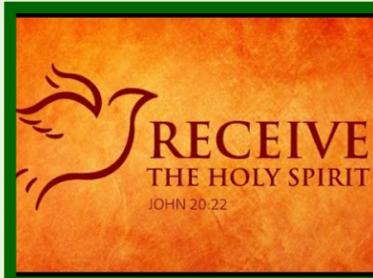


## Scripture Readings

**EPISTLE Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11** When the day of Pentecost had come, they 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."

**GOSPEL John 7:37-52; 8:12** On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart 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, some 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 of the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemus, 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."

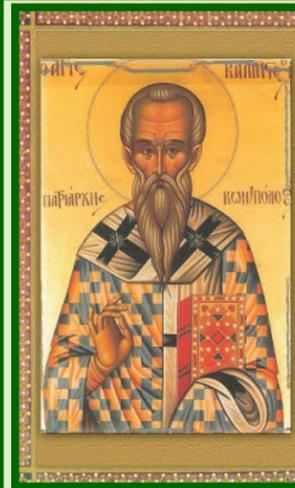
### Scripture Reflection: The Holy Spirit as Comforter and Advocate



The Holy Spirit as Comforter and Advocate in the Gospel of John In telling His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit, Jesus uses a strange word: Paraclete. Difficult to translate with precision, it essentially means two things: Comforter and Advocate. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter. Particularly at times of difficulty, we all look for consolation. However, we often turn only to earthly and ephemeral comforts that can quickly fade. Instead, Jesus offers us the heavenly and therefore superior comfort of the Holy Spirit. What is the difference? The comforts of the world are like a pain reliever: they can give momentary relief, but not cure the illness we carry deep within. They can soothe us, but not heal us at the core. They work on the surface, on the level of the senses, but hardly touch our hearts. Only

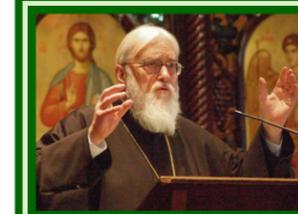
someone who makes us feel loved for who we are can give genuine peace to our hearts. The Holy Spirit, manifesting the very love of God, does precisely that. As the Spirit, He comes down within us and acts within our own spirit. He does not abandon us, for being present to those who are alone is itself a source of comfort. As St. Symeon the New Theologian tells us: "Where the trials are greater, He brings greater comfort, not like the world, which comforts and flatters us when things go well, but derides and condemns us when they do not." These are not the acts just of the world, but especially of the Evil One. Understanding the Holy Spirit, as God comforting us, takes us back to the Old Testament, where the word "ruach," in feminine gender, is used to refer to the tender comfort of God found in the breath of Yahweh blowing over Israel. The Paraclete is also the Advocate. In Jesus' day, the Advocate did not speak on behalf of a person. Rather, the Advocate stood next to the person whispering suggestions to be used in self-defense and turn one's fate around. That is what the Holy Spirit does, for he is "the spirit of truth" (John 15:26). He does not take our place but defends us from the deceits of evil by inspiring virtuous thoughts and feelings. He does so discreetly, without forcing us: he proposes, but does not impose. The spirit of deceit, the Evil One, does the opposite: he tries to force us to think that we must always yield to the allure and promptings of vice. It is the Holy Spirit who is the voice of the uplifted conscience, as if to tell us: "Live in the present, don't let the past swallow you up; look at the whole of your life, not only the bleak and failing parts; and, most importantly, put God before yourself!" This is the decisive step in the spiritual life, which is not the sum of our own merits and achievements, but a humble openness to God. This is who the Holy Spirit is; the comfort of God, the one who instills Godly thoughts and actions in us, and the one who tells us, above all things: "Live for God before all else!" O Divine Spirit, may we hear your voice as you speak to us!

## St. Kallistos I, Patriarch of Constantinople — Defender of Hesychasm (June 20)



St. Kallistos I was the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople for two periods, from 1350 to 1353 and from 1354 to 1363. He lived an ascetic life as a monk at Mount Athos in the Skete of Magoula of the Monastery of Philotheou for twenty-eight years. He also founded the Monastery of St. Mamas at Tenedos, a small island near the Dardanelles Straits. He was a disciple of Gregory Palamas and Gregory of Sinai. Kallistos was elected to the throne of the see of Constantinople in June 1350. The following year, he convened a synod in Constantinople that finally established the Orthodoxy of Hesychasm, the silent and meditative form of prayer championed by St. Gregory Palamas. Kallistos I and the ecumenical patriarchs who succeeded him mounted a vigorous campaign to have the Palamite doctrine accepted by the other Eastern patriarchates as well as all the Metropolitan Sees under their jurisdiction. However, it took some time to overcome initial resistance. In 1355, Patriarch Kallistos of Constantinople decreed that baptism by one single immersion, rather than three immersions, was improper and impious, adding that Latins baptized by single immersion who now sought to convert to Orthodoxy be fully re-baptized. His view was based on the Apostolic canons which clearly state that those baptized by one immersion are not properly baptized and should be re-baptized.

