

Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава навіки!



Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory for ever!

УСПЕННЯ ПРЕСВЯТОЇ БОГОРОДИЦІ

Dormition of the Mother of God

Sunday, May 24, 2026

“Pentecost Sunday”

Reflections for this Weekend

The great feast of Pentecost reveals to us not only the coming of the Holy Spirit, but also the deep thirst hidden in every human soul. In the Gospel of John, we hear Jesus stand in the midst of the people and cry out with divine authority: “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.” These are not quiet words. They are not a suggestion. Christ cries out because humanity is dying of thirst while standing beside the fountain of eternal life.

The tragedy of the human heart is that we often do not recognize our thirst. We try to satisfy ourselves with comfort, success, pleasure, power, distractions, and endless noise. Yet the soul remains restless. The more the world offers, the more empty many people become. There is a loneliness inside modern humanity that no possession can heal. There is a darkness in the heart that no earthly light can remove. Christ speaks directly into that emptiness: “Come to Me and drink.”

Jesus does not simply give water. He becomes the living water. He does not merely teach truth. He is Truth itself. He does not simply show light. He declares: “I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” The world can offer temporary excitement, but only Christ gives eternal life. The world can entertain the mind, but only Christ can resurrect the soul.

The Gospel tells us that many people argued about Jesus. Some believed He was the Prophet. Others said He was the Christ. Some wanted Him arrested. The Pharisees rejected Him because He did not fit their expectations. Even the guards sent to capture Him returned empty-handed, saying, “Never has a man spoken like this Man.” There was something in the voice of Christ that pierced the heart more deeply than any sword. Divine truth carries a power that human authority cannot silence.

This same division continues today. Christ still disturbs hearts. Some follow Him with love and surrender. Others resist Him because His light exposes hidden darkness. The light of Christ is beautiful, but it is also painful because it reveals our sins, our pride, our hypocrisy, and our woundedness. Many people prefer darkness because darkness allows them to hide. Yet only in the light can healing begin.

Nicodemus appears quietly in this Gospel passage. While others judge Christ with hatred and

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arrogance, Nicodemus seeks justice and truth. He reminds the crowd that the law does not condemn a man before hearing him. Nicodemus represents every soul struggling between fear and faith. He is not yet fully courageous, but grace is already working within him. God often begins His work in the soul silently, gradually leading a person from confusion into faith.

Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit alone can satisfy the thirst of the human heart. The Spirit transforms fearful disciples into fearless apostles. The Spirit turns dry hearts into rivers of living water. The Spirit fills empty souls with divine fire.

Today Christ stands before each one of us and cries out again: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink." He speaks to the wounded, the tired, the broken, the doubting, and the lonely. He speaks to those exhausted by sin and disappointment. He speaks to every soul searching for meaning.

Only Christ can quench the deepest thirst of humanity because every human heart was created for Him. Without Him there is darkness. With Him there is light, life, peace, and eternal joy.



MAY DEVOTIONS IN HONOR OF MARY, our Mother & Protectress, will take place at approximately 9:10 a.m. each Sunday in the month of May. (Between the 8:50 a.m. The Third Hour and the 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy)

The Coffee sign-up list is still waiting for your name as host/hostess.

This is a good time to stop after the Liturgy for a good cup of coffee and delicious baked goods. Come and visit with old friends, and possibly, make new friends.

Please remember, in your prayers, all our parish members who are in convalescent homes or are homebound because of illness.

Soon it will be vacation time! If you are traveling by car, please drive safely the life you save might be your own! God is always looking after your safety - He NEVER takes a vacation! Wherever we go, we are with Him and He with us.

Have you moved or have a change in your phone number? Please contact the parish office. We wish to keep in touch with all our parish members, however, if information is not current, this is not possible.

The Spiritual Courage from anger and the acquiring of meekness. !!!

In the eighth step of the Ladder of Divine Ascent, Saint John Climacus speaks about freedom from anger and the acquiring of meekness. At first glance, this step may appear gentle and quiet, but in truth it requires immense spiritual courage. Many people think courage is shown only on battlefields, in heroic acts, or in moments of physical suffering. Yet one of the greatest forms of courage is the ability to conquer anger within the hidden battlefield of the heart.

Anger often disguises itself as strength. People defend their temper by saying they are simply honest, passionate, or protecting justice. But Saint John reveals that uncontrolled anger is not power. It is slavery. A person ruled by anger loses peace, clarity, and communion with God. Anger darkens the soul and slowly destroys love. Words spoken in anger can wound more deeply than physical blows. One moment of rage can break trust that took years to build.

The courage required to ascend this step is the courage to remain peaceful when pride is wounded. It is the courage to stay silent when the heart burns with the desire to defend itself. It is the courage to forgive when every emotion cries out for revenge. This is not weakness. This is spiritual victory.

Christ Himself revealed this holy courage during His Passion. He was mocked, rejected, struck, and humiliated, yet He answered hatred with silence and mercy. The world expected power to appear through force, but divine strength appeared through humility and love. The Cross becomes the highest image of meekness. Only a soul filled with God can remain peaceful in the midst of injustice.

Saint John Climacus teaches that freedom from anger does not happen instantly. It is a long inner struggle. The human heart carries wounds, memories, disappointments, and hidden pride. Many times anger is born not from the actions of others, but from our own insecurity and self love. When we are attached to our ego, every criticism feels like an attack. Every disagreement becomes a threat. But when humility grows, anger loses its roots.

This step demands courage because it asks us to look honestly at ourselves. It is easier to blame others than to examine the darkness within our own hearts. Many people spend their lives trying to change everyone around them while refusing to let God change them. Saint John calls us to a deeper battle. He invites us to descend into the hidden chambers of the soul where resentment, bitterness, and judgment quietly live.

True meekness is not passive indifference. It is inner stability rooted in God. A meek person may still experience temptation, pain, or irritation, but these emotions no longer rule the soul. The heart becomes like calm water that reflects the light of heaven clearly. Anger clouds the soul, but meekness restores spiritual vision.

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One of the deepest forms of courage is asking forgiveness first. Pride trembles before such humility. The ego wants victory, recognition, and self justification. Yet the saints teach us that peace is greater than being right. To say “forgive me” sincerely is often harder than winning an argument. But this humility opens the door for grace to enter.

The modern world often glorifies outrage and emotional reaction. People are encouraged to speak instantly, judge quickly, and defend themselves endlessly. Silence is seen as weakness. Gentleness is misunderstood as failure. Yet the Gospel and the Ladder teach the opposite. The strongest soul is the one that remains rooted in love when surrounded by hostility.

Saint John Climacus reminds us that every step upward toward God requires dying to the old self. The eighth step especially demands the death of prideful anger. This death is painful, but it gives birth to freedom. A peaceful heart becomes a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit.

The person who conquers anger discovers a profound spiritual mystery. When the storm inside the soul becomes quiet, the voice of God can finally be heard clearly.



Prayer can no more be separated from worship than breathing can be separated from life itself. Prayer is the living breath of the soul, the sacred movement of the heart toward God.

Whenever we truly open ourselves to the presence of the Holy Spirit, He gently and constantly leads us into prayer. The Spirit awakens within us a deep longing for communion with God, drawing us beyond routine and into a living relationship filled with grace, peace, and love. When we allow the Holy Spirit to work freely within us, He always leads the Church and every believer toward deeper and more fervent prayer. Hearts become alive. Worship becomes more than words or obligation. Prayer becomes a meeting with the living God who waits for us with tenderness and mercy.

But when the Spirit is distant from our hearts, excuses quickly begin to appear. We say to ourselves, “God understands. He knows I love Him. I am tired. I am busy. I will pray later when life is calmer.” These excuses may seem reasonable, even convincing, but slowly they create distance between the soul and God. The heart becomes distracted, spiritually weary, and empty without even realizing it.

Yet in the presence of the Holy Spirit, excuses begin to disappear. The soul remembers what truly matters. Prayer no longer feels like a burden but becomes a necessity, a comfort, and a source of strength. In prayer we discover that God is not asking for perfection, only for our presence. He waits patiently for us, longing to fill our tired hearts with His peace and His light. The more we pray, the more alive we become spiritually. And the more we surrender to the Holy Spirit, the more naturally our hearts turn toward worship, gratitude, and love for God.

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Sunday Divine Liturgy:
8:50 a.m. The Third Hour
And
Prayer Service for Peace in
Ukraine.
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Religious Education
September - May

Sacraments Penance:
Sunday before Liturgies
or by appointment

Baptism - Matrimony
In most instances
six-month membership
required

Funerals
Membership of an
immediate family member
required

**Communion to the
Homebound**
If you or your family
members are confined to a
health center or are
homebound, please contact
Fr. Hugo directly so that
arrangements can be made
for his visitation.

Sunday, May 24

“Pentecost Sunday”

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11. Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12.

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour and Moleben to the Holy Theotokos

9:30 a.m. Gods blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends

In loving memory of +Vasyl and +Hanna Bashta from family

Monday, May 25

“Monday of the Holy Spirit”

“Civil Holiday: Memorial Day”

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8b-19. Gospel: Matthew 18:10-20.

Tuesday, May 26

“The Third Finding of the Precious Head of John the Baptist”

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15. Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Wednesday, May 27

“The Holy Priest-Martyr”

Epistle: Romans 1:18-27. Gospel: Matthew 5:20-26.

Thursday, May 28

“Our Venerable Father Nicetas, Bishop of Chalcedon”

Epistle: Romans 1:28-2:9. Gospel: Matthew 5:27-32.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Friday, May 29

“The Venerable-Martyr Theodosia the Virgin”

Epistle: Romans 2:14-29. Gospel: Matthew 5:33-41.

Saturday, May 30

“Our Venerable Father Isaac, Hegumen of the Dalmatin Monastery”

Epistle: Romans 1:7-12. Gospel: Matthew 5:42-46.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Sunday, May 31

“1st Sunday after Pentecost Sunday of All Saints”

Epistle: Hebrews 11:32-12:2. Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; & 19:27-30

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour and Moleben to the Holy Theotokos

9:30 a.m. Gods blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends



We are most appreciative for your generosity in donations to the church, and pray that the Lord bless you all with many blessings and good health.