

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Χριστος Ανεστη – Christ is Risen!

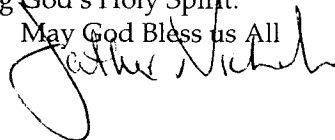
It's always a joy to greet you with the proclamation of Christ is Risen! It means that we have gathered together for the last months in private and community worship and prayer to walk the final footsteps of Christ, witness His horrific death and finally celebrate His glorious Resurrection. We have offered ourselves and all we have to God to walk with Him to Golgotha knowing that our long Holy Services were not in vain...but rather a dedication of ourselves to Christ and those final days of suffering before His life-giving Resurrection.

Now our church prepares us to receive the Holy Spirit with the Feast of Pentecost, June 7th. Ten days following His Ascension to heaven, we receive the promise that the Holy Spirit will come down to renew and strengthen us in our daily struggle to be close to God. It is the "**Gift of the Holy Spirit.**" It constitutes for us the birth of the Christian Church. For each of us it can mark a new beginning of taking God's Word and Message to heart, and follow the command of the Gospel...*to go out and make disciples of all nations...baptizing them in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them all His Commandments.* This wonderful command is accompanied by a great promise...the promise that God ...*will be with us to the close of the ages. Amen.* These words implement the promise that God is still with us...that we will never be alone or orphaned, and that we will never be without God's love and mercy to the close of the ages.

These powerful Words should encourage us to continue to do His Work in our everyday lives. They should also strengthen us knowing that He is with us every moment of our lives. We should never hesitate to call out His Name only in prayer. I also hope that these powerful Words remind us that all we have comes from Him and that we need to express our thanks daily to Him for the gifts that we call "our own." I feel strongly that these gifts come from Him and our goal is to use them for the betterment of the world in which we live.

With these few thoughts, please allow me to wish you a blessed, soon to be celebrated, Pentecost and Monday of the Holy Spirit, the Feastdays of our Church, and the celebration of receiving God's Holy Spirit.

May God Bless us All

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Father Nicholas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial letter.