

MAY—JUNE 2019

THE ANTELOPE VALLEY BEACON

Volume 7 Issue 3

The
Feast of
Holy
Pentecost
June 16,
2019

Apolytikion (Plagal Tone Four)

Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fisherman all-wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them, drawing all the world into Your net.
O Loving One, glory be to You.



**Saints Constantine and
Helen Greek
Orthodox Church**

www.stsch.org
43404 30th St West
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 945-1212

Rev. Father John Beal

E-mail:
frjohnbeal@stsch.org

Questions on any event?

Please contact
sylvarobinson001
@gmail.com
(661)794-8307

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Χριστός ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death!



What possible good is the Orthodox Christian faith if not for **destroying death itself**? If by throwing ourselves upon God's mercy day by day we

do not enjoy renewal being changed from the image of death-in-life to the picture of the Life that is beyond all death, done with death and purged of it, why should we bother with the effort of keeping the faith?

And this poor pastor is very glad to say that many of us who desire Christ do bother very much to grasp with all our strength His life-giving hand, by which He pulls us out of our own death with his unconquerable might! With much effort we strive to escape our own death-in-life (and beyond it the grave). With difficulty and many falls by the wayside we tread the steep path to Golgotha and the Cross, knowing "the Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."
Matt. 11:12

Today it is Pascha and we Orthodox Christians revel in the triumph of our Savior, Who wears the robe of victory dyed crimson in his own Blood shed on the Cross. For Christ has won the victory over death by consenting to be put to

death Himself in our stead. He tricked death, letting him think he had won the day! But who can kill God? Our God is Lord of the living, a jealous God who allows no other ruler a single quantum of deathly power over his holy people, a royal priesthood cleansed by His own sacrificial Blood, a people destined not for the pit, but for the mansions of the just!

By the might and authority of Christ our Victor and Lord, death is banished, dethroned, mocked and derided, and we enter through the Empty Tomb into the Kingdom of God as citizens of the deathless realm.

As our Father among the Saints, John Chrysostom ecstatically cries:

"Hell, said he, was embittered, when he encountered Thee in the lower regions!

He was embittered, for he was abolished!

He was embittered, for he was mocked!

He was embittered, for he was slain!

He was embittered, for he was overthrown!

He was embittered, for he was fettered in chains!

He took a body, and met God face to face.

He took earth, and encountered Heaven.

He took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

"O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen."

What else is there to say beyond these supernal Paschal words of the Golden-mouthed preacher except the coda from his Divine Liturgy:

O Christ, great and most Holy Pascha! Wisdom, Word and Power of God! Grant that we may more perfectly partake of Thee in the never-ending Day of Thy Kingdom!

May our Victorious Lord reign over all of us all the days of our lives and may we live always with Him in the Light of His Resurrection!

In Christ's love,
Fr. John

FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

Date	Event	Sponsor
May 5	Coffee Hour	Elaine Grado and Georgia Berona
May 12	Coffee Hour	Julie Agnew
May 19	Coffee Hour	Denise Christou
May 26	Parish Festal Luncheon	Hellenic Center
June 2	Coffee Hour	Presvytera Madea
June 9	Coffee Hour	Saveta Nikolich
June 16	Holy Pentecost—Potluck	Church & Hellenic Center
June 23	Coffee Hour	Feryal Altawil
June 30	Coffee Hour	Nicole Golea

Anyone interested in doing a memorial luncheon or interested in sponsoring a Fellowship Hour, may contact Helen Poulos at 661-618-8607 (Cell). Yes, Helen!

