



**HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

4815 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 - Rectory Phone: 412-687-1220

Website: holyspiritbyzcath.com - Email: holyspiritinformation@gmail.com

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

Email: FrMichaelKunitz@gmail.com

Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family

Sub-Deacon: Raphael Ruggiero

**May 24, 2026**

**Pentecost Sunday**

**SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES**

**Sun May 24: Pentecost 7 am Festal Matins: 8 am Divine Liturgy**

**IHO Joseph & Dolores Bacasa's 64<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary by their Grandchildren**

**6 pm Divine Liturgy**

**Mon May 25: 8 am Divine Liturgy – Memorial Day**

**Fri May 29: 6 pm Confessions, 7 pm Divine Liturgy**

**Sat May 30: 5 pm Confessions, 6 pm Great Vespers**

**Sun May 31: 11 am Divine Liturgy – Lunch to Follow**

**IHO 119<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Holy Spirit Parish & All Parishioners**

**Please join us for Lunch in the Hall after Liturgy**

**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.**

**ON-LINE GIVING:** 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.

**PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION:** We will celebrate the 119<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our parish next **Sunday, May 31**. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at **11:00 AM** followed by lunch in the hall. The main meal is being provided by funds from the GCU. So we can plan a great gathering, there is a **sign-up sheet in the narthex**. If you plan to attend, please list what you would like to bring (i.e. beverages, sides or desserts) to share. Please see Fr. Michael or Mary Dzurichko with any questions.

**EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES (ECF):** Our ECF program has begun meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 5:00 pm in the church hall. We hope the program will continue to grow to weekly meetings. For more information, please see Eugene Yeo.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:** May God grant you many happy and blessed years!

**May 9 – Marcelino Revilak**

**May 13 – Eric Stehle**

Don't see your birthday or anniversary? Let us know so we can update the directory!

**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.

**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.

**MORNING LITURGY COFFEE SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS:** 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!

**EVENING LITURGY SOCIAL:** In addition to attending services together, it is important that we spend time in conversation

with one another. Please join us in the hall following the liturgy for fellowship. We look forward to seeing you!

**SAINT OF THE DAY:** 5/24 **Our venerable father Simeon of the Wondrous Mountain** in Syria, priest and anchorite. He lived in conversation with Christ and the angels atop a column for forty-five years and was granted power over the demons and the powers of nature. He is also known as St. Simeon Stylites the Younger. (596)

5/24 **Our Venerable Father Nicetas the Stylite, the Wonder-worker of Perejaslav.**

5/25 **The third finding of the head of the holy prophet, forerunner, and Baptist, John,** during the episcopate of Ignatius, Patriarch of Constantinople and the reign of the emperor Michael III. (Moved to May 26 for the celebration of Pentecost Monday).

5/25 **The holy priest-martyr Nicholas Cehelskyj.** Ordained by Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky, he was a zealous priest who took care of the spirituality, education, and welfare of his parishioners in Soroka, where he also built the church. He exercised this ministry along with his wife and his four children. In 1946, the Soviets arrested him and deported him to the labor camp of Mordovia, Russia, where he suffered unimaginable hardships and died for the Faith. (1951)

5/29 **The holy venerable martyr and virgin Theodosia.** She was a monastic, who defended the ancient icons of Christ on the bronze gates of the imperial home when the emperor's men came to cast them down. Because of this, emperor Leo the Isaurian commanded her to be slain. (730)

5/29 **Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, 325.** This council was summoned by the emperor Constantine the Great and held during the week before Pentecost. Its purpose was to deal with the false teachings of Arius, the priest of Alexandria who said that Christ was created from God in time, and that he is not truly "God of God." At this council, many of the words which we confess in the Creed were assembled to proclaim the Orthodox faith.

Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

**EPISTLE: Acts 2: 1-11:**

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, “Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.”

**GOSPEL: John 7: 37-52 + 8:12**

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.”

**A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL:** The Holy Spirit is simultaneously the most tangibly ubiquitous person of the Holy Trinity in our everyday lives while also being the least commonly understood. God the Father and God the Son get the lion’s share of attention in Holy Scripture and throughout the Liturgical Year, leaving God the Holy Spirit somewhat under-emphasized by comparison. In truth, it is this same Holy Spirit who hovered over the waters at the beginning of creation and was the one who was breathed into the newly formed Adam at the dawn of humanity. It is this same Spirit who spoke through the mouths of the prophets and inspired King David the Psalmist, and the giver of wisdom to King Solomon.

The Holy Spirit is the one who moves our souls and minds to be something more than a mere animal. Its presence in our being is the very thing which allows for the human person to embody in themselves the imprint and image of God. Our consciences and innate understanding of the fundamentals of morality in the depth of our being is something which we could only ever have awareness and knowledge of by the grace and activity of the movement of the Holy Spirit within us.

The Feast of Pentecost is the chief feast in which we commemorate this essential Person of the Triune God. Were it not for the Holy Spirit, the very scriptures themselves would never have been penned, and the Incarnation of the Word Himself would have been so far beyond intelligible to our human minds, the Apostles themselves would have been no better than the Pharisees at identifying the Word made flesh among them. It is through the great workings of the Holy Spirit through the command of our Lord and upon the heads of the Apostles that the Faith has been transmitted, from Heaven, the Jerusalem, and to the farthest ends of the earth. It is through Him, the Paraclete, the Comforter and Consoler, that we have the grace of faith in Christ’s sovereignty over all and the great promise and hope of His inevitable return. It is through this Feast that we are reminded that God, in Spirit and in Truth, dwells not just in heaven, not just everywhere else present and filling all things, but that He also dwells inside every one of us as our Sustainer and nurturer in the Divine Life, now and forever.