

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

So That Everything Might Be Fulfilled

Today we read the story of a blind man healed by Jesus Christ. The first words of the passage remind us of a basic Christian teaching: Things do not happen because of "karma" - a word that is thrown around by many people today. They happen in order that God's will may be fulfilled.

We know this from Jesus' own words. The disciples ask Him why the man has the misfortune of being blind – was it his sin or his parents' that caused it? They are expressing an idea that is similar to karma, the idea that adversity in this life is due to some sin in a former life.

Jesus declares a firm "no" to this. He tells the disciples that "it was not that this man sinned, or his parents." Rather, the man was born blind so that God's works could be openly shown (manifested) in him.

The rest of the reading shows us how this happens. Try as they may, the Pharisees and some hostile onlookers can't destroy the power of the miracle, and the healed man comes to worship Jesus Christ as Lord.

No doubt his example encouraged some who were present that day to do the same. So through his blindness he came, and brought others, to faith in Jesus Christ as God. As Jesus said, his misfortune was the means by which God's works were manifested.

But there are many ways of facing adversity. The blind man is told to walk to the pool of Siloam, with muddy clay on his eyes – clay formed and placed there by Christ. Jesus had healed others with a word, not making them stumble through the streets with eyes covered in mud. Why, the blind man might have asked,

Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Genevieve Bobenko, Mary Fechisin, Edward Fedush, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazorczyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

couldn't he be healed without having to make himself conspicuous in public?

What certainty could he have that it would be "worth it" in the end? But the blind man didn't ask those questions. He was faithful and obedient when faith and obedience were not easy. He was ready to trust God to work in His own way – to trust, even when not necessarily understanding.

On Thursday of this week we will celebrate the Ascension. At Pascha we witnessed the greatest example of faith and obedience with its wonderful result: the death, and then the resurrection, of Jesus Christ. Those two events still puzzle some people. They cannot understand why the Son of God would demean Himself with a brutal death. They ask why God would bring salvation in this way.

But again Jesus Christ gives the answer. In Luke's 24th chapter He reminds the disciples of everything written in the Old Testament about Him. Those writings included prophecies of pain and death, but also of repentance and forgiveness for people everywhere.

Out of that greatest of adversities, human redemption would come. It all had to happen, He tells His followers, so that "everything... might be fulfilled."



Announcements

◆ The upcoming **Parish Council Conference** for our deanery will take place on Saturday, June 18 at Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus. Since it is Memorial Saturday, Divine Liturgy will be served at 8:30am. The first session of the conference will take place from 11am to 1pm. After lunch, the second session will be held from 2-4pm. All board of trustees members are strongly encouraged to attend this conference, since the primary topic is the changing methodology of parish financial support of the diocese and the central church administration. Our diocesan treasurer, Matushka Mary Buletza Breton will be the presenter. Please let Fr. Igor know about your plans of attending by Monday, June 13, since the host parish needs to know how many parishioners will be coming.

Floral Offerings

Flowers last Sunday were offered by Maryann Stagen in memory of her mother Mary. On Sunday, May 22, flowers were offered by our parish in memory of Archpriest Peter Kohanik on the 47th Anniversary of his repose. May their Memory be Eternal!

Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy. It is our joy to have you with us today. If this is your first visit to our parish, we welcome you and invite you to return as often as you are able.

While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross, receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and for fellowship in our Church Hall after the service.



June 5, 2016

6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA Blind Man

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 16:16-34
Gospel: Jn. 9:1-38
- **Panikhida** - in memory of **George Cereguas** and **Olga Koziel**, offered by Patricia Galley; and for all departed soldiers and veterans of our Parish.
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

6:00pm - Great Vespers & Litya

THURSDAY, JUNE 9 - ASCENSION

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

6:00pm - Great Vespers, gen. confession

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

9:00am - Divine Liturgy