

***Byzantine Ukrainian Catholic Parishes of St. George, Prince Albert,
All Saints, Nipawin, and Holy Spirit, Melfort***

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www.skeparchy.org

PRINCE ALBERT LITURGICAL SCHEDULE: No services until further notice

Glory to Jesus Christ! Слава Ісусу Христу!

Click on the following link to watch the Divine Liturgy

<https://www.skeparchy.org/wordpress/liturgy-live-in-our-parishes-of-the-eparchy-of-saskatoon/>

Parish Donations

If you are able to continue your weekly or monthly donations to the parish, to help offset the costs it would be greatly appreciated! Please send your donation to:

St. George's Parish,
710-Cuelenaere St.
Prince Albert, Sask.
S6V-2S9

Pentecost is HERE!!!!

- This is the time we celebrate the world receives the life giving and renewing Holy Spirit!
- Meaning of the word Pentecost: 'Pente' means 50 (in Greek) and 'cost' is a derivative of the word 'cosmos' meaning universe (in Greek).
- Pentecost comes 50 days after Easter.
- In some icons of Pentecost, the Apostles hold books representing that they are Evangelists. Other Apostles hold scrolls showing that they taught the Good News.
- This is the green holiday, besides decorating the church with greenery, the priest also wears green vestments in the Ukrainian Catholic Church

- (Image accessed from <https://www.skeparchy.org/wordpress/resources/feast-day-information/feast-of-pentecost/>)



Kneelling prayers

- It is a tradition not to kneel from Resurrection Sunday until Pentecost to celebrate Christ's triumph over death.
- On Pentecost Sunday, we begin the Divine Liturgy with the first official "kneeling" since Easter as we sing the hymn "Heavenly King".
- The Divine Liturgy recalls our baptism into Christ with the verse from Galatians "All you who have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ" replacing the Thrice-Holy Hymn.
- The hymn 'We have seen the True Light' is sung for the first time since Easter, proclaiming that "we have received the heavenly Spirit".
- The feast of Pentecost is not simply the celebration of an event which took place centuries ago. It is the celebration of what must happen and does happen to us in the Church today. Each Pentecost brings us an opportunity for grace

(Image accessed from <https://stangelabreachurch.org/2018/08/important-change-in-our-posture-during-mass/>)



PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

At Church, our Pentecost celebration starts with a prayer to the Holy Spirit. This prayer could be said anytime but is special during this celebration (perhaps say it many times in the coming days):

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come and dwell within us; cleanse us of all that defiles us and O Good One, save our souls.

(Image accessed from <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/a-prayer-to-the-holy-spirit.html>)

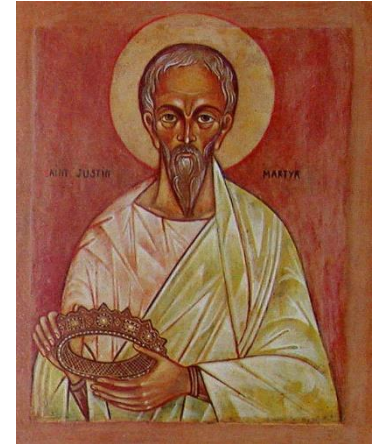


Another prayer to the Holy Spirit

We have seen the true light; we have received the heavenly Spirit; we have found the true faith! We worship the undivided Trinity for having saved us.

Feast day June 1: Martyr Justin the Philosopher

- Justin was born around 114 at Sychem, an ancient city of Samaria.
- In school he studied Greek philosophy and concluded that none of these teachings revealed a true knowledge of God.
- In his thirtieth year, Justin was Baptized and began preaching the Gospel.
- Justin opened a school of Christian philosophy.
- In the year 155, he argued in front of the emperor to save two Christians innocently condemned to death. Justin's argument impressed the emperor and the two Christians were spared their lives.
- When the saint arrived at Rome, false accusations were made against him before the Roman court.
- Saint Justin was put under guard, subjected to torture and suffered martyrdom in 165.
- (Image accessed from <https://www.o.ca.org/saints/lives/2007/06/01/101570-martyr-justin-the-philosopher-and-those-with-him-at-rome>)



Who are the Saints that our Catholic Schools are named after?

As a way to celebrate Catholic Education we will explore the question, "Who are the Saints that have a school named after them in our Catholic School Division?" A different school will be highlighted in the coming week. Remember, as a Catholic community, these are our schools, lets celebrate them!