PHILOPTOCHOS ELECTIONS

May 5, 2019

May—June Special Services

May 20	Mon 6:00 PM	Saints Constantine and Helen, Great Vespers
May 21	Tues 8/9 AM	Saints Constantine and Helen, Matins/Liturgy
	Tues 3:00 PM	Wednesday of Mid-Pentecost, Great Vespers
June 5	Wed 7:00 PM	Holy Ascension, Great Vespers
June 6	Thu 8/9 AM	Holy Ascension, Matins/Liturgy
June 15	Sat 8/9 AM	Saturday of Souls, Matins/Liturgy/Memorials
June 15	Sun 9/10AM	Pentecost, Matins/Liturgy/Kneeling Prayers
June 29	Sat 8/9 AM	Holy Apostles Peter & Paul, Matins/Liturgy



Upcoming Greek Festivals

May 17-19: Oakland, California Greek Festival — oaklandgreekfestival.com

May 18: Riverside, California Greek Festival — facebook.com/riversidegreekfest

May 26-28: Northridge, California—Valley Greek Festival, California — valleygreekfestival.com

June 1-3: Downey, California Greek Festival — facebook.com/DowneyGreekFest

June 1-2: San Luis Obispo, California Greek Festival — greekfestivalslo.com

June 7-9: San Diego, California Greek Festival — sdgreekfestival.com

June 21-23: Ventura County, California Greek Festival — vcgreekfestival.org

June 28–June 30: Irvine, California Greek Festival — irvinegreekfest.com

September 20-22: Antelope Valley Greek Festival—avgreekfest.com



“Do not be afraid, but KEEP SPEAKING and do not be silent”
Acts 18.9
2019 Metropolis Oratorical Theme

Parish Festivals should take place before April
District Festivals will take place during April

Metropolis Festival: Saturday, May 11, 2019
Saint Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center

Topics and Speaker Helps are available on the Metropolis of San Francisco Religious Education Page: www.religioused.sanfran.goarch.org

Save the Date!

Young Adult Conference
Labor Day Weekend
August 29 – September 2, 2019
Southern California

- Worship and Fellowship
- Engaging Workshops
- Inspiring Speakers
- Community Service
- Time at the beach

For more information, visit <https://sanfran.goarch.org/events>

Holy Pentecost



Apolytikion

Blessed are You, O Christ our God.
 You made the fishermen all-wise,
 by sending down upon them the Holy
 Spirit, and through them,
 You drew the world into Your net.
 O Lover of mankind, glory to You !

The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity. The account of Pentecost is found in the book of The Acts of the Apostles. In Chapter two we are told that the Apostles of our Lord were gathered together in one place. Suddenly, a sound came from heaven like a rushing wind, filling the entire house where they were sitting. Then, tongues of fire appeared, and one sat upon each one of the Apostles. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as directed by the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).

This miraculous event occurred on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, celebrated by the Jews on the fiftieth day after the Passover as the culmination of the Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10). The Feast of Weeks began on the third day after the Passover with the presentation of the first harvest sheaves to God, and it concluded on Pentecost with the offering of two loaves of unleavened bread, representing the first products of the harvest (Leviticus 23:17-20; Deuteronomy 16:9-10).

Since the Jewish Feast of Pentecost was a great pilgrimage feast, many people from throughout the Roman Empire were gathered in Jerusalem on this day. When the people in Jerusalem heard the sound, they came together and heard their own lan-

Holy Pentecost (continued)

guages being spoken by the Apostles (Acts 2:5-6). The people were amazed, knowing that some of those speaking were Galileans, and not men who would normally speak many different languages. They wondered what this meant, and some even thought the Apostles were drunk (Acts 2:7-13).

Peter, hearing these remarks, stood up and addressed the crowd. He preached to the people regarding the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Holy Spirit. He spoke about Jesus Christ and His death and glorious Resurrection. Great conviction fell upon the people, and they asked the Apostles, "What shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38-39).

The Bible records that on that day about three thousand were baptized. Following, the book of Acts states that the newly baptized continued daily to hear the teaching of the Apostles, as the early Christians met together for fellowship, the breaking of bread, and for prayer. Many wonderful signs and miracles were done through the Apostles, and the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:42-47).

Pledged Stewards for 2019

Agnew, Ms. Julie

Astrinakis, Mrs. Fotini

Beal, Fr. John and Pva.

