



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN June 4th, 2017
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



Icon of Pentecost

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

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."

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 18.4,1

Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος αὐτῶν.

Στίχ. Οἱ οὐρανοὶ διηγοῦνται δόξαν Θεοῦ.

Πράξεις Αποστόλων 2:1-11 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Ἐν τῷ συμπληροῦσθαι τὴν ἡμέραν τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς, ἦσαν ἅπαντες ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτό. Καὶ ἐγένετο ἄφνω ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἦχος ὥσπερ φερομένης πνοῆς βιαίας, καὶ ἐπλήρωσεν ὅλον τὸν οἶκον οὗ ἦσαν καθήμενοι. Καὶ ὤφθησαν αὐτοῖς διαμεριζόμεναι γλῶσσαι ὥσει πυρός, ἐκάθισεν τε ἐφ' ἓνα ἕκαστον αὐτῶν. Καὶ ἐπλήσθησαν ἅπαντες πνεύματος ἁγίου, καὶ ἤρξαντο λαλεῖν ἑτέραις γλώσσαις, καθὼς τὸ πνεῦμα ἐδίδου αὐτοῖς ἀποφθέγγεσθαι. Ἦσαν δὲ ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ κατοικοῦντες Ἰουδαῖοι, ἄνδρες εὐλαβεῖς, ἀπὸ παντὸς ἔθνους τῶν ὑπὸ τὸν οὐρανόν. Γενομένης δὲ τῆς φωνῆς ταύτης, συνῆλθεν τὸ πλῆθος καὶ συνεχύθη, ὅτι ἤκουον εἰς ἕκαστος τῇ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ λαλούντων αὐτῶν. Ἐξίσταντο δὲ πάντες καὶ ἐθαύμαζον, λέγοντες πρὸς ἀλλήλους, Οὐκ ἰδοὺ πάντες οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ λαλοῦντες Γαλιλαῖοι; Καὶ πῶς ἡμεῖς ἀκούομεν ἕκαστος τῇ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ ἡμῶν ἐν ᾗ ἐγεννήθημεν; Πάρθοι καὶ Μῆδοι καὶ Ἑλαμίται, καὶ οἱ κατοικοῦντες τὴν Μεσοποταμίαν, Ἰουδαίαν τε καὶ Καππαδοκίαν, Πόντον καὶ τὴν Ἀσίαν, Φρυγίαν τε καὶ Παμφυλίαν, Αἴγυπτον καὶ τὰ μέρη τῆς Λιβύης τῆς κατὰ Κυρήνην, καὶ οἱ ἐπιδημοῦντες Ῥωμαῖοι, Ἰουδαῖοι τε καὶ προσήλυτοι, Κρήτες καὶ Ἀραβες, ἀκούομεν λαλούντων αὐτῶν ταῖς ἡμετέραις γλώσσαις τὰ μεγαλεῖα τοῦ θεοῦ.

