

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!

On the Sunday of the Blind Man we read the story of this encounter of Jesus Christ with a man born blind in John 9: 1-38. In the verses immediately preceding the story, He has told hostile questioners that He is "before Abraham" and claims the divine name, "I Am." There is no longer any possibility of misunderstanding what He is saying; Jesus is declaring Himself to be the Son of God.

Having done this, He turns His full attention to one person—the man blind from birth. He is going to do a miracle, and because He has just said so unequivocally that He is the Divine Son, we might expect that He will draw down lightning bolts or do something equally dazzling.

But instead He shows Himself as Man, caring for the man who stands in front of Him. He doesn't do anything spectacular, but uses the most basic elements of the earth to do the miracle: "...He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay..."

He tells the man to do a basic thing, too—to wash off the clay in the pool of Siloam. By this simple, earthly act the man is healed and becomes able to see.

Acts 16: 16-34 describes two instances in which Saint Paul follows Christ's example, being concerned for the person in front of him. The first encounter is with a slave girl who has "a spirit of divination" and makes money for her owners by foretelling events. Paul risks his own safety, and drives the spirit out of her in the name of Jesus Christ.



June 2, 2019

6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Blind Man

- 8:45am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 16:16-34
Gospel: Jn. 9:1-38
- Panikhida, offered by Patricia Galley in memory of her grandfather **George Cereques** and mother **Olga Koziel**.
- Coffee Hour – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service
- Trustees' Meeting after the coffee hour

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

6:00pm - Great Vespers & Litya

THURSDAY, JUNE 6 - ASCENSION

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

6:00pm - Vespers & gen. confession

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

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, Michael Bzik, Mary Ann Dolak, Dorothy Fabian, Barbara Kary, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

Sure enough, the owners are furious at having lost their income. They drag Paul and his companion Silas into the market place and accuse them of disturbing the city and advocating Jewish customs that are against Roman law. The magistrates and the crowd beat them with rods, and they are marched off to prison, where their confinement is assured by their feet being fastened in the stocks.

For the second time, Paul extends concern. He does so to a person who is neither his companion nor a fellow prisoner, but who has been put in front of him: the jailer. When an earthquake shakes the prison, all the prisoners' shackles are unfastened. The jailer is panicked, terrified and fully aware that he will be held responsible when the prisoners escape. As he is about to kill himself, Paul calls out to him, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."

This unexpected concern makes the jailer realize what kind of person Paul is, and he comes to believe in the God to whom Paul is so dedicated. He and his household are baptized that same night. They offer the former prisoners hospitality in their home, and everyone rejoices. They are truly in front of each other, and together in front of God.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Michael Bzik**, who celebrates his birthday tomorrow. May God grant you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ The **Trustees' Meeting** will be today, following the Divine Liturgy and coffee hour. All members please plan to attend.

◆ **Save the date:** on **Monday, June 24**, our parish patron saint, John the Baptist, is commemorated on the feast day of his nativity. **His Eminence, Archbishop Michael** will lead us in celebration of the Divine Liturgy on that day. Reading of Hours will begin at 9:10am. We will greet our Vladika at 9:30am. Please try your best to attend and not miss this service. More information regarding this celebration is coming up. Stay tuned.

◆ If for any reason you were not able to have the graves of your loved ones blessed, Fr. Igor is still available to do the blessing, just contact him to make an appointment.

Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to the Paschal Divine Liturgy this morning. 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.