar nor does it treat certain foods as sinful. It simply calls us to a more human way of living. It's not properly human to eat anything you want, anytime you want. Even Adam and Eve in the Garden initially knew what it was to abstain from the fruit of a certain tree.

Orthodox do not starve when they fast – we simply abstain from certain foods and generally eat less.

At the same time, we are taught to pray more, attend services more frequently, and to increase our generosity to others (alms).

But it is a rhythm – fasts are followed by feasts. The fast of the Apostles begins on the second Monday after Pentecost and concludes on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul on June 29. Most of Christendom will know nothing of any of this – that Eastern Christians will have begun a Lenten period while the world begins to think of vacations.

The contemporary God is much the same as the contemporary diet – we want as much of Him as we want – anytime, anywhere. There is no rhythm to our desire, only the rise and fall of passions. There is no legalism in the Orthodox fast. I do not think God punishes those who fail to fast. I believe that they simply continue to become less and less human. We will not accept the limits and boundaries of our existence and thus find desires to be incessant and unruly. It makes us bestial.

For those who have begun the fast – may God give you grace! For those who know nothing of the fast – may God give you grace and preserve from a world that would devour you. May God give us all the mercies of His kindness and help us remember the work of His blessed apostles!

-Fr. Stephen Freeman

Holy Apostles Business Corner



Branding, Photography
and Video Production

Amanda Goff
360-213-5112
amanda@silverkeysmedia.com

The church offers this as a way to support our congregation. We do not endorse any specific businesses advertised here.

If you would like to have your business included, please contact
amanda@silverkeysmedia.com



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СЛОВО В ДЕНЬ СВЯТЫХ АПОСТОЛОВ ПЕТРА И ПАВЛА

Во всю землю изыде вещание их и в концы вселен-
ныя глаголы их (Пс. 18, 5; Рим. 10, 18).



Святые первоверховные апостолы Петр и
Павел (справа)

Святые первоверховные
апостолы Петр и Павел
(справа)

Чтобы хотя немного возвысить дух наш над той суетой жизни, в которую обыкновенно он бывает погружен, впечатлением ныне, братие, в умах наших полные неисчерпаемой жизни образы святых первоверховных апостолов Петра и Павла. Их души представляют равно преизобильные сокровищницы добродетелей духовных для нас, лишь в малой мере причастных Божественной жизни, открывшейся чрез явление Бога во плоти.

Оба одинаково «предали души свои» (Деян. 15, 26) за слово Божие и за свидетельство об имени Господа Иисуса Христа, желая упasti овец стада Христова и увести Христу Церковь из язычников, искупленную Кровию Его. Один, будучи камнем веры, первый «утвердил братию» (Лк. 22, 32), рассеявшуюся от страха гонений за имя Христово по воскресении, и впервые разъяснил, что к Церкви, состоявшей доселе из одних сынов Израилевых, Бог повелевает присоеди-
единять обращающихся из язычников (Деян. 15, 7-11). Другой, будучи «избранным сосудом, чтобы возвещать имя Христово» (Деян. 9, 15) народам, которые еще не слышали о Христе (Рим. 15, 20-21), прошел со словом проповеди едва не всю известную тогда вселенную,

чтобы «возвеселилась неплодная, нерождающая» Церковь (Гал. 4, 27; Ис. 54, 1) и «возрадовалась земля сухая и необитаемая» сердца язычников (Ис. 35, 1). Оба, в равной мере исполненные любви ко Христу, всю жизнь посвятили проповеданию Слова и трудам апостольства и оба запечатали мученическою кончиною свою любовь ко Христу. Один, вначале отрекшись от Христа, потом всю жизнь в покаянии следовал за Ним как бы на распятие, претерпев искушения огненные и наветы сатаны (1 Пет. 4, 12; 5, 8), чтобы исполнить сказанные ему слова Христовы: *Иди за Мною* (Ин. 21, 19). Другой, призванный из гонителей, все «вменял в уметы», чтобы приобрести Христа (Флп. 3, 6-8), и желал от Христа быть отлученным, чтобы привести к Нему братию по плоти - Израиля (Рим. 9, 3), пока мученически не скончал своего течения, чтобы получить венец правды (2 Тим. 4, 6-8).

Оба оставили последующим церквям, имевшим возникнуть из ими основанных, свои писания, полные назиданий, в которых доселе живет дух их для всех читающих и слышащих. Один своими писаниями утверждает веру, ослабевающую в искушениях, для очищения нашего посылаемых (1 Пет. 4, 12). Другой раскрывает неисчерпаемое богатство премудрости и ведения, заключенное во Христе для всех народов (Кол. 2, 3; Еф. 3, 8).

Очевидно, братие, должны бы быть всегда живы в нас эти образы апостолов, «*весь мир учеными своими просветивших и вся концы, следовательно и нас, ко Христу приведших*».

Но то ли видим мы в действительности? Как немногие из нас читают их писания и как мало стараются уразуметь их! Как часто с полным равнодушием оставляем мы *«слово Божие, живое и действенное, во век пребывающее»*, проникающее в самые сокровенные мысли души и обличающее их со всею ясностью (Евр. 4, 12-13), и обращаемся к мудрости земной, *«по стихиям мира»* (Гал. 4, 9; Кол. 2, 8), нисколько не раскрывающей нам Божественной премудрости, сокрытой во всем мире и в жизни человечества! Не бывает ли даже того, что слово этих апостолов подвергается среди нас осмеянию, какому подверглось оно в Афинах среди мудрецов и философов, от которых с таким тягостным настроением духа вышел святой апостол Павел, чтобы проповедовать в других городах (Деян. 17, 18, 32-33; 18, 1; 1 Сол. 3, 1-7)? Не подвергаются ли и ныне проповедники слова этих апостолов стеснению, даже до уз, подобно великому апостолу Христову Павлу (2 Тим. 2, 9)? Не оттого ли так и усиливается неверие в наше время, что мы не хотим слышать и знать о той вере живой, пламенной, не из мнений или помышлений плоти и крови возникшей, а из небесного Божественного откровения (Мф. 16, 17), какую имел называемый камнем Симон Петр? Не оттого ли все более и более оскудевает любовь христианская между народами, что совсем забыли о Павле, которого *«уста были всегда отверсты и сердце расширено»* (2 Кор. 6, 11), чтобы нежною любовью объять всех, кого *«родил он благовествованием Христовым»* (1 Кор. 4, 15)? Доколе стоит мир, он будет стоять лишь на двенадцати основаниях, которые суть двенадцать апостолов Христовых (Откр. 21, 14; Еф. 2, 20). Но если вместо того, чтобы приступать ко Христу, Камню краеугольному, и подобно камням живым устроить из себя дом духовный и священство святое (1 Пет. 2, 5), будем мы строить на ином основании, кроме положенного, которое есть Иисус Христос, то испытанию огня подвергнется дело каждого подобного строителя (1 Кор. 3, 11-13) и огонь, от которого погибнет настоящий мир (2 Пет. 3, 7-12), все более и более будет разрушать его, чтобы явились *«новое небо и новая земля, на которых обитает правда»* (2 Пет. 3, 13).

Итак, пока медлит еще Господь Своим пришествием, исполнимся страха пред Ним, чтобы хотя он побуждал нас к благочестивой и святой жизни (2 Пет. 3, 9-11), если уже не побуждает любовь к Искупителю нашему, принесшему Себя в умилоствление о грехах наших (Рим. 3, 25), Господу Иисусу Христу.

Полные неизъяснимой красоты духовной образы святых первоверховных апостолов всегда сильны будут поддержать нас в постигающих искушениях и исполнить любви к Богу, если только захотим мы в них искать поддержки для себя. А читая чаще писания их, мы всегда будем находить в них обильную пищу для ума, для размышлений и духовных созерцаний, источник высшей радости при наблюдении печального и исполненного скорби порядка жизни в мире сем, достигнем даже как бы пророческого прозрения в будущие судьбы Церкви Христовой - доколе она стоит на земле, доколе еще слышится в мире *«вещание сих апостолов и хранятся глаголы их»*. Аминь.

Священномученик Фаддей (Успенский), архиепископ Тверской

11 июля 2004 г.

Holy, Glorious Prophet Elijah

Commemorated: July 20

The Holy Prophet Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elijah: “When Elijah was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames.” The name Elijah (the Lord’s strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.



During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elijah was a torch (Eccles. 48: 1). The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land.

Holy, Glorious Prophet Elijah Cont.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to Sarephta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elijah, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elijah told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God.

The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elijah built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: "Truly, the Lord is God!" Then the Prophet Elijah had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth.

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elijah fled into the Kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elijah traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave.

The Lord told him that the next day Elijah would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in "a gentle breeze" (3 Kings 19: 12). He revealed to the prophet, that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal.

Holy, Glorious Prophet Elijah Cont.

Later, the Lord commanded Elijah to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elijah was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elijah's mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit.

According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elijah will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.

The life of the holy Prophet Elijah is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach/Ecclesiasticus 48: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58). At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elijah conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Mt. 17: 3; Mark 9: 4; Luke. 9: 30).



Orthodox Christians of all times, and in all places, have venerated the Prophet Elijah for centuries. The first church in Russia, built at Kiev under Prince Igor, was named for the Prophet Elijah. After her Baptism Saint Olga (July 11) built a temple of the Holy Prophet Elijah in her native region, at the village of Vibuta.

In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.