Holy Pentecost

The Gospel According to 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 priest 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."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 7:37-52, 8:12 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἐν δὲ τῇ ἐσχάτῃ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ μεγάλῃ τῆς ἑορτῆς εἰστήκει ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔκραξε λέγων· ἂν τις διψᾷ, ἐρχέσθω πρὸς με καὶ πινέτω. ὁ πιστεύων εἰς ἐμέ, καθὼς εἶπεν ἡ γραφή, ποταμοὶ ἐκ τῆς κοιλίας αὐτοῦ ρεύσουσιν ὕδατος ζῶντος. τοῦτο δὲ εἶπε περὶ τοῦ Πνεύματος οὗ ἔμελλον λαμβάνειν οἱ πιστεύοντες εἰς αὐτόν· οὐπω γὰρ ἦν Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον, ὅτι Ἰησοῦς οὐδέπω ἐδοξάσθη. Πολλοὶ οὖν ἐκ τοῦ ὄχλου ἀκούσαντες τὸν λόγον ἔλεγον· οὗτός ἐστιν ἀληθῶς ὁ προφήτης· ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ Χριστός· ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· μὴ γὰρ ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας ὁ Χριστὸς ἔρχεται; οὐχὶ ἡ γραφή εἶπεν ὅτι ἐκ τοῦ σπέρματος Δαυὶδ καὶ ἀπὸ Βηθλεὲμ τῆς κώμης, ὅπου ἦν Δαυὶδ, ὁ Χριστὸς ἔρχεται; σχίσμα οὖν ἐν τῷ ὄχλῳ ἐγένετο δι' αὐτόν. τινὲς δὲ ἤθελον ἐξ αὐτῶν πιάσαι αὐτόν, ἀλλ' οὐδεὶς ἐπέβαλεν ἐπ' αὐτόν τὰς χεῖρας. Ἦλθον οὖν οἱ ὑπηρέται πρὸς τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ Φαρισαίους, καὶ εἶπον αὐτοῖς ἐκεῖνοι· διατί οὐκ ἠγάγετε αὐτόν; ἀπεκρίθησαν οἱ ὑπηρέται· οὐδέποτε οὕτως ἐλάλησεν ἄνθρωπος, ὡς οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος. ἀπεκρίθησαν οὖν αὐτοῖς οἱ Φαρισαῖοι· μὴ καὶ ὑμεῖς πεπλάνησθε; μὴ τις ἐκ τῶν ἀρχόντων ἐπίστευσεν εἰς αὐτόν ἢ ἐκ τῶν Φαρισαίων; ἀλλ' ὁ ὄχλος οὗτος ὁ μὴ γινώσκων τὸν νόμον ἐπικατάρατοί εἰσι! λέγει Νικόδημος πρὸς αὐτούς, ὁ ἐλθὼν νυκτὸς πρὸς αὐτόν, εἰς ὧν ἐξ αὐτῶν· μὴ ὁ νόμος ἡμῶν κρίνει τὸν ἄνθρωπον, ἂν μὴ ἀκούσῃ παρ' αὐτοῦ πρότερον καὶ γνῶ τί ποιεῖ; ἀπεκρίθησαν καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· μὴ καὶ σὺ ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας εἶ; ἐρεῦνησον καὶ ἶδε ὅτι προφήτης ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας οὐκ ἐγήγερται. Πάλιν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐλάλησε λέγων· ἐγὼ εἰμι τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου· ὁ ἀκολουθῶν ἐμοὶ οὐ μὴ περιπατήσει ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ, ἀλλ' ἔξει τὸ φῶς τῆς ζωῆς.

JUNE 4TH

TODAY: is **PENTECOST SUNDAY** (the foundation observance of the earthly (militant) CHURCH of CHRIST. It is on this day that Christ and the Father sent the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles to go unto all nations preaching the Word of God, baptizing all peoples and spreading the hope of eternal life through the resurrected Christ.

TODAY: the traditional ‘ kneeling service ‘ will accompany the Divine Liturgy. Come and receive the descent of the Holy Spirit’s blessing for health, restored health, forgiveness, reconciliation, joy , peace and eternal salvation. **RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH JOY!**

GREEK FESTIVAL: events will conclude today at 8:00 P.M. We wish to acknowledge all the volunteers, donors, supporters, bakers, cooks, musicians, servers and the myriad of faithful who helped make the 2017 GRECIAN FESTIVAL a success in outreach, cultural expression and presence, witnessing of the Hellenic treasure of our faith, tradition, cultural music and dance. Special gratitude is expressed to the PARISH COUNCIL and the Festival Committee Chairman George Plevritis and crew!

VACATION PLANS: Fr. Eugene will be absent from Parochial duties for the next two Sundays June 11th and June 18th. He will be back the week of June 20th. In his absence we are pleased to welcome Rev. Fr. Nicholas Sotoropoulos who will cover the parochial liturgical needs these two Sundays. Please receive Fr. Nicholas with our loving hospitality and gratitude.

NO MEMORIALS are permitted on the ‘ birthday ‘ founding day of the Church which is Pentecost. Memorial tributes commence next Sunday once again. The HOLY ORDER will observe the traditional MEMORIAL for deceased members NEXT Sunday, June 11th.

A.H.E.P.A. men’s society will host a B.B.Q. on the plaza of the community center on Tuesday, June 06th for members and their spouse. We hail all the efforts of the Coney Island Chapter #200 for their generous endeavors to the faith community at Three Hierarchs.

GREEK SCHOOL: students will celebrate their promotions and graduation today, Sunday, June 04th before the dismissal of the Divine Liturgy. We are proud of student Dionysia Soumakis who has excelled in all her scholarship and is a New York State Greek Regents Scholar. Best Wishes to the parents who recognize the value of HELLENIC PAIDEIA (STUDIES) and to the teaching faculty Mrs. Zoe Anastasakos and Mrs. Maria Halkias who nurture and cultivate the youngsters to be proud of their Grecian heritage, language (spoken and written), history , and faith. Enroll your children or grand – children for the Fall Semester. The Principal of the school is the Pastor, Father Eugene..

