

## Pentecost Is Opportunity To Illuminate Our Lives

By REV. FR. PETER DELVIZIS

A great historian once said that a good way to start a historical analysis is by asking of a particular people what holidays they celebrate on their calendar. If you wish to understand, for example, the Greek people, one can begin by studying what great events they celebrate on their national calendar every year. These events tell much about a particular people or nation. In the same way, the present religious holiday of Pentecost expresses an important aspect of the Christian Church and can have a special relevance for each of us.

This year, Easter was celebrated on the same day by the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholics and Protestant Christianity. Therefore, by extension, the holiday of Pentecost is also mutually celebrated on Sunday, May 27.

Pentecost is derived from the Greek word *penēnta*, which simply means 50, and so every year for millennia the Christian Church has celebrated the day of Pentecost 50 days after the celebration of Easter. The story of Pentecost is recorded in the Christian New Testament and one can easily comprehend from reading it that the history of the Christian Church begins with the descent of the Holy Spirit.

On this day simple, ordinary people became, through the grace of God, extraordinary. They were illuminated by a power which they considered greater and ineffably beyond themselves. From that remarkable moment of illumination, these individuals stepped into a greater world by continuing to seek after knowledge in order to impart it to others.

What is so significant regarding this event is that it centers on the theme of illumination—a word whose meaning should perhaps be reintroduced back into our society. Illumination implies a departure from darkness and an entrance into light. In other words, it means the loss of ignorance and the acquisition of wisdom and truth.

The attempt for an individual to search for and to obtain wisdom and truth is a perspective of life long held throughout the course of human history. One can easily read a variety of religious scriptures or ancient philosophies that speak of humanity's desire to shed ignorance in order to uplift the personal intellect and spirit.

It is unfortunate that this ancient, enriching and simple quest of personal illumination has been replaced, in many cases, by silly things that add nothing to one's own personal, spiritual and intellectual growth.

The classic notion of learning for the sake of knowledge is still very important and beneficial for any society. This belief makes it possible for the transformation of an individual into that which is a closer image of our Creator. It is a reminder that when

we seek to imitate the Lord in our daily pursuits the simple characteristics of our lives are then extraordinarily manifested.

Political intrigue, opposition and corruption, lust for power and prestige, the degrading of the human being, the unnatural anthropomorphic application to the created world, environmental plunder, monetary greed, unhealthy addictions and pursuits all fill an individual with dark desire and inclination.

These things are not new occurrences to any society. I'm pretty sure they occurred in every preceding generation, but perhaps they were tempered or balanced and eventually overcome by the person longing for the acquisition of wisdom and truth through divine illumination. Society should always be reminded of this important aspect of life, and its religious, civic and educational leaders should continue to project this.

As the week of Pentecost passes, its theme of illumination is an important aspect to develop. For through the grace of God, each of us can be blessed to encounter the Lord, giving rise to our own personal Pentecost.

\*\*\*\*\*

*The Reverend Father Delvizi is presiding priest of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, located at 250 Gallows Hill Road in Westfield.*

### Registration Underway For Drama Program

FANWOOD – The Fanwood Memorial Library, located at North Avenue and Tillotson Road, currently is accepting applications for its annual Summer Drama Workshop for those entering grades 5 through 9 in the fall.

This will be the library's ninth summer production led by co-directors Mary Everson and Ann Minski, both theater professionals.

The program will be held as part of the library's 2007 Summer Reading Club, entitled "Get a Clue @ your library," and is offered free of charge. This year's play will be a mystery. The workshop will take place at Fanwood's Forest Road Park building on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons beginning June 21, and also on Wednesdays beginning July 11.

Early sessions will include a half-hour workshop for participants to learn dramatic skills and techniques. The following sessions will focus on rehearsal of a short play, which will be performed on Monday, July 23 (also the last day of the drama workshop).

