



THE PROTOMARTYR



*A Weekly Bulletin of St. Stephen Cathedral,
Orthodox Church in America*

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JUNE 12, 2011

**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!
HOLY PENTECOST**

**GLORY FOREVER!
TONE 7**

8th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 7. HOLY PENTECOST. FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY.
Ven. Onuphrius the Great (4th c.) and Ven. Peter of Mt. Athos (734). Finding of the Relics (1649) and the second glorification (1909) of Rt. Blv. Anna of Kashin. Ven. Arsenius, Abbot of Konevits (1447). Ven. Onuphry, Abbot of Mal'sk (Pskov—1492). Ven. Bassian and Jonah of Pertomsk (Solovétsky Monastery—1561). Ven. Onuphry and Auxenty of Vologdá (15th-16th c.). Ven. Stephen of Komel', Abbot of Ozérsk Monastery (Vologdá—1542). Ven. John, Andrew, Heraclemon, and Theophilus, Hermits, of Egypt (4th c.).

EPISTLE: Acts 2:1-11

GOSPEL: John 7:37-52; 8:12

Schedule of services and events of the upcoming week:

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Thursday, June 16	Vespers 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM
Saturday, June 18	Great Vespers 5 PM Confessions
Sunday, June 19	All Saints Sunday Divine Liturgy (Slavonic) 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy (Eng) 10 AM

Charity for June: will be dedicated towards IOCC relief effort in the Southern parts of our country. No doubt many heard about a series of natural disasters that hit Southern states. Currently International Orthodox Christian Charities is providing relief efforts in certain areas in the South, particularly in Joplin, Missouri that was devastated by a tornado. We hope that our parishioners also will be able to participate in this effort through the charity contribution in the month of June.

Vacation Church School: Currently we are making preparations for our annual Vacation Church School which will take place on July 13-15 this summer. We hope that many children of our parish will be able to participate. We are also in need of councilors to help with younger children. If you will be available on those days and would like to participate, please talk to Fr. Victor or Diane Bender.

Church Picnic: Please mark Sun. July 17 as the day of our annual Church Picnic. This was always a successful and memorable event with good food, fellowship and games for children. There will be more information coming soon, but if anyone would like to help with this event, please talk to Fr. Victor or to the ladies of the Sisterhood.

Summer Educational Sundays: with this week's Bible Study being the last one for this school year, we would like to offer our parishioners other opportunities to deepen their knowledge of our faith during these months. On a number of Sundays in July and August, following the Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour, we will watch a documentary related to various aspect of Church life and teaching and will have a discussion. First such an event will take place on Sun. June 26 when we plan to watch a documentary about the life of Apostle Paul. Hope you will be able to join us.

Fast Free Week: this coming week we don't have to keep fast even on Wednesday and Friday since starting with the following Monday we will start Apostles Fast which will last till June 29.

Phillies Game: this is a reminder to all the members of St. Stephen OCF that there will be a game of Phillies vs. Fl. Marlins this Tuesday, June 14 at 7:05 PM. For any questions on this event, please talk to Judy Clyde.

The Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost

This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fullness, 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.

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 Schmemmann (1974)