

Orthodox Heights

HolyTrinityOrthodoxChurch.org

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MAY 21, 2017

Christ Is Risen!

Indeed, He Is Risen!

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 Most-holy Theotokos (in commemoration of the saving of Moscow from the invasion of the Crimean Khan, Mekhmet-Girei in 1521).

EPISTLE: ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 16.16-34: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 26.1-5, 12-20: Paul's powerful conversion: repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

GOSPEL: John 9.1-38: The blind man is cured and sees that it was God Who healed him.

JOHN 10.1-9: Christ, our shepherd, is the door to salvation.

GRAVE BLESSINGS: As we continue to proclaim the Gospel of the Resurrection, it is custom to bless the graves of those who have gone on in the hope of the resurrection before us. Please see Fr James to schedule a grave blessing. **CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

BABY BOTTLE FUND DRIVE: Choose to love the unborn and their morns and dads by picking up an empty baby bottle and take it home. Fill it with your spare change ... dollar bills or a check! Bring back your filled bottles to Church on or before Sunday, June 18th for the Southern Tier Pregnancy Resource Center to collect. Reach out to us if you'd like to become a volunteer, Board member, or prayer partner. **CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! Христось воскресé!**

WELCOME VISITORS! We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you with us! Please know that we are glad that you are here praying with us and invite you to join us after the service for a meal and to meet everyone in our community. Christos **ANESTI!** **ALITHOS ANESTI ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ &ΝΕΣΤΗ! ἌΛΗΘΩΣ &ΝΕΣΤΗ!**

SUMMER VACATIONS: If you are travelling this summer, you can find a church near your vacation spot by going to assemblyofbishops.org/directories/parishes. Also, be mindful that other jurisdictions have different requirements of preparation for receiving the Eucharist. **ORTANNE LAIVINO! ANWA ORTANNE LAIVINO!** ὁρῶνί τειβῶνί! ἴμῃ ὁρῶνί τειβῶνί!

DONATION SOUGHT: Two items are needed for the altar. Blue priestly vestments are needed and are on order. A second hand blessing cross is also needed to properly outfit the altar table. If you are interested in sponsoring either of these items, please see Fr James. **AL MASEEH QAM! AQQAN QAM!** المسيح قام! حقا قام!

PENTECOST: With the upcoming Parish Feastday, we will celebrate after the divine services with a festive Potluck meal. There is a sign-up sheet in the basement. If you have any questions, please see Katie. **CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE:

May 21: Dudek

May 28: Karney

June 4: Pentecost Potluck

June 11: Charlanow

READERS SCHEDULE:

For Week of: 5/20 Sdn Michael

5/27 Rdr William

6/3 Rdr Thomas

6/10 Sdn Michael

PRAYER LIST

LIVING:	Kathleen	Kathleen	REPOSED:	Taissia
Apr John	Helen	Michael	Apr John U	Theophan
Apr Herman	Peter	Yuri	Priest Matthew	Lynda
Apr Theodore	Rdr Thomas	Kira & Rebecca	Priest John	Alfred
Apr Jason	Rdr David	Bill	Apr Alexander	NEWLY REPOSED:
Mat Joanna	Rdr Paul	Nadia	Dn Mark	Clarence (5-13)
Mat Katherine	Maria	<u>Children:</u> All of the	Rdr Gregory	ANNIVERSARIES:
Mat Christine	Leon	Parish	Joseph C	None.
Mildred	Katherine	BIRTHDAYS: Dmitri.	Steven L	
Elizabeth	Kate	ANNIVS: None.	Anne O	
Antonina	Kristin	NAMESDAYS: Lydia.	Debra	

BY THE NUMBERS: Last Collection: \$1021. Weekly Budget: \$1100.
MTD: \$1998. Monthly Budget: \$4360. April: -228 (5 weeks).

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD BEFORE AND AFTER VESPERS AND AT ANY OTHER CONVENIENT TIME.

