# The Weekly Forerunner

**St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church**
301 Struthers Liberty Rd
Campbell, OH 44405

**May Bulletin Sponsor**
**In memory of my husband George Kolesar – Given by Barbara Kolesar**

## *Liturgical & Events Schedule*

**Sunday, May 31**
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Kneeling Prayers / Social

**Wednesday, June 3**
7:30 PM: Public City Council Meeting

**Saturday, June 6**
5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Vespers

**Sunday, June 7**
9:15-9:45 am AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social

## SPECIAL COLLECTION MAY :

St. Tikhon's Seminary

## JUNE SOCIAL SCHEDULE

May 31 - Rusnak Social
June 1 - O Club
June 14 - OPEN
June 21 - Father's Day Brunch
June 28 - Sisterhood

## JUNE READER SCHEDULE

May 31– Robert Willison
June 7– George Horodnic
June 14– Dc. Jimmy Hyrb
June 21– Proto. Dc. David Gemmel
June 28– Natalia Simko

## Holy Pentecost / Commemorated on May 31

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.

### THE VIGIL OF PENTECOST

The all-night Vigil service begins with a solemn invitation:

"Let us celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit,
The appointed day of promise, and the fulfillment of hope,
The mystery which is as great as it is precious."

In the coming of the Spirit, the very essence of the Church is revealed:

"The Holy Spirit provides all, Overflows with prophecy, fulfills the priesthood, Has taught wisdom to illiterates, has revealed fishermen as theologians, He brings together the whole council of the Church." ***Con't next pg***

## PLEASE KEEP OUR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH & SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

Send a "Thinking of You" card or remember their Birthday with a card. If anyone needs to be added, please contact Fr. Andrew.

**Mrs. Mary Fredericks**
648 Dumont Ave
Campbell, OH 44405

**Matushka Helen Psinka**
c/o Concordia Villa St. Joseph
1030 W State Street / Room 1B49
Baden, Pa, 15005

**Mrs. Dorothy Shirilla**
8362 Van Dr.
Poland, OH 44514

**Joan Cross**
97 Butler Street / Apt 1-rear
Brooklyn , NY 11201

**Mildred Wilfong**
153 Runnemede Dr
Boardman, OH 44512

**Mrs. Audrey Chengelis**
c/o Assumption Village
9800Market Street / Room 1402
North Lima, OH 44452

**Emilia Yannitto**
8017 Salinas Tr.
Boardman, OH 44512-5402

**Mrs. Pauline Fesz**
488 Harmony Lane
Campbell, OH 44405

**George Horodnic, Sr.**
c/o Briarfield Manor
461 South Canfield-Niles Rd / Room 101
Austintown, OH 44515

**Mrs. Julia Simko**
c/o Woodlands @ Hampton Woods
1525 E Western Reserve Rd /
Room 1101
Poland, OH 44514

**Carol Ruff**
2207 Birch Trail Blvd
Youngstown, OH 44515-4910

**Sue Kennedy**
593 Hyatt Ave
Campbell, OH 44405-1479

**Ann Cvercko**
1875 Mallard Land
North Lima, OH 44452

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***Pentecost Con't from previous pg***

In the three readings of the Old Testament (Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29; Joel 2:23-32; Ezekiel 36:24-28) we hear the prophecies concerning the Holy Spirit. We are taught that the entire history of mankind was directed towards the day on which God "would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh." This day has come! All hope, all promises, all expectations have been fulfilled. At the end of the Aposticha hymns, for the first time since Easter, we sing the hymn: "O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth...," the one with which we inaugurate all our services, all prayers, which is, as it were, the life-breath of the Church, and whose coming to us, whose "descent" upon us in this festal Vigil, is indeed the very experience of the Holy Spirit "coming and abiding in us."

