

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:****For the eternal memory of:**

**Michael, father of Fr. Boris, offered by Fr. Boris and Matushka Galina.**

**Readings:**

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

**IN THOSE DAYS**, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

**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.

**Sunday service:**

**Hours - 9:40 AM**                      **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**  
**(General Confession – 9 50 AM on the first Sunday of each month. Except Lent)**  
**(Private Confession – Half hour before any service. Please don't delay the service.)**  
**(Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month)**

**Church School - 9:30 AM**

**Coffee hour - after Liturgy**

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

**Announcements:**

- **Special Parish meeting** Our parish is having a special meeting on Tuesday May 22, 2012 at **7:30 PM**. Archpriest Samuel Kedala, dean of the New Jersey Deanery, will meet with the parish next Tuesday evening. All parishioners of the parish are invited to attend.
- **There will be no Church School next Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, but there will be Church School on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will be the last class of the school year.**

(More announcements on back page)

Announcements: (continued)

- The **2012 Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** program is underway. This is a way to: Support our diocesan seminarians, establish more mission parishes in our Diocese, and support existing parishes that need help.  
Our parish will be having a special collection for the next few weeks to donate to this fund. We ask that you help out by contributing to the collection and/or donating directly by mail with a "**Vision for Our Future ~ DDB**" flyer, or online at the website: [http://nynjoca.org/vision\\_for\\_future\\_2012.html](http://nynjoca.org/vision_for_future_2012.html)
- **The next meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos will be on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**, after coffee hour.

**The Blind Man:**

Today, 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*).

*I come to Thee, O Christ,  
blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,  
and call to Thee in repentance:  
Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness!*

(Kontakion)

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"*

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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

**On this day the Church remembers:  
6th Sunday Of Pascha • Blind Man.**

- Martyr Thalelaeus at Aegae in Cilicia, and his companions, Martyrs Alexander and Asterius (ca. 284)
- Uncovering of the Relics of St. Alekxy, Metropolitan of Moscow and Wonderworker of All Russia (1431). Rt. Blv. Prince St. Dovmont (Timothy), Prince of Pskov (1299)
- Martyr Asclas of Egypt (ca. 287)
- Ven. Zabulon (Zebulon) and Sosanna (Susanna), parents of St. Nino, Enlightener of Georgia (1996).

**May 20, 2012**

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday Of Pascha  
(Tone 5)

Pentecostarion  
Week 6