



## The Prophet Elias Church

Address: 223 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA  
95060

Phone: (831) 429-6500

Web: <http://www.propheteliassc.org>

Email: [info@propheteliassc.org](mailto:info@propheteliassc.org)

### Visiting Clergy

Phone: (831) 429-6500

Email: [info@propheteliassc.org](mailto:info@propheteliassc.org)

## Services Schedule

9:00 AM Sunday Orthros

10:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy

11:00 AM Sunday School - As announced

12:00 PM Sunday, Fellowship after Divine Liturgy

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Bulletin for Sunday, May 31, 2026

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## Service Schedule

*"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." - John 8:12*

Sunday, May 31: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. John Takahashi**

Sunday, June 7: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. John Takahashi**

Sunday, June 14: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. John Takahashi**

Sunday, June 21: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. Milutin Janjic**

Sunday, June 28: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. Milutin Janjic**

## PRAYERS FOR ALL IN NEED

Presvytera Naomi (Robin) Takahashi, Father Marin State, David Zomer, Dafina Molman, Harriet Mainis, Maura, Vlad Voinea, Fotini Ballas, Bob Rible, Jim Deamant, Yorgos Hadzis, Connie Mellis, Karen Krilanovich, Inna Shkolnik, Sam Khalil, Lesley, Leola, Dawn Sculley, John Demas, Twan, Athena Wolfe, Evangelia, Marie, Adam Nikolopoulos, Bob

Roberts, Selah, Stacy, Evangelia, Helene Doss, Panos Kakaris, Helen Sirakides, Cynthia (Anna) Baldwin-Thanos, Brad Dyer, John, Muriel, Irina Sanchez, Eleni, Maria, Paraskevi, Constantine Mellis, Spiro Mellis, Steve, Alexandra, Jim, Michael Panelli

Call the church office (831) 429-6500 to add the name of someone in need of prayers.

## NOTICE

We request everyone in attendance for services to please be respectful and silence your phone. We greatly appreciate your cooperation, thank you everyone.

## Our News

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dear Sunday School Families,

As we wrap up another blessed Sunday school year, I want to extend my warmest wishes for a happy and restful summer to each and every one of you.

We will resume Sunday school in the fall. Please keep a look out for an announcement with more information about registration and the upcoming schedule in late August.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication. I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

With love in Christ, Angela Santiago

Sunday School Teacher

Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church Sunday School Teacher

### STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church of Santa Cruz is our parish home. It is the place where we meet God when we partake of the Holy Eucharist – Holy Communion. It is a place for prayers to ask for strength to meet the challenges in our lives. It is where we come together as the Body of Christ. Our church family shares the Orthodox Faith, which is the glue we find nowhere else but within the Church.

But like any parish, we have material needs and operating expenses (utilities, clergy salaries, ect). We must cover these expenses in order to keep our Prophet Elias functioning properly so we are able to worship the Lord.

Stewardship consists of our time, talent, and treasure, and this is where the treasure part of Stewardship becomes so important. It's imperative that we all work together and each do our part to provide and secure our future so we may continue to grow together.

Our stewardship goal for this year has been set to **\$120,000**. Let us pray, hope, and work together to exceed our expectations.

If you would like to become a Steward, please fill out a Commitment Card (scroll down to special announcements to download the PDF file), or email **info@propheteliassc.org** for more information if you have any questions.

If you would like to make a general donation to Prophet Elias please follow the link below for instructions:

<https://www.propheteliassc.org/about-things-to-know/donate>

Kostas Amberiadis  
Stewardship Chairman

### **THE PHILOPTOCHOS CORNER**

Xpistos Anesti!

**Pentecost falls on May 31st.** The Philoptochos will be hosting fellowship. It will be a potluck. Please reach out to me if you are willing to bring a dish to be served.

Thus far we have a cake for dessert, sandwiches, and a pasta salad. Fruit, a green salad, a side dish or snacks are all welcome. **Please consider offering a side dish to share.**

Save the date! Clean out your closets! We are having our **annual spring/summer yard sale**. It will be on **Saturday, June 13th, 9 AM to 1 PM**.

Again the tables are **\$10.00 each and 10% of your profits** (or more if you wish) donated to our Philoptochos so we may continue our mission.

More details to follow.

If you are interested in adorning our icons with flowers on their feast days please reach out to Joanna Stebbins.

Alithios Anesti!

