

May 14, 2023  
Sixth Paschal Sunday, Sunday of the Man Born Blind



**SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!  
Христосъ воскресе! Воистину воскресе!*

Proprs for this Sunday: pp. 189 - 191

Divine Services for the Week:

<b>SUN., MAY 14</b> 8:30 A.M.	<b>SUNDAY of the MAN BORN BLIND, Mother's Day</b> <b>DIVINE LITURGY</b> + For our deceased Mothers, Grandmothers, and Godmothers God's Blessings for our Mothers, Grandmothers, and Godmothers
<b>WED., MAY 17</b> 6:00 P.M.	<b>ASCENSION of our LORD, Anticipated</b> <b>VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY</b>
<b>SUN., MAY 21</b> 8:30 A.M.	<b>SUNDAY of the FATHERS of the FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL</b> <b>DIVINE LITURGY</b> + Sr. Rose Elizabeth, offered by James Mudron

**Mother's Day Breakfast Today**

Join us for a nice sit-down breakfast for Mother's Day following the Divine Liturgy today. Our hard-working cooks are preparing this delicious **homemade** breakfast in honor of our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and those who play a motherly role in our lives. Whether your mother is with you or not, join us in their honor. **Everyone is invited!**



**Happy Birthday Greetings:**

May 15: Daniel Zimmerman

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

None for the week

**Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins**

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

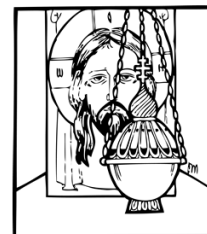
Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

**Epistle Readers – May 14: JoAnn Hersh – May 21: Dan Pinchot**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – May 14: R. Mudron – May 21: M. Bobanic**

**If you would like to be a Troica Holder, please see one of them following Liturgy.  
We could always use the help!**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**

May 14 – May 21, 2023

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

**Our Mothers,  
Living and Deceased**

***A Prayer for Our Departed Mothers***

*For the servants of God, our deceased mothers, and for their blessed memory, and that their every transgression, voluntary and involuntary, be forgiven, let us pray to the Lord. Again, we pray for the repose of the souls of all our departed mothers that God may free them from all judgment and grant them rest in the family of his holy ones in a place of light, joy, and peace; hear us, O God, and have mercy.*

**It's St. George Flea Market Time!**

Our Flea Market, Haluski, and Bake Sale will return this summer here at St. George Church, **June 23 - 24**. Consider donating items you no longer need to our Flea Market, no clothing please. Items can be brought to the Center every Saturday from 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. or any time you are here. Ask family and friends to consider donating items to our Flea Market. We will need help with setting up the Flea Market beginning June 19. **We will also need bake sale items, so please consider baking.** Flyers are now available for you to take and pass out or post in the community. **Your help with this event will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!**



S	R	E	N	N	I	S	L	E	T
S	E	D	E	V	O	U	T	H	S
P	E	I	R	T	R	O	H	R	T
I	S	L	A	S	A	R	G	E	N
T	E	H	P	O	R	P	I	S	E
T	A	S	P	I	A	A	S	T	R
L	H	G	I	S	C	O	P	O	A
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E	V	E	I	L	E	B	I	E	S
E	D	N	I	L	B	L	N	D	I

BLIND  
SPITTLE  
PROPHET  
SINNERS

SPAT  
SIGHT  
PARENTS  
DEVOUT

PASTE  
RESTORED  
DISCIPLES  
BELIEVE

*There's an old story about a pious young woman who was physically blind, but not spiritually blind, and who over the years had drawn close to God through a dedicated, holy life. One day she met a famous monk of the Church. Together they talked about the things of God, and their hearts were thrilled as they spoke of the love of Christ. At one point, as the monk happened to glance out into the distance and saw the beauty of nature, he felt sorry that his companion could not see. He prayed to the Lord and asked that He open her eyes. Our Lord did just that, and the young woman shouted for joy as she gulped in the beauty of the world. But by nightfall, sadness crept over her. The monk could not understand the reason for her tears. Then she told him, "Ask God to close my eyes again; for the brighter the things of this world are to my eyes, the dimmer are the things of God to my soul. The more I see of the world, the less I see of God."*

**A Note from Fr. Geoff**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today, as we celebrate Mother's Day, we give thanks to God for the vocation of those women - our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and spiritual mothers - who have nurtured and loved us into the people we are today. Although celebration of days like Mother's Day and Father's Day aren't on the liturgical calendar, I think there's something profoundly Christian about making a day to show our gratitude to and for those who have raised us. The gift and vocation of Motherhood is a deep mystery built right into the way the world works. Although God is the Creator of all, no human being comes into existence without parents, literally procreators. Motherhood, in particular, teaches us something about the character of God himself.

For example, the Scriptures use motherhood as an image of divine creation when God rhetorically asks Job, *"Who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?"* (Job 38.8). God uses a motherhood as a metaphor for his care of his people, when he says, *"As a mother comforts her child, so I [God] will comfort you"* (Isaiah 66:13) and *"For a long time I [God] have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant."* (Isaiah 42.14)

In God's great providence, he "built in" to his creation of humankind the role of Mothers to show us something about his creation, provision, compassion, and loving-kindness for us. In turn, God also took a mother for himself in the Incarnation, when he deigned to be made human in the womb of the Theotokos Mary. Hers was the highest motherly vocation - to care for, to nourish, and to raise God himself.