P.T.A. President Michelle Lambrakis and parent committee are hosting a CONEY ISLAND DAY on the rides at Deno’s Wonder Wheel Park with dinner at TOM’S on the BOARDWALK on Tuesday June 27th.

JUNE 27TH, 4:00 P.M. WHAT A TREAT!

MARK YOUR CALENDER: Parish Spring GENERAL ASSEMBLY – SUNDAY June 25th commencing promptly at 12:30 P.M. Whitehall.

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 18TH YEAR OF BROADCASTING LIVE ON WNYE 91.5 COSMOS FM, with listener** telephone participation. Subjects of interest regarding Greek Orthodox theology, faith and practice, as well as secular topics confronting the nation and the world are discussed. Tune in and join the dialogue by calling 718-204-8900. Check our live audio at LIVESTREAMINGPLAYER . The website address. W.W.W.gaepis.org ([Click live audio](#))

EARLY REGISTRATIONS; PRE- K FOR ALL : Any child 4 years of age is eligible for FREE enrollment at our school operated by the New York City Department of Education. Classes are held each day from 8:00 A.M. through 3:00 P.M. with free lunch served by the City. IT’S ALL YOURS FREE FOR THE ASKING AND TAKING. DON’T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR CHILDREN /GRANDCHILDREN! Call now: (347) 729-0446 . TWO “OPEN-HOUSE” RECEPTION DAYS ARE WEDNESDAY FEB 8TH, 4P.M-7P.M AND MARCH 08TH 4P.M. – 7 P.M.

The CONEY ISLAND CHAPTER #200 of the A.H.E.P.A. hosted the National Recognition Day ceremonies at Three Hierarchs on Sunday, May 21st. Highlighting the festivities was a Grand Lodge Award to Mr. and Mrs. Spyro (Efthymia) GALIATSATOS for their years of work in the AHEPA FAMILY. A Sumptuous brunch was catered by TOM'S of Coney Island for the entire congregation. A major success! Thank you Jimmy Kokotas and crew.



Father Eugene and the altar boys of the Saint Stephanos Altar Society in solemn procession of the Holy Ascension, Thursday, May 25th. All the faithful in attendance received a beautiful satchet of epitaphion flowers and petals with the icon of Christ in Glory for their shrine.





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



«Ἐγενόμην ἐν Πνεύματι ἐν τῇ Κυριακῇ ἡμέρᾳ καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν ὀπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος» (Ἀπ. 1,10)

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - imastfo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΔ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2017	Κυριακὴ Πεντηκοστῆς (Ἰω. 7,37-52' 8,12) 4 Ἰουνίου 2017	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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Πλούτος Θείων δώρων

«Ὁ πιστεύων εἰς ἐμέ, καθὼς εἶπεν ἡ γραφή, ποταμοὶ ἐκ τῆς κοιλίας αὐτοῦ ῥεύσουσιν ὕδατος ζῶντος» (Ἰω. 7,38)

Μακάριοι», ἀγαπητοί μου, «μακάριοι οἱ ἀκούοντες» (Ἰω. 11,28)· εὐτυχεῖς δηλαδὴ ὅποιοι ἔχουν αὐτιά γιὰ ν' ἀκούσουν σήμερα τὴ φωνὴ τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος. Γιατί ὅλα ὅσα λέγονται στὴν Ἐκκλησίᾳ μας σήμερα τὴν ἁγία αὐτὴ ἡμέρα (τροπάρια, κοντάκιο, κανών, ἀπόστολος, εὐαγγέλιο, ἀλλὰ προπαντὸς οἱ εὐχὲς τῆς γονυκλισίας ποὺ θ' ἀκούσουμε σὲ λίγο), ὅλα στρέφονται γύρω ἀπὸ τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο.

Σήμερα εἶνε ἡ ἐκπλήρωσις τῆς ὑποσχέσεως ποὺ ἔδωσε ὁ Κύριος στοὺς μαθητάς· «Μὴ λυπεῖσθε, δὲν θὰ σὰς ἀφήσω ὀρφανούς· θὰ στείλω τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο» (βλ. Ἰω. 14,18-16,7). Σήμερα ἡ ἐπιφοίτησις τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος, σήμερα τὰ μεγάλα καὶ θαυμαστά καὶ παράδοξα. Σήμερα καὶ αὖριο ἐορτάζουμε τὸ ἅγιο Πνεῦμα. Εἴμαστε λοιπὸν ὑποχρεωμένοι νὰ μιλήσουμε γι' αὐτό.

Νὰ μιλήσουμε γιὰ τὸ ἅγιο Πνεῦμα; Μὰ ἐδῶ πρέπει νὰ σταματήσω. Ἐὰν τολμήσω νὰ μιλήσω μὲ γλώσσα ἁγίου Ἀθανασίου, Μεγάλου Βασιλείου, Γρηγορίου Ναζιανζηνοῦ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων μεγάλων πατέρων τῆς Ἐκκλησίας· ἐὰν θελήσω νὰ ὑψώσω τὸν λόγο, νὰ θεολογήσω καὶ νὰ ἐλέγξω αἰρετικούς καὶ προπαντὸς τὴ σφαλερὴ διδασκαλία τῶν παπικῶν, ποὺ προσέθεσαν στὸ Σύμβολο τῆς πίστεως τὴν πλάνη ὅτι τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο ἐκπορεύεται ὀχι μόνον ἐκ τοῦ Πατρὸς ἀλλὰ «καὶ ἐκ τοῦ Υἱοῦ», φοβᾶμαι ὅτι δὲν θὰ βρεθοῦν αὐτιά πρόθυμα ν' ἀκροασθοῦν.

Ἡ ἐποχή μας εἶνε κατ' ἐξοχὴν ρεαλιστικὴ· ἐκτιμᾷ μόνον ὅ,τι βλέπει, ἀκούει καὶ ζυγίζει στὴν τιλάστιγγα, γενικὰ ὅ,τι εἶνε ὕλη· μιλάει μόνον γιὰ τὰ ὕλικά, τὰ ὁρατὰ καὶ αἰσθητὰ πράγματα. Ἄν ὑπῆρχε ἓνα ὄργανο ποὺ νὰ μετρήσῃ τις λέξεις ποὺ λέμε, ἓνα λεξίμετρο, θὰ βλέπατε ὅτι, μέσα στὰ ἑκατομμύρια λέξεις, δὲν ὑπάρχει οὔτε μία λέξις γιὰ τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο. Εἶνε ἐποχὴ ἀντιπνευματικὴ. Πῶς λοιπὸν, σὲ μία τέτοια ἐποχῇ, ἐμεῖς νὰ μιλήσουμε γιὰ τὸ Πνεῦμα

τὸ ἅγιο; Ἀλλὰ **θὰ τολμήσουμε**, ἀγαπητοί μου. Δὲν θὰ φιλοσοφήσω καὶ θὰ θεολογήσω, ἀλλὰ κατεβαίνοντας στὸ ἐπίπεδο τοῦ συγχρόνου κόσμου θ' ἀναφέρω μόνον ἓνα παράδειγμα.

Θ' ἀνοίξω τὸν προφήτη **Ἰεζεκιήλ** (κεφ. 47) καὶ ἀπὸ 'κεῖ θ' ἀναφέρω ἓνα **δράμα**. Ὅχι ἀπ' αὐτὰ τὰ ψεύτικα ὁράματα ποὺ λένε οἱ ὁραματισταὶ τοῦ αἰῶνος μας, ἀλλὰ δράμα ποὺ εἶδε ὁ προφήτης καὶ μᾶς δίνει ἀνάγλυφον τὴν εἰκόνα τῶν ἐνεργειῶν καὶ ἀποτελεσμάτων ποὺ φέρνει στὸν κόσμον τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο.

Ἀπὸ τὴν ἀνατολικὴ πλευρὰ τοῦ ναοῦ τῆς πόλεως τοῦ Κυρίου, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἀπὸ τὰ θεμέλια, ὁ προφήτης βλέπει νὰ βγαίνουν νερά καὶ νὰ σχηματίζονται ἓνα **μικρὸ ρυάκι**. Τὸ ρυάκι στὴν ἀρχὴ τρέχει ἤσυχα καὶ τὸ νερό του φτάνει μέχρι τοὺς ἀστραγάλους του. Μετὰ ἀπὸ ὀρισμένο διάστημα τὸ ῥεῦμα ἀρχίζει νὰ μεγαλύνῃ καὶ φτάνει μέχρι τοὺς μηρούς του. Μετὰ ἀπὸ λίγο ὑψώνεται ἀκόμη περισσότερο καὶ καλύπτει τὴ μέση του. Τέλος, καθὼς συνεχῶς αὐξάνει, κάνει πλέον **τὸ ποτάμι** ἀδιάβατο.

