

The Diocese of the West  
The Orthodox Church in America

10825 Robinwood Lane\*  
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209-536-0701

# St. Susanna Orthodox Church

June 2009

www.stsusanna.com



*Pastor:*

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*Now the comforting Spirit / has been poured out on all flesh, / spreading grace to the faithful, / beginning with the choir of the Apostles. / As a pledge of His mighty coming / He distributed the tongues of fire; / He gave them to the Disciples / to the praise and glory of God. / Spiritually enlightened in our hearts, / strengthened in faith by the Holy Spirit, / let us earnestly pray for salvation for our souls.*

—Aposticha Sticheron of the Vespers of Pentecost

## Holy Pentecost

St. Gregory Nazianzen says this, in his oration (speech) On the Holy Pentecost: “Let us reason a little about the Festival, that we may keep it spiritually. For different persons have different ways of keeping Festival ... of all beautiful things none gives so much joy to the lover of the beautiful, as that the lover of festivals should keep them spiritually. Let us look into the matter thus. [Some] keep festival as well as we, but only in the letter. For while following after the bodily Law, he has not attained to the spiritual Law. [Others also] keep festival, but only in the body [and merely in honor of their own passions]... We, too, keep festival, but we keep it as is pleasing to the Spirit ... This then is our manner of keeping festival, to treasure up in our souls some of those things which are permanent and will cleave to it, not of those which will forsake us and be destroyed, and which only tickle our senses for a little while ... Wherefore we must keep the feast spiritually.”

Indeed, **Holy Pentecost** (Sunday, June 7) is that spiritual festival which includes not only the bestowing of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at the Third Hour, but also calls to mind those instances in which the Holy Spirit granted visions and heavenly speech to the Patriarchs and Prophets of the Old Testament, as well as the ongoing work and miracles of God’s saints down through the ages. The Holy Spirit is indeed that very One of Whom St. Seraphim of Sarov spoke when he said the aim of the Christian life is the “acquisition of the Holy Spirit.”

This acquisition is very simple, but has proven to be one of the most difficult quests that mankind has ever undertaken. One reason is that it is a marathon. St. Paul says, “Only endure.” Another reason for its difficulty is this: the acquisition of the Holy Spirit requires us to surrender unto God the priority of our earthly lives. God asks us to take on the life He describes in the New Testament—which is echoed down through the two millennia since He walked the earth, by our fellow saints (whom we will remember on **All Saints Day**, June 14, and again on June 21, the Feast of **All Saints of America and Russia**).

The acquisition of the Holy Spirit is to love God with all our heart and all our soul and all our mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves (pardon the paraphrase). The methodology is delineated in Matthew 5,6 and 7, and is clearly visible in the lives of those who are striving to live the Christian life—in parishes and in monasteries that truly believe and do what Christ said. In the Psalm 82:6 and John 10:34, we read “You are gods;” and that is what Pentecost means. Our participation depends completely on the state of our own familial relationship with the Holy Trinity; it is the growth and fruition of the indwelling Spirit Whose seed was planted in us and watered at our Baptism and Chrismation. We are the ones who cultivate the seed by our Christian faith and Christian actions (which should be one and the same). God provides the growth.

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\*Corner of Jamestown Rd.  
& Robinwood Ln.  
(2 blocks north of  
Racetrack Rd.)

## The Apostles' Fast

So it is that **The Apostles' Fast** (Monday, June 15 to Sunday, June 28), which has been observed by the Church since at least the fourth century, hearkens back to the fasts the Apostles undertook in preparation for their missionary journeys following their anointing with the Holy Spirit at Holy Pentecost. The

Apostles' Fast ends on the 28<sup>th</sup>, just before the **Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul** (June 29). The Apostles' Fast is lighter than the Lenten Fast, and there are many days within the fast that allow "fish, wine and oil," "wine and oil," etc., and are indicated on your Orthodox wall calendar.

