



Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

OUR SUNDAY BULLETIN

SUNDAY MAY 24, 2009



Protection of the Virgin Mary

6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Tone 5. Blind Man

8600 Grand Blvd.
Merrillville, IN 46410
(219) 947-4748 (Church)
(219) 730-4698 (Hall Rental)

Great Vespers
Saturday - 4 PM
Feast Days - 7 PM
Divine Liturgy
Sunday - 9:45 AM
Feast Days - 9 AM
Sunday Adult class 9Am
Children's classes after liturgy

Fr. Peter Bodnar, Rector

Fr. Christopher Sarafin

All services in English
A parish of the
Orthodox Church in America
www.ptvm.com



Ven. Simeon the Stylite (the Younger) of the Wonderful Mountain (596). Ven. Nikita the Stylite, Wonderworker of Pereyaslavl'—Zaleskii (786). Martyrs Meletius Stratelates, Stephen, John, and 1,218 soldiers, with women and children, including Serapion the Egyptian, Callinicus the Magician, Theodore, Faustus, the women: Marciana, Susanna, and Palladia, two children: Cyriacus and Christian, and twelve Tribunes—Faustus, Festus, Marcellus, Theodore, Meletius, Sergius, Marcellinus, Felix, Photinus, Theodoriscus, Mercurius, and Didymus, all of whom suffered in Galatia (138-161). St. Vincent of Lérins.

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.

Tone 4 Kontakion (from the Pentecostarion)

I come to You, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes, and call to You in repentance:// "You are the most radiant Light of those in darkness."

Tone 8 Kontakion (Pascha)

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal, You destroyed the power of death. In victory You arose, O Christ God, proclaiming: "Rejoice!" to the Myrrhbearing Women,// granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God! (Ps 75/76:11)
v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (Ps 75/76:1)

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
v. Look upon me and have mercy on me! (Ps 118/119:132)
v. Guide my steps according to Your word! (Ps 118/119:133)
v: They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps 99/100:6)

(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing:)

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!

Acts 16:16-34 (Epistle)

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.

John 9:1-38 (Gospel)

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.

Gospel (cont) 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.

Commemorated on May 24

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. St 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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY....MAY 24, 2009

SUNDAY 24 9am Adult class 9:45 3RD HOURS
10am Divine Liturgy club mtg,
Sodality ,,, 2;30 calumet cemetery blessing

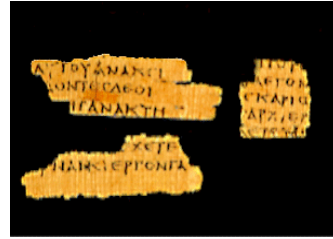
MONDAY 25 10am Panahida with blessing of graves
St Mary's Cemetery

TUESDAY 26 evening prayer service 6pm

WEDNESDAY 27 Great Vespers with Litya

THURSDAY 28 9am Divine Liturgy (Ascension) no choir practice

SATURDAY 30 4pm Great Vespers



fragment dated from between 30-70 ad

Where did the bible come from?

Some have mistakenly claimed that the new testament writings were much later than the apostolic era. Many also claim that the bible as we know it did not exist until the third century giving the reader the false impression that the writings themselves did not date from the 1st centuries

Since these false accusations could diminish faith, it is good for Orthodox to understand the truth. Christianity started in the East, The Holy land, the Churches of Jerusalem, Antioch, and Alexandria, The Orthodox Church, and later spread outward toward the west and Rome.

This is why almost all early church fathers are from the East and also why the early Church Councils were all held in the east.

It is also why the oldest New Testament manuscripts are in Greek and not Latin or English.

The Eastern, or Orthodox Church as we know it ,was faithful in protecting scripture and bringing it forward in time to share with the western world..

There are over 5,300 known ancient Greek manuscript copies and fragments of the New Testament in Greek that have survived until today.

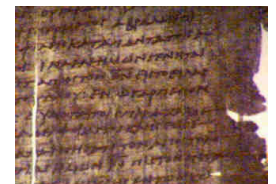
One of the earliest surviving pieces of New Testament Scripture is a fragment of a papyrus codex containing John 18:31-33 a called the Rylands Papyrus (P52). This papyrus was found in Egypt, and has been dated at about 125 A.D.



The scribes of the new testament, painstakingly made copies and distributed them among the churches.

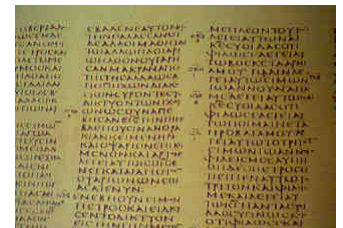
Another famous text called the Codex Sinaiticus came from an Orthodox Monastery . This rather complete copy made by the monks from older texts, dates from the 300's, and originally included both Old and New Testaments plus the Epistle of Barnabas and the Shepherd of Hermas, all in Greek.

This was found in a monastery library built on the slopes of Mount Sinai. In 1859 it was brought to St. Petersburg. In 1933 it was sold to the British Museum in London where it currently resides today.



Another Copy of a much older Manuscript is called The Codex Vaticanus. It is a Latin name but it is actually a Greek text

This priceless Eastern text was shared with the west. The codex was brought to the Vatican from Constantinople as a gift to the pope in the fourteenth century.



So now you know that if anyone ever asks you, "where did the Bible come from?"

Why do you believe its true? You can answer them truthfully.

It was faithfully brought forward in time by the Greek speaking Eastern Church, the Orthodox Church, and shared with the newer churches of Rome, the west, and all of the world.

be sure to check your monthly bulletin for other announcements