Respectfully,  
Your sister in Christ  
Aphrodite

### **RECYCLING PROGRAM**

Alexa Bolas continues to lead our recycling efforts. Please remember to bring your recyclable items when you come to church. If you are unable to bring the recyclable items to church, please call **Alexa (650-868-5015)** to make arrangements for pickup.

**Ask neighbors and friends to help out.** Any containers that have CA-CRV can be recycled such as:

- **Aluminum cans**

- Bi-metal cans
- Glass bottles: Including wine and liquor bottles
- Plastic bottles: including juice

Please do **NOT** bring us any other types of plastic containers for our recycling fundraising, **ONLY** plastic bottles please.

The recycling directly helps the church. Here are some ways it contributed this year:

- New lamp for choir area
- Supplies for the bathrooms and fellowship
- Vacuum cleaner repair
- Donation for new stove

Thank you to all who have brought in recycling.  
Together we are making a difference!

### **DECLUTTER Books/CD/DVD**

Also, the Philoptochos declutter fundraiser is back in action!! If you have books, CDs, or DVDs that you no longer want, please tell us what you wish to donate in an email to:

[stkatherine@propheteliassc.org](mailto:stkatherine@propheteliassc.org) or contact Alexa Bolas

Thank you again for supporting St. Katherine Philoptochos philanthropic missions.  
Together we are making a difference!

### **WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP**

All are welcome to our weekly fellowship at **Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church!** We gather immediately following the liturgy in the church hall upstairs. Whether you are a longtime member of our church or visiting us for the first time, we are glad you are here. Please continue to join us for fellowship and the opportunity to know more about you.

We all love our Sunday Fellowship time after Liturgy. It is a special time when we can meet visitors to our church and visit with each other. Refreshments and coffee are always provided.

As all of you know, the price for shopping at the market has skyrocketed and it is getting very expensive to provide refreshments, but we are not willing to give it up.

If you are able to, we are asking you to consider making a donation knowing it would be welcomed and appreciated. No amount is too small (\$1) nor too large (\$1 million). For special events and banquets there will be a set price and you will know the amount ahead of time.

We are entering a strict fasting period in **June**. Look at your church calendar and you will see that starting on **June 8** until **June 28** is a **strict fasting period** with fish allowed on some days. **Sunday the 14, 21, 28** are fasting days. If you are hosting fellowship hour, remember to have enough food available for those who are strictly fasting. As always, fellowship can be something simple, and doesn't need to be a full meal.

Thank you everyone. See you upstairs for fellowship after liturgy.

# Gospel and Epistle Readings

## Matins Gospel Reading

### Holy Pentecost

#### The Reading is from John 20:19-23

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were gathered, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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## Epistle Reading

### Prokeimenon. Plagal 4th Mode. Psalm 18.4,1.

Their voice has gone out into all the earth.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.

#### The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11.

WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

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## Gospel Reading

### Holy Pentecost

**The Reading is from John 7:37-52; 8:12**

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

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## Hymns of the Day

### **Apolytikion for Pentecost in the Plagal 4th Mode**

Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fishermen all-wise, sending upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, netting the world. O Loving One, glory to You.

### **Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal 4th Mode**

When the Most High came down and confounded tongues of men (Babel), He divided the Nations. When He dispensed the Tongues of Fire, He called all to unity, and with one voice we glorify the Most Holy Spirit.





**Stop on by!**  
**Saturday, June 13th from 9<sup>AM</sup> to 1<sup>PM</sup>**

Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church  
223 Church Street Downtown Santa Cruz


*Great Stuff!*



*Thrifty Deals!*

**Proceeds benefit the many Charities supported by  
St. Katherine Philoptochos.**





When a family's long vigil for their unconscious father is interrupted by a surreal event, the experience awakens the author's desire to understand its profound meaning. *A Moment of Clarity* is an endearing story of a dying man's journey and the author's memories of his family's life in Greece and the United States. Anecdotes and Greek expressions sprinkled throughout the book capture the cultural dynamics of both societies, including the unique dynamics of the Greek-American community, the joy of the family's journey and the grief of their loss.

*Praise from Jeff Lansdale, Ph.D.,  
President of the American Farm School*

*Terry has delved deeply into his soul and memories to bring his experiences to life. This book is both a personal journey and a rendition of history. During our childhood and as adults - whether in our neighborhood gatherings to serenade the campus residents with Christmas carols or participating in sports and recreational fun - Terry has always emanated a joy which he generously and contagiously shares with us in his writing. He has managed to find meaning in sorrow and grief and bring joy into our lives.*

*As you read this book, think of the author this way, and enjoy his life's journey.*

*A Moment of Clarity*

*Terry Theocharides*



# *A Moment of Clarity*

*Terry Theocharides*

Ouzo Corner Metamorphosis

TICKETS ON SALE!