This Week: • **St. John School**

- St. John was one of the first disciples to be called by Jesus and was present with him during some of the most important events in Jesus' life. For example, John was with Jesus during many miracles; the Transformation, the Last Supper, and when Jesus was dying on the cross.
- St John had a great passion for God's message. After the Resurrection, John made it his mission to promote and live the faith wherever he went. He wrote many things that help us to understand the faith and recognize that Jesus Christ is the Saviour that we should turn to in life.
- St. John's school feast day is December 27th.



Epistle reading for May 31st : Acts 2: 1 -11

- In the Epistle we hear the writer of the Book of Acts, who also wrote the Gospel of Luke, tell of the Holy Spirit descending on Mary and the Apostles.
- The reading describes the sound of the Holy Spirit coming from heaven is like the rush of a mighty wind. Then tongues of fire appear on each apostle. The apostles were inspired to spread the Good News and they had new abilities (like being able to speak in different languages).

Gospel for May 31st: John 7:37–52

- At the very start of the Gospel reading, we hear Jesus proclaim, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.” Jesus goes on to explain that those who believe will be like having rivers of living water flow from their hearts.
- The reading then turns to the reaction of the crowd. Some are questioning if Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah), while others wondered if Jesus was a prophet.
- The reading concludes with the Chief Priests asking the temple guards why did not arrest Jesus. The guards replied that no one has ever spoken like this before.

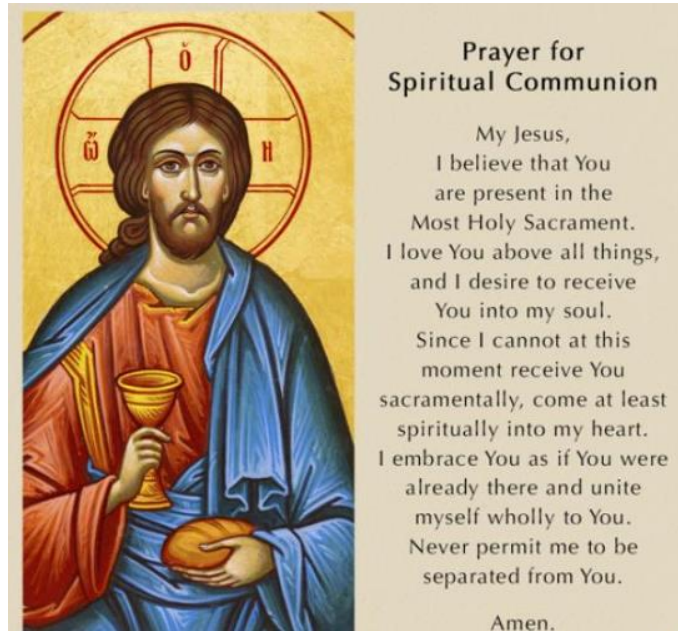
Reflection

- This reading is special to me, not only because it is on a very important feast day of Pentecost, but also because it was the scripture I was given as my final assignment in my Homiletics (preaching) class at Seminary. I can't find a copy of what I wrote, but I focussed a lot on the part of the reading that said, “No one has spoken like this before” as it relates to the Holy Spirit giving us living water. Unfortunately, I remember I did a poor job of relating it to Pentecost!
- The big thing that I always like to remember when I think about Pentecost is that it is not just a commemoration of an event in the past, but a yearly reminder that the Holy Spirit is present with us to remind us of the words and actions of Jesus Christ! Pentecost is not about the past, it is about right now! It is our job to open our hearts and minds to God's graces so that we too may be inspired by the Holy Spirit to do his holy work.
- Pentecost could also be considered the Birthday of the Church. For it was on this day that the apostles began earnestly proclaiming the Good News. We hear how Peter (who is considered the first Pope) had a very important sermon he gave to the people gathered. On that day, the scriptures tell us that 3,000 people began to believe in Jesus!



- I bet that Peter gave a great sermon, but it was the power of the Holy Spirit that stirred their hearts. Just like now, when we are moved by words or phrases in scripture, this is the Holy Spirit inspiring us!
- On this special day, let us remember that the Holy Spirit is the third member of the Trinity and continues to work in our world (and in our hearts) to bring the message of the Good News to God’s children!

(Image accessed from <https://catholiccourier.com/articles/the-apostles-receive-the-holy-spirit>)



And some humour for the week

(If Jesus had a job as a lifeguard while he was still in school, would he have walked on the water...)



(Why the three wisemen brought the gifts they did to Jesus.)

