

FEAST DAY OF THE HOLY TRINITY PARISH IN OXNARD, CA

On the weekend of the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Trinity parish in Oxnard, California, celebrated its Feast Day with beautiful services and a community festival after the Sunday Liturgy on Pentecost, May 30 (Old Style). The Hierarchical Liturgy for Pentecost was served by His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photike, with Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna in prayerful attendance. Serving with His Grace were the Very Reverend Protopresbyter Dr. James Thornton, Rector of the parish, Archimandrite Akakios, Abbot of the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery in Etna, CA, and Hierodeacon Father Photii, a brother of the monastery in Etna. The Divine Liturgy, which was celebrated in Slavonic, Greek, and English, was chanted in these same languages by the choir of the Convent of St. Elizabeth the Grand Duchess of Russia, in Etna, CA, which travelled to the parish to honor its Feast Day. The services on the previous day were chanted by the parish choir, under the able direction of Mrs. Vera Gor.



Following the Divine Liturgy and the Vespers Service with the special kneeling prayers appointed to it, and before the afternoon parish festivities, His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos celebrated a Memorial Service for Mr. Yakov Popov, one of the original founders of the Holy Trinity parish, the first anniversary of whose repose fell on the parish feast.

The community festival, organized by the church warden (*starosta*), Mr. Michael Avisov, and his wife Vivian, featured a meal of Russian and other foods, a Russian ensemble that played traditional Russian folk music, and a petting zoo that was set up for the entertainment of the children. The ladies of the parish helped to prepare and to serve the festal meal, and many others from among the parishioners, including a contingent of young Russian Scouts, contributed their labor to making the Feast Day a wonderful occasion for all. The visiting Bishops and monastics were, as always, deeply appreciative of the warm welcome, kindness, and hospitality shown to them by Father James, the warden, and the pious faithful of the Holy Trinity parish.



At left, following the kneeling service on Pentecost; above, Bishop Auxentios at the Great Entrance.