# SAN LUIS OBISPO GREEK FESTIVAL



MAY 30-31, 2026

MADONNA EXPO CENTER

11AM - 7PM SATURDAY | 11AM - 6PM SUNDAY

LIVE GREEK MUSIC & DANCING  
AUTHENTIC GREEK CUISINE  
WINE, BEER & OUZO SPECIALS

*A portion of the proceeds will be given to  
the Noor Foundation & SLO Food Bank*



**GENERAL ADMISSION \$5 | FREE PARKING**  
**(KIDS 12 OR UNDER- FREE WITH ADULT)**



Scan for more information & details  
on our website

*Sponsored by Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church*  
232 E. Foothill Blvd., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 | 805-546-8337



GREEKFESTIVALSLO.COM

# MOVIE NIGHT



SATURDAY JUNE 6TH 7 PM

## WORLD FILM PREMIERE OF SECRETS

ALL INVITED TO OUR RED CARPET EVENT W/ Q & A - FREE

TEMPLE BETH EL **3055 PORTER GULCH** APTOS

ALSO SCREENING AWARD WINNING SHORT FILM IF ONLY

# STEWARDSHIP



**PROPHET ELIAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email of letters/bulletins: Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Children's Names/Ages \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMITMENT DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week, month, year (circle one)

Please choose method of payment:

