

BYZKIDS

byzi kids

June 2022

Fire!

The Miracle of Fire

The Three Holy Youths

God's Fire

Fire in Scripture

Birthday of the Church

The Fire of Love

Firewalkers

Activities & More



check us out
online!

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Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Dear ByziParents,



Acts 2:38-39: Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

During the mystery of Chrismation, the Holy Spirit descends upon each and every one of us just as He descended upon each of the twelve apostles at Pentecost! The priest consecrates every one of the senses of our little newly-baptized Christians to the service of God by anointing them with a special oil known as Holy Chrism, conferring upon them, "the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit..." in order to seal in their perfect goodness and keep them pure and strong. They receive the fire!

Our ByziKids are the next generation of believers and they should not only be welcomed but encouraged to participate as fully as possible in the life of the Church. Regular attendance feeds this fire. Participation in the sacramental life of the Church fans the flame that they carry within them. When there is no encouragement to receive the fuel they need to keep the fire burning, their flame goes cold, they may fall away, perhaps never to return. Once the flame goes out completely, it's much more difficult to reignite.

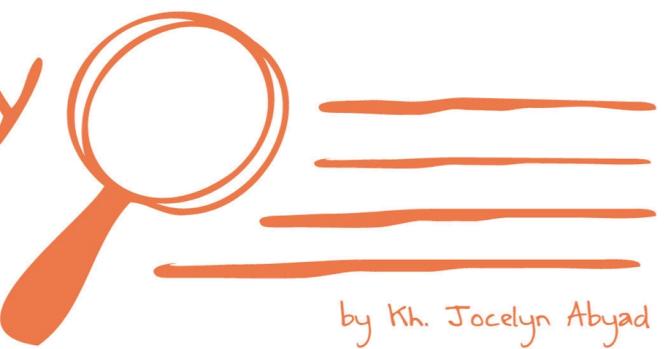
We hope our publication provides you with the resources you need to fan that little flame into a blazing inferno within the hearts of your little ones!

Have an inspiring Pentecost!

Enjoy the issue!

-Written by Lynne Wardach

i SPY in MY LITTLE ICON



by Kh. Jocelyn Abyad

This month's icon is entitled "The Three Holy Youths" and tells us the story of Hananiah (which means The Lord is my judge), Mishael (which means The Lord is kind), and Azariah (which means Who is like God). Their story can be found in the Book of Daniel, chapter three. These young men were friends of the Holy Prophet Daniel and fellow members of the tribe of Judah. They were forced into service by King Nebachadnezzar around 600 BC and worked in his courts. The young men were even required to change their names from their given Biblical names to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, which are pagan names.

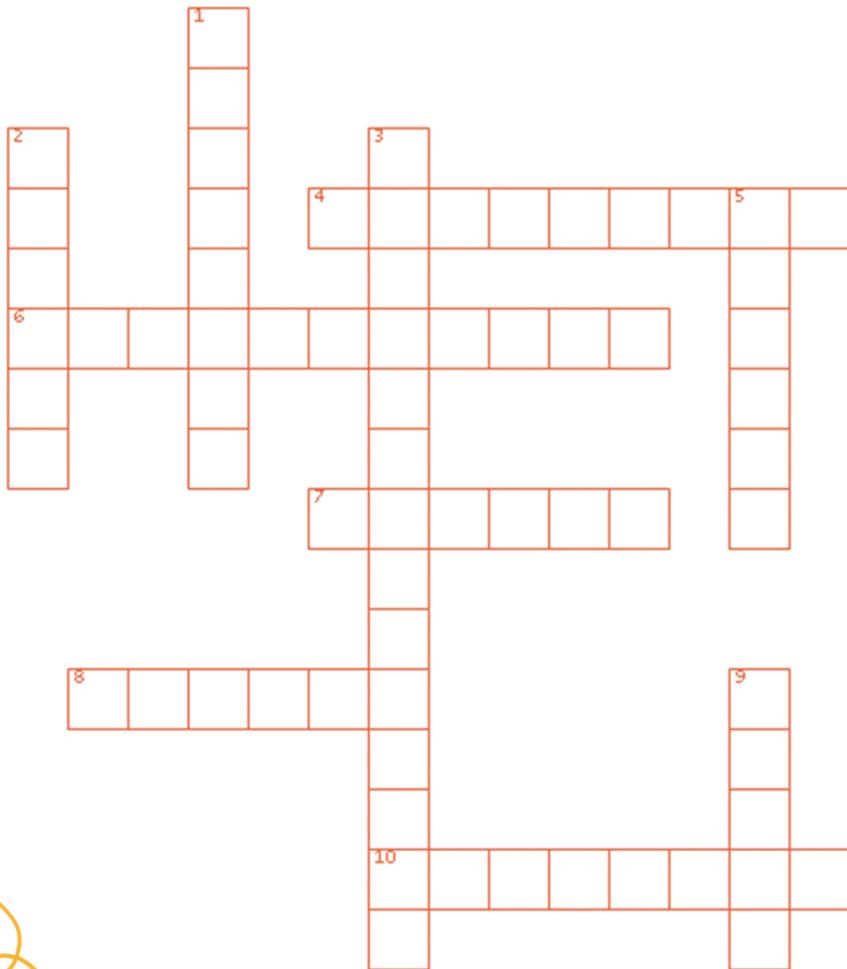
King Nebachadnezzar was a very prideful man and had a golden statue made of himself. He demanded that all of the people bow down and worship this statue. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship the statue and this made the king furious. In fact, he was so enraged, he sentenced them to be burned to death. He ordered his servants to prepare a fire seven times hotter than usual and throw the three young men inside the furnace. The fire was so hot that the servants died from the heat when they approached the furnace! You can see them at the bottom of the icon, consumed by flames.



Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shown in the center of the icon, had a much different experience in the fire, however. You can see that they are not consumed by the flames and have their arms raised in worship to God. In fact, scripture tells us that they sang praises to God, crying out, "Blessed are You, O God of our fathers, and worthy of praise; and Your name is glorified forever, for You are just in all that You have done to us, and all Your works are true and Your ways right, and all Your judgments are truth" (Daniel 3:26-27). As they prayed and walked about in the flames, King Nebachandnezzar saw that they were joined by another man that appeared as an angel. He was so amazed that he called out to the youths and told them to come out of the fire.

When the three holy youths exited the oven, not a hair on their head was singed! Their clothes were unharmed, and they didn't even smell like fire. The King was so amazed that he immediately began praising the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego- our Lord! Their bravery in the face of the terrible fire inspired the conversion of all who were watching and continues to inspire us to this day. Let us all pray that when we are faced with the trials of life, in any form, we can praise God and inspire others to do the same!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



down 

1. _____, Mishael, & Azariah refused to worship anyone but the true God
2. the greatest feast of the Church
3. the pagan king who threw the three holy youths into the furnace
5. the Holy _____ came after Jesus' ascension to heaven
9. color of new life that we use for this feast

 across

4. the second biggest feast of the Church
6. holy mystery where the priest says "the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit"
7. this book of the Bible talks about the three holy youths
8. Do you light a _____ when you enter the church?
10. Mary the Theotokos and the _____ were together at Pentecost

Fire Chant

by Sylvia Dorham

H
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Scan
To
Hear



Fire! Fire!
Fire! Fire!
BOOM!

God's fire burns your heart, not your skin.

(Fire! BOOM!)

God's fire cleans you outside and in.

(Fire! BOOM!)

God's fire takes your life for a spin.

(Fire! BOOM!)

God's fire leads your fight against sin.

(Fire! BOOM!)

Fire on a bush.

Fire in a pillar.

Fire on the heads of apostles speaking languages they didn't understand to share the word of God with every single nation, every land.

Fire! BOOM!

Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire! BOOM!

A chant is a song that is spoken or sung on pretty much the same note.

This song is a chant with a counterpoint. One group or person chants the words, another group or person handles the counterpoint. The counterpoint is the words in parentheses that come in when the other group is done saying their part. Here, the words 'Fire! BOOM!' are the counterpoint and should be chanted with emphasis and gusto.

Hand gestures are also important in this chant. Use big motions for 'BOOM' and smaller ones for 'spin,' 'fight,' 'heart,' etc. Start quietly on the first 'fire' and get louder as you chant the next three. Let your body AND your voice be your instruments as you tell your audience about the Holy Spirit.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the Church!!

Did you realize that the feast of Pentecost is the biggest feast day of the Church next to Pascha? That means it's even bigger than Christmas! It's the Birthday of the Church! Because this is such a big day, it calls for a big celebration, don't you think? When someone we love is celebrating a birthday, we have a party!

Let's plan a birthday party for the Church!!

