

## THE MANY FORMS OF "BLINDNESS"



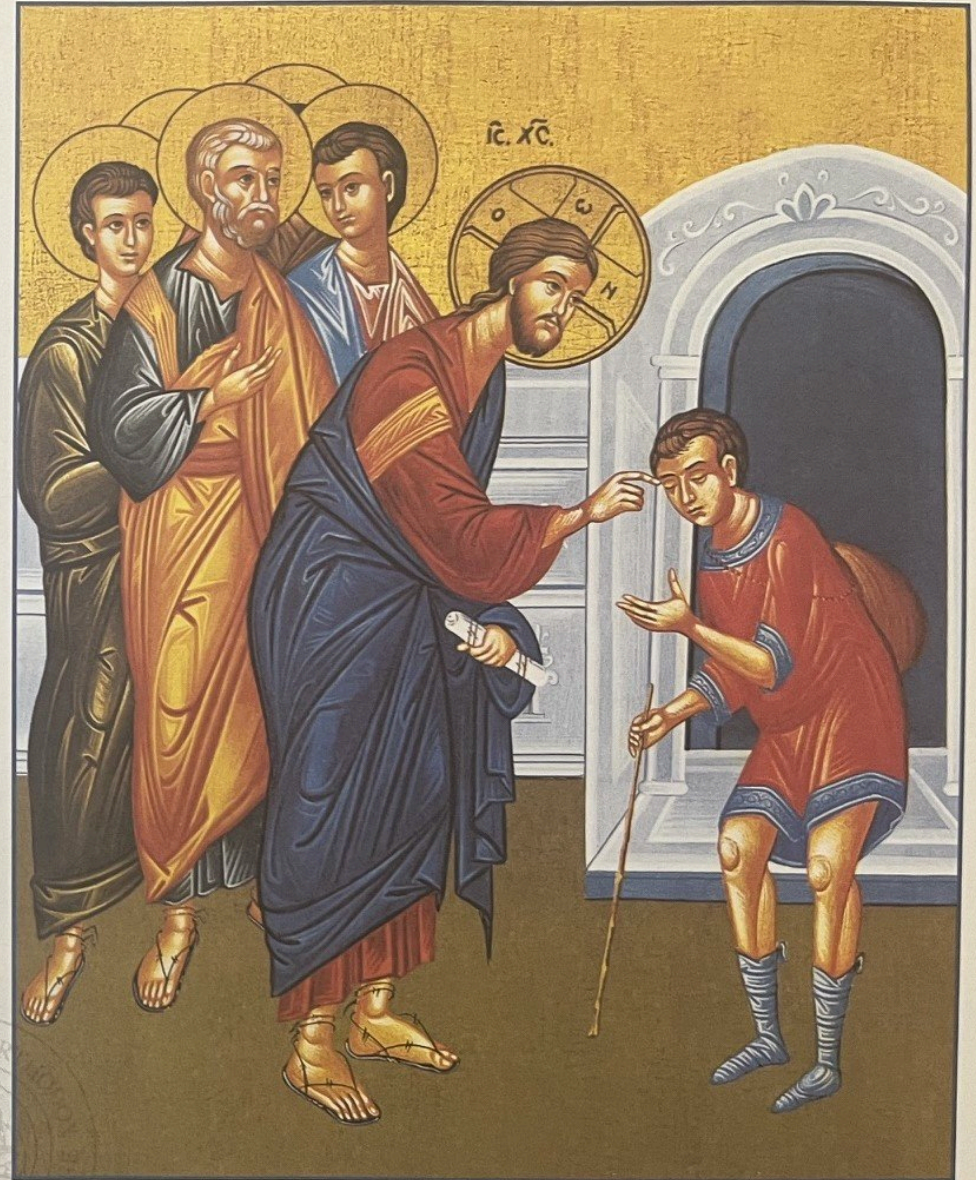
In the Sixth Sunday of Pascha, the Church commemorates the Sunday of the BLIND MAN. A touching tale is related to us in the Gospel lesson, as we witness another miracle performed by Christ, Who gives sight to a man who had been blind from birth. How thrilling it must have been for this poor soul to have a whole new world opened up to him! How he must have rejoiced at his first experience of beholding the beauty of God's creation!

Others, however, continued to exhibit another curious form of "blindness" long after this man was given the ability to see by our Lord. The pharisees and scribes "closed their eyes" to the reality of this miraculous event! They refused to "see" the Hand of God in this matter. Instead, they insinuated that the Blind Man was lying: that perhaps he had his sight all along! The hardness of their hearts would not allow them to view Jesus for what He truly was: THE LIGHT THAT HAD COME TO ENLIGHTEN THE WORLD.

The message placed before us is a simple one. Only Christ can open the "eyes of our souls" and make us children of light. Only Christ can illuminate and overshadow the darkness caused by sin, making visible to us the eternal joys of Heaven. We must, therefore, never allow ourselves to be "blinded" by the temptations of this world.

If we are temporarily afflicted in this manner, we would be wise to heed these words: "IN REPENTANCE, I CRY TO YOU: YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF SUPREME BRIGHTNESS FOR ALL OF THOSE WHO ARE IN-DARKNESS."

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.



*Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.*

**A Gift of Blessing**

**Visit the Church Gift Shop.**

**See the Beautiful Icons, Crosses & Home Censers**

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**Church Calendar:** Check the Link. <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/service.html>

## DIVINE LITURGY MAY 17, 2026

"DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM"

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN**

### THE EPISTLE

*Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and preserve us.*

*Save me, O Lord, for the godly man is no more.*

**The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (16:16-34)**

In those days, while we the apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination, who brought her masters much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, and cried out saying: "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And she did this for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit: "I charge you in the Name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that the hope of their gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said: "These men are disturbing our city, and they, being Jews, are setting forth customs which are not lawful for us to receive or observe, since we are Romans." The multitude then rose up together against them, and the magistrates tore their garments off them, and commanded to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received such a charge, he cast them into the inner prison, and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. And the jailer, being roused out of sleep and seeing the prison doors open, drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried out with a loud voice saying: "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and fell down before Paul and Silas trembling with fear, and brought them out and said: "Masters, what must I do to be saved?" And they said: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." And 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 was baptized, he and his entire household. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, with his entire house, in that he had believed in God.

### The GOSPEL

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (9:1-38)**

At that time, when Jesus was passing, he saw a man blind from his birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be

made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam," which means "Sent." So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he;" others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age; he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So, for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered, "And who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.

# SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES SUNDAY MAY 17, 2026**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN**

**Christ Is Risen! Indeed, He Is Risen!**

PASCHAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

\*Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

\*المسيح قام من بين الأموات، ووطيء الموت بالموت، وهب الحياة للذين في القبور.

\*Χριστός ανέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζῶν χαρισάμενος “

Verily, Jesus is Risen from the tomb, as He had foretold, and hath bestowed life eternal upon us, and Great Mercy.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

As deliver of Captives: And defender of the Poor, Healer of the Infirm, champion of Kings, Victorious Great Martyr George, Intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

MEGALYNARION FOR PASCHA IN TONE ONE

*The Angel cried unto her that is full of grace: O pure Virgin, rejoice, and again I say, rejoice; for thy Son hath arisen from the grave on the third day.*

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; dance now and be glad, O Zion, and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

**We Celebrate Today**

On May 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate **Apostles Andronikos and Junia** of the Seventy; and **Athanasios the New**, bishop of Christianopolis.

On this day, the sixth Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the miracle wrought by our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ upon the man who was blind from his birth.

O Light of Light most perfect, and Light-provider,

On the blind from birth, O Word, eyes Thou bestowest.

The Savior met this man, born blind and incurable after every human effort, while leaving the Temple on the Sabbath. Saints John Chrysostom, Basil the Great and Irenaeus teach that the man was born without eyeballs. Jesus spat into the dirt, made clay, rubbed it in his eye sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam, a famous water spring in Jerusalem. The Savior did not send him there because his eye sockets were filled with clay, nor did the pool have healing power, but instead to test his faith and obedience. Jesus fashioned the eyes of the blind man from the dirt as God fashioned man from the dirt. The blind man proclaimed that Jesus healed him, but this confession caused him to be cast out by the enemies of the truth. Even his own parents would not defend him. However, the blind man followed Jesus from that moment forward.

By Thine infinite mercy, O Christ our God, Giver of light, have mercy on us. Amen.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

+**Healing & Recovery** Fr. Paul Yerger. Fr. Leo. Dea. Terry. Kh. Janet Henderson. Joy Logue.

Dolores Nossier. Rick Collins. George Michael Nasif. Lynne Abraham. Pam Smith, Irene

Tzotzolas. Michael Farris. Athena. Georgia. Andrea Simon. Chuck Abraham. Carla Leese.

+**Birthdays & Anniversaries** May. Donna Thornton (16), Mickey & Jaynie Fedell (18), Cole & Janet Gleason (20). Mickey & Jaynie Fedell (18), Cole & Janet Gleason (20). Gregory Thomas, Dobie & Julie Nossier, Robert & Janet Angelo (23), Frank & Mary Mousa (26), Cole Gleason, Kevin & Stacey Mahoney (27).

+**Keep in your prayers.** Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, & John Morgan Mcright. Who are preparing themselves for the Holy Sacrament of Chrismation.

+**Antiochian Men Meeting.** Monday May 18 @ 6 pm. Topic: The Asencion.

+**Parish Council Meeting** Tuesday May 21 @ 6pm.

+**Feast of Asencion.** Orthros and Liturgy on Wednesday May 20 @ 5:30pm.

+**Diocese OF Miami & The Southeast** 2026 PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE (PLC) *hosted by St. Nicholas Church of Springdale, Arkansas* **June 10 - 13, 2026** If you would like to register or have any questions about PLC, please get in touch with [miamiplc@antiochianevents.com](mailto:miamiplc@antiochianevents.com)

**The Church Fathers Teach**

☞ **The Savior has conquered death in order to illumine every dimension of our darkened souls with the light of heavenly glory. We must offer every aspect of our existence to Him for healing and transformation, no matter how great the personal struggles we may face in doing so.**

As we conclude this season of Pascha, we must mindfully resist the constant temptation to live as those obsessed with the fear of death. Such fear is at the root of the conventional wisdom that encourages us to hate and condemn those we perceive as threats to our vain hopes for gaining whatever we prize most in the world; doing so, of course, inevitably leads to losing our souls. There is no surer path to darkening our souls than embracing the spiritual blindness of serving the false gods of this world, even as we think we are being righteous. The Savior's kingdom remains not of this world. His Cross alone is "a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible."