

WEEKLY BULLETIN

May 29, 2022

Vol. 39, No. 22

The Man Born Blind



SAINT 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

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA-Tone 5 – Man Born Blind

Saturday, May 28 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, May 29

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sandy Graham

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34 Gospel: John 9:1-38

MYSTERY OF HOLY MATRIMONY

3:00 pm – The Mystery of Holy Matrimony will be celebrated for Kostadin Georgiev Kostadinov and Sarah Juliana Niglio. Sponsors: Bud and Sandy Graham.

O Lord our God, crown them with glory and honor

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Christos Voskrese! Voistinnu Voskrese!

Christos Anesti! Alithos anesti!

El Messieh Qam! Hakken kahn

Hristos a Inviat! Adevarat a inviat

Christus ist auferstanden! Wahrlich Er ist auferstanden!

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Wednesday, June 1

6:00 pm Vespers Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA-Tone 6 – Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Afterfeast of the Ascension

Saturday, June 4 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, June 5

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc

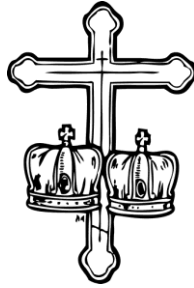
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18,28-36 Gospel: John 17:1-13

BANNS OF HOLY MATRIMONY

Banns of Holy Matrimony are announced for Kostadin Georgiev Kostadinov and Sarah Juliana Niglio. The Mystery of Holy Matrimony will be celebrated today, May 29. Bud and Sandy Graham are the Sponsors.



THE MYSTERY OF HOLY MATRIMONY

Holy Matrimony is a Sacrament in the Holy Orthodox Church and through it a man and a woman are united by our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest.

In the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, a man and a woman are given the possibility to become one body and one spirit in a way no human love by itself can provide. The Holy Spirit is given so that what has begun on earth is fulfilled in eternity in the Kingdom of Heaven. The real joy of the Orthodox Christian marriage is found, therefore, in the perspective of the Kingdom of God: that the commitment in Holy Matrimony is not “until death parts,” but rather until death unites us completely.

The marriage celebration is steeped in meaning and each of the prayers and actions have special significance reflecting that marriage is love, mutual respect, equality and sacrifice.

The Orthodox marriage is not a legal or judicial contract. The Marriage Service contains no vows or oaths. Marriage is not an agreement but a covenant. It is in essence the confirming of love by Christ in the Holy Spirit and establishing it in His Kingdom.

Statement on the tragic school shooting in Texas



Yesterday, we witnessed, once again, another instance of terrible and absurd evil perpetrated against the most vulnerable of God's beloved people: our children. We are filled with sadness and grief at the death of the many children, teachers, as well as those wounded in this tragic shooting at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

I exhort all the monastics, clergy, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America to keep all those affected by this horrible event in their fervent prayers invoking our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ to grant comfort and peace to the afflicted families. It is in these especially tragic moments that we see more clearly why our Savior comes to us as the suffering servant, "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3). Our Lord suffers with us so that He can also give us comfort and hope.

Although the young man who committed this atrocious act seems to have acted alone, we must acknowledge that any

manifestation of violence is also a product of a world which all too often cherishes violence in its many forms. As Christians, we must always oppose any and all forms of violence giving instead that example that our Lord Himself gives us; one of meekness, gentleness, self-sacrifice, love, and patience.

There is no more heart-wrenching occasion than for a parent to lose one's child. I pray that our merciful Lord gives strength and hope to those parents who are now facing their darkest hour. May all who are grieving look towards the great day of the Lord when Christ will "wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away" (Rev 21:4).

Metropolitan Tikhon

Faith originates in love; love in contemplation. It is impossible not to love Christ. If we saw Him now, we should not be able to take our eyes off Him, we should 'listen to Him in rapture'; we should flock around Him as did the multitudes in the Gospels. All that is required of us is not to resist. We have only to yield to Him. To the contemplation of His image – in the Gospels, in the saints, in the Church – and He will take possession of our hearts

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The Diary of a Russian Priest
Alexander Elchaninov

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

Paul and Silas Imprisoned

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly ¹⁸ annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded *them* to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's

chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Gospel: 9:1-38

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

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."

The Pharisees Excommunicate the Healed Man

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.

True Vision and True Blindness

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.



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 . 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"***



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).

Vesperal Divine Liturgy: Wed., June 1 - 6:00 pm

CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX COUNCIL OF AKRON

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of (COCA) the Christian Orthodox Council of Akron. President -Judge Kathryn Michaels (St. George Church); Vice President – Michele Lambo (St. Elia Church); Secretary – Mary Marcin (St. Elia Church); Treasurer = Lou Poplos (Annunciation Church) The Installation will be held on Monday, June 13, at St. Nicholas Church, at the COCA Picnic. To confirm attendance call Pati Malish-Nuzum no later than Friday, 5:00 pm, for food reservations: 330-780-1852.

OUR STEWARDHIP – May 22, 2022

Candles:	\$44.00
<u>Sunday Offering:</u>	<u>941.04</u>
TOTAL:	\$985.04

Tithely Donations: \$ 90.81

Visit the St. Elia Shop

If you haven't visited the little St. Elia "shop" downstairs in the parish hall lately, we are carrying a number of new items including coffee mugs with quotes from the saints, and St. Elia T-shirts and baseball caps. If you are interested in a piece of St. Elia "spirit wear" in a certain size or style that's not currently available, please see Aaron Gray about a special order. All proceeds go toward the life and ministry of our parish. Thank you for your support.

REMEMBERING THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES

Subdeacon Anthony Freude,
son of Fr Don and Popadia Donna Freude
Egor Cravcenco,
son of Serghei and Ludmila Cravcenco

REMEMBERING OUR SICK AND SHUTINS

Metropolitan Herman
Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Joseph Boyle (brother of Kathy Gray)
Phyllis (sister of Rose Marie Vronick)
Angelo Lambo and Florence Lambo
Martin Vronick and Rose Marie Vronick
Nicoletta (Nikki) Bober
Pani Dolores Zuder
Matushka Myra Kovalak
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Laryssa Huntyan
Sarah Niglio
Gregory Sugden
Eve Tavenier
Sue Ellen Turscak

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is risen!

**Christus resurrexit! Vere resurrexit!
Hristos vaskrse! Vaistunu vaskrse!
Krishti U Ngjall! Vertet U Ngjall!
Krisztus feltamadt! Valoban feltmadt!**

PANDEMIC GUIDELINES

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic we have been taking every PRECAUTION to protect the health and well-being of our people. St. Elia Parish will follow these directives:

- 1) If you are sick and/or exhibit coronavirus symptoms, you must refrain from attending services.
- 2) The CDC recommends masking while indoors if you are unvaccinated, sanitizing your hands and to maintain social distancing.
- 3) The kissing of Icons, the Cross, the Gospel Book, the Chalice and the priest's hand when receiving the blessing is permitted if you are comfortable doing so.
- 4) The sanitizer and masks are available in the vestibule for your convenience

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is risen!

Kristos voskres! Voistinu voskres!

Christos vstal zmrtvych! Vpravde vstal z mrtvych!

Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad ha resucitado!

Christos t'ensah em' muhtam! Exai' ab-her eokala!