1. Decorations: Green Branches!

When you have a birthday party, decorations make the atmosphere a special one in which to celebrate. We usually decorate according to a theme or in the favorite color of the one we are honoring, and today the guest of honor is the Church. The Church is brand new today, filled with new life, and we show that by surrounding ourselves with the color green. We will see green flowers and branches decorating the Church, and we can decorate our home icon corners with fresh greenery too. Use vases of fresh green branches from outside; make a wreath for your crucifix; make garlands to adorn your icons, use green candles or holders, make everything look fresh and new!



2. Dress Your Best!

On Pentecost you will notice that many people will choose to wear green too. Choose something green to wear today in honor of the birthday of the Church!



3. Party Hats!

When the apostles were anointed with the Holy Spirit, tongues of fire came down and rested upon each of their heads. You can have a tongue of fire upon YOUR head too! Make this party hat to wear. Cut two strips of green construction paper, or cardstock, to about 4 inches wide and staple or tape them end to end to make one long strip. Wrap this around your head to make a crown. Staple or tape it at the diameter where the hat will fit properly. Now take some orange paper and draw the shape of a big flame, then cut it out and set it aside. Make a smaller one using yellow paper, then cut it out and paste it inside the orange one. Now draw a third one, even smaller, on white paper, cut it out and paste it inside the yellow one. Now you have made your own tongue of fire to place upon your head! Paste this onto the front of your green Pentecost crown and you'll have a perfect party hat, complete with your very own tongue of fire!

4. Make a birthday cake!

We always had a birthday cake to celebrate the birthday of the Church at Pentecost at our house. Your family's favorite recipe will be perfect, but be sure to frost it with...you guessed it, GREEN icing, and 12 birthday candles!!

5. Praise Jesus in many languages, just like the Apostles!

When the Holy Spirit came down, he allowed the Apostles to speak in different languages. We can remember this event by learning to say, "Glory to Jesus Christ" in a few different languages. Here are a few to get you started:

English: Glory to Jesus Christ!

Romanian: Slava lui Isus Hristos!

Spanish: Alabado sea a Jesucristo

Latin: Jesus Christus sit laus

Old Slavonic: Slava Isusu Christu!

Greek: Dóxa ston Christó tou Iisou

Arabic: Almjd liasue almasih

German: Lob sei Jesus Christus

French: Gloire soit à Jésus Christ

Italian: Gloria a Gesù Cristo

KNOW YOUR FAITH

By Lynne Wardach

When you look at paintings in a museum, you begin to notice that each artist has a particular style to their work. After looking at art for a while, you can come to recognize an artist's style and begin to be able to identify his work just by looking at it. When God designed the universe, He created all of the elements and properties of those elements, and by observing them, we can learn something about their creator, God. When He made fire, one of the most mysterious substances in creation, He made it with some exciting properties by which we can learn about His character.

Fire is warming, enlightening, cozy, and even cheerful.

Fire can burn and destroy if it is not respected.

Fire enlightens a dark space so that it is easier to know which way to go and see what's in your path.

Fire is mighty! It can become enraged and uncontrollable,

Fire purifies. It burns away impurities in metals and leaves only the purest gold or silver behind.

The word "fire" appears 474 times throughout the books of the Bible and is used in many ways!

Can you think of the ways FIRE is mentioned in Scripture?



Fire Encouraged the Apostles at Pentecost!! I'll bet the first thing you thought of was the tongues of fire that appeared over the heads of the Apostles as a sign that the HOLY SPIRIT was upon them. It gave them courage and strength to go forth from hiding in the upper room and preach the Gospel to everyone. This kind of fire enlightened, encouraged, and refreshed their tired spirits!

Acts 2:3-4 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.



Fire Led the Way at the Exodus!! When the Israelites fled from slavery in Egypt, they were led by the Archangel Michael in the form of a pillar of fire. By the light of the flames, they could see along the way. This kind of fire lit the way and gave security and proper direction to the people of God.

***Exodus 13:21-22** By day, the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.*



Fire Symbolized Mighty Presence of God in the Burning Bush!!

Moses saw a bush that was on fire but didn't get destroyed by it. Because Moses believed that no one could look upon the face of God and live, we recognize the burning bush as a symbol of the Theotokos. She was as close to God as any human could be but was not overwhelmed or destroyed by Him. This kind of fire was a sign to Moses of God's loving presence.

