

6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 5. Blind Man. Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and his mother, Helen (Elena) (327). St. Constantine (1129) and his children, Ss. Michael and Theodore, Wonderworkers of Múrom. Ven. Cassian the Greek, of Uglich (1504). The Meeting of the VLADIMIR Icon of the Mother of God (in commemoration of the saving of Moscow from the invasion of the Crimean Khan, Mekhmet-Girei in 1521).

Acts 16:16-34

John 9:1-38

We read in Saint John's Gospel (9:1-38): "As He passed by, he saw a man who was blind from birth." It might appear that Jesus was on His way to something or someone else, but in his Commentary on the Gospel of Saint John, the ever-memorable Archbishop Dmitri of Dallas, quotes from Homily LVI of Saint John Chrysostom: "that on going out of the Temple, He proceeded intentionally to the work, is clear from this: it was He who saw the blind man, and not the blind man who came to Him...."

Christ's disciples asked Him who had sinned, the blind man or his parents that he had been born blind. Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God might be manifested in him" (John 9:3). It was thought that a person who had some affliction must have sinned (or his parents did) to deserve such punishment. In the Book of Exodus (20:5), God said that he would visit "the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation." This, however, applied to the sin of idolatry if the children emulated their parents' behavior.

The blind man was not born blind just so the miracle could be performed, but seeing the man in such a condition, the Lord decided to use him in a way that would manifest God's glory. He Who is the Light of the world healed the blind man and enlightened him. Giving sight to the blind was one of the signs which would identify the Messiah (Matthew 11:4-6).

The Lord made clay when He spat on the ground and placed it in the man's empty eye sockets and sent him to the pool of Siloam to wash. Most versions of the Gospels translate the word *επεθηκεν* as "anointed," but it can also mean "to spread on," or "to smear." Siloam means "sent," and in Saint John's Gospel Christ says about forty times that He Himself had been sent by the Father."

This manner of healing reminds us of the way God created man by fashioning him from the dust of the earth. In the Old Testament God created man from the dust of the earth, now Christ, the same God, fashions eyes from the clay and places them in the blind man's empty sockets.

Saint Theophylaktos says in his Commentary that "Jesus our Lord fashioned all the members of the blind man's body except for the eyes, which He omitted. By healing them now, he completes the divine act of creating and demonstrates that He is the Creator."

-- From www.oca.org/saints/lives

SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 21.....9:30am Third & Sixth Hours
Blind Man 10:00am Divine Liturgy
11:45am Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 24.....6:00pm Great Vespers with Litiya
Eve of Ascension

Thursday, May 25.....9:00am Divine Liturgy
Holy Ascension

Sunday, May 28.....9:30am Third Hour
Fathers of 1st Ecumenical Council 9:45am General Confession
10:00am Divine Liturgy

CONGRATULATIONS to Doreen and Russel Sakowych who celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary this month. God grant them Many, Blessed Years!

THANK YOU to Zinaida Chikviladze and her friends Irma and Dali for hosting the Georgian-style Coffee Hour last Sunday. God grant them Many Years!

FREE BOOKS - The Care Committee has purchased a certain number of copies of Money and Salvation by Dr. Andrew Geleris (SVS Press). Anyone who would like a FREE copy of the book can see Amal Morcos (973-714-0510).



WINE TASTING EVENT –
Friday, June 9, 2023

If you haven't already received or paid for your tickets, please do so as soon as possible. Please submit the names of your guests to Suzette (suzseremin@aol.com) for table seating. The event is not yet sold out so please think about attending. It's a fun night for a great cause.

2023 GRADUATES – We would like to recognize all Holy Trinity members who are graduating this year. Please submit their names to Fr. David at fatherdavid@holytrinityrandolph.com or Marian Babiak at mbabs.qwerty@gmail.com or 908-347-8313.



PICNIC SIDES NEEDED for our Church Picnic on June 4th: baked beans, potato salad, pasta salad, fruit, and desserts. If you can contribute, please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

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*Welcome to all our visitors. Whether you are attending in person or watching from home, we are happy to have you join us in worship.*

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Sunday of the Blind Man
Kontakion — Tone 4

I come to Thee, O Christ, / Blind from birth in my spiritual eyes / And I call to Thee in repentance: / Thou art the most radiant light of those in darkness!

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*Regarding the avoidance of remembering sins, St. Anthony says, “Do not focus on your old sins, lest the war will be renewed on you. Do not remember your carelessness and your pleasures in the time of your laziness; do not talk about them so that they do not become a stumble.  
+St. Anthony the Great*

*When the same Abba Anthony thought about the depth of the judgments of God, he asked, “Lord, how is it that some die when they are young, while others drag on to extreme old age? Why are there those who are poor and those who are rich? Why do wicked men prosper and why are the just in need? He heard a voice answering him, “Anthony, keep your attention on yourself; these things are according to the judgment of God, and it is not to your advantage to know anything about them.”*

*+ St. Anthony the Great*

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*Offering the Fullness of the Christian Faith*

**Orthodox Church in America**

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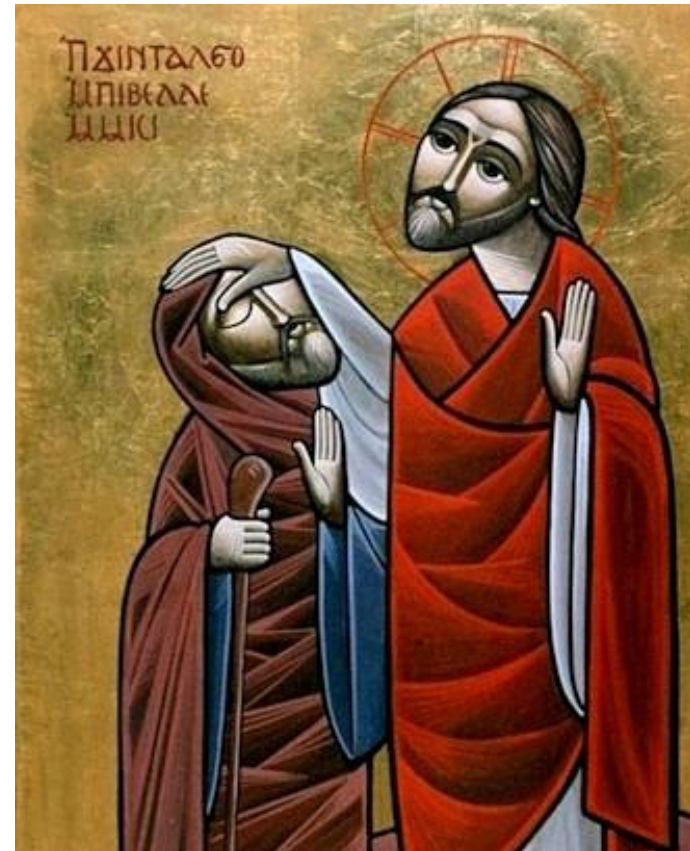
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**Mitred Archpriest George Hasenecz, Attached**

**Carol Wetmore, Choir Director**



***Sunday of the Blind Man***

*Icon in the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Style*

**May 21, 2023**