Applications are considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Fanwood residents receive priority consideration. Registration will close at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 9. For more details, please call Camille at (908) 322-4377 or e-mail [sstaub@fanwoodlibrary.org](mailto:sstaub@fanwoodlibrary.org).



**TENNIS AND TEA...**The annual "tennis tea party" to benefit the New Jersey Chapter of the Lymphoma Research Foundation was held April 22 at the Mountainside Indoor Tennis Club. More than 50 area women turned out for tennis, yoga, pilates, massages, food and live jazz. Pictured, from left to right, are: Georgia Aquila, owner of the Mountainside Indoor Tennis Club; Karen Dorne, event organizer, and prize-winner Mary Goodfellow. For information on the New Jersey Chapter of LRF, please contact [kedorne@comcast.net](mailto:kedorne@comcast.net) or visit [lymphoma.org](http://lymphoma.org).

## VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Present Loyalty Day Awards

GARWOOD – Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 6807 of Garwood and Westfield and the Ladies Auxiliary held their Loyalty Day Awards luncheon and program on May 6 at the post home, located at 221 South Avenue in Garwood.

The Reverend Gary Wetzel of the Garwood Presbyterian Church gave the invocation. Susan Leonard of the Ladies Auxiliary led the National Anthem, and Post Commander Dennis Clark led the Pledge of Allegiance.

During the luncheon, Ladies Auxiliary President Catherine Madara and Mr. Clark provided the opening remarks. District 5 Ladies Auxiliary President Minna Snyder introduced guests including Garwood Mayor Dennis McCarthy and State Senator Thomas Kean, Jr. (LD-21, Westfield). The keynote speaker was Assemblyman Eric Munoz (LD-21, Summit).

Awards were presented during the event to Edward Silver of the Garwood Fire Department, Douglas Stoffer of the Garwood Police Department and Stephanie Willix of the Garwood First Aid Squad.

Additionally, Anne Leonard and Bruce Paterson each received Outstanding Citizen awards. Thomas Bottage was honored with the Outstanding Veteran award, while Fredy Reyes was recognized with the Outstanding Teacher award.

The Patriots Pen Youth Essay awards were presented to Matthew Moore, third place; Erica Snihur, second place, and Laura Villaraud, first place.

See it all on the Web!  
[www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com)

## Justin Adams to Receive Eagle Scout Recognition

WESTFIELD – On Monday, June 4, Justin Adams of Westfield, a senior at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison, will receive his Eagle Scout Award. This is the highest award that a Boy Scout can earn.

A member of Troop 72 of the Boy Scouts of America since January 2006, Justin is the son of Ludwig H. and Lynn Adams.

According to the Boy Scouts of America website, an Eagle Scout is awarded this rank because he has fulfilled "requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. Although many options are available to demonstrate proficiency in these areas, a number of specific skills are required to advance through the ranks – Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. To advance, a Boy Scout must pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges."

Taking a suggestion from his sister, a volunteer with the Westfield Rescue Squad on Watterson Street, Justin decided that beautifying the facility's landscape was an ideal way to earn his Eagle Scout Award.

Justin led a team of scouts and adult volunteers who removed shrubs that had become overgrown and were obstructing parking. These were replaced with slow-growing, low-maintenance plants.

A grassy area that was difficult to maintain was dug up and planted with low-maintenance shrubs, a small tree and mulch. Justin obtained donations of the plants and mulch from Parker Gardens in Scotch Plains, Williams Nursery in Westfield and Bartell Farm

and Garden Supplies in Clark.

Troop 72 Leader Jim Marino of Westfield said he knew the rescue squad members were pleased with the results because it improved the quality of the property's appearance and would bring pride to the all-volunteer squad.

Mr. Marino said that Justin has always "hit the ground running and is ever eager to step up, lead other scouts and assist them with whatever tasks are at hand."

Before joining Troop 72, Justin was a member of Troop 78, where he served as patrol leader and historian. He received the Will Somers Award for outstanding participation twice, and the God and Country Awards: God and Me, God and Family and God and Church. Additionally, Justin earned badges such as "Citizenship in the World," "Emergency Preparedness," "Forestry," "Orienteering," "Personal Management," "Soil and Water Conservation" and "Traffic Safety." He also had been a member of Cub Scout Pack 171 and was named Cub Scout of the Year in 1999.

At Wardlaw-Hartridge, Justin has played soccer and participated in the Drama Club and the Science and Math Society. For the past six years, he has been active in the youth group at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

In the fall, Justin will enter Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. His interest in art led him to attend Skidmore's Summer Acceleration Program in Art, where he further developed his skills in drawing and computer design.



CONTRIBUTING TO HIS COMMUNITY...Wardlaw-Hartridge senior Justin Adams of Westfield, far left, who will receive his Eagle Scout Award on Monday, June 4, is pictured above landscaping with other members of Troop 72 at the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad headquarters.

# Want results? Set no limits!

**ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE TRAINING**

**INCREASE**

- SPEED
- STRENGTH
- FLEXIBILITY
- ENDURANCE
- CORE STRENGTH & STABILITY

**IMPROVE**

- SPORTS NUTRITION
- POSTURE
- COORDINATION
- HIP & ANKLE STABILITY
- SHOULDER STABILITY
- BALANCE & PROPRIOCEPTION

**IMPROVE ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE**

Grades 8-12: \$250

16 sessions of 32 hours of intensive training beginning June 25, 2007

CONTACT ESREF MANSUR AT 908.232.6100  
[esrefm@fitnessandwellness.org](mailto:esrefm@fitnessandwellness.org)

**RWJ RAHWAY**  
FITNESS & WELLNESS CENTER  
An Affiliate of RWJ University Hospital - Rahway

**2120 Lamberts Mill Road**  
**Scotch Plains, NJ 07076**

I know a bank where the wild thyme blows — Where odysps and the nodding violet grows

## Shakespeare in Bloom

### AND PRIVATE GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, June 2 — 11am-3pm  
Cedar Brook Park, Plainfield

- Guided Tours of the Garden
- 3 private Plainfield residential gardens on tour
- Music by members of the Plainfield Symphony
- Complimentary refreshments
- Boutique shopping
- PLANT SALE

Tickets are \$15 on sale at Swain's Gallery in Plainfield and Coldwell Banker in Westfield Call (908) 322-8933 for additional locations

Maps of the private gardens will be available at the Shakespeare Garden in Cedar Brook Park on the day

The Shakespeare Garden, built in 1927 by the famous landscape design firm of Frederick Law Olmsted, is planted only with flowers cited in the works of William Shakespeare.

*"All proceeds will go to the preservation of the Shakespeare Garden"*

Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbines — With sweet musk-roses and with cglantine

Cedar Brook Park, Park Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07001  
Woodford Ave. to Randolph Ave. to park entrance at Rose Street  
For more information: [Shakespeare@bcaor@aol.com](mailto:Shakespeare@bcaor@aol.com)

# SALE OF THE YEAR

## 62nd Annual Memorial Clearance Sale

# STOREWIDE Clearance Sale

## Savings to 70% Off

Find wall to wall discounts on furniture from the finest manufacturers such as Kindel, Stickle, Henkel Harris, Karges, Statton, Southwood, EJ Victor, DR Dimes, Hancock & Moore, French Heritage and more.

Bedroom, Dining Room, Upholstery, Office Systems...

Huge Clearance Savings on Furniture for Every Room in your Home

Final Chance, Sale Extended thru June 3rd!

Hancock & Moore Leather Recliner  
List from \$3040. **Sale \$999.** Special Orders in Select Leathers

Exceptional Quality...Fine Craftsmanship...Outstanding Value

**Valley Furniture Shop**  
Exquisite 18th Century Reproductions

20 Stirling Road, Watchung, NJ 07069 • (908) 756-7623  
Monday - Saturday 10-5:30 • Thursday Evening 'till 9 • Sunday 1-5