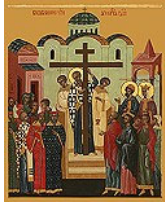


## ✠Bulletin✠

Week of June 1st to June 7th



## Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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**Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**

**7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA - Tone 6**

**Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council**

**Afterfeast of Ascension**

Martyr Justin the Philosopher and those with him at Rome: Martyrs Justin, Chariton and his wife, Charity, Euelpistus, Hierax, Peon, Valerian, and Justus (166 A.D.). Ven. Dionysius, Abbot of Glushitsa (Vologdá—1437). Ven. Agápit, Unmercenary Physician, of the Kiev Caves (11th c.).

### Weekly Liturgical Service Schedule

**Sunday June 1, 2025**

9:10 am - Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

**Saturday June 7th**

5:30 pm – Vespers with Litya for **PENTECOST**

### Weekly Schedule

**Sunday June 1, 2025**

- Inquirers & Catechism classes following Divine Liturgy
- Choir Practice

**Saturday June 7th**

4:15 pm - Change of church colors to **Green** & some light cleaning

## Becoming Spiritual Beings

**Ascension & Pentecost**

**by Fr. George Timko**

"I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father. Now, I am going to Him who sent me. And because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Holy Spirit will not come to you. But if I go away, I will send Him to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him. Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, 'Lord how is it that you will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?'" Jesus answered him, 'If a man loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.'" [Jesus]

Christ's physical relationship with human beings in the world had to end if He was to enter into a deeper spiritual relationship with them. His material existence had to be terminated before His spiritual indwelling with humanity could begin. He had to disappear in His physical form in order to make Himself present in a spiritual way. By leaving humanity in His material presence, He makes it possible to manifest Himself in a universal spiritual presence available to every human being.

The departure of Christ's incarnate presence was a condition of the Holy Spirit's renewing work. Christ's earthly ministry had to be terminated before the actual spiritualizing activity of God's spirit could begin. It was necessary that Jesus leave this earthly realm before the Holy Spirit could come to continue and complete our Lord's saving work. "You sent us the Holy Spirit so that He may guide us and save our souls." [Ascension Vespers] Through the Holy Spirit's Presence and Work in the world, a new spiritual phase of God's redeeming mission would be initiated. The purpose of this new phase would be to transform humanity into spiritual beings formed in the spirit and likeness of God.

In His incarnate life in this world, Christ's work was somewhat local and limited. He was restricted in space by His fleshly nature and by the material existence of His body. In His bodily presence, He was localized to a definite

time and a specific place. His influence and relationships were physically confined. His contact with human hearts and minds was limited to specific individual encounters and restricted in geographical locations. His communion with mankind was circumscribed.

With the Holy Spirit, however, things would be radically different. For He would work without spatial limitations. He would carry on the work of Christ in a spiritual way. He would work in and through the hearts and minds and souls of human beings everywhere. He would perpetuate the redeeming work of Christ in the inward being of persons, thereby guiding them and teaching them and illuminating them. He would be operative in all places at all times with all creation:

“You filled all things with Your Godhead by sending down the Holy Spirit, Who is the Illuminator, the Strengtheners and the Sanctifier of our souls.” [Ascension Vespers]

This operation of the Holy Spirit does not displace our Lord's Presence with us. For we are told in the Scripture that “He will glorify Christ, for he will take what is Christ's and declare it to all.” It does not mean that Christ would no longer be in communion with us. For Christ Himself promised that He would always abide with us. However, He would no longer be physically present as before. And therefore, we could no longer know Him according to the flesh. Now He would be personally present in a mystical way in spirit. Now He would be able to be truly present in a real, living spiritual manner everywhere with all those who love Him. He would be available for Mystical Communion with every heart and mind and soul. Christ's physical departure and disappearance does not mean His separation from us but His continual Presence within each and everyone of us through the Holy Spirit.

Through His ascending departure, the Lord Jesus Christ leaves His disciples in His bodily presence. But in His spiritual presence, He would be with them always. It is as though He says to His apostles: It is better that you no longer see Me in this body and that you turn your mind to My divinity. Put away your unspiritual affection for Me. Outwardly I am withdrawing from you; but inwardly I shall fill you with Myself. For it is not by means of the flesh that Christ enters the heart. No! It is by His divinity that He takes possession of our soul. He seeks to dwell within that we may be inwardly changed and be given His life and be formed like Him.

It appears to me that the disciples were too much taken up with the human figure of our Lord Jesus Christ. As men, they were bound to Him by their human affection for Him as a man. Now Jesus wanted them to have a divine love instead and thereby change them from unspiritual to spiritual men. This could not come about without the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Why was it that the Holy spirit could not come until Christ had gone? Because through human affection the disciples clung to the humanity of Christ. And unless His human form was taken away from them, they would be unable to perceive and receive and think of anything divine and spiritual. This is why He said it was to their advantage that He go away. Otherwise, the Holy Spirit would not come.

“The disciples loved the Lord as man loves man, as flesh loves another in the flesh. But now Jesus wanted them to love as the spiritual man loves the spiritual majesty of the divine. He wanted them to be spiritually related to God and Himself. Therefore, this is what He says: I will send you a gift whereby you will become spiritual men. I will send you the gift of the Holy Spirit. For you cannot become spiritual men unless you stop being unspiritual. Therefore, if this human form of Mine is taken away from your sight and the formless Spirit of God is grafted instead upon your hearts, then you will cease being unspiritual men and you will become spiritual men.” [ St. Augustine]

#### **Announcements:**

##### **June 8<sup>th</sup> – BBQ**

We will have a BBQ following Divine Liturgy, on the Feast of Pentecost. Please bring your favorite dish!

##### **Inquirers & Catechism Class**

Classes will be on Sundays following Divine Liturgy. For those new to understanding orthodoxy or for those who want to expand your foundation, please join us for our classes. Please check the schedule for changes.

##### **[tithe.ly.com](https://tithe.ly.com)**

Another way to “donate”. This app can be downloaded to your phone and Holy Cross can be accessed via this app. Also, [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) can be accessed through the church website [www.HolyCrossFtMyers.org](http://www.HolyCrossFtMyers.org)

# God Grant You Many Years!

## Birthdays

Scott Peatross 6/02  
Rodney Fitts 6/10  
Matushka Lorraine 6/12  
Sylvia Canko 6/16  
Issac (Nectarios) Cordoves 6/16  
Halyna Sharapaniuk 6/24  
Nicholas Kowalski 6/28

## Anniversaries

Anatoli & Tetyana Grubii 6/09

## 2025 Monthly Donations for Church Votive Candles

The church uses 12 hour - 51% Beeswax votives, which are a cleaner burning candle and protect the church walls from soot. The approximate monthly cost of these votives for weekend Vespers & Divine Liturgy is \$100.00 per month. If you would like to donate (as a memorial, thanksgiving, or just to donate), please see David Bartos. Thank you!

June - Open  
July – Open  
August – Open  
August Feast Days - Open  
September - Open  
October - Open  
November – Open  
December – Open  
December Feast Days – Open

## Prayer Requests

Carolyn – Robert & Debra's Forster's daughter  
Anne and Scott Peatross  
Annette Bartos – David Bartos' sister  
Robert (John) Forster  
Robert Kozera  
Megan – David & Phyllis Bartos' daughter  
Rosemary – Friend of David & Phyllis Bartos

## Please pray for our families in Ukraine

Leonid, Nadiia, Andrii, Halyna,  
Volodymyr, Maryna, Dmytro, Bohdan,  
Nadiia, Oleksandr, Tetiana,  
Roman, Mykola  
Anatoly, Olga, Maria, Andrei

**Please let us know if there is anyone you would like to add to the Prayer Lists.**

# The Divine Liturgy

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Variable Hymns and Readings

## **The First Antiphon**

Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples. Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

*(Ps. 46:1)*

**Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

For the Lord, the Most High is terrible; a great God over all the earth.

*(Ps. 46:2) (Refrain)*

He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

*(Ps. 46:3) (Refrain)*

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet!

*(Ps. 46:5) (Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,  
and unto ages of ages. Amen. *(Refrain)*

## **The Second Antiphon**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God. *(Ps. 47:1a)*

**Refrain: O Son of God, Who ascended in glory, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Mount Zion in the far north is the city of the Great King.

*(Ps. 47:2) (Refrain)*

Within her citadels God is known when He defends her.

*(Ps. 47:3) (Refrain)*

For lo, the kings assembled; they came on together.

*(Ps. 47:4) (Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,  
and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*("Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God...")*

### The Third Antiphon

Hear this, all peoples! Give ear, all inhabitants of the world! *(Ps. 48:1)*

#### **Tone 4 Troparion of the Feast**

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,  
granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.  
Through the blessing, they were assured  
that Thou art the Son of God,//  
the Redeemer of the world.

The earth-born and the sons of men, rich and poor together.

*(Ps. 48:2) Troparion of the Feast*

My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be  
understanding. *(Ps. 48:3) Troparion of the Feast*

I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle in psalmody.

*(Ps. 48:4) Troparion of the Feast*

#### **Tone 6 Troparion (Resurrection)**

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;  
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave,  
seeking Thy most pure body.

Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.

Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.

O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead,//  
glory to Thee.

#### **Tone 4 Troparion (Ascension)**

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,  
granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.  
Through the blessing, they were assured  
that Thou art the Son of God,//  
the Redeemer of the world!

#### **Tone 8 Troparion (Fathers)**

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God,  
Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.  
Through them Thou hast guided us to the True Faith.//  
O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

#### **Tone 8 Kontakion (Fathers)**

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one  
Faith for the Church.

Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology,//  
It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

#### **Tone 6 Kontakion (Ascension)**

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for our sake,  
and united earth to heaven,  
Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,  
not being parted from those who love Thee,  
but remaining with them and crying://  
"I am with you, and there is no one against you!"

#### **Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Song of the Three Holy Children)**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is  
Thy Name forever! *(Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)*  
*V. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us! (v. 4)*

### Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 (Epistle)

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able

to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

### **Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. (Ps. 49:1)*

*V. Gather to Me My venerable ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice! (Ps. 49:6)*

### **John 17:1-13 (Gospel)**

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

### **Explanation of Today's Gospel Reading**

By Blessed Theophylact

Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria

**1-3. Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.** Having encouraged the disciples to face bravely the coming tribulations, Christ raised their spirits again, this time by prayer. By praying, He teaches us that when temptations assail us, we should put everything else aside and flee to God. However, one could say that Jesus was not actually praying but rather conversing with the Father. Do not be surprised that it is said elsewhere that Jesus did pray, kneeling on the ground [see Mt. 26:39]. For the Lord came not only to reveal Himself to us, but to teach us every virtue by His own example, as a good instructor. Showing us that He goes willingly to His crucifixion, He says, *Father, the hour is come*. See how He longs for the passion and embraces it. He calls it His glory and His Father's glory, for indeed, by the passion both were glorified. Before the crucifixion, He was practically unknown even to the Jews: *Israel does not know Me* [Is. 1:3], He said. Afterwards, the whole world flocked to **Him**. What exactly is the "glory" that belongs to Him and the Father? It is the benefitting of *all flesh* by God's gifts. This is the glory of God. The Lord had previously commanded His disciples *not to go into the way of the Gentiles* [Mt. 10:5]. Now grace is no longer limited to the Jews. It is offered to the whole world. To this end, the Lord was planning to send the apostles to the Gentiles. But lest the disciples imagine this plan was His own notion, contrary to the will of the Father, Jesus reminds them that it is the Father Who has given Him *power over all flesh*. In what sense does Christ have power over *all flesh*, when as we know not everyone believes? Christ strives to bring everyone to faith. If some refuse to heed Him, it is not His fault but the fault of those who reject His teaching. When it is said that the Father "gives" something to the Son, or that the Son "receives" something from the Father, understand that such expressions are a condescension to the limitations of His listeners' understanding, as we have pointed out before. Christ was always careful to avoid speaking openly about His Divinity. The Jews would have been outraged to hear Him claim to be divine, so He said only as much as they could bear at the time. We employ similar condescension when speaking to infants: without naming the object, we point to bread or water, and ask "Do you want this? Remember how, at the beginning of the *Gospel*, the Evangelist stated boldly about Christ: *All*

