

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday Of Pascha - Sunday of the Blind Man:**

After the Midfeast (John 7:14), the Lord Jesus Christ came to the Temple again and taught the people who came to Him (John 8:2). After leaving the Temple, He opened the eyes of a man “**who was blind from his birth**”(John 9:1).

The miracle described in today's Gospel (John 9:1-38) is even more remarkable than it might seem at first. St Basil and other Fathers tell us that this was not just a case of giving sight to a blind man born with eyes that did not function, but to someone who had no eyes at all! The second Exapostilarion for this Sunday says, "**Along the way, our Savior found a man who lacked both sight and eyes....**"

The Gospel says, "**Since the world began, it was not heard that any man opened the eyes of one who was born blind**" (John 9:32). There are examples in the Old (Tobit 2:17) and New (Mark 8:22-26) Testaments of blind people receiving sight, but this is something completely unprecedented.

The Savior placed clay in the man's empty sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he obeyed these instructions, the eyes of clay became living eyes!

In his MENAION, St Demetrius of Rostov calls the blind man St Celidonius.

**Leavetaking of Pascha:**

On Wednesday of the sixth week of Pascha, **June 1** this year, we celebrate the **Leavetaking of Pascha**. While most Feasts have their Leavetaking on the eighth day, Pascha, the Feast of Feasts, has its Leavetaking on the thirty-ninth day. The fortieth day, Thursday **June 2** this year, is the **Feast of the Lord's Ascension**, which marks the end of the Lord's physical presence on earth. He does not abandon us, however. He has promised to be with us always, even until the end of the age (MT 20:28). As we sing in the Kontakion for Ascension, "*Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love Thee, but remaining with them and crying: I am with you and no one will be against you.*" There is a similar thought expressed in the Troparion for the Dormition: "*In falling asleep, you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.*"

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**Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!**



The Blind Man

*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 - Sunday of the Blind Man

**On this day the Church remembers:**

**6<sup>th</sup>SUNDAY OF PASCHA - Blind Man** • Virgin Martyr Theodosia of Tyre (307-308) • Repose of Bl. John of Ustiug, Fool-for-Christ (1494)  
• Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council (325) • Virgin Martyr Theodosia, Nun, of Constantinople (726-730) • Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, “SURETY OF SINNERS.”

**May 29, 2011**

Sunday of the Blind Man

Tone 5 (Tone 8)

| 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday Of Pascha

| Pentecostarion Week 6

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

**Nikolai**, son of Adele and brother of Holly

**Risley**, father of Linda, offered by Linda and Richard

**For the health of:**

**Gabrielle Stefy** on her birthday, granddaughter of Lore Stefy

**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.

**Sunday service:**

Hours - 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

Church School - 9:30

Coffee hour after Liturgy

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

**Announcements:**

- Irenina will be baptized today after the Liturgy and Michael will be Chrismated.
- **Visit by Bishop Michael, Saturday, June 18, 2011**  
The parish is happy to announce that His Grace, Bishop Michael will visit our parish on Saturday, June 18. There will be a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy followed by a luncheon; the cost of which will be \$10.00 per person. There will be no advanced sale of tickets, but **luncheon reservations should be made by using the sign up sheet at the candle stand.**  
Greeting and vesting of the Bishop will be at 9:30 AM with the Liturgy starting around 10:00AM.

**Special Announcements:**

- **Today will be the last meeting of our Sunday School class for the school year.** We would like to thank the parents and grandparents of our students for bringing them to church early these past few weeks. It has helped to allow the Divine Liturgy to begin on time. Look for Sunday School special awards to be given out within the next few weeks.
- There will be a **meeting of the Parish Council today** after coffee hour.
- The next **meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos will be next Sunday, June 5,** after coffee hour.