

THAT We May ALL Be ONE

“...As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one (ἵνα πάντες ἐν ὧσιν). As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be one in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (Jn 17: 18-21)

As our Lord prays to our common Father, He sheds light on what we mean when we profess our faith in “one” Church (Εἰς “μίαν,” ἁγίαν, καθολικὴν... Во “едину,” святую, соборную...). The Church is a mystery, a sacrament, the purpose of which is to make many, nay, “all” (πάντες), into “one,” as the Three in the Triune God are “One.” But how can a plural be singular? How can several, or many, and even “all,” be “one”? We as human beings are not even “one” within ourselves, being fragmented and conflicted as individuals, often a bundle of contradictions within our own selves.

The answer is, “we” can’t accomplish oneness, but God can. Because He “is” oneness, and offers us Himself, as the Way to restoring and healing our fragmentation, both within ourselves and between one another. But I’m reminded today that this restoration and healing, that is to say, “salvation,” is a life-long journey, as we are all “works in progress.” So let me not be discouraged today, by the plain fact that neither I, individually, nor we “all,” communally, reflect the perfect Oneness of the Triune God. I appeal to Him again this morning, and to His undying faith in us, saying “Our Father...,” as Christ said with us, that we may all be one, in Him.

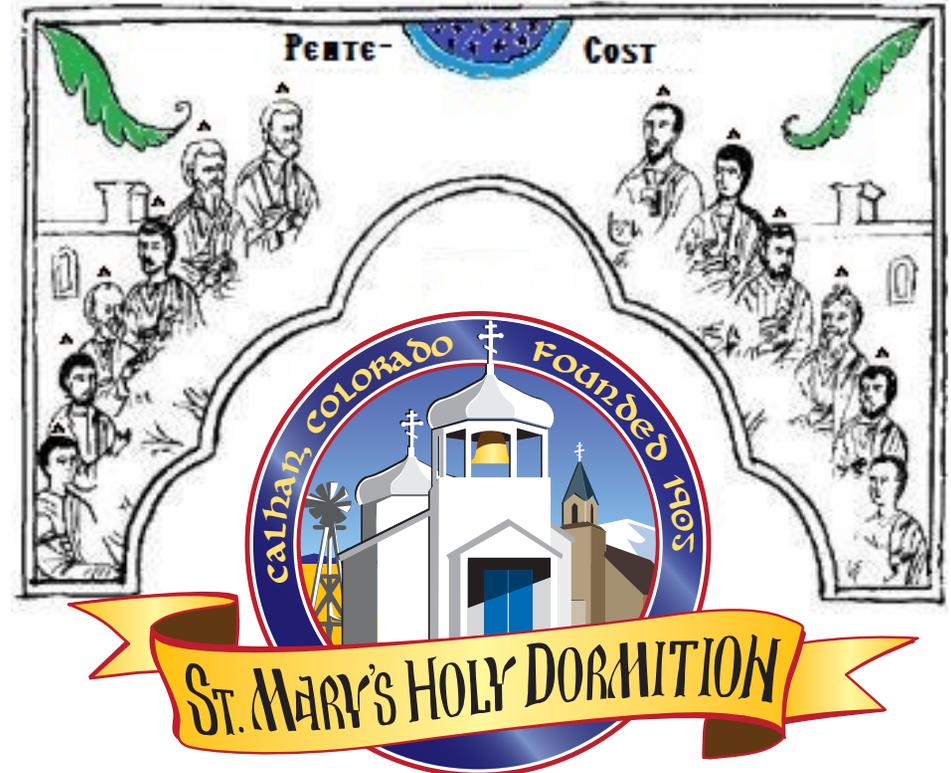
Sister Vassa

Friday, June 2, 2017

<http://www.coffeewithsistervassa.com/single-post/2017/06/02/THAT-WE-MAY-ALL-BE-ONE>

SUNDAY BULLETIN

4 June 2017



ORTHODOX CHURCH
CALHAN, COLORADO

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<http://www.holydormition.net/>

Priest—Rev. Simeon B. Johnson, Rector



RECTOR'S WELCOME

Christ is in our midst! He is, and ever shall be!

Welcome to St. Mary's Orthodox Church. We are a small, multi-ethnic parish in Calhan, Colorado. While the parish was founded by Slovak pioneers, we welcome everyone, no matter what your ancestry.

If this is your first time here, thank you for worshipping with us.

After services, we would like to invite everyone to the Parish hall across the street for coffee and fellowship.

Fr. Simeon B. Johnson—Rector

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Sunday, June 4—*Pentecost*

9:30 AM—Divine Liturgy & Kneeling Vespers, followed by fellowship.

Saturday, June 10

5:30 PM—Great Vespers & confession.

Sunday, June 11

9:30 AM—Divine Liturgy followed by fellowship.

1:00 PM—Parish Council

Formal "grave blessing season" has ended with Ascension.

If, however, you would like graves blessed at any other cemetery, please speak to Father and we'll schedule a time.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

June 3 – Scott and Robin Mikita

June 5 – Jason and Rachel Britton

June 6 – Alvin and Muriel Eurich

June 8 – Evan Dean John Guy

June 8 – LD and Lydia Meier

June 9 – Helen Sakala

THE HOLY FIRE FROM JERUSALEM

On Wednesday, May 10, 2017, the Holy Fire made its way to Calhan from Jerusalem. A small group of us were here to greet the fire, sing Christ is Risen, and light several vigil candles from this Holy Fire.

The Holy Fire is an annual event at the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. The Patriarch enters the Sepulcher where Christ was buried; he carries nothing but a candle, and the local authorities traditionally verify that there is nothing to start a fire with, either in the sepulcher or on the Orthodox Patriarch's person.

He enters the tomb and the church is darkened. While he is there, the Holy Fire descends. It is a bluish fire that does not burn those it touches. Orthodoxy teaches that this fire is the Uncreated Light of God, as revealed at the Transfiguration. In a great miracle and mystery, this fire lights the candle of the Patriarch of Jerusalem. He brings this lit candle out of the sepulcher, chanting "Come, receive the light from the light that is never overtaken by night: and glorify Christ, who is risen from the dead." As he chants, the people rush forward to light their candles from this Holy Fire.

Now that we have this Holy Fire, it is important that we not let it go out! I have vigils lit from the Holy Fire on the altar, on the tomb, and in the candelabra over the Holy Doors. Since the "7 day vigils" only last 5-6 days any more, it will mean that we, as a parish, need to get in the habit of keeping these vigils going. The Holy Fire will be here as long as we can keep it here. Let's not let it go out!

Fr. Simeon