Having reached its climax, the Vigil continues as an explosion of joy and light for "verily the light of the Comforter has come and illumined the world." In the Gospel reading (John 20:19-23) the feast is interpreted to us as the feast of the Church, of her divine nature, power and authority. The Lord sends His disciples into the world, as He Himself was sent by His Father. Later, in the antiphons of the Liturgy, we proclaim the universality of the apostles' preaching, the cosmical significance of the feast, the sanctification of the whole world, the true manifestation of God's Kingdom.

**THE VESPERS OF PENTECOST**

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately the Divine Liturgy, is "added" to it as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn "summing up" of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. We hold flowers in our hands symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon:

"Who is so great a God as our God?"

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God. ***Con't pg 5***

## JUNE Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

*NOTE: If anything is missing from the Sponsorships please contact Fr. Andrew ASAP*

**Bulletin**: OPEN
**Wine:** OPEN
**Incense**: OPEN
**Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light:** OPEN
**Altar Candles**: OPEN
**Tetrapod Candles**: OPEN
**St. Herman Candles**: Commemorating all who participate in the maintenance of the church, the teachers, singers and those who participate in social events. Praying for everyone to love one another.– Given by Anonymous
**St. Panteleimon Icon Candles:** OPEN
**Protection Icon Candles:** OPEN
**St. John the Baptist Candles**: OPEN
**Monthly Flowers:** In memory husband Kurtis Shunk – Given by Mrs. Athanasia-Trudy Shunk-Ellmore

| $50 per month | $30 per month | $25 per month |
|---|---|---|
| *Wine | *St. Herman candles | Incense |
| *Bulletin | *St. Panteleimon Icon candles | Flowers– **NEW UPDATED PRICE / DECREASED** |
| *Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light | *Protection Icon candles | |
| *Altar Candles | *St. John the Baptist candles | |
| *Tetrapod Candles | | |

## Volume IV - Spirituality / The Beatitudes / Peacemakers

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God" (Mt 5.9).

Christ, the "prince of peace," (Is 9.6) gives the peace of God to those who believe in Him.

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you (Jn 14.27).*

*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace (Jn 16.33).*

This is the peace which St Paul lists as one of the "fruits of the Holy Spirit" (Gal 5.22); the "peace of God which passes all understanding" (Phil 4.7). It is peace understood as "the liberation from passions, which cannot be attained without the action of the Holy Spirit" (Saint Mark the Ascetic, 4th c., Two Centuries on Spiritual Law). The peacemakers are those who have the peace of God in themselves and spread this peace to those around them. This peace, first of all, is the freedom from all anxiety and fear. It is the peace of those who are not anxious about their lives, about what they shall eat and drink, about what they shall wear (cf. Mt 6.25–33). It is the peace with which men's hearts are not troubled nor afraid of anything (cf. Jn 14.27). It is the peace which exists in men even in the most terrible of human situations, in suffering and in death. It is the peace which is in the one who can say:

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness, or peril or sword? As it is written, "For Thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered" (Ps 44.22).*

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8.35–39).*

The inner peace of God is not the absence of external conflict. The peacemakers of God are not those who are freed from terrific struggles in life, or those who can cause the absence and disappearance of strife among men. Christ Himself did not do this. On the contrary, the Prince of Peace Himself, the Lord who gives strength and peace to His people (Ps 29.11), has claimed that He Himself will be the cause of much conflict among men.

*Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's foes will be those of his own household. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it; and he who loses his life for My sake will find it (Mt 10.34–39; Lk 12.49–53).*

The blessed peacemaker is the one who bears witness to Christ and takes up his cross and loses his life for the Lord without fear or anxiety. He is the one who enters every human conflict until the end of time, fortified by the peace of God. He is the one who does not deny the Lord or compromise His truth by the exercise of violence, but bears witness by his own peace in the midst of conflict, the peace which is "not as the world gives" (Jn 14.27). Thus, the peacemaker does not provoke others to irritation or violence, except by the truth and love of his life, and leaves all vengeance to the Lord. ***Con't Pg 6***

