

THE 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. Saint 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.

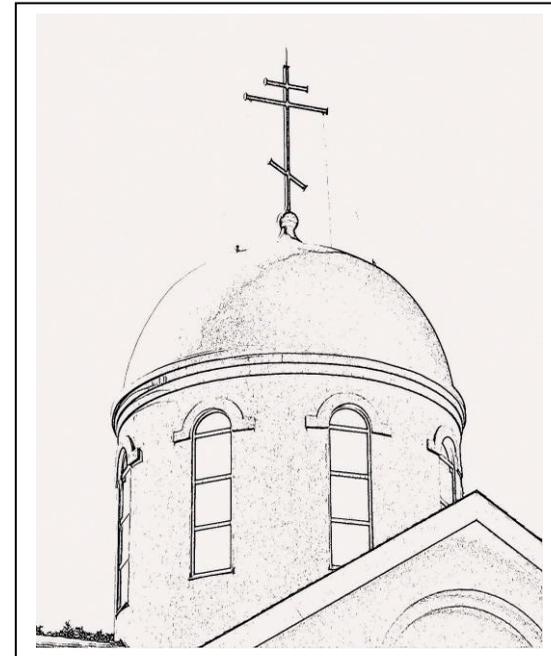
The Savior placed clay in the man’s empty sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he obeyed these instructions, the eyes of clay became living eyes!



Passing by the way, O Lord,
Thou didst meet a man blind from birth.
Thy Disciples were puzzled and asked:
“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 revealed in him.
I must work the works of Him Who sent me, which no one else can do.”
As He said this, He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle,
and anointed the man’s eyes with the clay and said to him:
“Go, wash in the pool of Siloam!”
He went and washed, and was made whole, crying: “Lord, I believe!” //
He worshipped Thee, and we cry: “Have mercy on us!”

(Vespers, Sunday of the Blind Man, Lord I Call, Glory to the Father...)

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

A Parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey of the Orthodox Church in America

360 Van Zile Road, Brick, New Jersey 08724

Phone: (732) 458-9032 Email: orthodoxbrick@gmail.com

Fax: (732) 295-0007 Website: www.orthodoxbrick.org

Very Rev. Fr. Gary Joseph Breton, *Rector*
Very Rev. Fr. Sergius Kuharsky, *Retired Attached Priest*
Very Rev. Fr. Paul Kucynda, *Retired Attached Priest*
Rev. Fr. Alexander Smida, *Attached Priest*
Rev. Dn. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Deacon*

Tara Paxton, *Senior Warden*
Reader Matthew Hascha, *Choir Director*

May 24, 2020
SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA
Sunday of the Blind Man

Tone 5. Ven. Simeon the Stylite (the Younger) of the Wonderful Mountain (596). Ven. Nikita the Stylite, Wonderworker of Pereyaslavl'—Zaleskii (786). Martyrs Meletius Stratelates, Stephen, John, and 1,218 soldiers, with women and children, including Serapion the Egyptian, Callinicus the Magician, Theodore, Faustus, the women: Marciana, Susanna, and Palladia, two children: Cyriacus and Christian, and twelve Tribunes—Faustus, Festus, Marcellus, Theodore, Meletius, Sergius, Marcellinus, Felix, Photinus, Theodoriscus, Mercurius, and Didymus, all of whom suffered in Galatia (138-161). St. Vincent of Lérins.

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

Gospel: John 9:1-38

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today @ 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday @ 6:00pm Great Vespers (Feast of Ascension)

Thursday @ 9:00am Divine Liturgy (Feast of Ascension)

Saturday @ 6:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday @ 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Gospel: John 17:1-13



The Blind Man

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news and directives by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.occa-brick.org.

Memory Eternal to all those who gave their lives in service to their country. We remember them especially on this **Memorial Day weekend**.

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Reader John Economou, Meni Mari, Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Alan Diaz, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Dorothy Studier, Helen Ciurczak, Pauline Barnowsky, Elba Cinciarelli, and Catherine Ratushnuk.**

Annunciations

TODAY – Except for the Divine services, all in-person parish activities including **Church School classes, organizational meetings, baking sessions, etc.** are CANCELED until further notice. Only those who are deemed “essential” to the conducting of the service are allowed to be present and participate in the services. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in following these directives.

TODAY – The “**Virtual Coffee Hour**” will be held today at 11:00am. Please plan to join in to make contact with your parish family.

THIS THURSDAY is the **Great Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord**. On this day, we will begin a process of **offering the Eucharist to the Faithful**. Beginning at 11:00am, communicants who have made appointments will come into the church to receive the Eucharist. This will be a very controlled process as outlined in the letter that has been distributed to all parishioners. Masks will be required. Hand sanitizer will be provided. Candles may be purchased. All proper sanitization procedures will be followed. Appointments will be for **15-minute periods** (11:00, 11:15, 11:30...2:45). The **last appointment will be at 2:45pm**. Appointment requests can be made by contacting Father Gary (Phone or text: 848-333-7055, Email: orthodoxbrick@gmail.com). **Appointment requests must be made prior to 3:00pm on Wednesday**. The plan will be for us to repeat this process on this Sunday, May 31.

Please continue **mailing your regular donations** to the parish to the church address: 360 Van Zile Road, Brick, NJ 08724. We now have the ability to accept **on-line donations**; visit our website for a link. Many thanks for continuing to support your parish in these challenging times.

We are accepting donations to help local food pantries get food into the hands of those in need. If you would like to help out in this effort, **we are asking for donations in \$25 increments** to purchase grocery gift cards. The gift cards donated will be used or distributed to help those in need. Donations for this should be marked as “Grocery Card Aid”. There is a provision for this kind of donation on the online donation page. To date, **over \$800 has been raised** for this effort, and **\$800 worth of cards** has been distributed.

MANY YEARS

Birthdays this week:

Thursday – Tom Anderson

Wedding Anniversaries this week:

Tuesday – Kathy & Alan Diaz (#7)

CHRIST IS RISEN!

INDEED HE IS RISEN!

We continue to greet each other this way up until this Thursday, the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord.