

Holy Pentecost (May 31)

In the Church's liturgical year, Pentecost is called "the last and great day." It marks both an end and a beginning—the fulfillment of salvation history and the birth of the Church through the coming of the Holy Spirit. With the Spirit's descent, the new life in Christ begins: a life of grace, adoption, and holiness.

The very name of the feast reveals this dual meaning. Pentecost means "fifty" in Greek, signifying the fullness of time (7 x 7 = 49) plus one—symbolizing the "eighth day," the eternal day of the Kingdom. With Pentecost, salvation is accomplished. All gifts are given; it now belongs to us to receive them, becoming what we are in Christ: citizens of His Kingdom.

The Vigil of Pentecost opens with joy: "Let us celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit... the fulfillment of hope, the mystery which is as great as it is precious."

In hymns and Old Testament readings (Numbers, Joel, Ezekiel), the Church proclaims the Spirit's long-foretold coming. For the first time since Pascha, we sing the prayer: "O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth..." —marking the Spirit's presence as the life-breath of the Church.

The Vigil reaches its climax in joy and light, as we hear in the Gospel (John 20:19-23) Christ's sending of the apostles. The Liturgy follows with antiphons declaring the Spirit's sanctifying presence throughout the world—the true manifestation of God's Kingdom.

After the Liturgy, the unique Pentecost Vespers are served. Flowers in hand, symbolizing eternal spring, we sing: "Who is so great a God as our God?" Then we kneel—for the first time since Pascha—marking our return to the pilgrimage of time. The three kneeling prayers express repentance, supplication for divine help, and remembrance of the departed. Pentecost completes the joy of Easter. Though we re-enter time and its struggles, the Spirit's presence abides. God is with us.

Every Sunday hereafter is named "after Pentecost," reminding us that all time flows from the power of this feast. Our churches are adorned with green, for the Church never grows old. It is ever-living, ever-renewed by the Holy Spirit—the Giver of Life, who abides in us, cleanses us, and fills us with love, faith, and hope.

—Fr. Alexander Schmemmann (1974)

(Text and image from oca.org)



The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26)



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA



His Grace Bishop THOMAS

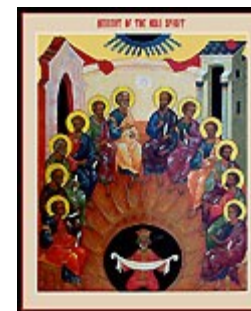


Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor
215-954-9286



Father James Thayer
215-692-0890

May 31, 2026
HOLY PENTECOST



Old Testament Readings:

Num. 11: 16-17, 24-29

Joel 2: 23-32

Ezek. 36: 24-28

Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:19-23

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Gospel: St. John 7:32-52, 8:12

PENTECOST TROPARION - Tone 8 - Most blessed art thou, O Christ our God, who when thou hadst made the fishermen most wise, did send down upon them the Holy Spirit, and by them didst draw the world into thy net! O Lord of mercy, glory to thee!

PENTECOST KONTAKION - Tone 8 - When coming down He brought confusion on mortal tongues, God Most High brought disunion to nations, and again when He apportioned the tongues of fire, He summoned all mankind to unite once more; and with one accord we glorify the All-Holy Spirit.

TODAY:

Orthros & Confessions, 8:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour & Last Day of Sunday School, 11:15 a.m.

Pentecost Kneeling Vespers, 11:15 a.m.

1970 Clearview Road, Souderton, PA 18964

www.st-philip.net (215) 721-4947

Emails: office@st-philip.net nbushelli@gmail.com frjamesthayer@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9am - 3:30pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. If you or anyone you know is in the hospital or homebound and would like a visit, please call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

This Week:

Next Week (June 7):

COFFEE HOUR: St. Emmelia Ministries/Schneider

Sawicki & Stuhltrager

PROSPHORA BREAD: Gabi & Catalin Tinjala

Kristi M. & Sissy H.

ALTAR CANDLES: Schneider (Sts. Emmelia & Justin)

Sawicki-Slawomir's Bday

USHERS: Todd M., John H., Dan M.

TBD

CLEANING TEAM: Nick T., Gabi T., Dave & Darby Nick M., Gabe & Tabitha, Shirley D., Sarah M.

COFFEE HOUR TEAM: Carolyn D., Eric M., Justice H., Liara P. Miriam K., Ryan M., Daniel C.

This Week:

NO FASTING OR ABSTINENCE THIS WEEK

Mon, June 1:

Holy Spirit Monday

Akathist of the Holy Spirit, 8:30 a.m.
Festal Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
Festal Potluck, 11:00 a.m.

Tues, June 2:

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1:00 p.m.

Wed, June 3:

Divine Liturgy 6:30 a.m.
Confessions, 5:30 p.m.
Little Compline & Patristic Reading, 6:00 p.m.
Confessions, 7:00 p.m.
FOCUS: Norristown, 7:00 p.m.

Thurs, June 4:

Confessions, 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
Confessions, 11:00 a.m.
Vespers, 6:00 p.m.
FOCUS: Aviator Park, 8:00 p.m.

Fri, June 5:

Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
Confessions, 5:30 p.m.
Akathist of the Holy Spirit, 6:00 p.m.
Men's Fellowship Bonfire, 7:00 p.m.

Sat, June 6:

Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
Baptism (Eisenhuth), 8:30 a.m.
Bryson/Adaelle Wedding, 2:00 p.m.
Catechumen Q&A, 4:30 p.m.
GREAT VESPERS, 6:00 p.m.
Confession, 7:00 p.m.

Sun, June 7:

Sunday of All Saints
ORTHROS & Confessions, 8:15 a.m.
DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.
Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Vespers 5/23:114 Divine Liturgy 5/24: 256
OFFERINGS 5/24: Candles, \$390. Collections, \$764. Book Shelf Ministry, \$101.
Seminary Fund, \$1,529.76. Building Fund, \$500. Mission Chapel, \$100. Teen Fund, \$175.
Teen Fund OMYT, \$580. Stewardship, \$6,330.07. Total received: \$10,469.83.
Cemetery, \$2,000.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

SPECIAL APPEAL

Three ways you can help as we are
gearing up for another **Vacation
Church School**, of growth in faith
and love for God:

- 1) See Kate Gohl about volunteering
- 2) Pray for Fr. Noah, leaders, and students
- 3) Consider offering a financial gift to cover expenses

Mark Your Calendar:

Apostles Fast

June 8-28

Saints Peter & Paul

Monday, June 29

2026 Parish Life Conference

July 1-4

Dormition Fast

August 1-14

Vacation Church School 2026

August 3-7

Holy Transfiguration

Thursday, August 6

Feast of the Dormition

Saturday, August 15

14th Annual International Food Festival

September 18 and 19

JUNE OUTREACH COLLECTION:

**Bath & Shower
Products**

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of the Middle East	Newly Departed +Fr. Seraphim +Kh. Carla +Elizabeth +Pavel +Paraskevi +Patriarch Ilia +Stephanie (May Parish Diptychs)
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine The leadership and community of St Emmelia Ministries, St Justin Academy, St Thomas Mission, St Tikhon's Seminary, St Raphael School, Hades Embittered Ministries, and those to whom they reach out.	+Paul +Bahia +Kh. Jane +LuAnn +Lida +Donna +Helen +Georgeta
Barbara Alexander Patrick James Helen Wadih John Hieromonk Silouan	Catechumens Josiah, Caste, Ray, Gwen L Matthew H Martin (Ernie) R Sean, Meghan, John T Robert S Martin (Morgan), Gabriella T Anthony V Slavek G Nevada L Daniel, Amos, Marigold, Eleanor Shawn, Miriam, Emilie, Emerald, Eltijah, Esther Jeff, Jasmin, Jaxon, Jonah, Jayce & Jacob Andrew, Rebecca, Hannah, Miriam, Priscilla, Phoebe Daniel, Jordan, Daniella, Meadow, Mason Hannah B Samuel, Emilie, Ari, Addison Nicole P Dylan H Ryan M Tyler H Kassandra H Christopher, Nailah M Benjamin John H Jaylee P Jack F Steve & Sophia B Eli R Will Nathaniel Mission Chapel: Sean, Natalie, Rosalie, Abel K David S John C Joyce Inactive: Jasper, Asher, Andrew, Michael, James
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, & all Missionaries	
Priest Nathan, Priest Isaac, Deacon Irenaeus, Deacon Moses, Theophanes, Jacob, John, Samuel, & all seminarians and their families	
Those searching for jobs, houses, spouses & monasteries	
Courting, Engaged, & Newly-Crowned Couples	
Families struggling to conceive	
Expectant and new mothers and their babies	
Those in mourning	
The people of our land and our world, and for their repentance, healing & unity	