## JUNE Celebrations

### Birthday

1- Anthony Jesko, Sr.
2- Sue Kennedy
5- Peter Adzima / Michael Simko / Ryan Konik / Alex Vansuch
11- Elaine Johnston
13- Fr. Nick Mihaly / Sarah Wilson
15- Emily Kusinski / Aijire Dardovski
19- Emily Sarisky / Victoria Elash
22- Donna Chiarelli
24- John Koval III
25- Ron Zenko
26- John Rusnak
28- Vincent Cavaliere

### Anniversary

10- Joey & Mary Ruth Mico
14- Sub-deacon Donald & Susan Tamulonis (80)
21- V.R. Archpriest Dave Lis priestly ordination (41 years 2021)
27-2009- AB Melchisedek of Pittsburgh & Western, PA
29-2021- His Grace Bishop Gerasim of Forth Worth

### Names Day

3- Fr. Andrew Bartek
4-Martha Centofanti
24- Gianna Hryb / Joann Biros
27-Joan Cross / Heidi Kuzemchak / Joann Sirilla
29- Pauline Fesz / Mat. Pauline Gemmel

| ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - *APRIL* | 2025 | 2026 |
|---|---|---|
| **1st– Paralytic** | | |
| Vespers | 8 | 11 |
| Liturgy / Communion | 51 / 37 | 35 / 28 |
| **2nd Week– Mother's D.** | | |
| Vespers | 8 | 13 |
| Liturgy / Communion | 64 / 44 | 61 / 34 |
| **3rd Week-Blind** | | |
| Vespers | No Vespers | 10 |
| Liturgy / Communion<br>Vespers for Ascension<br>Liturgy for Ascension | 44 / 35<br>No Record<br>No Record | 35 / 27<br>10<br>13 / 7 |
| **4th Week –Fathers 1ST** | | |
| Vespers | 11 | 10 |
| Liturgy / Communion | 47 / 32 | 45 / 30 |
| **5th– Pentecost** | | |
| Vespers<br>Liturgy / Communion<br>Kneeling Prayers | 6<br>56 / 37<br>30 | |

## John 7:37-52, 8:12 (Gospel)

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." Nikodemos (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?" They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

## Acts 2:1-11 (Epistle)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

## JUNE Reposed List / © Parishioner

Mary Churinsko ©
1- Anna Voytilla Timpko (2011) © / Michael Nosik, Sr. (2015) © / Lambos Trangos (1930) ©
Eli Roman (1951) © / Infant La Bruno (1 day old) (1962) ©
3- Irene Leso (2002) / George Gozur (1972) © / Vasil Babinec (1920) © / Mary Korchniak (1934) ©
4- Marilynn Kidd (2007) © / Steve Bosak (1933) ©
5- Mildred Paproski (2018) / Kathryn Howard (2021) / Margaret Urchak (2014) ©
6- Fr. Stephen Shutack (2008) / George Konik (2006) ©
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29- John Travers (2001) © / Eugene Simko (2007) © / Susanna Stepancevich (1921) © / Zachary Maximor (1947) © / Catherine Vansuch (1965) © / Mary Helen Feltovich (1987) ©
30- Zoopegy Lambrianos (1960) © / Nomikos Grikilis (1960) ©

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***Pentecost con't from pg 2***

In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter "the ordinary time" of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called "after Pentecost"—and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches—for the Church "never grows old, but is always young." It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit—"the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life—comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity," and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope.

Father Alexander Schmemann (1974)

## PRAYER LIST

**PARISHIONERS:** Achiles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / Matushka Helen Psinka / Nadine Sabo / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Reader Nick Vansuch / Mildred Wilfong

**CLERGY:** Fr. Basil Duesenberry / Fr. Andrew Gall / AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Emil Hutyan / AP Michael Rustic / Fr. Peter Simko / Fr. Theophanes Kamau & family & parishioners at St. Joachim & Anna in Nairobi, Kenya