things were made by Him [Jn. 1:3], and, *As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God* [Jn. 1:12]. How then can He, Who gives others the power to become sons of God, lack divinity in Himself and require it as a gift from the Father? And so, understand that an exalted reality underlies the humble statement. *To as many as Thou hast given Him* - here is the modest expression; *that He should give [them] eternal life* - here the revelation of the power and authority of the Only-begotten Godhead. If God alone gives physical life, how much more so eternal life? Christ calls the Father *the only true God* in contrast to the false gods of the Gentiles, but by no means does He exclude Himself from the divinity of the Father. Because He is the true Son, He must also be true God as the Evangelist insists in his general epistle: *Jesus Christ... is the true God, and eternal life* [I Jn. 5:20].

**4-6a. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name...** We learn from this that the Father glorifies the Son in the same manner as the Son glorifies the Father. *I have glorified Thee on the earth*, Christ declares. Quite rightly did He add, *on the earth*, for the Father was already glorified in the heavens and worshipped by the angels, while the earth lay in ignorance. Having proclaimed the Father to all, the Son now declares, *"I have glorified Thee everywhere on earth by imparting the knowledge of God, and I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me."* The work of the Only-begotten Son Incarnate is: to sanctify our nature; to overthrow the ruler of this world, who made himself out to be God; and to plant the knowledge of God in the creation. But how had He *finished* this work when it was hardly begun? *"I have finished what is My part to do,"* He explains. Indeed, Christ has already accomplished the greater part by implanting in us the root of every good: He conquered the devil, and by flinging Himself into the maw of the all-devouring beast of death. From this would follow by necessity all the fruits of the knowledge of God. It is in this sense that He has *finished the work*. *"I have sown, I have planted the root: the fruits are sure to follow. O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was formed."* At that point the nature of flesh had not yet been glorified: it had not been made worthy of incorruption and of sharing the royal throne. This is why the Lord declares, *Glorify Thou Me*, meaning, *"Receive My dishonored and crucified human nature, and raise it up to the glory which I - the Son and Word of God - had with Thee before the world was."* After His ascension, Christ in our human nature was seated on the royal throne and now He is worshipped by all creation. Then Jesus explains His words, *I have glorified Thee on the earth*,

as meaning, *I have manifested Thy name*. How is it that the Son was first to manifest God's name, when Isaiah said, *They ... shall swear by the true God* [Is. 65:16]? As we have often pointed out, God's name was already revealed, but only to the Jews, not the whole world. Now Christ announces that God's name will also be revealed to the Gentiles, since He has destroyed the devil, the teacher of idolatry, and planted the seeds of divine knowledge. If at that point the pagans already had some knowledge of God, it was only as creator – demiurge (a powerful creative force or personality), not as Father. The Son revealed that the creator was the Father. Moreover, by His own words and deeds, Christ revealed not only His Father, but Himself.

#### **Hymn to the Theotokos**

***(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)***

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who hath ascended from earth to heaven!

We the faithful, with one accord, magnify thee, the Mother of God, who, beyond reason and understanding, ineffably gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

**Choir:** Troparion of the Ascension, Tone 4

***(sung once, instead of "We have seen the True Light...")***

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,  
granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Through the blessing, they were assured  
that Thou art the Son of God, //  
the Redeemer of the world!

#### **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! ***(Ps. 148:1)***

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! ***(Ps. 32:1)***

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!