Benveniste, Mrs. Stefania

Bouras, Mr. and Mrs. Peter

Brunson, Mr. and Mrs. Jim

Christou, Mr. and Mrs. Gus

Chrysostomides, Mr. and Mrs. Pandelis

Dracopoulos, Dr. and Mrs. George

Drimakis, Mr. and Mrs. Costas

Evola, Mr. and Mrs. Philip

Golea, Mrs. Nicole

Grado-Berona, Mrs. Georgia

Grado, Mrs. Elaine

Harris, Mr. Thomas

Hendrickson, Mrs. Lee

Hutchison, Mr. and Mrs. Michael

Kappas, Mr. Andrew

Kappas, Mrs. Sofia

Koukourikos, Mr. and Mrs. Bill

Loukrezis, Mrs. Esther

Nikolich, Ms. Saveta

Patananan, Dr. Alexander N.

Perini, Ms. Antonia

Poulos, Ms. Helen

Oarmout, Mr and Mrs. Elias

Robinson, Mrs. Sylva

Sanchez, Miss Senaida

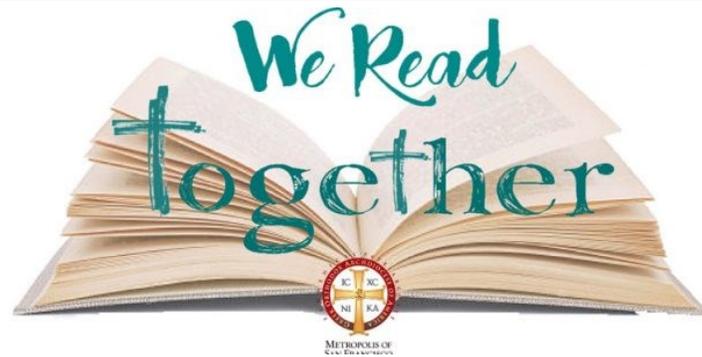
Sanchez, Mr. and Mrs. Santiago

Svolos, Ms. Anycia

Tintocalis, Mrs. Rosa

Woods, Mrs. Stella

Zarras, Mr. and Mrs. Peter



What if everyone read the same book? **We Read Together** is an online book group, nurturing conversation and community surrounding great Orthodox Christian books.

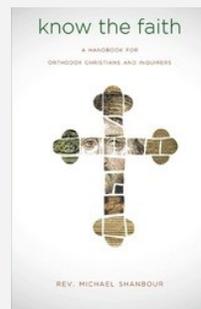
We Read Together will take place in May. The goal is to encourage one another to explore important Orthodox Christian spiritual literature, thereby fostering conversation and mutual support for one another in our efforts to draw closer to Christ.

Using Modern Tools to Foster Old-Fashioned Community

We Read Together is about connecting and growing in our faith. Readers from all over the country will meet weekly for live discussions via Zoom video conferencing. The weekly discussions will be moderated by Missions & Evangelism Director Thomaida Hudanish. Mark your calendars for:

Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:00 p.m. on May 16, 23, and 30.

**Register at
www.GrowOrthodoxy.org**



Copies are available in our Book Store!

Endorsement: *Know the Faith* by Rev. Fr. Michael Shanbour presents the Orthodox faith in a clear and easy-to-understand way, and goes a step further by dealing with the objections other Christians might lodge; yet perhaps it's greatest value comes from the extensive collections of quotations from the Scriptures and the Fathers supporting Orthodox faith and practice. This is the toolkit any Orthodox could use to respond to the questions and critiques of other Christians.

—Frederica Mathewes Green

Abstract: Over the centuries since the Great Schism between the Eastern and Western Churches, the two groups have diverged to the point that they often no longer understand each other's vocabulary, let alone the fundamental concepts on which each faith is built. *Know the Faith* is an attempt to present Orthodox Christianity in a way Western Christians can understand, grounding each point in Scripture and patristic theology, with comparisons to what Catholics and Protestants believe. Whether you are an Orthodox Christian seeking to explain your faith to others or an inquirer into this ancient faith, *Know the Faith* will help you understand and communicate the Orthodox faith as never before.