His All-Holiness Patriarch Kallistos died in 1363 en route to Serres (in modern northern Greece) as a member of the embassy of emperor John V Palaiologos seeking aid against the Ottoman Empire from Helena of Bulgaria, Empress of Serbia. Of note is that St. Maximus of Kapsokalyvia prophesied the death of Patriarch Kallistos, who was traveling through Mount Athos. Seeing him, St. Maximus said, "This elder will never see his flock again for behind him is heard the funeral chant: "Blessed are the undefiled in the way." (Psalm 119:1). Intimately engaged in the prayer life of the Church, particularly in the establishment of hesychasm as a powerful means of prayer, and dedicated to proper Church order, St. Kallistos reminds us of the need for silence and quiet prayer in our lives and in a proper reverence for Church order and appropriate behavior when in the Temple of God. O Holy Father, Kallistos, may we follow your example on this Holy Pentecost. Increase our love and reverence for the Holy Church today and all the days of our life. Amen.



### Special Prayers

On the feast of St. Kallistos,, please keep in your prayers His Eminence Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia who visited St. George a number of years ago. He suffers from serious medical conditions and was scheduled to have surgery at the beginning of this year. He no longer travels, though continues to use his God-given intellectual talents to illumine for us our Orthodox faith and theology. O Divine Physician come to the aid of your servant and Bishop Kallistos in your tender love!

### Save and Protect, O Lord, These Thy Servants

His Eminence Metropolitan Panteleimon of Antinoes, His Eminence Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Abbess Christophora, Anatoly Seraphim, Megan, Patrick, Paul, Doris, Shelika,

## PARISH MINISTRIES

**BIBLE STUDY:** The Spring session of Bible Study has begun and is held on Thursdays at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM. The subject of our study is be the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. Sessions are on ZOOM. All are welcome to join this important study! Please bring your Bibles to each session.

**ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Every Monday at noon, fifteen-minute reflections live-streamed through the Orthodox Christian Network at <https://www.facebook.com/MyOCN/>.

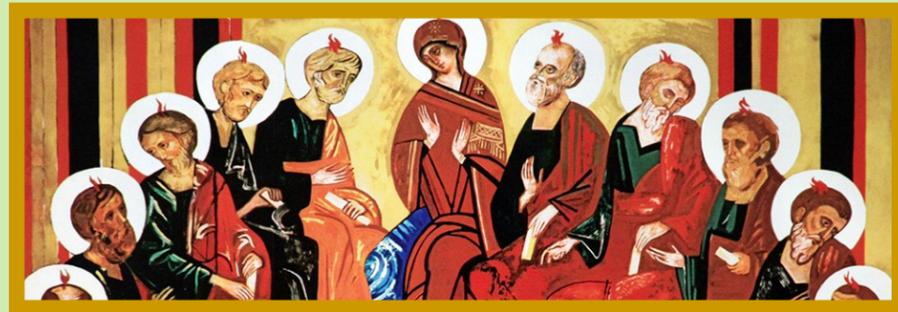
## PARISH ACTIVITIES

**LIGHT A CANDLE:** Please make wax and red glass candle offerings and tray offerings at <https://stgeorge.org/livestream/> - thank you for your continued love and generous support!

**CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD:** Our Metropolis camp, Camp Good Shepherd in Virginia, is in need of volunteers for their camp session. You must be 18 years or older to volunteer. It is from July 3 - 10 and is located at Camp Piankatank in Hartfield, VA. If you are able and interested please email Gus Loukas, Pastoral Assistant, at [gloukas@stgeorge.org](mailto:gloukas@stgeorge.org) or call/text me at 301-787-7090. Many thanks for reaching out to our campers!

**ST. GEORGE MISSION TEAM:** Due to continued safety concerns, we will not travel out of state this year. Our spirit is high, and we will embark on local service projects to assist our neighbors in need. Please consider participating and be part of an organization that puts your Orthodox faith to work. Students can earn service hours. For information, contact Athena Kaiser at [avmail@verizon.net](mailto:avmail@verizon.net) or (240) 498-0870.

