

ASSUMPTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Sunday, May 21, 2017 | Sixth Sunday of Pascha

Tone 5 – The Blind Man

Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine & his mother Helen (327)

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Spring General Parish Meeting immediately following Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

Thursday: May 25 - The Ascension of Our Lord!
Divine Liturgy at **9:00AM!**

Saturday: May 27 - Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: May 28 – 7th Sunday of Pascha! Afterfeast of the Ascension
Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Saturday to Monday: May 27 to 29 – Memorial Day Pilgrimage at Saint Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 5)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion (Tone 8 - Saints Constantine and Helen)

Thy servant Constantine, O Lord and only Lover of man, / beheld the figure of the Cross in the heavens. / Like Paul, not having received his call from men, / but as an apostle among rulers set by Thy hand over the royal city, // he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the Theotokos.

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Saints Constantine and Helen)

Today Constantine and his mother Helen reveal the precious Cross, / the weapon of Orthodox Christians against their enemies, // for it is manifest for us as a great and fearful sign in struggle.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Pentecostarion)

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes, / and call to Thee in repentance: // Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness.

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!
v. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Epistle Reading: Acts 16:16-34

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe. Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. Look upon me and have mercy on me! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Guide my steps according to Thy word! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-38

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself. His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

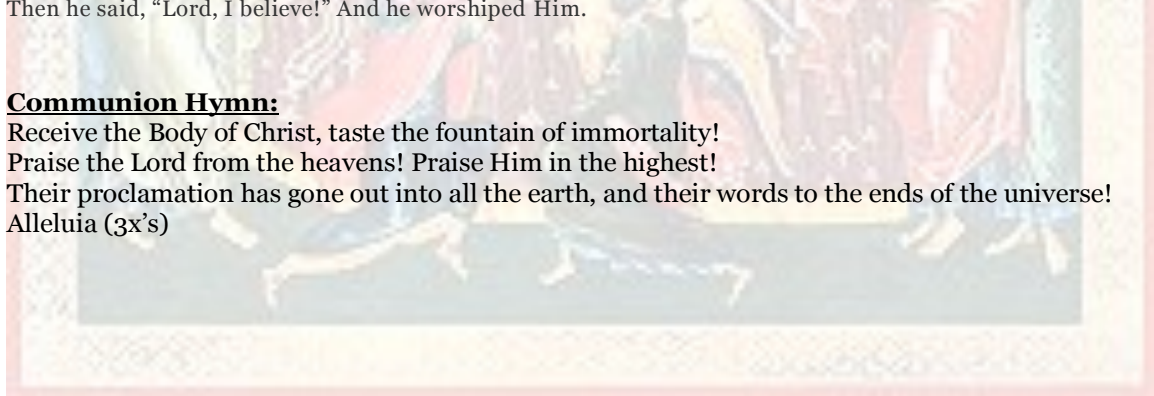
Communion Hymn:

Receive the Body of Christ, taste the fountain of immortality!

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

Alleluia (3x's)



Announcements

A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guest who worshiped with us today and who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

On Monday, May 15, our beloved sister in Christ, the handmaiden of God, **Helen Riley**, fell asleep in the Lord. Helen was a loving mother, sister, and aunt along with being a dedicated parishioner. She will be remembered for all of the help she offered to her parish, anywhere from spending her time cleaning the church to offering her cooking talents with helping prepare food for any dinner event.

May her Memory be Eternal! Vêchnaya Pamyat!

Remembering Metropolitan Leonty

Last Sunday, May 14, 2017 marked the 52nd anniversary of the repose of [Metropolitan Leonty](#). At the time of his repose in 1965, Metropolitan Leonty had been Primate of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church in North America—which is now known as the Orthodox Church in America—for 15 years. He is remembered throughout the Church as a humble, wise and saintly hierarch and pastor.

On May 6, 2017, OCA Archivist Alexis Liberovsky delivered the Eighth Annual Saint Alexis Toth Lecture at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Minneapolis, MN. The title of his presentation was "[Metropolitan Leonty \(Turkevich\): The Minneapolis Connection.](#)" An abbreviated version of his presentation, in which he recounts Metropolitan Leonty's years as a priest in Minneapolis while overseeing the work of the seminary that had been located there in the early 20th century, is available on-line.

The reception that followed the lecture included engaging discussion and questions. Attendees shared their own reminiscences of Metropolitan Leonty or those heard from their ancestors who remembered him as a priest in Minneapolis more than a century ago. A [photo gallery](#) is available for viewing.

In related news, a new book [comprising papers presented at the Symposium](#) commemorating the 50th anniversary of Metropolitan Leonty's repose in 2015, as well as other writings by and about him—some translated into English for the first time—is forthcoming from [Saint Tikhon's Seminary Press](#).

May Metropolitan Leonty's memory be eternal!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

All of the mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, sisters, aunts, and cousins offered by the parishioners of the parish
All mothers of Holy Assumption offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Emilie Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson
All mothers offered by Nina Patterson
Mary Herbert offered by Hourahan Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

All of the mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, sisters, aunts, and cousins offered by the parishioners of the parish
Anna Rabik offered by her son Joseph Rabik
Mary Spack and Emma Albrecht offered by Emilie Albrecht
Paul & Mary Koran, William & Anna Zuzulock, Anna & Michael Pellack offered by Pellack Family
Julia Drimak, Jean Hourahan, Anna Bondira and Mary Drimak offered by Hourahan Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Please remember in your prayers: Helen Riley (***newly departed***); Julia Makara (***newly departed***); Dave Albrecht Sr (on his recovery & rehabilitation); Emelie Albrecht (on her recovery & rehabilitation); Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino; Father John Bohush and the parishioners of Saint Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church in Philadelphia; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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*[Note: Today's readings for Saints Constantine and Helen are as follows:
Epistle – Acts 26:1-5, 12-20 and Gospel - John 10:1-9]*

Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!

Announcements (cont.)

Sign up sheets for Coffee Hour, Cleaning and Epistle & Hours Reading. Sign up sheets for the above items are posted on the bulletin board in the church basement. Please be considerate and volunteer to assist with some of the parish responsibilities. Your time is very much appreciated!

Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon. In addition to our general collection, the parish takes a special collection each week to fund certain parish projects. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. The special collections are as follows:

- First Sunday of every month – Kitchen Fund Project
- Second Sunday of every month – Icon Fund (2016-17)
- Third Sunday of every month - Restoration/Maintenance Fund
- Fourth Sunday of every month – Charity Giving

Note: if there is a Fifth Sunday during a month, the special collection is earmarked for the Kitchen Fund Project, unless otherwise noted and stated by the Parish Council.

Cash Flow Activity (May)

| | <u>Week of May 8 to May 14</u> | <u>May Month-to-date</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Attendance: | 31 | 38 (average) |
| Funds In: | \$ 2,251.00 | \$ 3,521.00 |
| Funds Out: | \$ 743.46 | \$ 2,958.04 |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit): | \$ 1,507.54 | \$ 562.96 |

Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!

Shop Rite Gift Cards: If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see David Pellack to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card is an additional fundraising project that helps support the church at no additional expense to the purchaser.

Calendar of Events

1st Sunday of each month – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Liturgy.
2nd Tuesday of each month – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
2nd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy.
3rd Sunday of each month – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
4th Sunday of each month – Church Life Discussion Class after Liturgy.

Today - Spring General Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.
Discussions will include events since the Annual Parish Meeting; activities over the summer months; the Property Committee (Hall status) and other committee reports; and any other business that needs to be discussed. Meeting should take about an hour but should not exceed past 90 minutes.

Thursday, May 25 - The Ascension of Our Lord. Divine Liturgy at **9:00AM!**

Sunday, May 28 - Church Life Discussion after the Divine Liturgy and Fellowship hour in the church. The Topic – History of the Divine Liturgy. Please note the Church Life Discussion on the History of the Divine Liturgy is held on the **4th Sunday** of each month.

Annual Pentecost (Pascha) Dinner – Sunday, June 4 after Vespers in the church basement.
The parish will hold its annual Pentecost Dinner with Pascha food. If you wish to bring or donate Pascha food, beverages, or kitchen supplies, please see Catherine Kavalkovich to discuss what items the parish will need for our dinner. The dinner will be a free will offering and any monetary donations towards the dinner are always appreciated! Thank You!

Sunday, June 11 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2nd Sunday of each month)! All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-ups from the previous meeting; Hall status rental update; prioritize additional work that needs to be done over at the Hall now that the tenants have officially moved into the Hall; and any additional action(s) that need to be taken as a result of deliberations that occurred during the Spring General Parish Meeting.

Bible Study – Tuesday, June 13 at 6:30pm in the church basement.
The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and continue reading and discussing the Book of Leviticus.



Sunday of the Blind Man

[May 21th]

After the Midfeast (John 7:14), the Lord Jesus Christ came to the Temple again and taught the people who came to Him (John 8:2). After leaving the Temple, He opened the eyes of a man “who was blind from his birth” (John 9:1).

The miracle described in today’s Gospel (John 9:1-38) is even more remarkable than it might seem at first. St Basil and other Fathers tell us that this was not just a case of giving sight to a blind man born with eyes that did not function, but to someone who had no eyes at all! The second Exapostilarion for this Sunday says, “Along the way, our Savior found a man who lacked both sight and eyes...”.

The Gospel says, “Since the world began, it was not heard that any man opened the eyes of one who was born blind” (John 9:32). There are examples in the Old (Tobit 2:17) and New (Mark 8:22-26) Testaments of blind people receiving sight, but this is something completely unprecedented.

The Savior placed clay in the man’s empty sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he obeyed these instructions, the eyes of clay became living eyes!

In his MENAION, St Demetrius of Rostov calls the blind man St Celidonius (see his account of St Lazarus in the Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles on January 4).