

## Effects of the Holy Spirit

The gifts that the philanthropic God bestows on us with the mysteries of Pentecost are great and wondrous and surpass all human logic. The Holy Spirit restores man to the natural function of his existence, so that he becomes a "temple of the living God" (II Cor. 6:16). Also, as the par excellence Communion of Love "he helps us in our infirmities" (Rom. 8:26), he comes as a helper in our weaknesses and our afflictions, he forgives our sins and mediates to God for us.

The Holy Spirit works the adoption and brotherhood of people in Christ, and the familiarity of the salvation offered by Christ. The question is our own synergy.

Let us, then, beg the Paraclete to come and "dwell in us, to save our soul, our life, our entire existence. Amen

Archim. N.K

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4 2023 PENTECOST SUNDAY** Our Father Metrophanes, Archbishop of Constantinople, Mary & Martha sisters of Lazarus, Sophia of Thrace, The Mother of Orphans, *Lucillian of Byzantium, 4 martyred Youths and Paula the Virgin*, Athanasios the Wonderworker, *Kevin, Abbot of Glendalough*

**EPISTLE READING** : Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

**GOSPEL READING** : JOHN 7:37-52; 8:12

**TONE OF THE WEEK** :

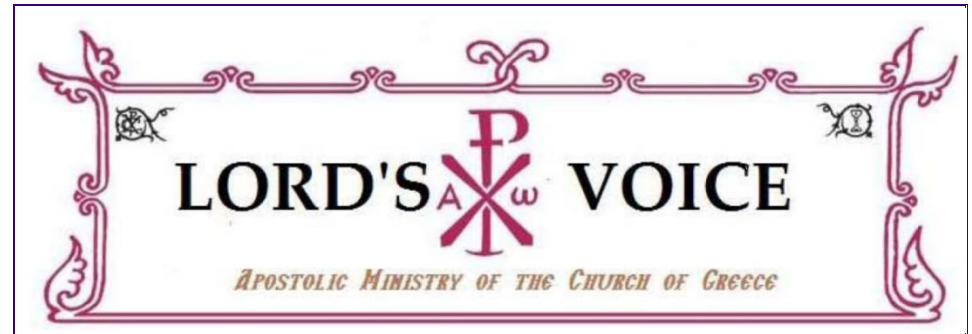
**EOETHINON** :

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11 2023 SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS**

Bartholomew the Holy Apostle, Barnabas the Holy Apostle, Revelation of the Hymn Axion Estin to a monk on Mt. Athos by the Archangel Gabriel, Alexander and Antonina the Martyrs, Timothy, Bishop of Proussa, Theophanes & Pansemne of Antioch, Our Holy Father Gregory, Bishop of Assos, The Holy Martyrs of China

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2*

**GOSPEL READING** : *Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30*



71<sup>ST</sup> YEAR JUNE 4 2023 PAMPHLET # 23 (3653)

WE ARE CELEBRATING PENTECOST  
AND THE INDWELLING OF THE SPIRIT"

As the seasons of the year succeed one another, so also in the Church, one holiday alternates with another. A little while ago we celebrated the Cross, the Passion, the Resurrection; after that the Ascension of the Lord, and today we reached the peak of the good things and the metropolis of the feasts (the sacred Chrysostom). That is, the fulfillment of those things that Christ promised us before His voluntary passion. Referring to the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world, the re-creation and renewal of creation, with the historical manifestation of the Church as the Body of Christ and the ark of salvation.

"I am sending you the promise of my Father" - says the Lord to His Disciples before His Ascension - "and you stay in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). Pentecost Sunday is precisely this insurmountable power of God. It is the "deadline", the time of the fulfillment of the promise of God the Father. The Holy Spirit came, who proceeds from God

THE SUNDAY EPISTLE 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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the Father. The Holy Spirit came, who proceeds from God the Father "before all ages" and is sent "in time" by God the Son, Jesus Christ, and Who, as Comforter God, "comprises the whole institution of the Church".

These three persons of the Holy Trinity have the same nature-essence and the same glory-energy. In other words, they are coessential, identical and equally powerful. Saint Gregory the Theologian, who had an apocalyptic experience of this mystery, speaks of three lights that brightly surrounded him; "I cannot reach to understand the one, and I am shined about by the three. I cannot reach to divide the three, and I refer to the one" (Hom. 40:41).

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit

The Epistle reading describes the tangible signs of the Holy Spirit's indwelling on the Disciples of Christ, who was revealed to them as wind and as fire. Of course, just as the Holy Spirit is not a material element, so His actions are not material either. However, because it is not easy for man to understand the mysteries of God without symbols and images from the worldly reality, that is why the descent of the Holy Spirit was revealed by sensorial points. Therefore, the Evangelist Luke uses the expressions "like a forceful born wind" and "divided tongues like fire" (Acts 2:2-3), to show that the Holy Spirit is not wind or fire, but because it sounded like a strong wind and appeared like a tongue of fire. And this "so that you not think anything sensorial of the Spirit", as the sacred Chrysostom comments. In fact, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit also manifested itself with a special gift; that of "glossolalia". It is the symbolic foreshadowing of apostolic preaching, as a work of God's power to the ends of the World, to foreign people and those speaking other languages.

Invitation to the unity of faith

In the Tower of Babel, egotism and the incomprehension of sin led people to division and to not understanding each other, even though they were speaking the same language. However, now that the Holy Spirit called them to unity and to the communion of the love of Christ, the Apostles were preaching to those present, who, although they were speaking different languages, understood the content of the preaching of salvation in Christ in a wonderful way.

