



St. Archangel Michael Orthodox Mission



Newsletter

June 2009

**Christ is in our midst!
He is and ever shall be!**

Divine Liturgy 10:00 A.M.

Important Upcoming Church Dates:

June 7th - PENTECOST SUNDAY

Great Vespers - Saturday night, 7:00 pm.

Divine Liturgy on Sunday, followed by
Vespers with Kneeling Prayers (see page 2).

June 14th - Sunday of All Saints

June 15th - Beginning of Apostles' Fast - lasts
until July 12th (feast of Sts. Peter & Paul).

June 21st - Sunday of All Saints of North
America.

June 28th - St. Lazar, prince of Serbia (Vidovdan).

Coffee Hour:

June 7th - Zarzaur

June 14th - Bergantz (*fasting*)

June 21st - Branham (*fasting*)

June 28th - Buksa (*fasting*)

July 5th - Demora (*fasting*)

July 12th - Ellis

July 19th - Gall

July 26th - Gulas

June Birthdays:

God Grant Them Many Years!

2nd - Olga Gulas

7th - Helen Bergantz

23rd - Evangeline Pamfilis

28th - Hal Pastrick

Father Benedict's contact info:

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June Anniversaries:

3rd - Hal & Vivienne Pastrick

12th - Joe & Helen Bergantz

25th - Jim & Neli Manley

News Items? Please send church news items to the
Newsletter editor Rick Kaiser at
rkmk2001@bellsouth.net.

Church Cleaning:

June - Zarzaur

July - Bergantz

This is your Church - help keep it clean!!!

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Prayer Requests: Please remember in your prayers: Child Jovana (2 years old – leukemia); Gregory; Antonia with child (Annie Brecht); Katarzyna Bazylewicz; Tatiana Kukhtareva; Mariam & Tom Calache; Mary Kochoff; Glenn Dengler (friend of Jokich family) and daughters Haley (7) and Nicole (3); Sandy & Roger Ellis; Daniel Ellis (brother of Roger); Naji Freiji and family; Ted Gulas; Edythe Hales; Markela Hatzakis; Brian Jokich; Elena Meagher; Daniel & Anne Kobasa (parents of H. Bergantz); Rhonda Lovette; Catrina & Kathy Thomas; Tim & Ron Waskerwitz; Child Sophia and Child Marija (daughters of Fr. Vladimir); Evangeline Pamfilis; Pat Darzy; Mary Zarzaur; and Natalie (niece of Rick Kaiser).

For the Departed Servants of God: Archimandrite Damian, Hieromonk Barnabas, Boris Kochoff and Frank Boardman.



**O Heavenly King, The Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,
Who art everywhere and fillest all things,
Treasury of blessings, and Giver of life,
Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity,
and save our souls, O Good One.**



♦ June 7th - The Feast of Pentecost: The Day of the Holy Trinity.

The Feast of the Holy Trinity is named **Pentecost** because the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles occurred on the 50th day after the Resurrection of Christ. The feast of the Christian Pentecost includes two celebrations, one in honor of the All-holy Trinity and the other in honor of the All-holy Spirit, which visibly descended on the Apostles.

Following Divine Liturgy, the Church celebrates the service of **Kneeling Vespers**. During this service three prayers of repentance written by St. Basil the Great are read while the entire congregation kneels. In them **(1)** we confess our sins before the Heavenly Father and, **(2)** for the sake of the great sacrifice of His Son, we implore mercy. We also **(3)** ask the Lord Jesus Christ to grant us the Divine Spirit, for the enlightenment and confirmation of our souls. Finally, **(4)** we pray for our departed fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, that the Lord might grant them rest in a place of light and refreshment.

It is customary on this feast day to adorn the church building with tree branches and flowers. This adornment of the church with living plants is both a confession of the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit and a consecration to Him of the first fruits of spring.

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Know your saints . . .

The Holy Empress Helen

whom the Church remembers on June 3

Saint Helen was the mother of St. Constantine the Great, and was probably born at Drepanum (Helenopolis) in Asia Minor to parents of humble means. She married Constantius Chlorus, and their son Constantine was born in 274. Constantius divorced her in 294 in order to further his political ambition by marrying a woman of noble rank. After he became emperor, Constantine showed his mother great honor and respect, granting her the imperial title "Augusta."



After Constantine became the sole ruler of the Western Roman Empire, he issued the Edict of Milan in 313 which guaranteed religious tolerance for Christians. St Helen, who was a Christian, may have influenced him in this decision. In 323, when he became the sole ruler of the entire Roman Empire, he extended the provisions of the Edict of Milan to the Eastern half of the Empire. After three hundred years of persecution, Christians could finally practice their faith without fear.

The emperor deeply revered the victory-bearing Sign of the Cross of the Lord, and also wanted to find the actual Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. For this purpose he sent his own mother, the holy Empress Helen, to Jerusalem, granting her both power and money. Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem and St Helen began the search, and through the will of God, the Life-Creating Cross was miraculously discovered in 326.

While in Palestine, the holy empress did much of benefit for the Church. She ordered that all places connected with the earthly life of the Lord and His All-Pure Mother, should be freed of all traces of paganism, and she commanded that churches should be built at these places.

The emperor Constantine ordered a magnificent church in honor of Christ's Resurrection to be built over His tomb. St Helen gave the Life-Creating Cross to the Patriarch for safe-keeping, and took part of the Cross with her for the emperor. After distributing generous alms at Jerusalem and feeding the needy (at times she even

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served them herself), the holy Empress Helen returned to Constantinople, where she died in the year 327.

Because of her great services to the Church and her efforts in finding the Life-Creating Cross, the empress Helen is called **“the Equal of the Apostles.”**

About the Holy Spirit, the Comforter

“But the Comforter the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My Name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said to you” (St. John 14:26).

What practical meaning do these words have, if not that it is necessary that we pray daily that the Holy Spirit be sent to us just as we pray every day for our daily bread? God is willing to send us the Holy Spirit every day but He seeks that we pray daily for the Holy Spirit. For as, in regard to bread which is, at one time abundant and at another time scarce, so it is also in regard to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to us and departs from us, according to our zealousness and our slothfulness in prayer, according to our good deeds and our patience. That is the reason why the Church established that morning services begin with an invocation of the Holy Spirit: **“O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Come!”** and after that comes the prayer: **“Give us our daily bread!”** Why? Because, without the Holy Spirit, we do not even know how to use bread as it should be used for our salvation.

“He shall teach you all things.” That is: every day and every night, according to the conditions and circumstances in which you will find yourself in, He will direct you, counsel you, teach you what you should think, what you should say and what you should do. For that reason, implore from God only the Holy Spirit and all else He Himself will bring with Him all that you will need at that particular moment. When the Holy Spirit shall descend upon you, you will know all, understand all and you will be capable of all that is necessary.

“And bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said to you.” That is: do not be afraid that you will forget my teaching and my words. The Holy Spirit also knows all that I know so when He will be present in you all My teaching will be present in you, together with Him.

O Lord, Holy Spirit, deign to descend upon us - not according to our merits, but according to the merits of the Lord Jesus, and according to Your infinite goodness.

To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.