Ὁ προφήτης θαυμάζει, καὶ ὁ θαυμασμός του γίνεται ἀκόμη μεγαλύτερος καθὼς βλέπει στὶς ὀχθες τοῦ ποταμοῦ, δεξιὰ καὶ ἀριστερά, νὰ ἔχῃ ἀναπτυχθῇ πλούσια καὶ ἀειθαλὴς **βλάστησις**. Πλήθος δέντρα καὶ οἱ καρποὶ τους ἀφθονοί. Καὶ ὅταν τὸ ποτάμι φτάνει στὶς ἐκβολές, ἐκεῖ τὸ ζωογόνο ῥεῦμα του κάνει τὴ θάλασσα νὰ γεμίξῃ ἀπὸ ψάρια. Ἀφθονα ψάρια· ἀλιευτικὰ συνεργεῖα ῥίχνουν τὰ δίχτυα τους καὶ ψαρεύουν (βλ. Ἰεζ. 47,1-12).

Περίεργα πράγματα ἦταν αὐτὰ ποὺ ἔβλεπε ὁ προφήτης Ἰεζεκιήλ. Ποιὰ εἶνε ἡ ἐξηγήσις τοῦ ὁράματός του; Ἡ εἰκόνα αὐτὴ παριστάνει τὴν ἐκχυσίαν τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος καὶ τὸν **πλοῦτον τῶν Θείων δωρεῶν**, τὸν «θησαυρόν τῶν ἀγαθῶν» (Ἰω. 1,16) ποὺ φέρνει στὸν κόσμον.

The Lord gives us once again an opportunity to express our solidarity by becoming a supporting and registered member of the parish. We can only urge you to do so because your sustaining membership keeps this parish functioning and responding to the needs of all the faithful. Don't wait until some insignificant date on the calendar. Register with the Church Office **TODAY** and garner all the benefits of being a supporter of Christ's mission on earth.

FAMILY REGISTRATION FOR HUSBAND & WIFE: \$275 PER YEAR

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$225 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$150 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN HUSBAND & WIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$200 PER YEAR

WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!

Registering with your local parish is not so much a duty or obligation as it is a **PRIVILEGE**. By registering and offering your annual stewardship, you become an integral member of the living body of Christ as a faith community. By virtue of your Baptism, Chrismation (Confirmation), and Holy Eucharist (Communion), you claim to be a follower of Christ, a witness for Christ, and a practitioner for Christ. May we ask you then to live up to these promises by making your 2017 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrives thanks to your outreach.

YOU ARE PART OF THE GREAT FRESCO OF FAITH

The Work of the Holy Spirit

The Spirit is the source of holiness, a spiritual light, and He offers His own light to every mind to help it in its search for truth. By nature the Spirit is beyond the reach of our mind, but we can know Him by His goodness. The power of the Spirit fills the whole universe, but He gives Himself only to those who are worthy, acting in each according to the measure of his faith.

Simple in himself, the Spirit is manifold in His mighty works. The whole of His being is present to each individual; the whole of His being is present everywhere. Though shared in by many, He remains unchanged; His self-giving is no loss to Himself. Like the sunshine, which permeates all the atmosphere, spreading over land and sea, and yet is enjoyed by each person as though it were for him alone, so the Spirit pours forth His grace in full measure, sufficient for all, and yet is present as though exclusively to everyone who can receive Him. To all creatures that share in Him He gives

a delight limited only by their own nature, not by His ability to give.

The Spirit raises our hearts to heaven, guides the steps of the weak, and brings to perfection those who are making progress. He enlightens those who have been cleansed from every stain of sin and makes them spiritual by communion with Himself.

From the Spirit comes foreknowledge of the future, understanding of the mysteries of faith, insight into the hidden meaning of Scripture, and other special gifts. Through the Spirit we become citizens of heaven, we are admitted to the company of the angels, we enter into eternal happiness and abide in God. Through the Spirit we acquire a likeness to God; indeed, we attain what is beyond our most sublime aspirations - we become God.

St. Basil the Great

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