\_\_\_\_ Cash    \_\_\_\_ Check    \_\_\_\_ PayPal    \_\_\_\_ Bill Pay

Please contact the Church Office, if any questions: (831) 429-6500

***I would like to be contacted by the following Church Ministries:***

\_\_\_\_ Adult Religious Education

\_\_\_\_ Epistle Reading

\_\_\_\_ Philoptochos

\_\_\_\_ Altar Service

\_\_\_\_ Fellowship Hour

\_\_\_\_ Stewardship Support

\_\_\_\_ Building/Grounds Maintenance

\_\_\_\_ Festival/Events

\_\_\_\_ Youth Ministry

\_\_\_\_ Carpentry

\_\_\_\_ Fundraising

\_\_\_\_ Visitation to Homebound

\_\_\_\_ Choir/Chanting

\_\_\_\_ Greek Language School

\_\_\_\_ Web/Media Support

\_\_\_\_ Church School for Young Children

\_\_\_\_ Missions & Outreach

\_\_\_\_ Other

\_\_\_\_ Cleaning

\_\_\_\_ Office Work

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Cooking

\_\_\_\_ Parish Council

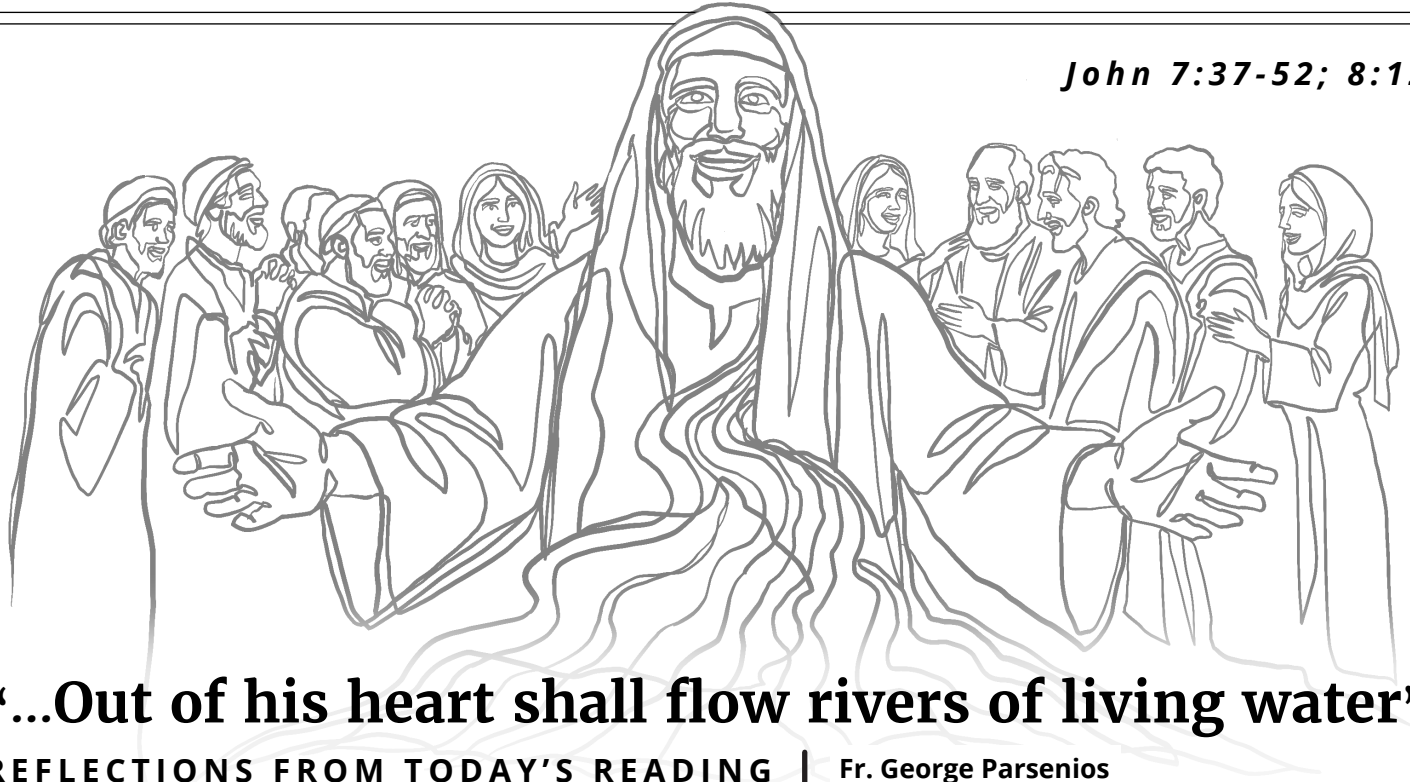
**The Stewardship campaign goal is 100% participation of The Prophet Elias Community.  
Please return this Stewardship Commitment Card to the Church Office or Church Narthex.**



# DIAKONIA

A National Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

John 7:37-52; 8:12



## “...Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water”

REFLECTIONS FROM TODAY'S READING | Fr. George Parsenios

**T**oday's Gospel reading refers to the gift of the Spirit, which had not yet been given during Jesus' ministry because Jesus had not yet risen from the dead. That gift was bestowed upon believers on the day of Pentecost, the great feast that we celebrate today. And the gift of the Spirit changes the disciples. Only after Pentecost did the disciples fully understand the mission of Jesus and become fully empowered to share the Gospel throughout the world. Every Christian is given this same gift of the Spirit in our baptism. Like the disciples at Pentecost, we must ourselves come to understand more fully the mission of Jesus and we must share his Gospel in our own lives. And this requires effort. We are given the Spirit at baptism, but we must receive it through our own decisions and actions. Church history is littered

with Christians who did not make this effort. When St. Paul writes First Corinthians, he tells the Christians in Corinth that he cannot address them as people who have received this Spirit (1 Cor 3:1) but as infants in Christ and as people who do not understand their Christian identity. How do we avoid their immature fate? We can do three things. First, we must guard our words carefully. If we watch what we say, we ensure that we say things that draw ourselves and others closer to God. Second, we must continue to live ascetical lives. By fasting and praying and giving generously to others, we arrest our own selfish wills and ensure that we subject our will to the will of God. Finally, we must study our faith so that we understand not only who God is, but what his purpose is for our lives.

Fr. George Parsenios is Professor of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. [www.hchc.edu](http://www.hchc.edu)

*L100*

Diakonia is made possible by a generous grant from Leadership 100

Scan for today's service text

[bit.ly/parishtexts](https://bit.ly/parishtexts)



## FROM THE ORIGINAL GREEK: Pentecost (Πεντηκοστή) What does “Pentecost” mean?

Fr. George Parsenios



The word Πεντηκοστή/*Pentecost* means “fiftieth” in Greek, and the feast of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after Pascha, when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples in Jerusalem. Before Pentecost became a Christian festival, however,

it was celebrated by Jews as the 50th day after Passover. The Hebrew name for the feast was *Shavuot*, which means “weeks,” because the feast was celebrated after 7 weeks (49 days) had elapsed from Passover. *Shavuot/Pentecost* commemorated the gift of the Law that God gave

to Moses on Mt. Sinai, and it was one of the three great pilgrimage festivals, when pious Jews traveled from around the world to be in Jerusalem. When the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles at Pentecost, it inspired them to speak miraculously in foreign languages. These languages were understood by the pilgrims who had traveled from distant lands to observe the Jewish feast (Acts 2:8). But if the original feast of Pentecost celebrated the Mosaic Law as God’s gift to the Jewish people, the Christian feast celebrates the even greater gift of the Holy Spirit, indicating that we are no longer guided by the letter of the Law, but by the Holy Spirit of God who writes God’s will in our hearts (Ezekiel 11:19, Jeremiah 31:33).

