

THE MONASTERY OF SAINT TIKHON OF ZADONSK

175 St. Tikhon's Road, Waymart, PA 18472

Telephone: (570) 937-4067



Pentecost 2023

“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you first believed?” And they said, “we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” — Acts 19:2

Dearly beloved of God,

Today the Holy Spirit has assembled us together to be the Church, the Body of Christ, and to be Orthodox Christians. This same Holy Spirit enables us to say that Jesus Christ is the Lord and the Savior the world (cf. 1 Cor. 12:3). How often do we forget God and His All-holy Spirit? But when we add the thought of God to the equation of our daily life, He helps us to make sense of our daily difficulties. Further, this thought of God in our lives enables us to turn our hearts to God, and this is the beginning of real prayer. This inner turning to God of the heart joins our mind to our heart, enabling us to find God's blessing.

How do we obtain God's help? By ceaselessly asking for it. “You have not because you ask not;” “Ask and it will be given to you;” “Ask in my name and you shall receive, that your joy may be made full” (Jas. 4:2; Matt. 7:7; cf. Jn. 16:24). This remembrance of God, added to our lives continually, can empower us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. It is a remedy against every evil, sin, and adverse power trying to hold sway over us in our thoughts and our lives.

Our thoughts determine the course of our days, and the thought of God is the beginning of prayer and a saving connection to God. “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, my family, my co-workers, and even my enemies.” Great is the power of the remembrance of God! It gives us knowledge of the Holy Spirit. When we confess Christ with our mouth and our heart, salvation is gradually acquired (cf. Rom. 10:9). And what is this salvation? It is the victory over death that Christ grants to all through His Cross and Resurrection. How is it gained? Over the course of many years remembering God, remaining faithful to Him, humbly doing the good we know we can do, and letting God add the increase in His time. With this prayerful, faithful, and patient endurance to the end we are guaranteed by the Lord to be saved (cf. Matt. 24:13). Let us remember the Lord in all our ways and He Himself will direct our paths. Let us constantly invoke God's blessing, His mercy and assistance, and we will certainly find it.

We thank you all so very much for your continued support and prayers. Wishing you all a blessed Feast of the Holy Spirit, we remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Archimandrite Sergius
Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery
and the Monastery Brotherhood