**FEED THE HUNGRY:** We are grateful to George Kretikos for preparing meals, Tasos Vassilas for delivering meals to local shelters, and Vasilia Contos for enlisting and supervising our Goyans also preparing sandwiches for our local shelters. We will soon fully resume our important ministry work at St. George on behalf of the hungry in our community. Thank you for your continued support.



## PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

(12th Century)

Come, Holy Spirit, come! And from your celestial home shed a ray of light divine! Come, Thou Father of the poor! Come, Thou source of all our store! Come, within our bosoms shine.

You, of comforters the best; You, the soul's most welcome guest; Sweet refreshment here below; In our labor, rest most sweet; Grateful coolness in the heat; Solace in the midst of woe. O most blessed Light divine, May that light within us shine And our inmost being fill!

Where you are not, we have naught, Nothing good in deed or thought, Nothing free from taint and ill. Heal our wounds, our strength renew; On our dryness pour your dew; Wash the stains of guilt away: Bend the stubborn heart and will; Melt the frozen, warm the chill; Guide the steps that go astray. On the faithful, who adore and confess you, evermore, in your holy gifts descend; Give them virtue's sure reward; Give them your salvation, Lord;

Give them joys that never end. Amen. Alleluia.



## THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE

Rev. Fr.  
Dimitrios J. Antokas,  
Presiding Priest  
[FrAntokas@stgeorge.org](mailto:FrAntokas@stgeorge.org)

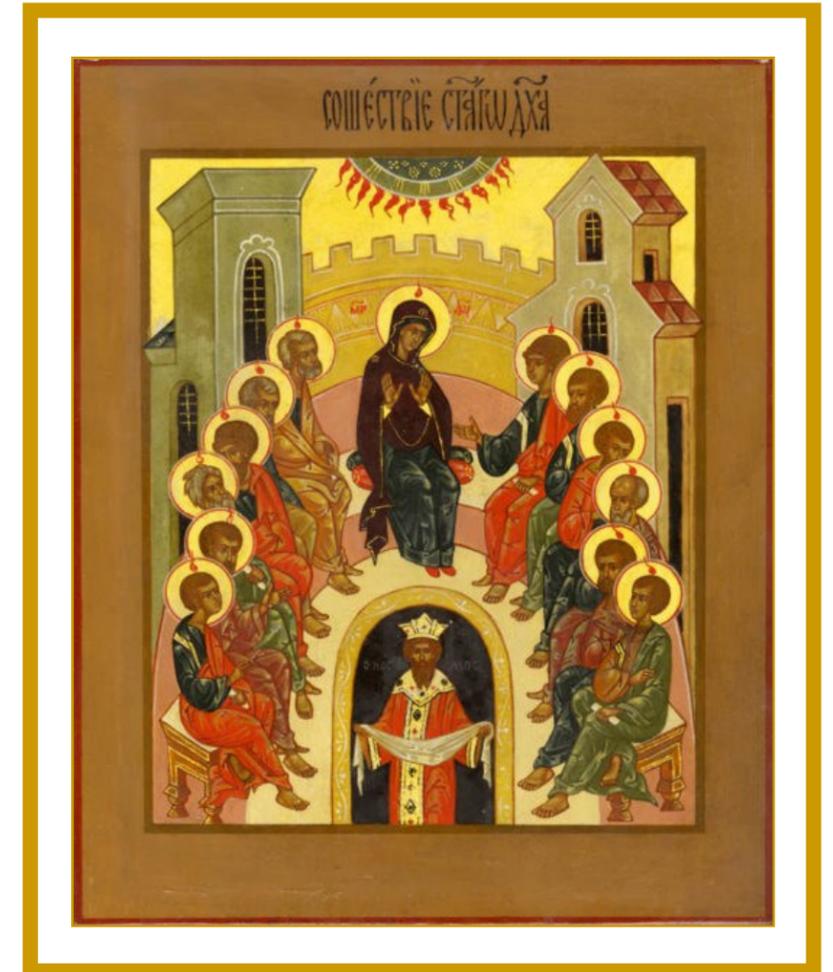


7701 Bradley Boulevard,  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
[www.stgeorge.org](http://www.stgeorge.org)  
Tel: 301-469-7990

# HOLY PENTECOST

St. Kallistos I, Patriarch of Constantinople

June 20 2021



### Apolytikion of Pentecost

Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fishermen all-wise, sending upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, netting the world. O Loving One, glory to You.

### Apolytikion of Saint George

Ὡς τῶν αιχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτῆς, καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστῆς,  
ἀσθενούντων ἰατρός, βασιλέων ὑπέρμαχος,  
Τροπαιοφόρε Μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ,  
σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

O Trophy-Bearer, Great Martyr George, who freed captives, supported the poor, healed the sick, was a champion of kings, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved!