



St. George Melkite-Greek Catholic Church
1617 West State Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1246
"An Eastern Church in communion with the Church of Rome"

Rectory and Office: 414-342-1543
The Rt. Rev. Paul G. Frechette, Pastor

Website: byzantinemilwaukee.com
Facebook: fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee

May 5, 2024 — Sunday of the Man Born Blind



Icon of the Gospel of the Man Born Blind

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Divine Liturgy

Intention: Happy and eternal repose of the soul of NABIL Wahhab (req. by Patricia Ebeling)

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 5): Let us O Faithful, praise and worship the Word coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He has willed to be lifted in the flesh upon the Cross, and to endure death, and to raise the dead by his glorious Resurrection.

St. George: O Great among the saints and glorious martyr, George, since you are a deliverer of captives, a doctor for the sick and a noble attendant to kings, intercede for us to Christ God, that he may save our souls!

Troparion of Pascha: Christ is risen from the dead and by His death He has trampled upon death; and has given life to those who were in the tomb.

Christos anesti ek nekron thanato thanaton patissas; kai tis en tis mnimassis zoin charisamenos. (Greek)

Prokimenon: You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

Stichon: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any holy man, for truthfulness has vanished from among the children of men.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 16: 16-34

In those days it came to pass that as we the disciples were going to pray; we were met by a girl who had a spirit of divination

and brought her masters much profit by her soothsaying. Now, she was following Paul and us, and kept crying out

Kontakion: Though You went down in the tomb, O immortal One, You overthrew the power of Hades and rose victorious, O Christ God. You greeted the ointment bearing women, saying "Rejoice!" You gave peace to Your apostles, and to those who had Fallen resurrection.

Hirmos: The angel cried out to the one who is full of grace: "Hail, O Immaculate Virgin! Hail, again! For your Son is risen from the tomb on the third day!" Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has shone upon you. Rejoice and be glad, O Sion; and you, O Pure One, O Mother of God, exult in the resurrection of your Son!

May 5, 2024 — Sunday of the Man Born Blind

loudly, "These men are servants of the most high God, and they announce to you a way of salvation!" This she did for many days. But Paul could not stand it, so he turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ: get out of her!" And it went out of her that very moment.

But seeing that their hope of profit was gone, her masters seized Paul and Silas and dragged them to the market-place before the authorities; and bringing them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city. They are Jews, and they advocate practices it is not permitted for us to adopt or observe, since we are Romans."

And the crowd opposed them too, and the magistrates tore off their cloaks and ordered them to be beaten with rods. And after inflicting many blows on them, they threw them in jail, ordering the jailer to keep them under safe guard. And he, receiving this command, consigned them to the inner jail and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But at midnight, while Paul and Silas were singing hymns to God, the prisoners lis-

Alleluia: Your favor, O Lord, I will sing forever; from generation to generation, my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

Stichon: For you have said, "My kindness is established forever." In heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

Gospel: Sunday of a Man Born Blind, Jn 9:1-38

At that time as Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who has sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither has this man sinned nor have his parents, but

tened to them. And suddenly, there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and at once all the doors flew open and everyone's chains came loose.

But when the jailer woke up and saw all the doors of the jail open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, thinking the prisoners had escaped.

But Paul cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Do not hurt yourself, for we are all here!" Then calling for a light, he ran in, and trembling with fear, fell at the feet of Paul and Silas. And he let them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved together with your household."

And he spoke to him the word of the Lord, and to all his household. And he took them at that same hour of the night, and washed their wounds; and he himself was baptized, and all those of his household immediately after. And taking them into his house, he set a table before them, and rejoiced with all his household over his faith in God.

the works of God were to be made manifest in him. I must do the works of the one who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the world." When he had said these things, he

May 5, 2024 — Sunday of the Man Born Blind

spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle, and spread the clay over the man's eyes, and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam (which is interpreted 'sent')." So, he went away, and washed, and returned seeing. The neighbors therefore and those who had seen earlier that he was blind began saying, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is." But others said, "He only looks like him." Yet, the man declared, "I am the one." They therefore asked him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "The man who is called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' And I went and washed, and I see." And they asked him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. Now, it was a Sabbath on which Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Again, therefore, the Pharisees asked him: how he received his sight. But he said to them, "He put clay upon my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore, 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 work these signs?" And there was a division among them. Again therefore they said to the blind man, "What do you say of the one who opened your eyes?" But he said, "He is a prophet." The Jews therefore did not believe of him that he had been blind and had got his sight, until they called the parents of the one who had gained his sight, and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, of whom you say he was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know this is