***Exodus 3:2-6** There, the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire, it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God*



Fire is A Tool of Punishment by God when the Prophet Elijah called it down from heaven to prove to the pagan priests of Baal that the One True God is indeed almighty. This kind of fire shows God's might and ability to punish and destroy evil.

***2 Kings 1:12** If I am a man of God," Elijah replied, "may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!" Then the fire of God fell from heaven and consumed him and his fifty men.*



Fire Used as Eternal Punishment for those who do not do the will of God.

We see this in the story of the Final Judgment when God welcomes the righteous into His kingdom and dismisses the evil ones to eternal fire. We know that God does not inflict pain but is chosen by those who can not unite themselves to God and respect His will. The loss of His love causes burning pain in the souls of those who reject God.

***Matthew 25:41** "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"*

So as followers of God, we can keep warm and cozy by remaining close to Him, and we can become refreshed and encouraged all our lives by the spark of the Holy Spirit. We can see the way to go by the light of His Word and become purified by the burning difficulties of our trials. But we must remember to respect the might and strength of God and unite ourselves to Him so we can always be assured of His burning love for us!

IGNITING A FIRE FOR LEARNING

Lessons from Orthodox Students in Ukraine

by Judith Jolma

When the children in Julia Chernova's class begin to boast about being the smartest, she takes them to an icon and asks, "What did Jesus say about who is the smartest among you?"

Miss Julia is the director of a Classical Conversations homeschool community that meets once a week in Kyiv, Ukraine. These programs are popular in the United States where much of the school day champions Western Civilization. But in Ukraine, the idea of classical education is intimately linked with the Orthodox faith and their own Eastern history.

In the United States, children are often taught about Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation, or the gifted artist Michelangelo, who painted the Sistine Chapel in Rome, two very influential characters in Western Civilization. But in Ukraine, they study other great people such as St. Alexander Nevsky, a divinely victorious soldier and leader during some of the most difficult periods of the Kievan Rus history, and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, who wrote the famous Christmas ballet "The Nutcracker." Russia and Ukraine have shared many events and historical heroes for hundreds of years. "Since Czar Peter was influential in Ukraine, we do not conflict from taking these stories to teach the children," Miss Julia says.

Ukrainian history is intimately linked to Byzantine history and their deeply loved Orthodox faith.

Miss Julia's Classical Conversations community, which serves about nine families, meets in an Orthodox church. Instead of having the day off on feast days, the community meets earlier or stays later in order to participate in the Divine Liturgy on those days. The pious environment serves their education well, Miss Julia says. If the children have a conflict or argument, they use this opportunity to have a conversation to point to Christ. "We are in a room where they have icons, so let's go look at the icons," she will suggest.

When it comes to older students, they have deeper conversations like how to be a good Christian and have a relationship with the government. Classical education places importance upon the need for dialogue, a skill especially necessary in a region that has witnessed many violent uprisings and invasions in recent history.

Miss Julia knows that if there is any hope for peace and justice in Ukraine, the children must know how to have difficult conversations without giving in to the passions of anger so common in a war zone. So they set aside a



dedicated time to have these conversations every day.

One time a student said to her, "Teacher Julia, you have no idea about modern trends like hipsters." So Miss Julia entered the dialogue with questions:

What are their attitudes and messages? Can you identify the right response?

Recently, they have begun discussing the mysteries of the human soul — what is it?

Middle school students are encouraged to read Orthodox saints before their discussions. Older students who have read the saints are asked to ponder deeper questions such as what is the interaction between two souls? And then they talk about the interactions of souls in social groups. Every group has its own idea that it follows. Soon they want to jump higher to ask how their group should interact with other social groups like government institutions. They ask, "How do you live your life like an Orthodox saint in your work environment or with the government?"

Miss Julia understands the enormous need for young people to have this conversation. Each question, she says, is "little sparks." She is trying to systemize her response to these questions from an Orthodox perspective to help them have a deeper foundation for their social questions.

Recently, she took great satisfaction when she witnessed a conversation among other students including her own son. The students were discussing the proper Christian attitude toward COVID vaccine requirements. "I was not even an active part of that conversation," she said, but she saw an open space for the children to have this conversation. Julia's son expressed his fear and said it is difficult to have an opinion that is different from the masses. "So I would rather be quiet and not say out loud what is my true conviction," he said. That was when the other children encouraged him to be bold in his beliefs. "If you do not speak your opinion then the society that believes differently from you will be the louder ones and will crush your opinion if you do not stand firm in your opinion," they told him.

