HYMNS

Troparion of the Feast, (8th Tone) Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who have filled the fisher men with wisdom by sending down the Holy Spirit upon them, and who through them, have caught in Your net the whole world, O Lover of mankind, glory to You.

Kondakion of the Feast, (8th Tone) When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all men to unity. Wherefore, we glorify the Holy Spirit, with one accord.

COMMEMORATION
The Holy Martyr Thallassia was a Lebanese physician who died for the faith in Cilicia in 284

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Pentecost Sunday: This one of the Three Great Holy Days in the Year (Pascha, Pentecost, Theophany). Be sure to celebrate the octave in your home all week by singing the Troparion and Kontakion.

Abigail Higareda will be give the bath of Holy Illumination this Sunday. Come celebrate with the Higareda family and the whole parish for the new member of our church!

Pray for the Servants of God
P. Anthony, P. Christopher, P. Symeon, D. Fernando, D. Craig
Newly Illuminated Abigail Higareda Family
Ciardella Family
Michael Manahan
Laure Kelly, Alice Khazzaka
William Carnazzo
Kamal & Eugenie Neimat
Isaac & Julia Kaldani
Maher & Therese Salama
Catechumen Antonia Marie

Asleep in the Lord in the Hope of the Resurrection
Donna Sanchez
Higareda Family

READINGS

Acts 2: 1-11
When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them separate tongues as of fire, and they settled upon each one of them, and all were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in foreign language, as the Holy Spirit granted them to speak. Now, there were staying in Jerusalem devout Jews from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, a great crowd gathered, and they were astounded because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And all of them, amazed and wondering, were saying to each other, “Look, are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? How then have all of us heard our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs, we have heard them speaking in our own language of the wonderful works of God.”

John 7: 37-52 & 8:12
Now on the last, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Anyone who believes in Me, as the Scripture says, ‘From within him there shall flow rivers of living water.’” He said this, however, of the Spirit, whom they who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit had not yet been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. Some of the crowd, therefore, when they had heard these words, said, “This is truly the Prophet.” Others said, “This is the Christ.” Some, however, said, “Can the Christ come from Galilee? Does not the Scripture say the Messiah is of the offspring of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David lived, that the Christ is to come?” So there arose a division among the crowd because of Him. And some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him. The attendants therefore came to the chief priests and Pharisees; and these said to them, “Why have you not brought Him?” The attendants answered. “Never has a man spoken as this man.” The Pharisees then answered them, “Have you also been fooled? Has any one of the rulers believed in Him, or any of the Pharisees? But this crowd, which does not know the Law, is accused.” Nicodemus, the man who had come to Him at night, who was one of them, said to them, “Does our Law judge a man unless it first gives him a hearing, and knows what he does?” They answered and said to him, “Are you also a Galilean? Search and see that out of Galilee arises no prophet.” And again Jesus spoke to them saying, “I am the Light of the world. Anyone who follows Me does not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life.”
AS THE TIME FOR THE LORD’S PASSION neared, Jesus tried to prepare His followers for what was to happen. He warned them about His impending arrest, their flight, and about His ultimate death and resurrection. He also made a promise: “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Paraclete, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth…” (Jn 14:16). The word Paraclete comes from the world of civil law. In the Roman court system, a Paraclete was an advocate, a counselor who advised and encouraged people in the courts. It was the Paraclete who would provide the first Christians with their defense when they were brought before a worldly judge. Jesus identified this Paraclete as the Holy Spirit, advising His disciples, “Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say: for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say” (Lk 12:11, 12). The Holy Spirit would be their advocate when any authority challenged their preaching. After His resurrection, the Lord Jesus repeated His promise, this time with an additional dimension. Prior to His Ascension He told His followers: “Behold, I send the Promise of Eternity  

The Promise is Kept  
This bestowal of the Holy Spirit would come a few days later, on the day of Pentecost. This term, from the Greek word for fifty, referred to the Jewish feast of Shavuot or “Weeks,” when the first-fruits of the harvest were offered in Jerusalem to make their offerings. What took place during that feast is described in the Acts of the Apostles: “When the Day of Pentecost had come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:1-4). Peter, the senior apostle, interpreted what had happened as the outpouring of the Spirit prophesied in Joel 2:28-32 for the start of the messianic age (the “last days”). He proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah and called on his hearers, attracted by the commotion, to repent and be baptized “in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit…” Then those who gladly received His word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers (Acts 2:38, 41, 42). This outpouring of the Spirit thus marked the beginning of a new community built around the apostolic faith, common prayer and the “breaking of bread” (Eucharist).

The Spirit as a Sign of Authenticity  
For most of human history communication was by writing, delivered by a messenger. You knew the message was authentic because it was sealed. The message was sealed with hot wax into which the writer’s seal or signet was added. The seal was the stamp guaranteeing the authenticity of the message. Other seals were identifying marks branded on animals or even slaves. All Jewish men were sealed by circumcision, to demonstrate that they were members of God’s people, Israel. When the Lord Jesus was baptized in the Jordan, the Father’s voice bore witness to Him, calling Him beloved Son. “And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truth of this word” (Troparion of Theophany). The Spirit was the seal on Christ, demonstrating that He was the Son of God. The same Spirit, who descended on the disciples of Christ, confirmed the truth of their words, the Gospel message. His presence, at work among them and in the Church of every age, is the seal demonstrating the divine origin and truth of the Christian faith. St Paul affirms that every Christian has been sealed by the Holy Spirit. Writing to the Corinthians, he teaches that the Holy Spirit is within us: “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Cor 3:16). He expresses this mystery of the indwelling Spirit as an anointing and a sealing: “Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee” (2 Cor 1:21, 22). We are, in fact, called Christians (anointed ones) because this sealing has confirmed our union to the Anointed One, the Lord Jesus. In our Church this anointing is given to each newly baptized Christian in the mystery of Chrismation. As the priest anoints the newly-baptized, he announces “The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit.” The visible seal of the Chrism signifies the inner sealing of our hearts. The Spirit marks each Christian as being in Christ, the eternal High Priest and, therefore, members of the royal priesthood (see 1 Pet 2:9). Thus, when we join in the worship of the Church, we are acting in union with Christ the High Priest. We also are gifted by the Spirit in particular ways to help build up the Church. Thus every Christian has an individual gift, meant to be used for the good of all. At Pentecost the Spirit energized the apostles in a remarkable way. The same Spirit works that way today as well among the saints. Although not every saint/member of the church) is a wonderworker, each of them reflects the presence of God is some discernible way. Each saint is the “face of the Holy Spirit,” making visible the presence of the Spirit within.

The Spirit as a Promise of Eternity  
In his Epistle to the Ephesians, St Paul teaches that we are confirmed in the assurance of our union with Christ through our faith in Him and by being sealed with the Holy Spirit. “In Him [Christ] we have redemption through His blood... In Him also we have obtained an inheritance... In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth... in Him also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory” (Eph 1:19-14). St Paul calls the Spirit “the Spirit of promise,” who assures us of our inheritance to come. If we have been given the Spirit to dwell within us now, how great a gift will be ours in the age to come.

St Cyril of Jerusalem on Chrismation  
“With this unction, your forehead and sense organs are mystically anointed in such a way that, while your body is refreshed with the visible oil, your soul is enlivened by the holy life-giving Spirit.” (Catechesis 21, 3)