Sunday, May 21, 2023

Sunday of the Blind Man
Sts. Constantine and Helen
Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Eighth (John 20:11-18)
Mode of the Week: Plagal First/Πλ. τοῦ Πρῶτου

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

Our Parish Hymn of the Holy Cross of Christ:

Σῶσον Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκης τοῖς Βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

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In his proclamation went forth into all the earth.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God (Ps. 19:1-2)

The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles.

(26:12-20)

Sunday of the Blind Man

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. John (9:1-38)

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a blind man named Bartimaeus, who sat by the road side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry with a loud voice, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Then came to him all the people, and he asked them, "What do you want me to do for you?"

And they said, "Lord, that he may open our eyes!

So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately they received their sight, and followed him.

Epistle Reading

Eis pásan tēn tēn ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος ταύτων. Ἡμᾶς ἐν τῇ ἁμαρτίᾳ ἔμειναι ἐντὸς σαρκὸς ἐκείνης, οὕτως ἡμᾶς ἐξοδούσαι ἐκ τῆς ἁμαρτίας· ἐπιστρέφειν ἐπὶ τὸν Θεόν, ἄξια τῆς βασιλεία Ἀγρίππα, οὐκ ἐγενόμην ἀπειθὴς ἡγιασμένοις πίστει τῇ ἐς ἐμέ. Ὅθεν, Σατανᾶ ἐπὶ τὸν Θεόν, τοῦ λαβεῖν αὐτοὺς σκότους εἰς φῶς καὶ τῆς ἐξουσίας τοῦ διώκεις. Ἀλλὰ ἀνάστηθι καὶ στῆθι ἐπὶ τοὺς Κύριε κέντρα λακτίζειν. Ἐγὼ δὲ εἶπον λέγουσαν τῇ Ἑβραΐδι διαλέκτῳ γῆν, ἤκουσα φωνὴν λαλοῦσαν πρὸς με καὶ τὴν ὁδὸν εἶδον, Βασιλεῦ, οὐρανόθεν ὑπὲρ χεῖρα. Ἐν οἷς καὶ πορευόμενος εἰς τὴν Ἐπιτρέπεταί σοι ὑπὲρ σεαυτοῦ λέγειν. Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων Στίχ. Οἱ οὐρανοὶ διηγοῦνται δόξαν Θεοῦ. Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος;
Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

• Sixth Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Blind Man

The Lord Jesus was coming from the Temple on the Sabbath, when, while walking in the way, He saw the blind man mentioned in today’s Gospel. This man had been born blind (see Saint John Chrysostom, Homily LVI on Matthew; Saint Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book V:15; and the second Excerpt of Saint Basil the Great, when the disciples saw this, they asked their Teacher, “Who did sin, this man, or his parents?” He asked this because when the Lord had healed the paralytic at the Sheep’s Pool, He had told him, “Sin, no more, but a certain word come unto thee” (John 5:14); so they wondered, if sickness was caused by sin, what sin could have been the cause of his being born blind? But the Lord answered that this was for the glory of God. Then the God-man spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle. He anointed the eyes of the blind man and said to him, “Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam.” (Siloam, which means “sent”) was a well-known spring in Jerusalem used by the inhabitants for its fluoride, which softened the water and made it malleable. This was the greatest miracle that our Lord had yet worked; as the man healed of his blindness himself testified, “Since the mud was thrown on me, I could see nothing.”

Thus, the blind man believed in Jesus’ words, obeyed His command, went and washed himself, and returned, no longer blind, but having eyes and seeing. This was the greatest miracle that our Lord had yet worked; as the man healed of his blindness himself testified, “Since the mud was thrown on me, I could see nothing.”

Prayer Requests:

• Metropolitan Alexis, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Panteleimon, Michael, Eve, Kaspar, Peter, Georgia, Pasha, Betty, David, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Chris, Dianna, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Samuel, Hermione, Emmanuel, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Seddy, Monia, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Andy, Heather, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Raymond, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Foster

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Fr. Angelo (+April 20), Stanley (+April 24), Adrienne (+May 3)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Katia B.

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Goltzch, Robert Ice, Aaron Hristov

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

Nate, Chad, Alexander, and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. John of Damascus on the connection with the Holy Ascension and the Dormition of the Theotokos:

“This was right that the eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word should see the Dormition of His Mother according to the flesh, even the final mystery concerning her: hence, they might be witnesses not only to the Ascension of Christ, but also to the translation of her who gave Him birth. Assembled from all parts obey divine power, they came to Sion, and sped on her way to heaven the Virgin who is higher than the cherubim.”

This Week’s Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (5/21—No Fasting):

Monday (5/22—No Fasting):
Acts 17:19-40; John 11:47-54

Tuesday (5/23—No Fasting):
Acts 17:19-28; John 12:18-50

Wednesday—Leave-taking of Pascha (5/24—Fish, Wine, Oil):
Acts 18:22-28; John 12:36-47

Thursday—Holy Ascension (5/25—No Fasting):

Friday (5/26—Wine, Oil):

Saturday (5/27—No Fasting):
Acts 20:7-12; John 14:10-21

Weekly Office Days:

Monday: Presanctified Liturgy
Tuesday: Divine Liturgy
Wednesday: Divine Liturgy
Thursday: Holy Mystagogical Liturgy
Friday: Divine Liturgy
Saturday: Divine Liturgy
Sunday: Divine Liturgy

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

(If you have a celebration that did not make it into the bulletin, please e-mail Fr. Theodore!)

Announcements:

• Shut-Ins: If you know of anyone who is unable to come to the Church because of illness, age, or any other reason, please contact Fr. Theodore so that we can visit them with the Eucharist and pray with and administer to them the Holy Mysteries.

• YOUTH: Today is the last day of Sunday School for the school year! We would like to thank our teachers, Maria, Maria, and Gray for their commitment to this kids’ Ice Cream Sundae for everyone in coffee house today to celebrate the kids and a great year. Note: to accommodate their schedules, we’ve moved the recognition of our graduates to Sunday June 11. Coming up: 2-day Vacation Overnight Church Camp (yes, camping!) at Kathryn’s & Lake Toledo June 9-10. More details to come. Let Presv. Stacey know if you can help!

• Philoptochos: Board Elections will be taking place today after the Divine Liturgy. Philoptochos is a wonderful opportunity to be hands on with those in need and fulfill the commandments of our Lord-please consider being a part of this beautiful ministry!

• For those that are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian faith, we are conducting our Intro to Orthodoxy/Catechumen classes online by Zoom meeting registration. May 20 (Daily Liturgy). Please contact Fr. Theodore for more information!

• The next Red Cross Blood Drive in the Parish House will be this Wednesday, May 25 from 2:00-7:00pm. Come, give blood, and stay for the Great Vespers for the Ascension of the Lord at 6:00!

• YAM (20’s & 30’s): Our next social gathering is at Reboot Retrocade in Macon on May 30th at 7pm. Let Presv. Stacey know if you can join us!

Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!