

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church
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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, June 2, 2019 | Sixth Sunday of Pascha

Tone 5 – The Blind Man

St. Nicephorus the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople (828)

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.

Much to be discussed especially in regards to the status of the Church from last year's water damage!

Wednesday: June 5 – Vespertal Liturgy at 6:00PM - The Ascension of Our Lord

Saturday: June 8 - Great Vespers at 4:00PM!

Sunday: June 9 - 7th Sunday of Pascha | Afterfeast of the Ascension

The Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: June 9 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement Sunday school room.

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.

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.

Kontakion (Tone 8 - Pascha)

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women, // granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

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 foundation of immortality!
Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)

Announcements

A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guests 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.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Father Mark and Matuska Jan would like to thank all of you for your prayers, well wishes, visitations, and cards while the both of us were physically out of commission over the past few weeks. Your love and support is very much appreciated.

Also, Father Mark would like to thank the Reader Michael, the Reader Daniel, and the choir for performing the Readers Service during his absence last Sunday. I understand it was performed beautifully and without a hitch. Good job to all of you!

Also, a special Thank You goes out to Michael McCartney and Matthew Andrews who both spent time last Saturday on Memorial Day Weekend working on the air conditioning unit and preparing for its use during church services. Hopefully with their mechanical knowledge and skills, we will not incur any problems in the A/C unit this summer. May God Grant both of you many healthy, blessed years...(and a comfortable summer!!!)

Save the Date – Sunday, July 14, 2019 – Archbishop MARK Visitation

His Eminence, Archbishop MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania will be visiting our parish and serving in a full pontifical Divine Liturgy.

His visit is in coordination with the ordination of the Reader Michael McCartney to the Holy Diaconate AND the ordination of the Reader Daniel Kenneth Kavalkovich to SubDeacon. AXIOS!

AMAZON SMILE!

When ordering online on Amazon.com, please make sure to click on Amazon Smile and select our church - Assumption of the Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church - to have a small percentage of your purchases (0.5%) to be contributed to our church. For more information on the Amazon purchase process, please speak with any member of the parish council. Thank You!

Wool Donations:

The Parish is now accepting either actual donations of wool or monetary donations to purchase wool to knit blankets and hats. Please see Dr. Janine McCartney for more details on this project!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Nolan Albrecht offered by Melanie Albrecht
Matthew Andrews, Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Ken Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

All Veterans who served this country offered by Joseph Rabik

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 6/2/19:

Two Small Votive Crosses – Memory of Paul Kavcsak, Irene Kavcsak, Michael Kavcsak, Julia Kavcsak, Stephen Spack, Mary Spack, Arthur Patterson, Grace Patterson offered by Nina Patterson

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Please remember in your prayers:

Lucas Andrews (**Baptized – May 11**); Christopher and Allison Andrews; Grace Corba; Catherine Kavalkovich; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Father Mark Koczak (bad back); Matushka Jan Koczak (recovery after knee surgery); Sheba Patton; Margaret Pellack; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

Remember the 12 victims and the many injured in the senseless atrocity against humanity at the city public works department in the Virginia Beach Municipal Centre in Virginia Beach, VA this past Friday.

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Cookbook Sale:

The parish cookout, *At Our Table*, is for sale in the church basement and also on Amazon.com website. Please speak with Dr. Janine McCartney for more information on the parish cookbooks

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

Announcements (cont.)

Coffee Hour / Cleaning and Epistle / Hours Reading Schedule.

We now have an established full rotating schedule for the Coffee Hour & Cleaning, and the Hours & Epistle Readings. The Reading schedule sheets will be posted quarterly on the bulletin board in the church basement. The Coffee Hour/Cleaning schedule is in a binder located on the display case.

*******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 – Youth Fund (*reactivated July 2018*)
- 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 20 to May 26</u>	<u>May Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	42	36 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,321.00	\$ 7,191.00
Funds Out:	\$ 50.00	\$ 4,801.07
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,271.00	\$ 2,389.93

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

Today - Spring General Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

In addition to its regular scheduled business to discuss church matters, the parish will hear from representatives from the Property Committee who will present proposals on the necessary work that needs to be performed on the roof and walls where the water damage has occurred. As evidence as to what occurred during Holy Week, this is an important meeting where the parishioners will decide on how and where funds from the insurance proceeds and the parish's building funds are to be dispersed.

Wednesday, June 5 – Vespers Liturgy beginning at 6:00PM - Ascension of Our Lord

Sunday, June 9 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2nd Sunday of the month). All property committee members are asked to attend this important meeting. Discussions will include the work to repair the roof and wall as a result of the water damage, and the aftermath feedback from the Spring General Parish Meeting from June 2.

Bible Study – Tuesday, June 11 at 6:30pm in the church basement.

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and will continue the readings and discussing the section in the Bible – The Books of **Samuel**.

Saturday, June 15 – Blessing of the Graves at Mount Moriah – 12 Noon!

[Rescheduled from Saint Thomas Sunday due to Inclement Weather]

If the weather cooperates with us, we'll have our annual Blessing of the Graves on this day. Please dress appropriately for that day's weather conditions.

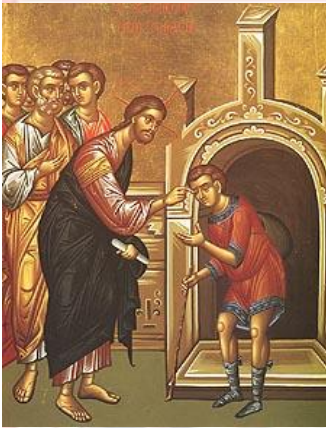
Saturday, June 22 – Spring Outdoor Clean-UP – 10AM to 2PM

[The main areas of focus will be cleaning up the backyard area over at the 2111 home, the yard area behind the garage, and the area behind the Church Hall.

[Rain Date: Saturday, June 29 after Divine Liturgy (Saints Peter & Paul Feast Day)]

Cleaning Teams: Today (June 2): Saint John Kochurov
(Daria and Rick LeRoy, Michael Wanenchak).

Next Week (June 9): Saint Alexander Hotovitzky
(Brett McKenna, Tanya Krawchuk, Pete Witiak).



Sunday of the Blind Man [June 2nd]

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).