THE HOLY SPIRIT

Human beings were created in the "image" and "likeness" of God.

God created and placed them in Paradise (the Garden of Eden), where they were expected to use their freedom wisely.

But they fell into sin which corrupted their nature. This condition caused people to hope for a Savior to regain what was intended for them at the time of creation.

This hope was fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ on earth.

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE APOSTLES

From the beginning of the Church, the Holy Spirit has given us the spiritual guidance for salvation in Christ.

The fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Christ, the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit established the Church. This happened in the following way:

"When the day of **Pentecost** had come, they (the Apostles) 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 …" (Acts 2:1-4).

The Apostles and their disciples
immediately became preachers
of the Gospel of Christ.

How did the Apostles receive the strength and faith to do this?

Their power came from the Holy Spirit.

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH

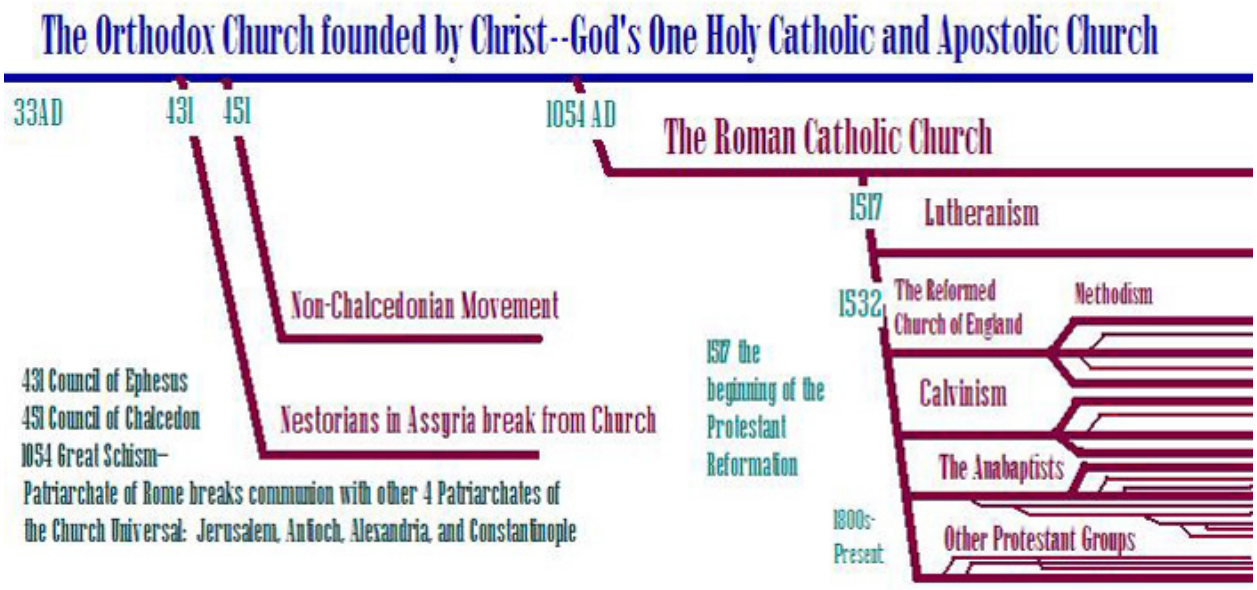
On the very same day of Pentecost, when many people had gathered to celebrate the feast in Jerusalem, the Apostles began to tell them about Salvation in Christ.

The Apostle Peter "lifted up his voice" and spoke to the crowd. The people then asked him and the other Apostles: "Brethren, what shall we do?"

And Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

This established the Church on the day of Pentecost, which is celebrated as the birthday of the Church. It was the Holy Spirit promised by Christ, sent to guide people to salvation.

Timeline of Church History



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Holy Trinity.

The Holy Spirit is of the same essence and equal rank as the Father and the Son.

As the Son was begotten by the Father, the Holy Spirit also proceeded from the Father.

The Church states this truth in the Nicene Creed:

[I believe] ...
"in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life,
Who proceedeth from the Father,
Who together with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified"

The Holy Spirit remains in the Church, protects and preserves its Truths and sanctifies its members.

The Holy Spirit is the Comforter of the believers, Who was promised by Christ.

The Holy Spirit throughout the centuries revealed the divine Truths and inspired the Apostles and their disciples to spread these Truths of the Church to all people.

The Apostles and other teachers in the Church did not teach their own ideas, but they were inspired by the Holy Spirit, to serve the Will of God for the preservation of the Orthodox Faith.

The Orthodox Faith has remained the same for 2,000 years. The Truths of the Orthodox Church are the same, no matter which country Orthodox people live in or what language they speak.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

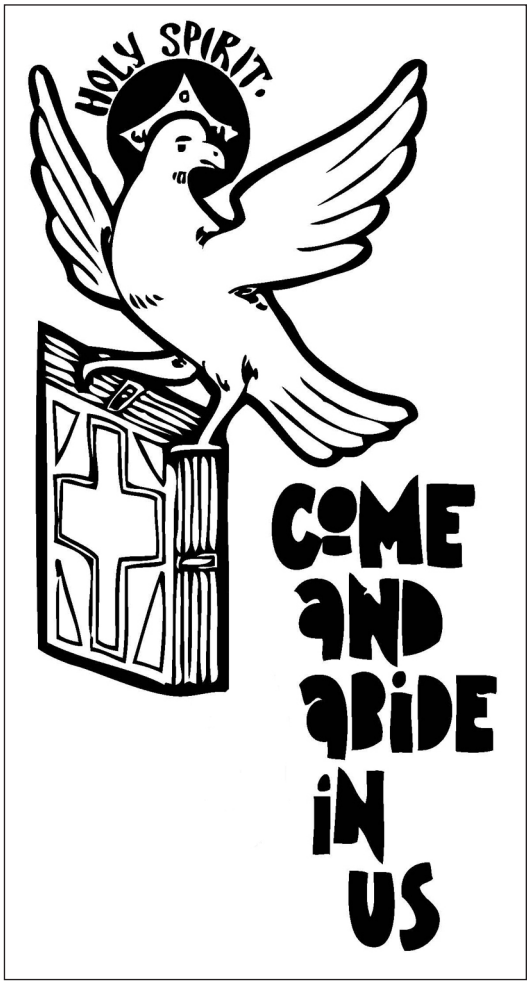
All Christian prayer must be prayer in the Spirit.

Orthodox Christians pray:

to the Father,
through Christ the Son
in the Holy Spirit.

This is true whether they know it or not.

In the Orthodox Church there is only one prayer among all the prayers of the Church that is addressed to the Holy Spirit. This is the prayer "O Heavenly King." It is so important that it should be the first prayer you say when you begin your prayers! Why? Because you must remember that, as an Orthodox Christian, you belong to God. The Holy Spirit dwells in you. It happened at your Baptism and Chrismation when you were anointed with oil (Chrism) which is the Seal of the Holy Spirit.



O Heavenly King,
the Comforter,
the Spirit of Truth,
Who art everywhere
and fillest all things,
Treasury of Blessings
and Giver of Life,
come and abide in us,
and cleanse us
from every impurity
and save our souls,
O Good One.

THE FRUITS
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
ARE KNOWN AS

THE VIRTUES

The Holy Spirit gives the members of the Church spiritual gifts to help them have faith and follow the Commandments of God. All Christians should know that the gifts given by the Holy Spirit. Gifts are given to those who believe in the true faith, and not to people who "do their own thing" or who believe in non-Christian things.

These gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to both the clergy and all the people who belong to the Church.

When we cooperate with the Holy Spirit in working to keep the Commandments, we say that the results are the "FRUITS." In our lives these results or fruits are also known as:

"THE VIRTUES."

Faith
Hope
Knowledge
Wisdom
Honesty
Humility
Obedience
Patience
Courage
Faithfulness
Chastity & self control
Generosity
Gratitude
Love

St. Michael's Orthodox Church, Jermyn, Pennsylvania