St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York &
Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace Bishop THOMAS, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland & MidAtlantic
The Very Reverend Father Samuel Haddad, Pastor
Deacon Matthew Benefield
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May 31, 2026

The Great Feast of Pentecost

Today's Reader: Dan Hardway

Next Sunday – June 7, 2026

Reader for May 31, 2026: **Alexander Cadmus**

Commemorations and Bread Offering: **The Caperton Family**

Luncheon for Next Sunday IS POT LUCK—Bring a dish to share!

Bread for the Holy Oblation is Offered by the Deighan Family for the health & salvation of Peter, Cynthia, Aidan, Kayleigh, Francis, Shaina, George, Liz, John, and Mary, as well as all the members of the Deighan, Errico, and Braun families.

It is offered in loving memory of Hilde, James, Francis, Ed, and the departed members of the Deighan, Errico and Braun families.

"the Disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26)

Please note that Holy Communion is reserved for members of the Holy Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession. However, all are welcome to partake of the blessed bread at the dismissal.

Please join us during our fellowship at the Coffee Hour immediately after the Divine Liturgy.

Important Announcements . . .

PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEKEND

May 30, 2026 Saturday of the Souls

We will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am followed by a memorial service for our departed loved ones. Please fill out the list of the departed form from the Usher Stand so that we may offer prayers for them. Then place it on the Analogion table in the front of the church.

May 31, 2026 ~ Holy Pentecost

9:00 am	Festal Orthros
10:00 am	Chrismation—Jonathan Sneed, Corey Elswick and Levi Garretson
10:30 am	Festal Divine Liturgy
12:00 am	Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost (Immediately after the Divine Liturgy)
	Coffee Hour Luncheon After Kneeling Vespers

It is proper to say the prayers of the Sunday Vespers of Pentecost (Kneeling Vespers) after the Divine Liturgy. During these Vespers, we will say the Kneeling Prayers, restoring the "**bending of the knee**". This **special service will begin at 12:00 pm,** IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY.

Next Week Is Fast Free

Luncheon for Next Sunday IS POT LUCK—Bring a dish to share!

"Blessings Box" Collection Update

Beloved in Christ,
This year, we are collecting non-perishable food for our new BLESSING BOX! PLEASE KEEP BRINGING FOOD so that we may continue to stock our shelves and have food to stock adequately. We need to continue our efforts in providing food for those who are truly Hungry. God bless everyone for your holy efforts!

The Great
Feast of Pentecost

Troparion for Pentecost, *in the Eighth Tone*

Most blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them didst catch the world into Thy net. O Lover of all mankind, glory to Thee.

Kontakion for Pentecost, *in the Eighth Tone*

When the High One descended, confusing tongues, He divided the nations. And when He distributed the fiery tongues He called all to one unity. Wherefore, in unison we glorify the most Holy Spirit.

Epistle

Acts 2:1-11

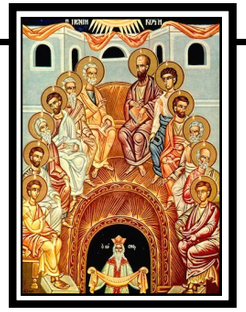
Prokeimenon: Their voice has gone out into all the earth.
Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.

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? Par'thians and Medes and E'lamites and residents of Mesopota'mia, Judea and Cappado'cia, Pontus and Asia, Phryg'ia and Pamphyl'ia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyre'ne, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

Gospel

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 priests 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." Nicode'mus, 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."



Feast of Holy Pentecost

After the Saviour's ascent to heaven the eleven Apostles, the rest of the Disciples, the pious women who were accustomed to follow Him from the beginning, His most holy Mother the Virgin Mary, and His brothers returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem. Altogether they were about one hundred and twenty souls. When they had entered the house in which they lived, they went up to the upper room to await the coming of the Holy Spirit, according to the promise of their divine Master, continuing in prayer and supplication. About that time the election fell on Matthias who was counted among the eleven Apostles.

On a corresponding Sunday, which is the tenth day after the Ascension, and the fiftieth after the Passover, falling then on the thirteenth of May, about the third hour of the day, there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where the Apostles were sitting. And immediately there appeared to them cloven tongues like as of fire, and sat upon the head of each of them. And all those who were there were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak, not with the tongues of their ancestors, but with other tongues with which the Holy Spirit supplied them as He inspired them.