Miss Julia gave glory to God and was amazed to see this formation of thought in these young men and women.

The parents of these students are learning similar lessons along with their children in this little community because it is difficult to homeschool in Ukraine. Soviet ideas have formed most parents' opinions of education. To be a homeschooling family in Ukraine presents a double burden because of the governmental requirements. Soviet education has rigorous standards that children must be learning specific things at certain times. Because of these arduous demands, sometimes children come to their community having no interest in education. But after just a little while a spark, a fire for learning, and joy start to motivate them. Julia has to show the parents that after a little time the children have reignited their love for learning and so she says to their parents, "See, let's keep going."

It is important to learn from our Orthodox family in other parts of the world to let them inspire us and to pray for them.

Caught You Listening

Sylvia Dorham



June 5, 2022

Gospel: John 7: 37-52, 8:12

In the Gospel reading this week, Jesus speaks of something we take in through our mouths and if we believe in him, flows back out of our hearts.

What is that something?

Which member of the Trinity does it represent?

Answer the questions, then write the *last letter* of the answer in the blanks to find out!



- The opposite of OLD: _____
The opposite of CHOCOLATE: _____
The opposite of DRY: _____
The opposite of EARLY: _____
The opposite of FAR: _____

- _____ Goes with SOCKS: _____
_____ Goes with MUSTARD: _____
_____ Goes with VAN and means 'small:' _____
_____ Goes with SWEET: _____
_____ Goes with CON CARNE: _____
_____ Goes with POTATOES (but not during Lent): _____

WATER, SPIRIT

new, vanilla, wet, late, near

Answers:



June 12, 2022

Matthew 10: 32-38; 19: 27-30

In today's Gospel, Jesus makes a promise to everyone who follows him. He says if we leave material possessions and family relationships for his sake, we will be paid back 100 times over in the new world *and* inherit eternal life.

Circle the possessions and family relationships Jesus mentions.

Cars	Houses	Money	Brothers	Radios	Children
Sisters	Erasers	Machines	Uncle	Father	
Grandfather	Mother	Horses	Farms	Pets	
Gold	Sheep	Stones	Satellites	Lands	

Answers: houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, lands

June 19, 2022

Gospel: Matthew 4: 18-23

Today, we read about two sets of brothers who left places, things and people when Jesus called them.

Match the brothers to each other and what they left behind when Jesus called them to follow him.

Andrew
James
Simon
John

father
boat
nets

Brothers: _____ and _____ left:
Brothers: _____ and _____ left:

Brothers James and John left boat and father.

Answer: Brothers Simon and Andrew left nets.

June 26, 2022

Gospel: Matthew 6: 22-33

Be careful what you do with your eyes! Jesus tells us something about our eyes in today's Gospel. Are you careful to watch only the true, good and beautiful? If so, your whole body will be full of light, says the Gospel.

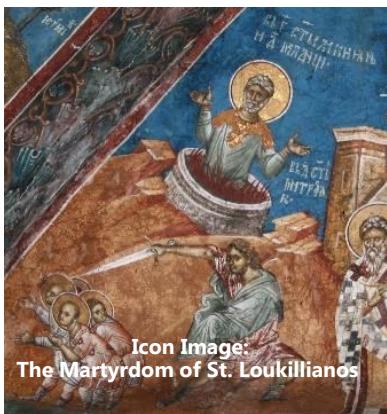
Follow the directions to find out what Jesus says about our eyes.

- O From the word TRUE, replace the two middle letters with 'H': _____
- O From the word EVER, replace the first consonant with 'Y' and drop the final letter: _____
- O From the word SISTER, drop the first letter and the last syllable: _____
- O From the word TENT, drop the last two letters and insert an 'H' between the first: _____
- O From the word LARGE, drop the last three letters and add 'MP' to the end: _____
- O Reverse the word FOR and then drop the first letter: _____
- O From the word THIEF, drop the first vowel and the last consonant: _____
- O Unscramble YOBD to find the final word: _____

Answer: "The eye is the lamp of the body." Matthew 6:22



You are probably familiar with the story of the Three Holy Youths protected by an Angel of the Lord who were thrown into a fiery furnace by King Nebuchadnezzar in the Old Testament when they refused to worship idols. Did you know that during the third century (200s AD) under Emperor Aurelian (270-275 AD) the Roman government used fire to try to force Christians to renounce Christ?



Many Christian martyrs were miraculously untouched by the fire of Roman furnaces. St. Lucillian, formerly a pagan priest, and his young companions were saved by a miracle of cooling rain when they were condemned by Silvanius, the governor of Nicomedia. Despite being saved by holy rain from a fiery end, all these saints met their martyr's end in Constantinople by the sword. Standing by ready to give them a Christian burial was St. Paula. St. Paula was a secret Christian who ministered with

food and medicine to those of the faith who were sick, wounded, or in prison. She also voluntarily buried martyrs in her care for the physical bodies of Christ's beloved ones. Returning to

her home in Nicomedia, she continued to care for Christians. St. Paula's secret faith was discovered and she sent to be burned in a fiery furnace, but by the power of God, she remained untouched. She was then also sent to Constantinople to await a martyr's crown. These holy martyrs are commemorated on June 3rd- St Paula, St Lucillian, and the youths Cladius, Hypatius, Paul, and Dionysius.

(Troparion)

Like a radiant star you shone out of the night of error,
Slaying the crafty enemy, O Lucillian.
Together with Holy Paula and the four youths
Pray to Christ our God to save our souls!



[http://www.antiochian.org/
node/18723](http://www.antiochian.org/node/18723)

The Three Holy Youths



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.....COLORING PAGE..... By Julie Luckey

The Miracle of the Holy Fire

Lynne Wardach

When I visited the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, I was astounded that I could actually place my hand into a hole beneath the altar and touch the very spot where Jesus died for our sins. As I did so, I knew that something profound had happened on that spot, and a feeling of awe and wonder overwhelmed me. It is a wondrous place.

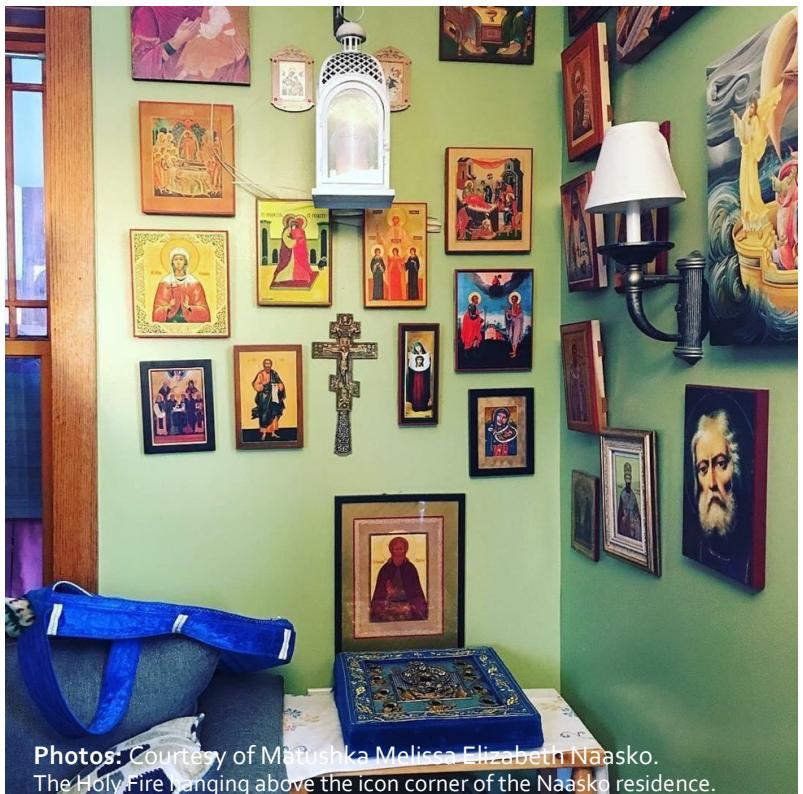
An early fourth-century historian named Eusebius wrote about something mysterious that occurred in 162 AD during Pascha in Jerusalem. The deacons in the church noticed that they had run out of oil to fill the sanctuary lamps. When the patriarch ordered that the lamps be filled with water and lit, no one expected the water to ignite, let alone burn during an entire Paschal service, but it did!

Another profound event was recorded by a woman from Spain named Egeria, who had traveled to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for Pascha in 385 AD. She recorded in her travel journal that during the services, she saw a strange light emanating from the burial chamber of Jesus, which filled the entire Church with its light. Yes, this is a mysterious place indeed!