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Mat. Melanie Adamcio / Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Diane Caban (Sirilla) / George Caban (Sirilla) / Donna Chiarelli / Karen Debiec / Erin (Willison) / Thomas Hull, Jr. / Ron Hryb / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Kelly Marie Konya (Candle guy's daughter) / Mary Alyce Koval / Ginny McCay (Fredericks) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Conner (Sabo) Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Matt Turner (Sirilla) / Emilia Yanitto / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Richard (Tusinac) / Miranda & her unborn baby / Lindsey & her unborn baby / Blaire & her newborn Tatiana

**MILITARY FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Cory Deaton (Fr.) / Alena Grabavoy (Fr.) / Kyle Grabovoy (Fr.) / Liam Garrity (Zelinsky) / Kenneth (Simko) / Brandon Rader (Middle East)

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Diocese of Aleppo) & Archbishop John (Archdiocese of Aleppo) still being held captive & Metropolitan Arseny imprisoned / The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

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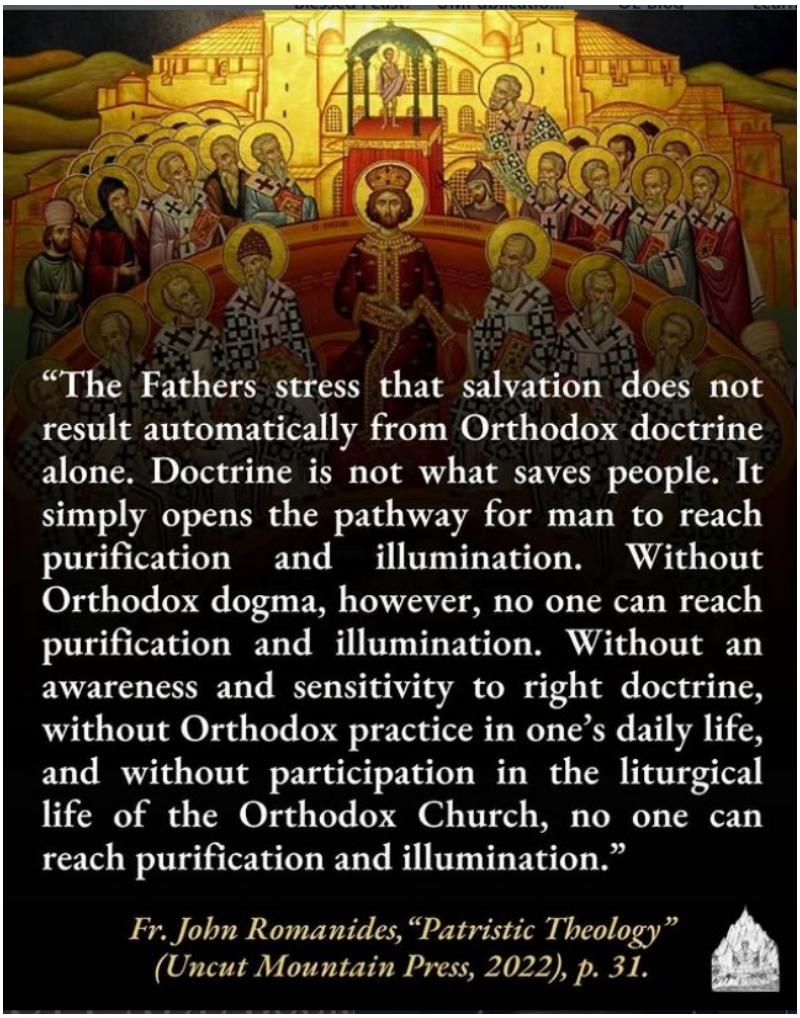


***Peacemakers con't from pg 3***

He is the one who follows Jesus in overcoming evil only by good.

*If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourself, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord" (Lev 19.18, Deut 32.35). No, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head" (Prov 25.21- 22). Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Rom 12.18–21).*

In making peace, the peacemaker himself is a son of God like the Lord Jesus Himself, who paradoxically and inevitably is the cause of much scandal and strife (cf. Lk 2.34–35, 7.23, 21.18).