

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Today we read the story of a blind man healed by Jesus Christ. The first words of the passage remind us of a basic Christian teaching: Things do not happen because of "karma" - a word that is thrown around by many people today. They happen in order that God's will may be fulfilled.

We know this from Jesus' own words. The disciples ask Him why the man has the misfortune of being blind—was it his sin or his parents' that caused it? They are expressing an idea that is similar to karma, the idea that adversity in this life is due to some sin in a former life.

Jesus declares a firm "no" to this. He tells the disciples that "it was not that this man sinned, or his parents." Rather, the man was born blind so that God's works could be openly shown (manifested) in him.

The rest of the reading shows us how this happens. Try as they may, the Pharisees and some hostile onlookers can't destroy the power of the miracle, and the healed man comes to worship Jesus Christ as Lord.

No doubt his example encouraged some who were present that day to do the same. So through his blindness he came, and brought others, to faith in Jesus Christ as God. As Jesus said, his misfortune was the means by which God's works were manifested.

But there are many ways of facing adversity. The blind man is told to walk to the pool of Siloam, with muddy clay on his eyes—clay formed and placed there by Christ. Jesus had healed others with a word, not making them stumble through the streets with eyes covered in mud. Why, the blind man might have asked,

Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Genevieve Bobenko, Michael Bzik, Andrew & Dorothy Fabian, Mary Hadginske, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

couldn't he be healed without having to make himself conspicuous in public?

What certainty could he have that it would be "worth it" in the end? But the blind man didn't ask those questions. He was faithful and obedient when faith and obedience were not easy. He was ready to trust God to work in His own way—to trust, even when not necessarily understanding.

On Thursday of this week we will celebrate the Ascension. At Pascha we witnessed the greatest example of faith and obedience with its wonderful result: the death, and then the resurrection, of Jesus Christ. Those two events still puzzle some people. They cannot understand why the Son of God would demean Himself with a brutal death. They ask why God would bring salvation in this way.

But again Jesus Christ gives the answer. In Luke's 24th chapter He reminds the disciples of everything written in the Old Testament about Him. Those writings included prophecies of pain and death, but also of repentance and forgiveness for people everywhere.

Out of that greatest of adversities, human redemption would come. It all had to happen, He tells His followers, so that "everything... might be fulfilled."

Mother's Day Greetings

Our heartfelt greetings to all mothers, grand-mothers, great grandmothers, godmothers, and aunts of our Parish. Let us honor our mothers by praying for them and show our love and respect. May God bless all mothers with good health, joy, peace for Many Years! Let us also not forget to pray for our departed mothers who have entered Eternal Life. Memory Eternal!

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Jennifer Czech**, who celebrates her birthday this Tuesday. May God grant you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Announcements

◆ Archimandrite Sergius and the Brotherhood of **St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA** invite everyone to attend any or all events for the **114th Annual Pilgrimage** beginning May 25. For more information and schedule of services/events please see flyers at the bulletin board.

◆ **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** program have funded vital ministries in our Diocese for several years. Parishes, youth, seminarians, and clergy have all benefitted through financial assistance, retreats, workshops, programs, and social/educational opportunities that help to nurture and grow the Body of Christ. Thanks to our DDBs, much has been accomplished as is being accomplished to this day. The fruits of their investment in the life of our Diocese are obvious and the source of much joy. As we are in the midst of the journey to Pentecost, perhaps you will consider making a contribution to the 2018 DDB program, and join with many others in this blessed work. For more information about the program please pick up a brochure by the bulletin board ... and, thank you for your generosity!



May 13, 2018

6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Blind Man

- 8:45am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 16:16-34
Gospel: Jn. 9:1-38
- Panikhida in memory of **Mitered Archpriest John Nehrebecki**, on the 40th day of his Repose
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

6:00pm - Great Vespers & Litya

THURSDAY, MAY 17 - ASCENSION

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, MAY 19

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MAY 20

9:00am - Divine Liturgy