Every year on Holy Saturday, the Greek patriarch enters the inner chapel in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem and kneels to pray upon the stone slab upon which they had laid Jesus' body to prepare it for burial. As he prays, they say that a blue light appears to rise from the slab, which soon turns into a pillar of fire from which the patriarch lights two candles and two oil lamps. With these, they carry the Holy Fire forth from the chapel and pass the flame from person to person throughout the crowd which awaits it in the nave of the church. In this way, the fire is brought out and passed from person to person throughout the area.

Mrs. Tiffany Ghareeb was one of those people who received the Holy Fire in this way! She recently shared about her family's experience. "We lived in Beit Jala. (a small village skirting Bethlehem)", she says. "Every year, our parish brings the holy fire from Jerusalem then spreads the light to all to take home in their lanterns or candles. It is my favorite time of the year. The village has a parade to celebrate. We have tried to keep the holy fire lit in our home throughout the whole year."

Some people even carry the flame to airports where planes await to take it to distant countries so that believers worldwide can participate in the miracle. Mrs. Jeannie Neufeld belongs to a parish in Oklahoma that received the Holy Fire from Jerusalem. She tells us, "We have received it at our parish a couple of different years." The flame is



Photos: Courtesy of Matushka Melissa Elizabeth Naasko.
The Holy Fire hanging above the icon corner of the Naasko residence.



The Holy Fire in the lampada at Saints Sergius and Herman of Valaam Monastery

passed from parish to parish, home to home, and believer to believer each year. "Someone brought it to our church a few years ago in Washington state," says Mrs. Bethany Webber.

Mrs. Katie Espinoza and her family also remember the excitement of receiving the Holy Fire in their parish. "It was in 2017, I believe. It's when the Holy Fire was transported from Moscow to New York. It made its way across the states, and a family from Utah volunteered to go retrieve it in Wyoming. All I remember really was how very excited everyone was." "Everyone was waiting on the street with candles of all

kinds, lanterns, and even oil lamps. The family pulled up, and quickly, we all had our fire. I can't recall if we had a procession, but we were outside for a while, and then we went inside the church for a service. There were many people, including journalists."

Of course, some critics say that this is merely a staged event meant to give spiritual encouragement to the faithful. However, videos show clearly that this is no ordinary fire. It can be held close without burning whatever touches it! People can be seen bathing themselves in the holy flames!

Mrs. Espinoza tells us that the children were very excited about seeing the Holy Fire. "My daughter was just about to turn three at that time," she says. "I know she and all the kids were excited and trying to touch it, as were all of the adults. Everyone kept putting their fingers through the flames. It was not as dramatic as the videos you see in Jerusalem where people put it in the faces... But it was still very cool. We took our candles home, and my daughter was upset that it went out later that day. We heard from her grandparents the next day that the fire had made its way to their parish in Montana!"

Those families who bring the Holy Fire to their homes and parishes try to keep the flame going as long as they can, and while some like the Espinozas are only able to hold it for a day, other families are more fortunate. Matushka Melissa Elizabeth Naasko of Keweenaw in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan tells us, "We actually kept a candle going for YEARS with the Holy Fire!" She explained that the Russian Orthodox Church charters a plane to go to pick up the Holy Fire each year and bring it first to Moscow, and then to their Cathedral in New York, and from there, the fire is distributed to people in the United States. In 2019, Matushka Melissa and her husband, Father Benjamin, drove to meet their dean who was sent to bring them the fire, carried in a little lantern. Once they got the fire in their possession, they were able to share it with anyone and everyone who expressed a desire to have it. The pressure to keep it going was intense! She tells us that, "We have a hanging lantern with open grill work on the top ...and we were using special candles which are low light, low heat, and low smoke so they burn very efficiently and the jars don't get very hot" Despite their efforts, they lost the fire one day, while they were distracted by a severe lightning storm. They were out tending their animals and picking up debris and when they returned to the house they were crushed to find that they forgot to change the candle, and their flame had gone out. "Last year there was the potential for the church to receive it again, but due to the pandemic they did not. We're hoping that this year, they'll do it"

If they do, it just may be worth the 18 hour drive to see if they'll share it with me!

WHO IS SAINT FLORIAN?



