



**St. Nicholas
Orthodox Church**

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Diocese of the West

Orthodox
Church in America

Fr. Stephan Meholick,
Pastor

Protodeacon
George Golitzin



**IMPORTANT
DATES**

June 1

*Annual Parish Picnic
@ Robson-Harrington Park*

June 8

Pentecost

June 15

*Fr. Stephan & Mat. Elaine's
50th Wedding Anniversary*

June 22-28

St. Eugene's Camp

June 29

*Retirement Banquet for Abp.
Benjamin (Santa Rosa)*

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

June 2025

PENTECOST by Father Alexander Schmemmann

"The feast of the descent of the Holy Spirit." I say these words I've known since childhood, and all at once they strike me as if I'm hearing them for the first time. Yes, from the time I was a child I knew that ten days following the Ascension, meaning fifty days after Pascha, Christians from time immemorial celebrated and continue to celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit in a feast known by its church name as Pentecost.

For centuries, to prepare for this feast the churches were cleaned and adorned with greenery and branches, and grass was strewn about the floor... On the day of the feast, at the solemn vespers, the faithful stood in church holding flowers in their hands. These customs explain how the feast of Pentecost entered popular consciousness and literature as a kind of sun-filled, bright celebration, the feast of flowering, a kind of joyful encounter between human beings and God's world in all its beauty and grace.

All religions, including the most ancient and primitive, had a feast of summer flowering, a feast to celebrate the first appearance of shoots, plants, fruit. In ancient Judaism, this was the feast of Pentecost. If in Old Testament religion Passover celebrated spring's resurrection of the world and nature, then the Jewish Pentecost was the feast of movement from spring to summer, celebrating the victory of sun and light, the feast of cosmic fullness. But in the Jewish tradition, a feast common to all human societies acquired a new meaning: it became the annual commemoration of the ascent of Moses up Mount Sinai, where in an inexpressible mystical encounter God revealed himself, entered into a Covenant, gave commandments, and promised salvation. In other terms, religion ceased being simply nature, and now became the beginning of history: God had revealed his law, his commandments, his plan for humanity, and had shown the way.

All this must be kept in mind in order to grasp how the first Christians experienced, understood, and celebrated their feast of Pentecost, and why it became one of the most important Christian celebrations.

Our Summer Schedule begins on June 14

Sunday - The Lord's day - begins at Vespers on Saturday evening. For those receiving Holy Communion, ideally there should be a continuum of vigilance and preparation between the evening service and the Divine Liturgy. That's why we never schedule any parish activities after Vigil. With the longer summer daylight hours and hotter temperatures, Vigil begins an hour later so that our Saturday can be completed and we can more fully give ourselves to the celebration of the Lord's Day. **Because of the later hour, however, Fr. Stephan will be available for confessions before the beginning of Vigil by appointment.** Please call or email ahead.

N.B. Please note the two special time changes because of St. Eugene's Camp:

- Divine Liturgy will be at **9am** on Sunday, **June 22**
- Vespers will be at **7:30pm** on Saturday, **June 28**