

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

June 6, 2021

Vol. 38 No. 23

SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA



St. ELIA  
ORTHODOX  CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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*His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese, OCA*  
*Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector*  
*Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Attached*



**Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He 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 it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.**

## Today's Gospel Reading – John 9:1-38

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the 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 spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees.

Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him

who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself."

His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.

Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner."

He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes!

Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He 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 it is He who is talking with you."

Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

# **SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 5 – SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN Ven. Bessarion Wonderworker of Egypt**  
**Saturday, June 5**

**5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions**  
Matins Gospel: John 20:11-18

**Sunday, June 6**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Reader Aaron Gray**  
**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom**  
**Epistle Reader: Reader Aaron Gray**  
Epistle: Acts 16:16-34 Gospel: John 9:1-38

**FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**  
**Wednesday, June 9**

**6:00 pm**  
**Leavetaking of Pascha**  
**Removal of the Holy Shroud from the Holy Table**  
*“Be Thou exalted above the heavens, O God,  
and let Thy glory be over all the earth.”*

**Vespereal Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the  
Ascension of our Lord**  
Epistle: Acts 1:1-12 Gospel: Luke 2:36-53

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 6 – HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL.**  
**Afterfeast of the Ascension of our Lord**

**Saturday, June 12**

**NO VESPERS SCHEDULED**

**Sunday, June 13**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas**  
**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom**  
**Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush**  
Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 Gospel: John 17:1-13

# The Ascension of our Lord



The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension changes. The Feast is always celebrated on a Thursday.

The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven.

The story of the Ascension of our Lord, celebrated as one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church, is found in the book of the Acts of the Apostles 1:3-11. It is also mentioned in the

Gospels of Mark (16:19) and Luke (24:50-53). The moment of the Ascension is told in one sentence: **"He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took Him from their sight"** (Acts 1:9).

Christ made His last appearance on earth, forty days after His Resurrection from the dead. The Acts of the Apostles states that the disciples were in Jerusalem. Jesus appeared before them and commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the "Promise of the Father". He stated, **"You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now"** (Acts 1:5).

After Jesus gave these instructions, He led the disciples to the Mount of Olives. Here, He commissioned them to be His witnesses **"in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"** (Acts 1:8). It is also at this time that the disciples were directed by Christ to **"go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit"** (Matthew 28:19). Jesus also told them that He would be with them always, **"even to the end of the world"** (Matthew 28:20).

As the disciples watched, Jesus lifted up His hands, blessed them, and then was taken up out of their sight (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9). Two angels appeared to them and asked them why they were gazing into heaven. Then one of the angels said, **"This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him going into heaven"** (Acts 1:11).

## Icon of the Feast

The icon of The Ascension of Our Lord is a joyous icon. It is painted with bright colors. Christ is shown ascending in His glory in a mandorla. A mandorla is a design which is almond-

shaped or round. Inside the mandorla is the figure of a holy person. Christ blesses the assembly with His right hand. In His left is a scroll. The scroll is a symbol of teaching. This icon shows that the Lord in heaven is the source of blessing. In addition, Jesus is the source of knowledge. The icon reminds us that Christ continues to be the source of the teaching and message of the Church, blessing and guiding those to whom He has entrusted his work.

The Theotokos occupies a very special place in this icon. She is in the center of the icon, immediately below the ascending Christ. The gesture of her hands is gesture of prayer. She is clearly outlined by the whiteness of the garments of the angels. The Theotokos is depicted in a very calm pose. This is quite different from the appearance of the Disciples. They are moving about, talking to one another and looking and pointing towards heaven. The entire group, the Theotokos and the disciples represent the Church.

The icon of the Ascension includes some who did not witness the Ascension. St. Paul is shown to the left of the Theotokos, but we know that he was not present at the Ascension. At that time, St. Paul did not yet believe in Jesus. But he became a Christian and one of the greatest Apostles and missionaries of Church.

The icon expresses the sovereignty of Christ over His Church; He is its Head, its guide, its source of inspiration and teaching; it receives its commission and ministry from Him, and fulfils it in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**The Feast of our Lord's Ascension will be celebrated with a Vesperal Divine Liturgy on the Eve, June 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm.**



***”Save the date”***



**St. ELIA**  
ORTHODOX  CHURCH

This coming Labor Day Weekend 2021– September 4-5, -our Parish will celebrate **75 Years** as a Christ centered Parish community! Our Father and Archbishop Alexander will be with us for the weekend.

The **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee** has met and is making plans for the 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration and Parish Homecoming event.

***We need your help*** ... we are collecting photos to create a video of St. Elia memories. Please send or share any photos to Kathy Gray from past years to the present. We need all photos by August 10<sup>th</sup> and your photos will be returned to you.

**Here is the tentative schedule:**

**Saturday, September 4:**

**5:00 pm Great Vespers with Social following**

**Sunday, September 5**

**9:30 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy**

**Tonsuring of Joshua Herman Wherley  
as Reader and Cantor**

**Family Centered Barbecue catered by the  
Waterloo Restaurant**

**More details to come...!**

***Christ is risen! Christos Voskrese! Christos Aneste!  
Christus ist auferstanden! El Messieh kahm!  
Cristo e' risorto! Le Christ est ressuscite!  
Hristos a inviat! Krishti U Ngjall!  
Cristo ha resucitado!***

**REMEMBER THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES**

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr .Don and Popadia Donna  
Egor Cravcenko. Son of Serghei and Ludmila Cravcenko

**REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS**

Metropolitan Herman  
Joseph Boyle (brother of Kathy Gray)  
Sandra Dodovich (mother of Tony Dodovich)  
Phyllis George (sister of Rose Marie Vronick)  
Angelo Lambo  
Florence Lambo  
Larissa Freude Newman  
Reader William Paluch  
Subdeacon Martin Paluch  
Martin Vronick  
Rose Marie Vronick  
Niki Bober (President of the Orthodox Christian Women)  
Matushka Myra Kovaia  
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak  
Matushka Chrisitne Zebren;  
Matushka Laryssa Hunt्यान

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, June 15 at 7:30 pm**

**Our Stewardship - Sunday, May 30, 2021**

<b>Candles:</b>	<b>\$42.00</b>
<b>Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>5.00</b>
<b>Sunday Offering:</b>	<b>390.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$437.00</b>



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Dearly Beloved in Christ,  
Christ is risen!

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic we have been taking every precaution to protect the health and well-being of all of our people. In accordance with the CDC, the State of Ohio, and our Diocesan Directives, St. Elia Parish will follow the re-opening plan:

- 1) If you are sick and/or exhibit coronavirus symptoms, you must refrain from attending Services.
- 2) While the CDC and the State of Ohio have lifted the mask mandate, the social distancing and capacity restrictions, the State officials recommend that unvaccinated people continue to wear the mask indoors. The Diocesan Directives stress that everyone is welcome to continue wearing face coverings if there is any level of discomfort with this new guidance.
- 3) The kissing of Icons, the Cross, the Gospel Book and the priest's hand when receiving the blessing is permitted if you are comfortable doing so.
- 4) The sanitizer and masks will be in the vestibule for your convenience.
- 5) `Coffee Hour, hosted by Reader Aaron and Kathy Gray, will resume this Sunday, June 6, following the Divine Liturgy.

Love in our Risen Lord, Fr. Don Anthony Freude