

PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER VIRGIN MARY
(Pokrov)

June 5th

5 2nd Street
Herminie, PA 15637
<http://pokrov.iksnazul.com/>

Cantor
Joseph Luzanski

Liturgical Schedule

Divine Liturgy

Sunday: 8:30 am
Holyday: 9:00 am

Confessions

One half hour before
the divine liturgy or
by appointment

Served By

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Blessed are You, O Christ our God, * Who has shown the fishermen to be all wise, * by sending down to them the Holy Spirit, * and through them You have caught the whole world in Your net. * O Lover of Mankind, glory to You. (Troparion - Tone 8)

Another popular name for Pentecost used by our people is "Zelenyi Svjata" (Green Holydays). This stems from the custom of adorning the churches and homes with green foliage (preferably linden branches) and grass in celebration of the feast. The green color of the foliage was accepted by our people as a symbol of divine life brought to us by the Holy Spirit. For this reason also, the clergy wear green vestments for the liturgical services on Pentecost and its postfestive period. The icon of Pentecost show Our Lady in the upper part, just off-center. She is the one who prayed with the apostles and disciples, and this is her last physical appearance in the bible. She will step aside to let the apostles and disciples undertake their preaching ministry to save

Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit

Festal Tone

Menologion

St. Dorotheus, Priest-Martyr, Bishop of Tyre, suffered banishment under Julian the Apostate A.D. 362 being 107 years of age.

June 5

5 Pentecost - Descent of the Holy Spirit
6 Pentecost Monday: Feast of the Holy Trinity
12 All Saints Sunday
17 - Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils
20 - Holy, Glorious Prophet Elia

souls. The apostles are in a semi-circle, showing their unity in the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit is at the top, as a dove, with rays of fire coming forth. Many icons have an empty space in the center, where Christ would sit. Instead, His invisible presence is shown by the small gap in the altar or seats. Most icons also show a large black opening at the bottom center, with a king in the center. The king is "Cosmos", a crowned man who represents the universe.

Reminder:

There is a list for Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary Lamp intentions in the vestibule of the church.



Ⲫriests have received a power which God has given neither to angels nor to archangels. It was said to them: "Whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever you shall loose, shall be loosed." Temporal rulers have indeed the power of binding: but they can only bind the body. Priests, in contrast, can bind with a bond which pertains to the soul itself and transcends the very heavens. Did [God] not give them all the powers of heaven? "Whose sins you shall forgive," he says, "they are forgiven them; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." The Father has given all judgment to the Son. And now I see the Son placing all this power in the hands of men [Matt. 10:40; John 20:21-23]. They are raised to this dignity as if they were already gathered up to heaven (John Chrysostom The Priesthood 3:5 [A.D. 387]).

PENTECOST SUNDAY: "The Promise fulfilled" FROM TODAY TO PASCHA NEXT YEAR, practically every church service and formal prayer in our tradition will begin with the invocation, "O Heavenly King." The presence of the Holy Spirit, whom the first Christians received on Pentecost, is called upon whenever we pray – whenever we do anything as Church – because the Spirit is the "soul" of the Body of Christ. The Spirit is the "living water" promised by Christ to refresh and enliven believers as we live our lives in service to the Lord. In the Gospel of St John, we see Christ saying, as His passion was about to begin, "I will ask the Father and He will give you another Paraclete to be

with you always: the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, since it neither sees Him nor recognizes Him..." (John 14:16, 17). In this promise the Spirit is called by another image. The Greek word *paraklitos* meant a helper or an advocate, specifically someone who could guide you through the maze of the Roman legal system. This word is sometimes translated as comforter or consolator, a specific type of helper leading the believer along the path of this life. This image appears in the prayer mentioned above: O heavenly King, Paraclete (Comforter), Spirit of truth..."

Why We Kneel on Pentecost Sunday
On Pentecost, we kneel down while the priest kneels at the Royal Doors and sings "Heavenly King" once, and we repeat it two more times, just like the Easter Troparion. We kneel in humility, waiting for the Spirit of God to descend upon us. Through the gift of sacred time, *kairos*, we are lifted out of our daily time, *chronos*, and so we are present in the Upper Room with Mary and the rest of the apostles and disciples, and we are able to partake in the Spirit's gifts. The Prophet Isaiah listed these gifts for us in chapter 11, verses 2- 3: "The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord." Kneeling shows that we are ready to receive these gifts into our hearts and so become disciples of the Lord and messengers of the Good News.