BLIND MAN SUNDAY, MAY 21: 8:40 Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour; Parish Council Meeting

MONDAY, MAY 22: Rector's Sabbath

TUESDAY, MAY 23: 8:30 Morning Prayers

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24: 8:30 Morning Prayers

5 PM Great Vespers

ASCENSION THURSDAY, MAY 25: 9 AM Divine Liturgy for the Feast

FRIDAY, MAY 26: 8:30 Morning Prayers

SATURDAY, MAY 27: No Vespers

SUNDAY, MAY 28: 8:40 Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

JUNE 4: Pentecost (Parish Feastday)

AUGUST 26: Hosting NYS Deanery Church School Conference

LIGHTING CANDLES

Lighting candles is an important part of Orthodox worship. We light them as we pray, making an offering to accompany our prayers. Orthodox typically light candles when coming into the church - and that is usually the best time to light them, and they can be lit at almost any other time as well. But there are times when candles should not be lit. It is not proper to light candles during the Epistle or Gospel readings, during the Little or Great Entrances, the sermon, and during the Anaphora. If you find yourself arriving to church after the Liturgy has begun, a good rule of thumb to remember is - if ever you will be in the way of the altar servers, wait until they are done to light a candle (unless it is the sermon, of course). Other than that it is probably all right to light a candle.