And by divine provision, there were gathered in Jerusalem for the feast great multitudes from about eighteen different nations and tongues, such as Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and others, who were all Jews by race and religion, but, because they had been born and brought up in various places among strange nations, they were dispersed in ancient times, and each was called after the place of his birth. When these heard the sound from heaven, descending to where the Disciples of Christ were gathered, they all hastened thither to find out what happened. And as each heard the Apostles speaking in his own language, they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

And there were others (perhaps the blind Scribes and Pharisees), who, because of their great wickedness and folly, mocked the miracle, saying that the Apostles were drunk. Then Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and spake before the multitude, explaining that what had happened was not due to intoxication, but to the fulfillment of God's promise, speaking to Joel, which says, And it shall come to pass in the last days, I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, etc. Then he preached Jesus the Nazarene, explaining with many proofs that he was Christ the Lord whom the Jews crucified and whom God raised from the dead. Many then were touched in their hearts because of his words, and, accepting them, were baptized. And on that day there were added to the faithful about three thousand souls.

This then is the object of the present Feast, namely, the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world, the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus Christ, and the completion of the undefiled Disciples' hope. It is the sequel and the conclusion of the Feasts of the great mystery of the divine Incarnation. On the day corresponding to this day of salvation, the day of Pentecost, the Saviour's Apostles, who were formerly simple fishermen and illiterate, were suddenly instructed by the advent of the Holy Spirit, becoming possessed of the greatest wisdom and speaking plainly of heavenly doctrines. They became preachers of truth and teachers to the whole world. From that day, they began the work of their great mission, the wonderful and delectable first-fruit of which was the conversion of three thousand souls on that very same day.

Some hold that the above mentioned upper room, which the Jews used to consider a place of worship and prayer, since it was designated for that purpose, was the same upper room in which the Saviour delivered the divine Sacrament of the Eucharist. But others hold that it was in the house of John the Evangelist. Still others think it was in the house of Mary the mother of John, who was known as John Mark, where afterwards a church was built and named the Upper Church of the Apostles. Again, there are others who say that it was one of the many upper rooms in the outer court of the Temple, which were open to people who were gathered in the Temple, and prepared for those who cared to enter them. They cite as proof of their claim the words of St. Luke, And they were continually in the Temple, praising and blessing God (Luke 24:53). It may also be noted here that the name of Mary the Theotokos is mentioned at this point for the last time in the New Testament.

Calendar: May-August 2026

5/31/2026 (Sun)		Holy Pentecost
6/1/2026 (Mon)		Holy Spirit Day
6/7/2026 (Sun)		All Saints Day
The Apostle's Fast 6/8/2026 - 6/28/2026		
6/24/2026		Feast of the Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist
6/29/2026 (Mon)	10:00 am	Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul
6/30/2026 (Tue)		Synaxis of the 12 Apostles
Diocese Parish Life Conference ~ 7/1/2026 - 7/5/2026		
7/20/2026		Elias the Prophet
7/25/2026		Dormition of the Righteous Anna
Dormition Fast 8/1/2026 - 8/14/2026		
8/5/2026 (Wed)	6:30 pm	Eve Divine Liturgy—Transfiguration of Our Lord
8/6/2026 (Thu)		Transfiguration of Our Lord
8/15/2026 (Sat)	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy—Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos
8/20/2026		The Prophet Samuel
8/29/2026		The Beheading of John the Baptist

Calendar for the Week of May 31, 2026	Saints of the Day
Sunday—May 31, 2026 Holy Pentecost 9:00 am Orthros 9:30 am - High School 10:00 am – Youth Ministry 10:00 am Chrismation 10:30 am Divine Liturgy 12:00 am Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost (Immediately after the Divine Liturgy)	**Holy Pentecost**
Monday— June 1, 2026 Holy Spirit Day	Justin the Philosopher and Martyr
Tuesday—June 2, 2026	Nicephorus the Confessor
Wednesday—June 3, 2026 No Daily Vespers Today	Lucillianus the Martyr
Thursday—June 4, 2026	Metrophanes the Archbishop
Friday—June 5, 2026	Dorotheus the Martyr, Bishop of Tyre
Saturday—June 6, 2026 5:00 pm Great Vespers Confessions afterward	New Hilarion, Head of the Monastery of the Dalmatians
Sunday—June 7, 2026 All Saints Sunday 9:20 am Orthros 9:30 am - High School 10:00 am – Youth Ministry 10:30 am - Divine Liturgy After Liturgy- Junior &Youngsters Church School	**All Saints**

Please note that Confessions are heard at the time noted above in the coming week's schedule, or by appointment by calling Fr. Samuel at: (304) 254-0470, (304) 562-9129, or (304) 541-8550.