NOTICES

Memorials

We are providing a form on which Parishioners can notify Fr. John of planned memorials. Please ask for the form at the candle stand. If possible, please submit the form at least one Sunday prior to the planned date.

According to the rules of the Church memorials are not permitted: from the Saturday of Lazarus through Thomas Sunday. Also, memorials are not allowed on the Great Feast Days of the Lord and of the Theotokos.

Memorial services

May-June 2019

A 3-year memorial was offered for Stella Christou by Gus and Denise Christou

A 4-month memorial was offered for Nick Zorba by Tandy and Peter Zorba

A 40-day memorial was offered for Andreas Loukrezis by Esther (Anastasia) Loukrezis

Helpful Resources

Watch videos from the 2019 Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly at

<https://vimeo.com/gomsf/>

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of SF

Our Mission: Proclaim the Gospel of Christ; Teach and spread the Orthodox Christian Faith; and Energize, cultivate, and guide the life of the Church in the West. [Read more](#)

2019 Clergy-Laity Assembly
March 4 - 5, 2019

Reclaiming the Great Commission in the Parish
Part 4
Rev. Father Evan Armatas
Guest Speaker

2019 Clergy-Laity Assembly
March 4 - 5, 2019

Reclaiming the Great Commission in the Parish
Part 3
Rev. Father Evan Armatas
Guest Speaker

Reclaiming the Great Commission in the Parish - Part 4 of 4
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of SF · 68 plays

Reclaiming the Great Commission in the Parish - Part 3 of 4
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of SF · 89 plays

MISSIONS POSSIBLE

Growing Orthodoxy in America



We have six mission parishes in the Metropolis of San Francisco: St. Nectarios (Pasco, Washington), Salem Mission (Salem, OR), Holy Cross (Roseburg, OR), Maui Mission (Kihei, HI), Lake Havasu City Mission (Lake Havasu City, AZ), Holy Cross (Flagstaff, AZ). All funds raised will go toward work within our Metropolis mission field.

Coffee cups with the logo “Missions Possible” will be available at the beginning of Lent, March 10, 2019. During this time of fasting, we can use these cups for our donation of loose change, dollar bills, or checks, as we give to others from the money we have not spent on ourselves. The cups should be returned to Julie Agnew by the Sunday before Pentecost—June 9, 2019.

Feed the Hungry

St. Vincent de Paul (45058 Trevor Ave, Lancaster, CA 93534) has been providing meals and clothing 4 days a week EVERY WEEK of the year for the needy right here in the Antelope Valley. Since 2015, Saints Constantine & Helen has been alternating with Holy Cross Antiochian Orthodox Church in the responsibility of preparing and serving a hot meals. Come help in serving the poor from 8:30AM-10:30AM at our next scheduled dates: June 22, August 24, and October 26. For more information, contact Alexander Patananan at apatanan@ucla.edu or (661) 450-8045