In Christ,  
Fr. Andrew

## Prayer List

### PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING THANKS TO GOD:

- For the skill and devotion of those beautifying our temple and gardens.
- For the beauty of the Mother Lode, and for the privilege we have been given to live here.
- That the Holy Mother of Jesus continues to care for the unborn.
- That many of our petitions are being answered.
- For Nadine's on-going successful therapy.

### PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR GOD'S HELP:

- "St. John, please intercede for us before God for the membership growth of St. Susanna."
- That St. Susanna Mission may receive a Church Planting Grant.
- For repose of the souls of our service men and women who have given their lives for the people of foreign lands.
- To safeguard all the troops who remain in heathen lands.
- To help us forgive the heathen fanatics who continue to murder our soldiers and their own citizens and children.
- That many may come to Orthodoxy through our witness and example.
- To bless our monasteries and the men and women who dwell in them.
- For the well-being of Matushka Anna and her family.
- For health and welfare for Ann, Fr. John, and Elisa.
- For Natasha's success in securing a permanent art teaching position.
- For the healing and comfort for Donna and Ann.
- For Rachel, Brandon, Monique, Trinity and Chloe in solving their problems.
- That Ashley will pass the CSET.
- For Elise Sevick who has become seriously ill and may be travelling to Finland for treatment.
- For Donna's successful surgery and speedy recovery.

To ask us to pray for you, your family or friends, please call Alex Teshin at 209-536-9999.

### St. Susanna Cleaning Team Schedule

*Blessed are those who love the beauty  
of God's house*

**Team 1—June 20th; 9:00 a.m.**

### MANY YEARS

#### Birthdays:

Anna Worth	June 22
Nika Worth	June 25
Leslie Hurst	June 26
Fr. Andrew Jacobs	June 26
Dn. Elias Union	June 29
Sophia Teshin	June 30

#### Namesdays:

Bev Harmer	June 4
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## Liturgical Schedule for June, 2009

*Note: The Bible Study featuring the Commentary of St. John Chrysostom will take place every Saturday at 4:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.*

- Sat., June 6** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers with Litya for **Holy Pentecost/Feast of the Holy Trinity**
- Pentecost Sunday, June 7** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **Holy Pentecost/Feast of the Holy Trinity**  
Scripture Readings—Acts 2:1–11 and John 7:37–52, 8:12  
**Vespers of Pentecost** follows Divine Liturgy  
*Note: As this is Pentecost Sunday, the Parish Council Meeting has been moved to the 14<sup>th</sup>.*  
*Note: June 7–14 is a FAST-FREE WEEK*
- Mon., June 8** **Holy Spirit Day**
- Tues., June 9** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for the **Third Day of the Holy Trinity**
- Sat., June 13** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **All Saints** (Leavetaking of Pentecost)
- Sun., June 14** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **All Saints**  
Scripture Readings—Hebrews 11:33–12:2 and Matthew 10:32–38, 19:27–30  
*Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy on the 14<sup>th</sup>.*  
*Note: The Parish Council Meeting will take place after Divine Liturgy on the 14<sup>th</sup>.*
- Mon., June 15** **Apostles' Fast begins (June 15–28)**
- Sat., June 20** 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers—**All Saints of Russia and America**
- Sun., June 21** 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—**All Saints of Russia and America**  
Scripture Readings—Romans 2:10–16 and Matthew 4:18–23
- Sat., June 27** 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers
- Sun., June 28** 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Scripture Readings—Romans 5:1–10 and Matthew 6:22–33  
*Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy on the 28<sup>th</sup>.*  
*Note: This is the last day of the Apostles' Fast*
- Mon., June 29** **Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul**

## July

- Sat., July 4** 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers
- Sun., June 5** 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Scripture Readings—Romans 6:18–23 and Matthew 8:5–13  
*Note: The Parish Council Meeting will take place after Divine Liturgy on the 5<sup>th</sup>.*
- Sat., July 11** 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers
- Sun., June 12** 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Scripture Readings—Romans 10:1–10 and Matthew 8:28–9:1  
*Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy on the 12<sup>th</sup>.*