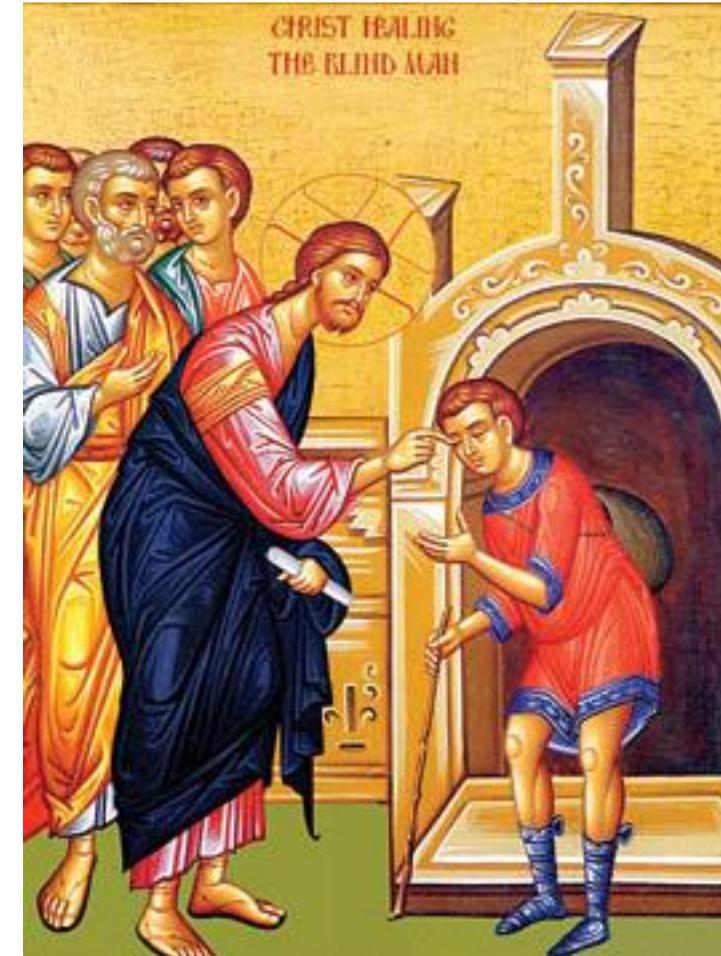
LEX ORANDI, LEX CREDENDI, LEX VIVENDI

The liturgy is not something one experiences. Liturgy is not a 3 hour show on a Sunday morning. Liturgy is not where you talk to your best friend. Liturgy is life. Sounds a bit weird when one thinks about it. How can liturgy be life? As the title reads: *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi*: "The law of Worship determines the law of Faith determines the law of Life". This 5th century Latin term began to be incorporated into the life of the church. Liturgy is life because it forms not only what we do on a Sunday morning but it forms our entire life. Corinthians chapter 10 accounts the Eucharistic practice and not only does it mention the Eucharist but the climax of the Eucharist is partaken within the contexts of the unity of the community of the believers. The Eucharist is formed and shaped by the community of believers. If this is true and if we are to accept this "formula" then this is how liturgy is life! Liturgy representing life is then something not we do every Sunday rather it is lived out by the entire community on a daily basis. How can liturgy be life on a Wednesday afternoon in the middle of work school or whatever is might be?

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Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Elmira Heights, New York



SUNDAY, MAY 21ST, 2017
SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 21ST

Tone 5 Troparion / Resurrection

Let **us**, the faithful praise and **worship** the Word / coeternal 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 8 Troparion / SS Constantine and Helen

Thy servant Constantine, O Lord and only **Lover** of man / beheld the figure of the Cross in the **heavens** / Like Paul, not having received his **call** from men, / but as an apostle among rulers set by Thy hand over the royal **city** /// he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the **Theotokos**.

Glory.

Tone 3 Kontakion / SS Constantine and Helen

Today Constantine and his mother Helen reveal the **precious** Cross, / the weapon of Orthodox Christians against their **enemies**, /// for it is manifest for us as a great and **fearful sign** in **struggle**.

Now & ever, Amen.

Tone 4 Kontakion / Blind Man

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**.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon / Resurrection [from Psalm 75]

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God

V: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

In the Same Tone: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe.

Alleluia Verses Tone 8 (from Psalm 118):

The Alleluia in the Eighth Tone: Look upon me and have mercy on me.

V: Guide my steps according to Thy word.

In the First Tone: I have raised up one chosen out of my peoples.

Hymn to the Theotokos

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, all 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!

Communion Hymn

Receive the **Body** of Christ. Taste the fountain of **immortality**. Praise the Lord from the **heavens!** Praise Him in the **highest!** Their proclamation has gone out into **all** the earth, and their words to the ends of the **universe!** Alleluia...

In place of "We have seen the true light..." Christ is Risen... **(once)**

At the Dismissal:

Christ is Risen... **(three times)**

UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS

June 24: Parish Council Conference in Endicott

August 24: Orthodox Youth Day Six Flags in NJ

August 26: Church School Conference in Elmira Heights

September 5-6: Clergy Conference in Wappingers Falls

October 6-7: Brotherhood of Moses the Black Conference in Princeton, NJ

November 10-12: Diocesan Girls' Retreat at St Basil's Academy

REFLECTION FROM ST. NIKOLAI VELIMIROVICH

We should not desire the death of a sinner, but his repentance. Nothing grieves the Lord more, Who suffered on the Cross for sinners, then when we pray to Him for the death of a sinner and thereby to remove him from our path. It happened that the Apostle Carpos lost his patience and began to pray that God send down death upon two sinful men; one a pagan and the other an apostate from the Faith. Then the Lord Christ Himself appeared to Carpos and said: "Strike me; I am prepared to be crucified again for the salvation of mankind." St. Carpos related this event to St. Dionysius the Areopagite and he wrote it down and gave it to the Church as a lesson to all, that prayers are needed for sinners to be saved and not for them to be destroyed, "for the Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).



