

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Administrator: Reverend Michael D. Kunitz, M. Div.

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Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family

Sub-Deacon: Raphael Ruggiero

June 8, 2025

Pentecost Sunday

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, June 8: Pentecost Sunday

10:00 am Matins, 10:45 am Rosary, 11 am Divine Liturgy

IHO 118th Anniversary of Our Holy Spirit Parish Family

Sacrament of Initiation for Marcellino Giuseppe Revilak

Monday, June 9: Pentecost Monday

6:00 pm Confession, 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy

IMO of Harold Witzel, Jr. by his sister Theresa Carr

Wednesday, June 11: 6:00 pm Confession, 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy

IHO Zuzana Revilak's Birthday by her family

Friday, June 13: 6:00 pm Confession, 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy

IHO Julia Revilak's Birthday by her family

Saturday, June 14: 5:00 pm Confession, 6:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, June 15: Sunday of All Saints – Father's Day

7:00 am Sunday Matins, 7:45 am Rosary, 8:00 am Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm Confession, 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy – Side Altar of the Resurrection

IHO All Fathers Living & Deceased

Divine Liturgies are open for intentions for this new year. If you would like to make an intention for a Liturgy, please call the office or fill out request form in the back of the church and give it to Fr. Michael.

CELEBRATION OF INITIATION: Today we celebrate the Sacraments of Initiations for **Marcellino Giuseppe Revilak**. May God grant him many happy and blessed years!

UPCOMING LITURGY TIME CHANGE!! Remember that starting **Sunday, June 15 (Father's Day)** we will switch to our **8:00 am and 6:00pm Divine Liturgy schedule**.

PENTECOST SUNDAY/PARISH ANNIVERSARY POTLUCK: Join us in the hall following today's Divine Liturgy as we celebrate our **118th Anniversary** with a potluck lunch. Thank you to everyone who helped ready the hall for this special day!

FLEA MARKET THANK YOU: Thank you again to everyone that helped with last week-end's Flea Market. Special thanks to Mary Dzurichko for once again coordinating this important parish fundraiser. The total amount raised will be matched by the GCU!

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: If you are interested in learning to lead Matins as a Reader's Service on Sunday before Liturgy, please see Father Michael. Matins is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.

GENERAL PARISH MEETING RESCHEDULED: The General Parish meeting has been rescheduled for **Saturday June 21st at 11:00 AM**, as not to conflict with Father's Day weekend. All parishioners are strongly encouraged to attend the meeting and to actively participate.

GCU PRESENTATION: The representative from the GCU will be giving a presentation on **Sunday June 29th**, after the 8:00 am Liturgy. The presentation will include information on the insurance, investments and social opportunities. Each year the GCU supports our Byzantine Churches through matching our fundraisers. So please consider attending to learn about the products and services they offer. Refreshments will be served.

COFFEE SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: In addition to attending services together, it is important that we spend time in conversation with one another. To make it truly a time of sharing – we ask everyone to sign up to host a Sunday. We look forward to seeing you!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

May God grant you many happy and blessed years!

June 1 - Thomas & Kathryn Martz Wedding Anniversary

June 12 – Giacomo Revilak Birthday

June 13 – Julia Revilakova Birthday

June 13 – Zuzana Revilakova Birthday

June 15 – Mary Dzurichko

June 16 – Milan Revilak, Sr. Birthday

ICONS AVAILABLE: There are several blessed icons in the church hall, there is no cost to take these home, though a free will offering for the benefit of the parish is welcome.

2025 BYZANTINE ASSEMBLY JULY 16-20, WHITING, IN: Join us as we worship and walk alongside our bishops, hear inspiring discussions on faith and mission, and connect with fellow Byzantine Catholics from across the Metropolitan. Register now at ByzantineAssembly.org You can also see Fr. Michael for a paper registration form to mail in.