our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we ourselves do not know. Ask him; he is of age, let him speak for himself." These things his parents said because they feared the Jews. For already the Jews had agreed that if anyone were to confess him to be the Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. This is why his parents said, "He is of age; question him." They therefore called a second time the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God! We ourselves know this man is a sinner." He therefore said, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know, that whereas I was blind, now I see." They therefore asked him again, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, but you did not listen. Why would you hear a second time? Would you also become his disciples?" They heaped abuse on him therefore and said, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know God spoke to Moses; but as for this man, we do not know where he is from." In answer the man said to them, "Why herein is the marvel, that you do not know where he is from, and yet he opened my eyes. Now we know God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshipper of God, and does his will, him he hears. Not from the beginning of the world 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 and said to him, "You were altogether born in sins, and do you teach us?" And they turned him out. Jesus heard they had turned him out, and when he had found

May 5, 2024 — Sunday of the Man Born Blind

him, said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is he, Lord, that I may believe in him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen him, and he it is who speaks with you." And he said, "I believe, Lord." And falling down, he worshipped him.

Stewardship

Last Sunday: ordinary collections=\$381.00. Thanks for your generosity!

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance; last updated May 5, 2024): \$18,504.57.

Want to automate donations? One-time or monthly payments via **PayPal**: byzantinemilwaukee.com/donate. Use your bank's **online billpay** (payee information): St. George's Syrian Congregation · 1617 W State St · Milwaukee, WI 53233-1246; phone: (414) 342-1543; email: info@byzantinemilwaukee.com.

Prayer List

Please remember—All those who are sick and in need: M.J. Harden and Ken Schmidt (sister and brother-in-law of Brian Harden), Barb Moden (sister of Jan Taylor), Eva Nora (niece of the Noras), Sandy Rabuse (godmother of Katerina Lessard), the Rebholz family, Eva Saseen (Theresa and Janelle Herro's niece), Dan Sylvester (neighbor of Benjamin Neumann), Jan Taylor, Kathy Tomaz and John Zambo. For those we have been asked to pray for: Justin & Krysten Hager (Jan Taylor). For the people of the Middle East.

Schedule for This Week

Wednesday: 6pm Vesperal Liturgy
Leave-taking of Easter

Thursday: *THE ASCENSION*

Sunday: *Sunday of the Fathers of the First Council of Nicea*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Drew Michels (5/6). May God grant you many years!

The Ascension

Troparion: You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through Your blessing they were confirmed in their belief that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

Kontakion: After fulfilling for us Your plan of redemption and joining the things of earth with those of heaven, O Christ our God, You gloriously ascended without abandoning us, but remained with us forever and reassured all who love You by telling them: "Behold, I am with you: no one has power against you."

May 5, 2024 — Sunday of the Man Born Blind

COVID-19

According to the Milwaukee Health Department, the best way to stop the community spread of COVID-19 is to take preventative action to protect yourself and others: get vaccinated and boosted (city.milwaukee.gov/CovidVax) when you are eligible, wear a mask (city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus/masks) in public spaces, wash your hands often and practice physical distancing.

More information is available from the health department: city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus

A Link to Baptism

The cure of the blind man also symbolizes mankind's means for its recovery from its blindness. It symbolizes the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is called holy enlightenment. 'Those who have been recently baptized are called the newly enlightened. This gospel from Saint John was read in the ancient Church on Holy Saturday when Catechumens were baptized. As this man is cured of his blindness when he washes in the waters of the pool of Siloam, as Jesus tells him to do, so are we brought out of darkness into a new life when we are baptized as Christ instructed us to be. Jesus restores His creation, mankind, with the potential to become what it was meant to be before the fall of Adam.

We also hear in the reading that after this man was cured many of those who knew him before did not recognize him. He is still the same man but something has significantly changed about

him. He is no longer blind. So when we are illuminated we are also new persons, though our outward appearance might be the same. To symbolize this newness a white garment is put on us to show the purity with which we start this new existence. We must, however, become different and unrecognizable in our inward and outward actions also. We must manifest our new existence to those around us through these actions. We must radiate this new found light to others by the way we live our lives. We must say to the world, "I am he who was blind but now my eyes are opened. Credit must be given to Him who has cured us of our darkness by living our lives according to the lessons of the illumination we have received and the continued guidance we get with the reception of the Holy Spirit.

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