A DOUBLE HEALING

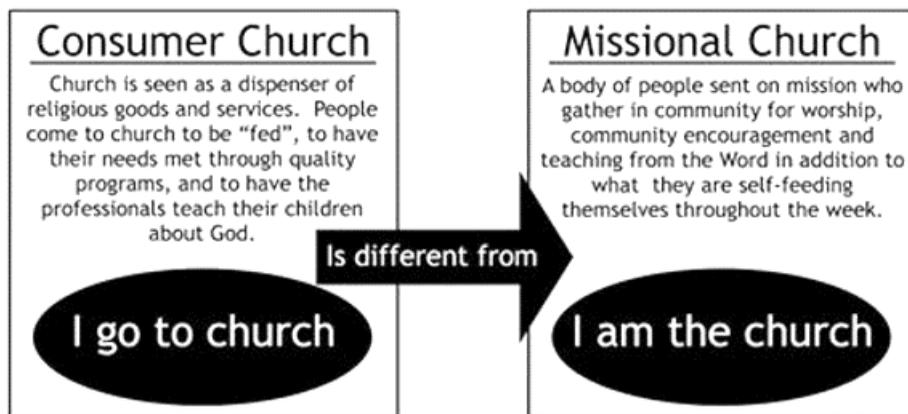
The blind man not only had no eyes and had seen no man; he also did not know Christ. Jesus first healed his eyes, and upon meeting him again, healed the eyes of his soul. He who was formerly blind both in his physical eyes and those of his soul now could clearly see out of both. The services for the Sunday of the Blind Man are replete with references to spiritual blindness, and supplication to be delivered from it.

"O Christ God, Thou spiritual Sun of Righteousness, / Who by Thine immaculate touch / didst bestow a two-fold enlightenment upon him / who from his mother's womb was deprived of sight, / illumine Thou the eyes of our souls also, / and prove us to be sons of the day, / that we may cry to Thee with faith: / Great and ineffable is Thy compassion toward us, O Friend of man; // Glory be to Thee," (Aposticha, Vespers for the Blind Man).

"Who can tell of Thy mighty acts, O Christ, / or who can number the multitudes of Thy wonders? / For even as Thou, in Thy goodness, didst appear on earth twofold of nature, / so didst Thou grant twofold healings to the sick; / for Thou didst open not only the bodily eyes of the man / who was blind from the womb, / but those of his soul also. / Wherefore, he confessed Thee, the hidden God, // Who grantest great mercy unto all," (Glory from the Praises, Matins for the Sunday of the Blind Man).

The paralytic by the sheep's pool, whom we only just considered on a previous Sunday, was also healed of his physical infirmity first, then enlightened as to the cause of his affliction. For the Lord healed him, then later admonished him to "...*sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee,*" (John 5:14).

Another paralytic, who had been lowered down through the roof of Simon Peter's house, was also given two healings. First Jesus forgave his sins, and then gave strength to his legs (Mark 2:3-12).



IN SILENCE, CHRIST IS HEARD

Fr John Winfrey



It's very easy to get despondent as one looks at the world we inhabit. But I have a secret weapon that gives strength in times of weakness, peace in conflict, courage in danger, joy in sorrow. This secret is enthroned on the altar, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. In the quiet church, I can turn my face to him who is physically present and veiled in quiet. The silence is necessary because it is a laying aside of this world, without which we cannot hear or see God. Jesus Christ in the most holy mystery of the altar abides whilst all else decomposes. In his presence everything gains proper perspective, and I find no place for sadness in me. If you are sad or dejected, spend time at the altar in silence and you shall be shaken by the sound of angelic voices crying: Holy, holy, holy.

SUNDAY BEST, SUNDAY DRESSED

Remember the time when people put on their "Sunday best" to go to church? In fact, dress clothes were often referred to as Sunday clothes. In some parts of the country, this is not common today. In fact, all too often, dress in church has become too casual. In all areas of our lives, we should offer Christ our best. And the same is true of our dress. We should offer Christ our 'Sunday best', not our everyday or common wear. And we should dress modestly, not in a flashy way that would bring attention to ourselves. Our dress should always be becoming of a Christian - especially at church. If you're going somewhere after church where you need to dress casually, bring a change of clothing with you and change after coffee hour. Remember, use your best judgment and good taste when dressing for church. After all, you don't go to be seen by everyone else - you go to meet and worship God.

