

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:For the long life and health of:

**Linda**, wonderful wife, mom, and Mom-Mom on her birthday, offered by her family and with Love, Babes.

Readings:

- Acts 16:16-34
- **John 9:1-38**

At that time, as Jesus passed by, 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. We 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 man?" 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.

Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PMSunday service:

**Hours – 9:40 AM**                      **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**  
**Private Confession –** Half hour before any service. See Fr Matthew for other times.  
**General Confession –** 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month  
**Pannikhidas –** after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month

Coffee hour – after Liturgy

(Church School has ended for the school year.)

**We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.**

Announcements:

- The Great Feast day, **Ascension of Christ**, is this Thursday June 13. We will have a Vespertal Liturgy service on **Wednesday June 12 at 6:30 PM**. The service is our participation in Christ's physical departure and His glorification with God the Father, together with the great joy which His disciples had as they received the promise of the Holy Spirit who was to come.
- The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on June 30<sup>th</sup> after coffee hour.
- The **2013 Parish Council Conference**, called: "**Parish Growth and Evangelization in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey**" will be held on Saturday, 15 June 2013 at Holy Resurrection Church, 285 French Hill Road, Wayne NJ. RSVP by 1 June: Father Paul Kucynda (973-696-6572) Email: pkucynda@optonline.net

Special Announcements:

- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**The Blind Man:**

The sixth Sunday of Pascha commemorates the healing of the man blind from birth (Jn 9). We are identified with that man who came to see and to believe in Jesus as the Son of God. The Lord has anointed our eyes with his own divine hands and washed them with the waters of our baptism (John 9:6-11).

Jesus used clay of spittle and told the man to wash in the waters of Siloam. He did so because it was the Sabbath day on which spitting, clay-making and washing were strictly forbidden. By breaking these ritual laws of the Jews, Jesus showed that he is indeed the Lord of the Sabbath, and, as such, that he is equal to God the Father Who alone, according to Jewish tradition, works on the Sabbath day in running his world.

There is scandal over the healing of the blind man on the Sabbath day. He is separated from the synagogue because of his faith in Christ. The entire Church follows this man in his fate, knowing that it is those who do not see Jesus as the Lord who are really blind and still in their sins (Jn 9:41). The others have the light of life and can see and know the Son of God, for “you have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you” (Jn 9:37).

**Ascension:**

Jesus did not live with his disciples after his resurrection as he had before his death. Filled with the glory of his divinity, he appeared at different times and places to his people, assuring them that it was he, truly alive in his risen and glorified body.

*To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the Kingdom of God (Acts 1:3).*

It should be noted that the time span of forty days is used many times in the Bible and signifies a temporal period of completeness and sufficiency (*Gen 7:17; Ex 16:35, 24:18; Judg 3:11; 1 Sam 17:16; 1 Kg 19:8; Jon 3:4; Mt 4:2*). On the fortieth day after his passover, **Jesus ascended into heaven** to be glorified on the right hand of God (*Acts 1:9-11; Mk 16:19; Lk 24:51*). The ascension of Christ is his final physical departure from this world after the resurrection. It is the formal completion of his mission in this world as the Messianic Saviour. It is his glorious return to the Father who had sent him into the world to accomplish the work that he had given him to do (*Jn 17:4-5*).

*... and lifting his hands he blessed them. While blessing them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ... (Lk 24:51-52).*

The Church’s celebration of the ascension, as all such festal celebrations, is not merely the remembrance of an event in Christ’s life. Indeed, the ascension itself is not to be understood as though it were simply the supernatural event of a man floating up and away into the skies. The holy scripture stresses Christ’s physical departure and his glorification with God the Father, together with the great joy which his disciples had as they received the promise of the Holy Spirit who was to come to assure the Lord’s presence with them, enabling them to be his witnesses to the ends of earth (*Lk 24:48-53; Acts 1:8-11; Mt 28:20; Mk 16:16-14*).

In the Church the believers in Christ celebrate these very same realities with the conviction that it is for them and for all men that Christ’s departure from this world has taken place. The Lord leaves in order to be glorified with God the Father and to glorify us with himself. He goes in order to “prepare a place” for and to take us also into the blessedness of God’s presence. He goes to open the way for all flesh into the “heavenly sanctuary ... the Holy Place not made by hands” (*see Hebrews 8-10*). He goes in order to send the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father to bear witness to him and his gospel in the world, making him powerfully present in the lives of disciples.

(V. Rev. Thomas Hopko)



See us on the web at: [ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)

E-Mail us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

Sunday Bulletin

**Church of the Mother of God**

*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

*Founded 1966*

115 Hudson St. Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

**V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce,**

**Temporary Rector**

Email: [docandrnl@verizon.net](mailto:docandrnl@verizon.net)

Phone: 856-227-6915



Sunday of the Blind Man

**Christ is risen!**

Христос Воскресе!

**Indeed he is risen!**

Воистину Воскресе!

*I come to You, O Christ,  
Blind from birth in my spiritual eyes  
And I call to You in repentance:*

*You are the most radiant light of those in darkness!*

**Kontakion**

**Today the Church remembers:**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha • Blind Man**

- St. Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria (444) • Ven. Kirill, Abbot of Belozérsk (1427) • Ven. Alexander, Abbot of Kushta (Vologdá—1439) • Five Nuns beheaded in Persia: Martyrs Thecla, Mariamne, Martha, Mary, and Enmatha (346) • St. Columba, Enlightener of Scotland (597)

**June 9, 2013**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha**

Pentecostarion Week 6

(Tone 5)