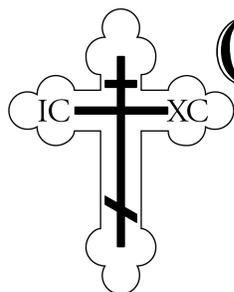
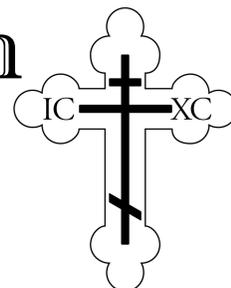


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



A Parish of the
Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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May 24, 2020

Sunday of the Blind Man

Fifth Sunday of Pascha

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 5 – Resurrectional Troparion

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 of the Blind Man

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 (Special Melody) – Kontakion of 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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 8 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

Acts of the Apostles 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: 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.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Archpr. Paul Lazor

Joseph Clark

Wayne Fritz

Ev.Mem. Vedena Swalla ('69)

Brian Swalla ('69)

David Swalla ('69)

George Licisin ('80)

Health/Salvation:	Jonathan	Mark	Kara
Archpr. Peter	Matthew	Alexa	Nathan
Pr. John	Gail	Paula	Sharon
Pr. Christopher	Maria	James	Michael
Mat. Jennifer	Stacy	Joanne	John
Andrew	Jeramie	Michael	Miriana
Gideon	Olivia	Joseph	Vern
Dn. Nicholas	Parker	Kathleen	Janice
Kevin	Barbara	Paul	Olga
Jon	Thomas	William	Claudia
Tanya	Jessica	Frederick	Mark
Jovan	Eduardo	Janet	Jerry
Julia	Christine	Lea	Daniel
Warren	Nicholas	Hania	Joanna
Carol	Natalie	James	Myah
Tom	Barbara	Gerald	Michael
Elizabeth	Kristin	Nadia	Wanda
Tina	Linda	Charlene	Prudence
Brittany	Phyllis	Milka	Clay
Jennifer	Kay	Daniel	Brandi
Lennox	Fred	Russell	Ann
Laila	Larry	Brendan	
Paula	Rollie	Benjamin	
Melissa	Joseph	William	

*If you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

In place 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, rejoice, all you people!
 Shine! Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem!
 The glory of the Lord has shone on you!
 Exult now, exult and be glad, O Zion!
 Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the resurrection, the resurrection of your Son!

*We sing "Christ is risen..." in place of "We have seen the true Light..."
 At the Dismissal, the priest says "Glory to You, O Christ..." and the choir sings "Christ
 is risen..." three times.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are currently in “**phase one**” of reopening of the Church. Nine people under the age of 65 (besides the priest) may now attend services. Also, two weekday services are now being offered each week which will accommodate two households of those over 65 at a time. Attendance at services is scheduled ahead of time. **Please contact Fr Jacob** if you want to come, or if you have any questions about the precautions we are taking. Confession is available before services or by appointment.

For **Bible Study** on Wednesday read **Acts 5-7**. If you would like to participate but haven't before, email Fr Jacob.

Memorial Day is tomorrow. We will bless graves as usual, beginning at **St. Mary's cemetery at 9am**. After that I will visit Calumet Park and Chapel Lawn cemeteries.

St. Mary's O-Club is partnering with our own **Sergei Ely's Pierogi** truck to bring meals to workers at local nursing homes during the health crisis. Our next delivery will be to Pines Village in Valparaiso this Friday. Anyone interested in volunteering should email ptvmchurch@gmail.com or contact Juli Grankowski or Sergei Ely.

The annual **Golf Outing** will not take place in June as usual. We are looking to schedule it for August or September. Stay tuned.

On June 17 we will host a **Red Cross blood drive** in our parish hall. If anyone would like to volunteer for a 2-3 hour shift at the registration table, please contact Fr Jacob.

If anyone in our community is suffering hardship, please contact Fr Jacob. The parish has established a **benevolence fund** to help those in need during this crisis.

Our **Fashion Show** has been rescheduled for Sunday, August 9. Lunch will be served at 12pm. Please contact Elizabeth Pedersen, Sherry Mizimakoski, or Nada Bucek if you need to return tickets or buy new ones.

Mark your calendars:

- May 25: **Memorial Day** blessing of graves starting at St. Mary's cemetery @ 9am.
- May 28: **Feast of Ascension:** Festal Vespers @ 6pm; Divine Liturgy (over 65) @ 10am.
- June 17: **Blood Drive:** 12-6pm

Guarding Our Heart

A reflection by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. (Matthew 10:16)

The character of a serpent according to Scripture (Genesis 3:1) is that he is sly, cunning, devious, subtle, clever, or smart. But the “innocence” of a dove can often be understood as “harmless.” So why is Jesus asking His disciples to take on the characteristic of a serpent? Is he telling us to be as sly, deceptive, or as cunning as a serpent? Or do the words “be as smart, or clever as a serpent” make more sense in understanding what Jesus meant here?

There is a relationship between being “wise as a serpent, and innocent as doves.” We are to be as wise or clever as a serpent in order to protect our innocence as doves; that way we don’t compromise ourselves, and we preserve a pure heart within us. A wise, smart, or clever mind seeks to guard and preserve a pure and innocent heart.

We often seem to get it the other way around. Sometimes we are willing to believe anything we read and give our heart to it, only to get burned and disappointed. Thus, we become cynical and hardhearted. So we can become a people, who have a gullible mind and believe anything, only to end up with a heart of stone.

Our Lord regularly warned his disciples that following Him would be no easy joy ride. Their faith would be tested through persecutions, trials, and temptations:

They will put you out of the synagogues; indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do this because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you of them. (John 16:2-4)

Before his conversion to the faith, Paul, then known as Saul, persecuted followers of Christ and sought to destroy them. He was zealous for the traditions of his fathers. (Read Acts 8 and 9 and Galatians 1). Saul thought he was doing God’s will. Before his conversion, Saul was a living example of what our Lord expressed in the above verses from John 16.

It is important that parents teach their children not to believe everything they read initially. Kids should ask questions in order to grow in knowledge and truth. They need to do so out of a pure desire to know what is right, holy, good, and true. As our Lord commanded, “Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened to you.”

However, most of us adults who are jaded will ask questions just to see if the other person agrees with what we think is right. In other words, we ask questions to test someone. Nothing good comes when this approach is taken. Isn't this what the Pharisees did with Jesus? They asked him questions only to test Him. Unfortunately, some of them were wolves in sheep's clothing. They were not interested in learning anything from Him.

So let us teach our children to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves as they journey through the many challenging aspects of life; especially in this day and age.

Christ is risen! The blessing of the Lord be upon you,

+Paul of Chicago

Glory to God for all things!