

The Feast of Pentecost at the Holy Trinity Church in Oxnard, California

ON THE FEAST OF PENTECOST, 2009, the Holy Trinity Church in Oxnard, California, celebrated its parish Feast Day. His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios, Archmandrite Akakios, and Hierodeacon Nektarios, from the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, and several nuns from the Convent of St. Elizabeth came from Etna to celebrate the Holy Feast, which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's Disciples. By the Grace of our Savior, His Eminence and His Grace, along with Father Akakios and Father Nektarios, served the Divine Liturgy. The Mothers of the Convent provided pious and angelic singing for the service, which was chanted in Greek, Slavonic, Romanian, and English.



A group of the faithful gathered after the Kneeling Vespers, which followed the Liturgy.

The Divine Liturgy was also concelebrated by the Rector of the Holy Trinity parish, Protopresbyter Dr. James Thornton, who served with other clergy from another Exarchate parish in the Southern California area: Priest Yakov Ferens from the Exarchate parish of St. Seraphim of



At left, Archbishop Chrysostomos blessing the faithful; at right, Bishop Auxentios and commemorations at the Great Entrance

Sarov and St. John of Kronstadt in San Diego, as well as Protodeacon Father George Skvor, who assisted Hierodeacon Father Nektarios.

During His sermon, Archbishop Chrysostomos encouraged the faithful and all present to remain humble when faced with the adversities of Orthodox resistance. He reminded everyone that loving others, whether Jews, Arabs, Russians, Greeks, Romanians, ecumenists, or extremist Old or New Calendar Orthodox, was of the highest priority, because Christ gave us, as His greatest commandment, the order to love one another.



Before the start of Kneeling Vespers, gifts of chocolate were presented by Archbishop Chrysostomos to Yakov Popov, Misha Bublik, and Michael Avisov. Mr. Popov is one of the original founders of the parish, Misha Bublik represented his grandfather, Mr. Victor Bublik, another of the founders, and Mr. Michael Avisov is Warden of the parish. All three were commended for their support of the Faith and received the gifts in a humble manner. (*See at left.*)

Clergy, parishioners, and guests gathered in the Church Hall after the end of Services for a wonderful *agape* meal.

Gratitude must be expressed to all who participated in preparing the food and making all those present feel they were an integral part of the life of the Holy Trinity Parish.

Reported by Michael Skvor