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Scheffau_Pfarrkirche_-_Deckenfresko_St._Florian.jpg

Saint Florian was an Austrian firefighter who lived in the third century and worked for the Roman army who was in control of his homeland at that time under the evil emperor Diocletian. Because Florian was such a dedicated soldier, a hard and honest worker, and a leader of his fellow fire-fighters, he was promoted to the rank of general and given a region in Bavaria to govern. Christianity was outlawed by the Roman emperor and under his rule; Florian was supposed to have persecuted Christians in his district by burning down their Churches, refusing to allow them to hold a job, and forcing them from their homes. Because Florian refused to do such things, word got back to Diocletian and he was sentenced to martyrdom by being burned at the stake. When Diocletian's men went to light the fire, they were so intimidated by the bravery of St. Florian, who told them to light the fire and he would willingly walk into it himself, that they abandoned their plan and decided on drowning him in a river with a millstone hung around his neck instead. It was in this manner that St. Florian gave his soul to God and received his crown. He is the patron of firefighters, and his feast day is May 4.

FIREWALKERS OF BULGARIA AND NORTHERN GREECE

Sometime during the Middle Ages, the Church of Sts. Constantine and Helen in the village of Kosti in Bulgaria caught fire. Naturally, the people of the village came running to see if they could put out the flames and as they approached the structure they heard the voices of the saints calling to them to rescue their icons from the flames! Several of the villagers bravely rushed inside and, protected by the saints from the smoke and flames, were able to collect the icons and exit the burning building completely unharmed. The villagers were so struck by this miracle that each year, on the feast of Sts. Constantine and Helen (May 20), remember the event with a three-day festival during which they walk unharmed on a bed of burning coals, carrying icons of the saints. These festivals are held to this day in villages of Bulgaria and Northern Greece.



Apokalipto (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nestinari.bulgari.jpg>), <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/legalcode>

The Fire of Love

Because it is so intense, Fire is often seen as a symbol for the burning love between us and the Lord, especially when we receive Him in the Holy Eucharist.

St. Symeon Metaphrastes, the 10th-century Byzantine hymnographer, and biographer of many of the saints wrote these prayers to be recited when approaching the Holy Eucharist.
His feast is on November 9th.

Behold, my Maker, I approach holy Communion.
Burn me not as I partake, for you are fire which burns the unworthy.
But cleanse me from every stain.
Receive me today, Son of God, as a partaker of your mystical Supper.
I will not reveal your Mystery to your adversaries.
Nor will I give you a kiss as did Judas.
But as the thief I confess to you:
Lord, remember me in your kingdom.
Seeing the divine blood, have fear,
O man, for it is coal that burns the unworthy.
It is God's body that deifies and nourishes me;
it deifies the spirit and nourishes the mind mystically.
You have smitten me with yearning,
O Christ, and with your divine love, you have changed me.
Burn away my sins with spiritual fire
and make me worthy to be filled with your joy,
that rejoicing in your goodness,
I may magnify your two Comings.



ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

June 2

Feast of the Ascension (EO)

I'Con Spy; Ascension Icon

June 5

Pentecost Sunday (EC)

Pentecost Windsock Instructions & Template

Pentecost Word Search

Pentecost Maze

Pentecost Icon Coloring Page

Pentecost Icon "I Spy"

June 12

Sunday of All Saints (EC)

Check out the ByziKids June 2020/
Summer Saintly Celebration Issue!

Plan to Throw an All Saints Day Saintly Celebration Party!

Pentecost (EO)

Pentecost Windsock Instructions & Template

Pentecost Word Search

Pentecost Maze

Pentecost Icon Coloring Page

Pentecost Icon "I Spy"

June 13

Apostles Fast Begins (EC)

June 19

Sunday of All Saints (EO)

Check out the ByziKids June 2020/Summer
Saintly Celebration Issue!

June 20

Apostles Fast Begins (EO)

June 24

The Nativity of St. John the Forerunner

Learn how to gather St. John's Wort and Make
St. John's Wort Oil & Salve

Make St. John the Baptist Crispy
Chocolate Locusts

Get the St John the Baptist Coloring Page

Learn the S-A-I-N-T Song!

June 27

St. David of Thessalonika

Make St. David of Thessalonika Almond Bites

Get the St. David of Thessalonika Maze

June 29

Sts. Peter & Paul

Check out the ByziKids Magazine Archives for the
June 2019/Sts. Peter & Paul Issue!

Make a Byzantine Church Shoebox Diorama

Learn the Hymn for Sts. Peter & Paul

check us out
online! ↗

