



Welcome!

Whether you're searching for a new church home or just visiting, we're glad you're with us today. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr Thomas, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the offering basket as your offering today. Please join us downstairs following the Divine Liturgy. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

This Week

Sunday, June 9

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, June 11

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to Noon Office Hours

Wednesday, June 12

6:30 pm Festal Vigil (**note time change)

7:30 pm Bible Study

Thursday, June 13 Ascension of Christ

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

10:30 am to Noon Office Hours

Saturday, June 15

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, June 16

10:00 am Divine Liturgy



Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!
Christos voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese! (Russian)
Christos anesti! Alithos anesti! (Greek)

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*
Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Sunday of the Blind Man

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

June 9, 2024

Announcements

➤ We warmly welcome His Eminence **Archbishop Melchisedek** on his archpastoral visit to our parish today. May God grant him good health, peace, and strength to rightly divide the word of truth!

➤ The **Great Feast of the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ** will be celebrated beginning with the Parish Vigil this Wednesday evening beginning at 6:30 pm (please note the earlier time) and the Festal Divine Liturgy will be held this Thursday beginning at 9:30 am. Everyone is encouraged to keep this beautiful feastday!

➤ **Bible Study** will be held this Wednesday after the Festal Parish Vigil beginning at 7:30 pm and will end at 8:30 pm.

➤ **Vacation Church School** 2024 is only a month away! We'll meet during the week of July 8 to learn about the Armor of God! K-8 grades. See Matushka Joni or Rachel Hauenschild for more info!

➤ We invite everyone to consider a donation to our **Dome Restoration Fund**. We must raise at least \$150,000 by November. Please consider helping us!



Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized (none); Home: John Mahalchak (son). William Warnak, Nancy Shaytar, Donya Yewisiak. Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home: Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka.*

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elizabeth Marie Hamilton, and Elaine Hamilton. From **John Mahalchak family** for the departed servants, Anna and Raymond; for the health of John, Cheryl, John, Gregory, Cindy, Kayla Elizabeth, Daniel, Mary, Sarah, Ivy, and Scarlet. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, newly departed, father, Leo Blaha, parents, Pete & Dorothy, Betty, and brother, Robert; for the health of family, friends, siblings, serving soldiers; for birthdays, anniversaries, peace, and special intention.

Thank You

➤ to our **June** donors the **Mertz family** (\$25 Altar Candles) for the health of Oliver on his birthday; the **John Mahalchak family** (\$10 Incense) for the health of family and friends and in memory of departed loved ones.

The blind man of today's Gospel reading not only had an eye ailment that deprived him of the ability to see, but he was congenitally blind. That means he was eyeless. That is, not only did he not have the sense of sight, but he had no eyes at all. So the Lord gave both.

St Nicholas Church will strive to glorify God through Orthodox Christian worship, sincere love and care for one another, and service to those in need around us.

Spiritual Blindness

But how can those who do not see in fact see and those who see become blind? What kind of blindness is the Lord Jesus Christ talking about here? Of course, not about the physical, but about the spiritual. Blind are those who do not see the light - this is physical blindness. What is spiritual blindness? These suffer who do not want to see the True Light, which is the Lord Jesus Christ (see John 1:9-11). Blind are all those who, according to Saint John the Theologian, did not accept Him, who refused to see the true light in Him. Blind are those who close their eyes to the heavenly light of the gospel of Christ. Blind are those who are confident that, possessing scientific knowledge and philosophical profundity, they have known the true light, and they do not want to know any other light.

Here is what the holy prophet Isaiah wrote about the spiritually blind: "I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them" (Isaiah 42:16). That is, the Lord will lead the blind spiritually along a path that they have never thought of, and not the one that they have chosen for themselves, considering themselves to be sighted. What is this darkness that the prophet speaks of? This is the darkness in which people live who do not have spiritual support in a deep faith in God. After all, many who have forgotten God languish in severe spiritual anguish, do not see the meaning of life, because of which some even commit suicide. Their soul is dark. But it is precisely this darkness that the Lord will turn into light, and from their crooked paths He will bring straight paths to their paths. This is the meaning of the Lord's answer to the Pharisees, outraged that He considered them blind.

(St. Luke of Simferopol)

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, June 9

Tone 5 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Tone 4 Kontakion (*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.”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 8 Kontakion (*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.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (*Pentecostarion*)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (*Ps. 75:10a*)

Epistle of the Sunday (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.

Gospel of the Sunday (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.

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace: “Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: ‘Rejoice, your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! With Himself He has raised all the dead.’” Rejoice, O ye people! Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now, and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!