

My Beloved Ones,

We have now come to the end of the Paschal season. Having celebrated the Ascension, our Lord has gone into heaven, where He sits at the right hand of the Father, until His return.

At the time of His Ascension however, His Disciples were both amazed and saddened to be parted from their beloved Master. As Christians we know, indeed we recite every Sunday the words of the Nicene Creed: *“And He shall come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.”* We also know that in a matter of days, we will be most fortunate to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter that Jesus promised to send to His followers.

Such is our Lord’s love and concern for each and every one of us, that He has no desire to see a follower of His wander alone and helpless. *“I will not leave you desolate... the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”* (John 14:18; 26)

Though we are not blessed as the Disciples were, to live and walk with our Lord, our blessing no less great. Though we cannot see Him physically, as baptized Christians, the Holy Spirit dwells in each and every one of us. And guided by the Holy Spirit, we are then able to have a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, each and every day of our lives.

We have spent the proceeding 40 days much as our Disciples did after the Resurrection: filled with joy at Christ’s victory, and celebrating the festive promises of Heaven. All earthly celebrations do fade, however. And now, perhaps like the Disciples, we feel less joyous, and more anxious and preoccupied with our worldly futures. We would do well to remember though, that the celebration we experienced is but a taste of what is to come, and that our Lord is ever-present, even if human understanding cannot see Him.

I wish for you a blessed Pentecostarion, as we keep close to us our Lord’s words before He ascended into Heaven, *“...I am with you always, to the close of the age* (Matthew 28:20”)

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Metropolitan of Atlanta

