

If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain.. '1 Corint. 15:14



ST. NICHOLAS

Serbian Orthodox Church

971 St. Clair Road, Johnstown, PA 15905 ■ 814-255-1853; Parish Priest : *Rev. Dragan Zaric*



Celebrating **111** years **1906-2017**
Welcome! Thank you for celebrating with us!

Weekly Bulletin - Sunday May 21, 2017
Живели на многа љета!!

Sunday, May 8/21, 2017. 6th Sunday of Pascha-of the Blind Man

Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian

- **Liturgical Readings:** *Gospel St. John (16, 16-34).*

Epistle: Acts. (9,1-38).

- **Donations reserved May 14, 2017:**

Offering \$1265.00 Candles \$54.00 Dues \$90.00 Donation \$176.50

Large Candle donations in memory of Donna Trbovich Wharton, Benjamin Kaseler ,

Nancy Adams , Mildred Krzanowsky and Nikola, Milka & Nick Jr Todorich

Tickets/donations for the 111th Anniversary Banquet today' can be purchased in the Candle Room. Cost \$15 per person. Sunday School children are free.



Sixth Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Blind Man

Introduction -The sixth Sunday of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Blind Man. The day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. The biblical story of this event is found in the Gospel of Saint John 9:1-41. -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.

Acts 16:16-34 Revised Standard Version (RSV)

Paul and Silas in Prison

¹⁶ As we 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. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." ¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ 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; ²⁰ and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. ²¹ They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." ²² The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. ²³ And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely.

²⁴ Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶ 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.

²⁷ 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. ²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear -

he fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. ³⁴ 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.

Kontakion (Fourth Tone): I come to You, O Christ, as the man blind from birth. With the eyes of my soul blinded, I cry out to You in repentance, "You are the resplendent Light of those in darkness."

How should I live my life?

Article by Mr. Carlos G.- May 21, 2017

"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues....And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved."

The question of how should I live my life continues this week, and to answer this question, we turn to the Gospel of Matthew. The Lord has informed his disciples that He will send them out into the world to teach and preach the Good News; however, the Lord has informed the disciples that they would go out as sheep among wolves. The Lord has informed them that they may suffer, and the Lord has instructed them to remain as harmless as doves. In this Gospel, there is a message for us and especially for our youth. As a follower of Jesus Christ, you will be asked to live as sheep amongst wolves. You too will experience hardships in the Name of the Lord, and you too are expected to be harmless as doves. In these situations, remember that the Lord said: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." For some of us, the need to be accepted by others, the need to be accepted and loved by this world may be more important than withstanding the hardship and suffering. In an interview in the early 1990s, Patriarch Pavel of the Serbian Orthodox Church explained the dangers facing the sheep as they go out into the world. In an interview which was translated from the Serbian into the English language, Patriarch Pavle stated: "Yes, Lord Jesus explains that to us and directs us. He says, Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. The reality is such that being truly Christian in the world as it is, that lies in the evil, means being a sheep among wolves. A sheep among wolves is in danger on two sides. The first one, wolves could pull it apart. Christ does not send us for that. The second danger, a sheep sees that it cannot survive among wolves except as a wolf. So it sharpens its teeth, turns its hooves into clutches, learns how to howl and becomes a wolf out of a sheep. Christ does not send us for that either. Be therefore, wise as serpents, innocent as doves...."

Although our Lord was instructing His disciples, telling them that they would be sheep in the midst of wolves, so too it is for our youth, who go out into the world as sheep and as devout Christians, in the midst of wolves. There will be some children who will be able to endure the threats, taunting, and suffering, and they will remain as sheep. On the other hand, there will be some individuals who will live in this world beginning as sheep; however, they may become wolves in order to survive the threats and taunting from the wolves. Once they become wolves themselves, they may be able

to live in this world and may be loved by the wolves as one of their own. Thus the light that was once in us becomes darkened and our Father in heaven is not glorified by our works. However, all is not lost, for the Apostle John shows us the way to again be a sheep who hears the voice of his Shepherd.

Today is the fifth Sunday after Easter and today is a day when we honor the Apostle John. The Apostle John was the only Apostle who did not abandon our Lord on Holy and Great Friday when our Lord suffered terrible punishment so that we may live with Him for all eternity. When our Lord was on the cross, He looked at John and said, "Behold your mother." At that moment, The Mother of Our Lord became the mother of John and the mother of the Church, comforting the early Apostles when the church or the Apostles themselves faced hardships. For us, the take away message, is to be like the Apostle John: Follow our Lord Jesus Christ wherever the Lord leads you; be wise but harmless as doves; and turn to your spiritual Mother, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, for protection and comfort in your trials and tribulations. Resist the temptation to be a part of this world for what does it matter if you gain the whole world as a wolf but lose your soul as a result. Turn to your heavenly Mother, and she will protect you and lead you to her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ is Risen; Truly He is Risen!

**Today, with great joy, the Holy Orthodox Church commemorates
THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST JOHN**

The feast day of this great apostle and evangelist is celebrated on September 26. This day (May 8) commemorates the miracle which appeared at his grave. When John was over one hundred years old, he took seven of his disciples, went outside the town of Ephesus and ordered them to dig a grave in the form of a cross. After that, the elder went down into this grave and was buried. Later on, when the faithful opened John's grave, they did not find his body. On May 8 of every year, dust is raised from his grave from which the sick are healed of various diseases.

SAINT EMILIA

Emilia was the mother of Saint Basil the Great. In her youth she desired to remain a virgin for life but was forced into marriage. Emilia gave birth to nine children and so inspired them with the Spirit of Christ that five of them became Christian saints: Basil the Great, Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, Peter, Bishop of Sebaste, Macrina and Theosevia. In her old age Emilia established a convent where she lived with Macrina her daughter and where she died in the Lord on May 8, 375 A.D.

VENERABLE ARSENIUS THE LOVER OF LABOR—Arsenius was a monk in the Monastery of the Caves in Kiev. He never afforded himself any rest but continually labored. He ate food only once a day, after the setting of the sun. He lived a life of asceticism and died in the fourteenth century.

Memorial services at the Church cemeteries will be held as follows:

✙ BENSOF HILL CEMETERY on Saturday, May 27, 2017 9:30 AM (Begin at Bottom).

✙ GRANDVIEW CEMETERY on Saturday, May 27, 2017 Beginning at 1:30 PM.

✙ OLD ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY on Saturday, June 3, 2017 9:30 AM.

✙ ST. PETKA CEMETERY Saturday, June 3, 2017 10:30 AM (Begin at Bottom).