TEXT REMINDERS

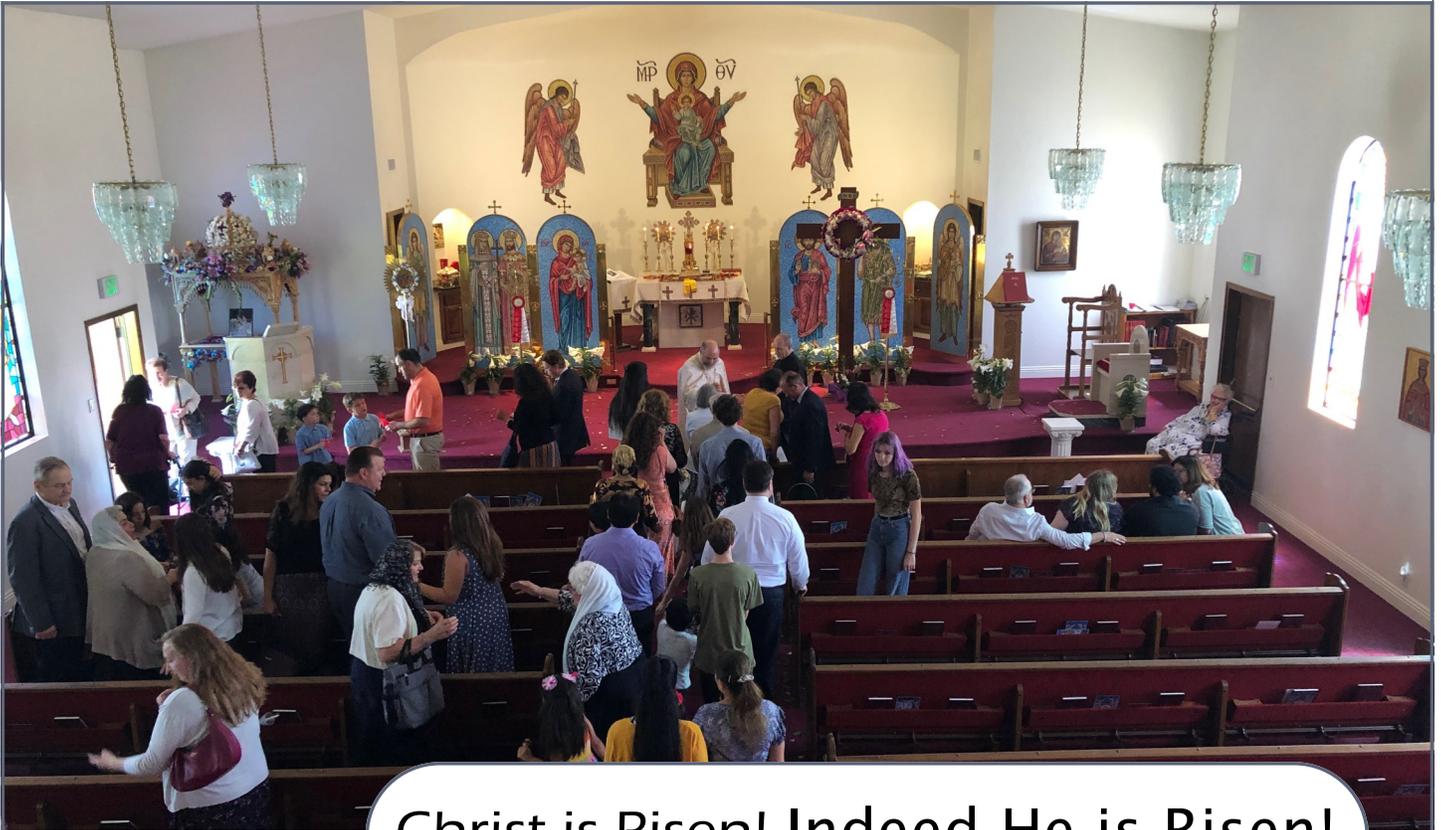
To receive text reminders of upcoming events, email your cell phone number to **Webmaster @stsch.org**

2019 PARISH COUNCIL

President	Peter Bouras
Vice President	Alexander Patananan
Secretary	Michael Hutchison
Treasurer	James Brunson
	Philip Evola
	Elaine Grado
	Bill Koukourikos

Father John's Office Hours

**Thursdays
12 pm—5 pm**



Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Thank you to all those who donated their time, talent, and treasure during this year's Lenten and Paschal season. You came together as a family and generously took care of the needs of others and the parish for Pascha. For all of these things, thank you.

May our Risen Lord continue to bless you and our parish!





Saints Constantine & Helen
Greek Orthodox Church
43404 30th Street West
Lancaster, California 93536

TIME DATED MATERIAL

HOLY PENTECOST



The Antelope Valley Beacon
May-June 2019

Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church