EPISTLE READING: Acts 2: 1-11: When the day of Pentecost came it found the Apostles gathered in one place. Suddenly from up in the sky there came a noise like a strong, driving wind which was heard all through the house where they were seated. Tongues as of fire appeared, which parted and came to rest on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to express themselves in foreign tongues and make bold proclamation as the Spirit prompted them. Staying in Jerusalem at the time were devout Jews of every nation under heaven. These heard the sound, and assembled in a large crowd. They were much confused because each one heard these men speaking his own language. The whole occurrence astonished them. They asked in utter amazement, "Are not all of these men who are speaking Galileans? How is it that each of us hears them in his native tongue? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites. We live in Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt, and the regions of Libya, around Cyrene. There are even visitors from Rome – all Jews, or those who have come over to Judaism; Cretans and Arabs too. Yet each of us hears them speaking in his own tongue about the marvels God has accomplished.

--In today's lesson taken from The Acts of the Holy Apostles, the Holy Evangelist Luke describes for us the incidents that occasioned the descent of God the Holy Spirit on the very first Pentecost Sunday. Ten days after the ascension event, the apostles were gathered together in Jerusalem on the day of Holy Pentecost. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent wind, and there appeared flames like tongues of blazing fire that settled above the head of each of the apostles. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, Who had descended upon them, and they now began to speak in various languages as the Spirit gave them the power to proclaim His message to all peoples everywhere! The many Jews

from different nations, who were in Jerusalem for the Jewish observance of Pentecost, were astonished at hearing the apostles, all Galileans, preaching in various languages. It was there in Jerusalem that the Church established by Jesus thus began its mission of preaching the Good News of salvation. Under the influence of God's Holy Spirit, this same gospel message has been, is being, and will continue to be preached to the entire world.

GOSPEL: John 7: 37-52: On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, "Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: 'Rivers of living water will flow from within him.'" He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive. There was, of course, no Spirit yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified. Some in the crowd who heard these words said, "This is truly the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Messiah." But others said, "The Messiah will not come from Galilee, will he? Does not scripture say that the Messiah will be of David's family and come from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?" So, a division occurred in the crowd because of him. Some of them even wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. So, the guards went to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why did you not bring him?" The guards answered, "Never before has anyone spoken like this one." So, the Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, which does not know the law, is accursed." Nicodemus, one of their members who had come to him earlier, said to them, "Does our law condemn a person before it first hears him and finds out what he is doing?" They answered and said to him, "You are not from Galilee also, are you? Look and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

--This scriptural pericope for Holy Pentecost Sunday comes from the gospel account of the Holy Evangelist John. Jesus here proclaims that if anyone be thirsty, that person could come to Him and be satisfied. He was referring symbolically to the Holy Spirit, Whom our Lord was to send to those who professed His divinity and who believed in His redemptive acts performed in our behalf. It would be this Third Person of the Holy Trinity Who would satisfy completely all of our spiritual needs and our desires in the same way that water satiates our physical thirst. After our Lord's ascension into heaven and His glorification at the right hand of His Father, Jesus thus would send the Comforter into the world, that is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit then would provide "living water" (grace) that would flow from the innermost being (soul) of anyone who truly believed in the Lord Jesus as the Messiah. The Spirit continues to be present in Christ's Church from the first Pentecost Sunday to this present day. Jesus is the Light of the world, and His people will never live in darkness but will live their lives in the Light of Christ by the power of His Most Holy Spirit.

THE GREEN HOLY DAYS AND THE KNEELING PRAYERS:

Before the coming of Christianity, the pagan Slavs held a festival at this time of year to honor the god of new spring and blossoming greenery. Decorations for this festival were made from diverse foliage, but linden (called lipa in Ruthenian) branches and leaves were the ones primarily employed because of their medicinal qualities. After the conversion of the Slavs, the Church retained the idea of green decorations which now, however, symbolized the "New Life" received from the coming of the Holy Spirit as seen in the rejuvenated life of budding nature. This springtime festival was known as the Green Holy Days, for the color green is symbolic of the divine life brought to us through the Holy Spirit's descent at Pentecost. The Ruthenian people popularly referred to the Pentecost festival as Rusalja, a name adapted from the Greek and Latin designations for this feast. The linden leaves distributed in church are blessed and should be pressed until they have dried. They are sacramentals that may be placed into a prayer book or Bible or put on a wall behind an icon. In the Byzantine tradition, the Church ushers in the pentecost season with three kneeling prayers in honor of the Most Holy Trinity which are taken toward the end of the Divine Liturgy. Because the celebration in honor of Blessed Pentecost is of the magnitude of the splendorous Resurrection and the glorious Nativity, it is observed for the customary three festive days. Likewise, this coming Pentecost Friday is an abstinence free day.

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY AND LIFE-CREATING SPIRIT:

Today, on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate jubilantly The Feast of the Descent of the Most Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. On Pentecost, the Jews observed an ancient festival called The Feast of Weeks when they gave thanks to God for the completion of the harvest. They also commemorated the promulgation of the Mosaic Law on Mount Sinai after Moses had received the Ten Commandments. The Pentecost Feast thus celebrated the beginning of the Mosaic Church of the Old Testament, which was the Synagogue, since a covenant had been established between God and His "Chosen People" the Jews. However, before His ascension, Jesus promised to send the Paraclete, a Greek word meaning the Advocate, referring to the Holy Spirit, who would teach and reveal all things to mankind. On Pentecost Sunday, therefore, we Christians – the "new Chosen People" – commemorate the initiation of the Christian Church of the New Testament. Moreover, Pentecost is seen as the Resurrection's twin feast, for it emphasizes the climax of Jesus' redemptive work. As

the Son of God, Jesus is glorified by His Father in heaven, and He now sends His Holy Spirit to be present in His Church. The Spirit will guide and direct Christ's Church until the end of time and its final reunion with its Divine Founder, Jesus Himself. Today's Pentecostal Divine Liturgy is begun with the chanting of the Hymn to the Holy Spirit: "Carju Nebesnyj" – Heavenly King". Near the end of this Divine Liturgy, the priest-celebrant will ask us to join him as he kneels for the prayers invoking the Most Holy Trinity. With our kneeling down, we thus close the festive paschal-resurrectional-ascensional season and we initiate the pentecostal period of regular liturgical time.

THE TRADITIONAL THREE DAYS OF PENTECOST:

In the custom and tradition of the Byzantine Catholic Church, the Pentecost Feast is observed for a three-day period with the second and third days of Pentecost celebrated as major holy days. Do not neglect your obligation to sanctify these festive days by participating in the Divine Liturgy and emphasizing the spiritual manner of celebrating the Pentecost holidays. The Church grants the bestowal of special graces, blessings and indulgences for those who observe the three pentecostal holy days. Make the sacrifice to attend church and thus receive these spiritual rewards!

ON-LINE GIVING IS HERE! If you wish to make a monetary donation to our parish – you can do so on our website or by using this QR code. Remember every dollar helps support the mission of our parish community. Thank you.



PRAYER FOR OUR FOUR SAINTLY BISHOPS: Please pray for the causes of our four Saintly Bishops and ask them to intercede for your specific intentions: O Almighty God, our Lord, we bless You, we praise You, and we thank you for all the graces which You, in Your infinite mercy have bestowed upon us. We are especially grateful for giving us four saintly and heroic Bishops: **Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, Bishop Paul P. Gojdich OBSM, Bishop Basil Hopko, and Bishop Alexander Chira**, who, by their courage, charity, and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. By their great sufferings, humiliating imprisonment, and violent death they gave living witness to their Catholic faith and glorified Your exalted name. Therefore, O Gracious Lord, glorify them in return by Your divine power and inscribe their names in the book of Your Saints. For you are holy, our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever, Amen. With Ecclesiastical Approbation Acknowledgment of answered prayers: Postulator's office, 54 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214, U.S.A.

PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS: **Saints Cyril and Methodius**, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen. St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen