

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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Divine Services

Eve Sundays & Feast Days

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sundays and Feast Days

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hour

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Please check weekly schedule
for specific days (last page).

Previous Ambos on website.

Articles for publication
should be submitted to:

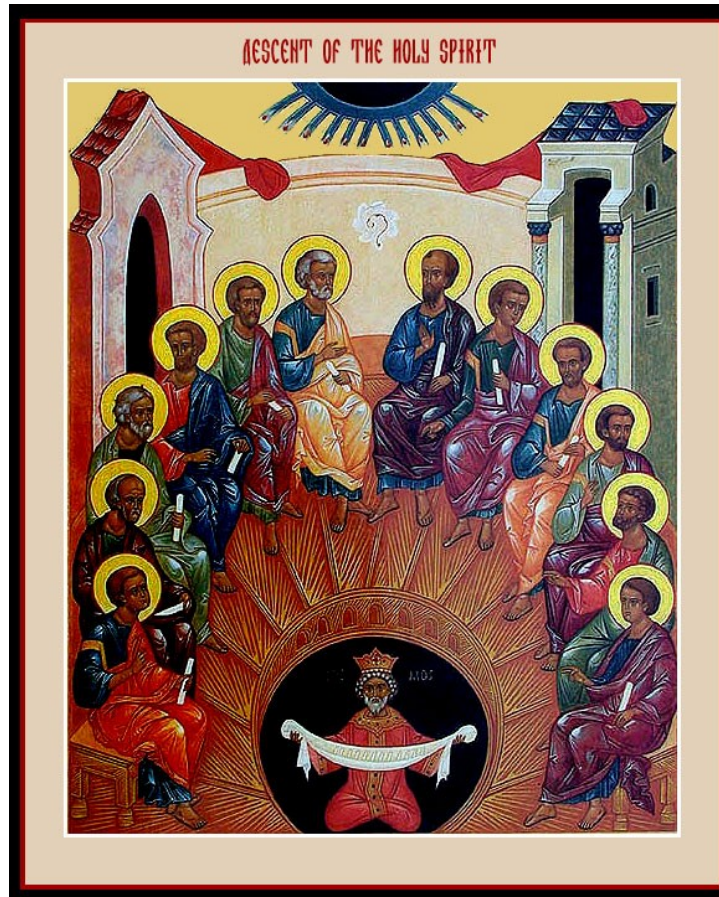
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MAY 31, 2026

8TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

HOLY PENTECOST: FEAST OF
THE HOLY TRINITY



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 x 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.

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.

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 fullness, 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 ever-green, 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)

Coffee Hour Quarter 2 2026

Questions/Concerns/volunteer? call Cathy Weber (412-215-1928)

April 5	May 10 (<i>Mother’s Day</i>)	June 14 (<i>Apostle’s Fast</i>)
Mary	Men’s Potluck	Heather
April 12	May 17	June 21 (<i>Apostle’s Fast</i> , <i>Father’s Day</i>)
Holy Pascha	Joyce & Judy	Whitlock
April 19	May 24	(<i>sponsored by anonymous</i>)
Tammy & Cathy	Mat. Jana	June 28 (<i>Apostle’s Fast</i>)
April 26	(<i>Sponsored by Una & John</i>)	Gabe Tabeling
Cindy Zdinak	May 31	
(<i>Sponsored by Una & John</i>)	Sarah & Mike Brennan	
May 3	June 7	
Whitlock	Cindy Zdinak	
(<i>Sponsored by Una & John</i>)		

Calling all Singles: Please join the OCS (Orthodox Christian Singles) for a potluck picnic on Sunday, June 7 at 4pm at Edgewater Park in Cleveland, Ohio. Hamburgers, hotdogs dogs and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share. Please contact Victoria Thorp at [\(440\) 732-1401](tel:440-732-1401) with any questions and to RSVP. Hope to see you there!



Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Sunday, 31 May 2026

Holy Pentecost

No. 95

ARCHPASTORAL GREETINGS OF THE MOST REVEREND DANIEL
ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO AND THE MIDWEST
ON THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

**Beloved Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful
of the God-protected Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest:**

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. Acts 2:2-3

I greet you with joy as we celebrate the great feast of Holy Pentecost. Recalling the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the new-born Church, we give thanks to God for granting the seven-fold gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, courage, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord to the Holy Apostles gathered in Jerusalem and to the fullness of the Church throughout the ages. May the same Holy Spirit renew our hearts and guide our diocesan family to an always-increasing and ever-deepening life in Christ.

