

**:: St. Seraphim of Sarov ::**  
**On the Acquisition of the Holy Spirit**

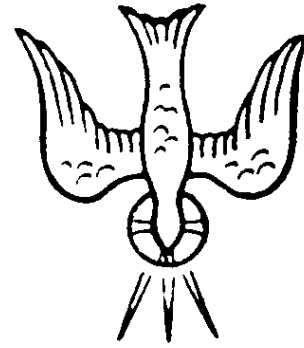
“However prayer, fasting, vigil and all the other Christian practices may be, they do not constitute the aim of our Christian life. Although it is true that they serve as the indispensable means of reaching this end, the true aim of our Christian life consists of the acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God. As for fasts, and vigils, and prayer, and almsgiving, and every good deed done for Christ's sake, are the only means of acquiring the Holy Spirit of God. Mark my words, only good deeds done for Christ's sake brings us the fruits of the Holy Spirit. All that is not done for Christ's sake, even though it be good, brings neither reward in the future life nor the grace of God in this life. That is why our Lord Jesus Christ said: ‘He who does not gather with Me scatters’ (Luke 11:23).”

“Acquire the grace of the Holy Spirit also by practicing all the other virtues for Christ's sake. Trade spiritually with them; trade with those which give you the greatest profit. Accumulate capital from the superabundance of God's grace, deposit it in God's eternal bank which will bring you immaterial interest, not four or six per cent, but one hundred per cent for one spiritual ruble, and even infinitely more than that. For example, if prayer and watching gives you more of God's grace, watch and pray; if fasting gives you much of the spirit of God, fast; if almsgiving gives you more, give alms. Weigh every virtue done for Christ's sake in this manner.”

“That's it, my son. That is how you must spiritually trade in virtue. Distribute the Holy Spirit's gifts of grace to those in need of them, just as a lighted candle burning with earthly fire shines itself and lights other candles for the illumining of all in other places, without diminishing its own light. If it is so, with regard to the earthly fire, what shall we say about the fire of the grace of the All-Holy Spirit of God? For earthly riches decrease with distribution, but the more the heavenly riches of God's grace are distributed, the more they increase in the one who distributes them. Thus the Lord Himself was pleased to say to the Samaritan woman: ‘All who drink this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water that I shall give him will never be thirsty any more; but the water that I shall give him will be in him a spring of water leaping up to eternal life’ (John 4:13-14).”

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*Any announcements for the Sunday bulletin? Please submit by Wednesday each week to Fr. Andrew, by email or phone. If you are not on the church's email list and would like to be, please let Fr. Andrew know.*



**St. George Orthodox Church of  
Spring Valley**

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**Sunday, May 31, 2015 – The Feast of Pentecost  
The Descent of the Holy Spirit**

**Matins: 9:00 AM :: Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM**

**Epistle Reader:** Matthew McNatt

**Holy Bread/Coffee Hour:** Kishler, Buss and Anderson

**Next Week's Holy Bread/Coffee Hour:** Mitch Kaleel

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**Troparion of Pentecost (Tone 8):**

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise, having sent upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them Thou hast fished the universe, O Lover of mankind, glory to Thee.

**Troparion of St. George the Great Martyr (Tone 4):**

Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and succour of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for kings, O great among martyrs, the victory-clad George: Intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

**Kontakion of Pentecost (Tone 8):**

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.

St. George is a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
The Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH  
The Right Reverend Bishop ANTHONY, Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest  
www.antiochian.org

## The Epistle and Gospel Readings

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

### The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:1-11)

When the day of Pentecost had come, the Disciples 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? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

### The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (7:37-52; 8:12)

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his belly 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, many 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 the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd, who do not know the Law, are accursed." Nicodemus, 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."

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

*For a full calendar of events and services at St. George, see our website, [www.stgeorgeorthodox.org](http://www.stgeorgeorthodox.org).*

Upcoming Events and Services:

- **Today will be the last day of Sunday School** for children and teens, immediately after Holy Communion. Thank you to all who helped or participated this year! We will resume again in the fall.
- **Wednesday, June 3:** Pentecost Vespers, 6pm
- **Saturday, June 6: Vespers at All Saints Church in Peoria, 6pm**
- **Next Sunday, June 7: The Feast of All Saints.** Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Mitch Kaleel; Epistle Reader: Matt Rowan

**Congratulations to John and Melanie Thompson** on their adoption of baby **Ryker James**. May God grant all of them many years!

**Thank you to Mark and Janet Kerasotes** for their generous donation of a new smart TV to our church.

**Thank you to Ron and Dottie Malooley** for providing last week's sausage and egg breakfast, and to **Mike Kasap** for helping with the preparation.

**Leona and Kaitlyn Kelley would like to thank all who donated food items** to the pantry. Your generosity is appreciated!

**Summer Conventions.** Mark your calendars: Our **Diocesan Parish Life Conference** will be held in Grand Rapids, MI, June 24-28 this year, and the national Archdiocese Convention is July 20-28 in Boston. **If you are planning to go to Grand Rapids next month, please make sure you have made your hotel reservations! See Fr. Andrew or Ron Malooley if you have any questions.**

**Congratulations to our 2015 graduates:**

- **Tyler Thompson** (son of John and Melanie), from Bradley University in Peoria
- **Daya Desai** (granddaughter of Richard and Bette Malooley), from Dryfoos High School in Florida
- **Georgia Kapetaneas** (daughter of Leo and Christina), as valedictorian of her Eighth Grade class at Holy Family Catholic School in Oglesby
- **Devin Soldati** (grandson of Richard and Bette Malooley), from Eighth Grade at Peru Catholic School

*Anyone else graduating in 2015? Please get the information to Fr. Andrew for inclusion in next week's bulletin.*