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### THIS WEEK’S LOOK AT CHURCH HISTORY

## The Greek War Relief Efforts of World War II



*An unidentified schoolboy in Patras, Greece waits with his tin dish under his arm for his school lunch. Ca 1945  
Harry S. Truman Library and Museum public domain*

During World War II and the years that followed, the Greek Orthodox Community in America organized to provide critical aid to people in Greece and all of Europe. Our communities did all they could to support both the War Bond initiative and the Greek War Relief Association. Fundraisers were held by Archbishop Athenagoras with the assistance of the Catholic Archbishop of Boston who encouraged his congregation to support the effort. Spyros Skouras, a prominent film executive, organized events and premieres featuring well-known actors to raise funds for the cause.

As a result of the Greek War Relief Association’s efforts, hundreds of thousands of packages containing food, clothing, medicine, blankets, and medical equipment were shipped to Greece. Between the early 1940’s and the mid-1950’s, more than \$300 million (adjusted for inflation) were raised by Greek Orthodox in America from within and from outside the Greek Orthodox community.

## THE SUNDAY OF Holy Pentecost

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The Feast of Holy Pentecost, celebrated fifty days after Pascha and ten days after the Ascension, is a great feast of our Church. It is not merely the commemoration of a past event, but the living manifestation of God's presence among us. We celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, the revelation of the Holy Trinity, and the Church as the living Body of Christ.

As we hear in the Book of Acts, the Apostles were gathered as Jesus had directed them. Suddenly, a sound like a rushing wind filled the house, and tongues of fire rested upon each of them. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in different languages. This was the transformative presence of God, sanctifying the Apostles and empowering them to proclaim the Gospel to all nations.



This took place during the Jewish Feast of Pentecost (50 days after Passover), when many people from across the known world had gathered in Jerusalem. Hearing the Apostles speak in their own languages, the people were astonished. Some were confused, others doubtful. Yet through the preaching of the Apostle Peter who boldly proclaimed Christ Crucified and Risen, the hearts of many were moved. When they asked, "What shall we do?" Peter called them to repentance, baptism, and the reception of the Holy Spirit. On that day, thousands entered the life of the Church.

Church lives today as a communion rooted in the Apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of the bread, and prayer. This life continues today in the Divine Liturgy, the sacraments, and the unity of the faithful. Pentecost reminds us that the Church is sustained by the presence and action of the Holy Spirit, who guides us in truth and unites us in love.

The icon of Pentecost proclaims this reality. The Holy Spirit descends upon the Apostles, while below the world awaits the light of Christ. This mission of the Church continues, and we are called to participate. We are not spectators of Pentecost. We have received the Holy Spirit in our baptism and chrismation. We are called to grow in repentance and prayer, bearing witness to Jesus in our daily lives.



### PERSONAL ACTION ITEM

This week, commit to living your Orthodox faith intentionally. Let us set aside 10 minutes each day for prayer and reflection, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you from passive belief into active, living faith.



## Holy Pentecost

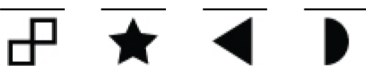
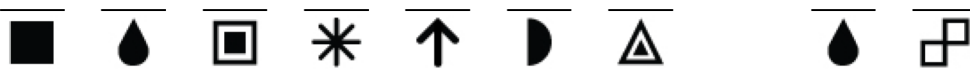
Pentecost is a special day that celebrates when the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, 50 days after Easter. The Holy Spirit came like a strong, rushing wind and looked like flames of fire resting on the disciples and the Virgin Mary. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages. People from many countries were there in Jerusalem and heard about Jesus in their own language. About 3,000 people believed and were baptized that day

**Just For Kids!**  
*(...and the young at heart)*



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z



ANSWER KEY: A term found in ACTS 2:3 "TONGUES OF FIRE"