Today, let us give thanks for the women in our lives who have carried us, nourished us, cared for us, and sacrificed for us - whether physically or spiritually. It is good for us to show our gratitude, appreciation, and respect to those who in a very special and concrete way show us the mercy and lovingkindness of the God who creates, sustains, and redeems us. God grant them many, blessed years! ***Mnohaya Lita!***

And of those who have already gone to the rest, let us always remember them in prayer to our merciful and loving God: Eternal Memory! ***Vichnaya Pamyat!***

Yours in Christ,  
*Fr. Geoff*



## Sunday of the Man Born Blind

John's Gospel is full of people who are looking for salvation: the Samaritan woman at the well, Nicodemus who comes to visit Jesus in the darkness of night; and the crowds who are fed by Jesus. We are also looking for salvation, for the healing of our broken loves, for release from our loneliness, for righting of the injustices of our world. Those who stop looking they have begun to see are like the man born blind: they come to believe in Jesus. Such sight is a gift; to receive it we have only to open our hearts to Jesus, the light of the world.



This light is not meant for ourselves alone. "Live as children of light," Paul says. "Light produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth." We are meant to bring the light of Christ to the darkness of one another's lives and of our world. One example of a woman who did this is Fannie Lou Hamer, one of the great leaders of the Black freedom struggle. Born into a family of Black sharecroppers in the Mississippi Delta, she engaged in a nonviolent struggle for the rights of the Black and poor. Many of her projects met with apparent failure, but she endured great hardship and persecution without bitterness. She is remembered for proclaiming the Word through songs like: "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine . . . Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!" Her life is one reminder that God's light of love and justice continues to shine even in the midst of the most terrible darkness. We are called today to believe in that light and bring it to others.

### Touched by Divine Light

St. Ambrose of Milan teaches that the blind man touched by Jesus received more than just his sight. In one instant we see both the power of his divinity and the strength of his holiness. As the divine light, he touched this man and enlightened him. As priest, by an action symbolizing baptism he wrought in him his work of redemption. The only reason for his mixing clay with the saliva and smearing it on the eyes of the blind man was to remind you that he who restored the man to health by anointing his eyes with clay is the very one who fashioned the first man out of clay, and that this clay that is our flesh can receive the light of eternal life through the sacrament of baptism.

You, too, should come to Siloam, that is, to him who was sent by the Father, as he says in the Gospel: "*My teaching is not my own; it comes from him who sent me.*" Let Christ wash you, and then you will see.

*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! - Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!*

*"Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "I do believe Lord."*

## Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ

This Thursday, May 18, is the feast of the Glorious Ascension into Heaven of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ. **It is a holy day of precept (obligation) for all Byzantine Catholics.** To commemorate this Feast we will have a Vesperal Divine Liturgy on **Wednesday, May 17 at 6:00 PM.**



Wednesday is the last day of Pascha for Christians of the Byzantine tradition. After Wednesday's end, we cease chanting the Paschal hymns. The canon, the stichera, even the ubiquitous tropar: Christ is Risen... all come to an end. It is the last day to rejoice in the pure Paschal joy in the presence of the Risen Lord before his Ascension. For the next nine days there is a kind of silence hovering over the Church's liturgy. There is still a certain Paschal joy and expectation for Pentecost; for example we still do not kneel...but there is an air of waiting, of not quite full Paschal joy... **But for today, sing your heart out! It is the last chance till next year.**

*Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He blessed them, He parted from them, and was carried up into heaven...*

The Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ is celebrated by our Holy Church as one of the Great Feasts on the fortieth day after Pascha-Resurrection of Our Lord. The Ascension of Christ shows the last stage in God's plan for mankind: total union with Himself upon one's departure from the world. According to a great scholar Fr. George Florovsky, "in the Ascension resides the meaning and the fullness of Christ's Resurrection....and with Christ, man's nature ascends also."

"We who seemed unworthy of the earth, are now raised to heaven," says our holy father John Chrysostom. "We who were unworthy of earthly dominion have been raised to the Kingdom on high, have ascended higher than heaven, have come to occupy the King's throne, and the same nature from which the angels guarded Paradise, stopped not until it ascended to the throne of the Lord."

By His Ascension, the Lord not only opened to us the entrance to heaven, not only appeared before the face of God on our behalf and for our sake, but likewise transferred us to the high places. "He honored them He loved by putting them close to the Father." God quickened and raised us together with Christ, as St. Paul says, "and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:6). Heaven received the inhabitants of the earth. "The First fruits of them that slept" sits now on high, and in Him all creation is summed up and bound together. "The earth rejoices in mystery, and the heavens are filled with joy."

### Christian Greeting During Ascensiontide

As we now prepare for the glorious conclusion of the radiant Resurrectional season, we anticipate the forthcoming splendid ascensional holiday season. For our Christian greeting that we shall use throughout Ascensiontide, we are called upon to proclaim the sublime reality that following the ascension event, "**Christ is glorified!**" As we joyously render the response to this festive greeting, we affirm to all people everywhere that we must "**Exalt Him forever!**"



**ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238



**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik      Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff**

**Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh**

**Holy Mystery of Reconciliation** ..... Before and after Liturgies, or by appointment

**Holy Mysteries of Initiation** ..... Contact the pastor

**Holy Mystery of Anointing** ..... Contact the pastor prior to surgery or in the event of illness

**Holy Mystery of Marriage** ..... Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

**Pirohi Sales** ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month

**St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club** ..... Everyone welcome to participate

**Opportunities for Stewardship** ... ..Church and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each month.

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*Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! Христос Воскресе! Воистину Воскресе!*