I also extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our diocesan graduates at the various stages of their education: your dedication, perseverance in your studies, and academic accomplishments are a blessing to your families, your parish communities and to our entire Diocese. May the Lord continue to guide your path, granting you strong faith, wisdom, and purpose in every new endeavor. May you always be encouraged to use your gifts and talents to serve Christ and His Church.

As summer begins, I urge everyone to enjoy this blessed season with gratitude and joy. May your summer activities – family gatherings, travel and vacations, camps, barbecues and picnics, parish events, and times of rest and relaxation – be filled with safety, fellowship, and opportunities to grow closer to Christ. Let us continue to remain active in prayer, worship, and acts of kindness wherever we may be.

May the grace of the Holy Spirit strengthen and protect you always.

With love in the Lord,

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

PRAYER REQUESTS

5/31/2026

Special Intentions:

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Subdeacon Leon Felon

Reader Frank Tkacz

Reader Daniel Morris

Reader Haralambos Steingass

Horia Dascalescu (*Lavinia's brother*)

Janice Tkacz

Eleanor Wachovec (*friend of Karen Felon*)

Rachel Ohlin (*relative of Tatiana*)

Jeffrey Parhamovich (*brother of Karen Felon*)

Margaret Parhamovich (*sister-in-law of Karen Felon*)

Jean Woycitzky Thompson (*Frank's cousin*)

Debra Parhamovich (*sister of Karen Felon*)

Robert Martin Prock

Valentina Zawolowycz (*mother of Paul Z*)

Child McKenna Kranek

Betty Balasz

Elisabeth Lavrisiuk

Phyllis Gindlesperger

Jerry Czajkowski

Barbara Sheean

Tamara Ponomarenko

Paige Benjamin (*niece of Una Alexandrovic*)

Sara Wilmot (*friend of Tim Clos*)

Catherine (*niece of Judy Schwind*)

Elena Rich

Donald & Catherine & unborn child

Quinn (*niece of John Alexandrovic*)

Michael

Allison

Mackenzie

Thomas Virostek

Please submit names to the Prayer List by emailing them to Fr. Jan Cizmar st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com Or calling at 1 (440) 732-8182 Names remain on the list for 30 days unless requested otherwise.



ST. THEODOSIUS IS A SUBSCRIBER TO TITHE.LY

In response to requests to be able to donate electronically, we have set up a Tithe.ly account so people can donate either regularly or for special occasions online. Click here to see: <https://www.sttheodosius.org/donate>



CONGRATULATIONS KENNY!

On June 1st, 2026, Our own Reader Julius Kenneth J Kovach will celebrate his 55th Anniversary as Choirmaster and Ecclesiarch at St. Theodosius Cathedral
Be sure to congratulate him!

Sunday, May 31

Eighth Sunday after Pascha

Holy Pentecost: Feast of the Holy Trinity

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

12:00 PM Vespers of Pentecost

Monday, June 1

Day of the Holy Spirit

Martyr Justin the Philosopher and those with him at Rome

Tuesday, June 2

Third Day of the Trinity

St. Nikephoros the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople (828)

Wednesday, June 3

Afterfeast of Pentecost

Martyr Lucillian and those who suffered with him at Byzantium

Thursday, June 4

Afterfeast of Pentecost

“Surety of Sinners” Icon of the Mother of God of Korets

Friday, June 5

Afterfeast of Pentecost

Hieromartyr Dorotheus, Bishop of Tyre (ca. 362)

Saturday, June 6

Leavetaking of Pentecost

Ven. Bessarion, Wonderworker of Egypt (4th-5th c.)

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Great Vespers

BIWEEKLY SCHEDULE 2026



Day of the Holy Spirit (June 1)

Today we honor the all-Holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, Who descended upon the Apostles at Pentecost in the form of fiery tongues in fulfillment of the Lord's promise to send the Comforter to His disciples (JN 14:16). That same Holy Spirit remains within the Church throughout the ages, guiding it “into all truth” (JN 16:13).

Sunday, June 7

First Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints

“Seven Arrows”

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

Monday, June 8

Beginning of the Apostle's Fast

Translation of the Relics of the Greatmartyr Theodore Stratelates (319)

Tuesday, June 9

St. Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria (444)

Wednesday, June 10

Hieromartyr Timothy, Bishop of Prussa (4th c.)

Thursday, June 11

Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas (1st c.)
6:00 PM Akathist

Friday, June 12

Ven. Onuphrius the Great (4th c.)

Saturday, June 13

Martyr Aquilina of Byblos in Syria (293)

11:00 AM *Panichida* for Archpriest J.

Kappanadze at the Cemetery

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, June 14

Second Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints of America

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour