

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church of America
A Parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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June 06, 2021

Blind Man Sunday

- 9:10 am - Hours
- 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
- Acts 16:16-34 John 9:1-38

Schedule of Services

Wednesday, June 9

- 5:00 pm – Great Vespers with Litya

Thursday, June 10

Holy Ascension

- 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, June 12

- 5:00 pm – Great Vespers

Sunday, June 13

Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

- 9:10 am - Hours
- 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy



WEEKLY BIBLE MESSAGE

Blind Man Sunday

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

A Box Full of Kisses : Parable

The story goes back some time ago. A man punished his 3-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree.

Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you. Daddy."

The man was embarrassed by his earlier over reaction, but his anger flared again when he found out the box was empty.

He yelled at her, stating, "Don't you know, when you give someone a present, there is supposed to be something inside?"

The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and cried, "Oh, Daddy, it's not empty at all. I blew kisses into the box. They're all for you, Daddy."

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl and he begged for her forgiveness. Only a short time later, an accident took the life of the child. It is also told that her father kept that gold box by his bed for many years and whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each one of us, as humans beings, have been given a gold container filled with unconditional love and kisses... from our children, family members, friends, and God. There is simply no other possession, anyone could hold, more precious than this.



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, Barbara Bogart, Michael Bzik, Mary Ann Dolak, Barbara Kary, Margaret Kovalycsik, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Sytagen, Patricia Galley.

Birthday Greeting

Happy Birthday go out this week to **Sophia Kseniuk** – June 12. May God continue to enrich her life with the fullness of joy and happiness for many years – Mnogaya Lyeta!

Announcement

♦ Matushka Svitlana and Fr. Maryan would like to invite all of our parishioners for social hour and some coffee time in our Rectory back yard today. And are excited to start getting back to the norm that we once had.

♦ Under the direction of His Eminence Archbishop MICHAEL, and in compliance with the civil authorities, the health restrictions associated with the pandemic has been relaxed, effective, Fri, May 28. There are **NO** attendance limits in the church. Those of you who are fully vaccinated no longer have to wear masks or social distance; however, parishioners who have not yet received the vaccine; are at medical risk; and/or, for personal reasons, want to wear masks and continue social distancing may do so. The veneration of icon and the Cross can resume.

Thanks be to God that all of these positive steps are returning us to a sense of normalcy. The past 14 months certainly posed their share of challenges, but you are all to be commended on how well you responded. Please continue to pray for our parish community and the continued good of the medical professionals who enabled this miracle, as we move forward with the steadfast faith, patience and charity expected from all of us who claim to be disciples of Jesus Christ.