

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd, Lansing, NY 14882

HolyApostlesLansing.org

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MAY 14, 2017

6TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 5. Blind Man. Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and his mother, Helen (Elena) (327). St. Constantine (1129) and his children, Ss. Michael and Theodore, Wonderworkers of Múrom. Ven. Cassian the Greek, of Uglich (1504). The Meeting of the Vladimir Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos (in commemoration of the saving of Moscow from the invasion of the Crimean Khan, Mekhmet-Girei in 1521).

EPISTLE: Acts 16:16–34: Paul casts out a spirit; he and Silas proclaim the Gospel in prison.

GOSPELS: John 9:1–38: Jesus gives sight to the man born blind.

COFFEE HOUR: This week: Allard **Next week:** Casey

HOLY FIRE: We have received a flame lit from the Holy Fire which miraculously appears in Jerusalem on Pascha. You are welcome to light a suitable candle from it to take home and keep a flame burning at your home as well. Thanks to Vlad & Marina for making the trip to Rochester to bring us the fire.

UPCOMING BAPTISM: Oscar Johnson will be baptized on Sunday, June 4, prior to Divine Liturgy. Please plan to attend and welcome the new member of Christ's "rational flock."

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD: Abp. Michael will be at our church August 19 & 20. Our parish will also be hosting the deanery picnic this weekend. Please plan to be here.

LEAVETAKING OF PASCHA: This Wednesday is the last time this year that we use the Paschal hymns and greeting: the "leavetaking" Liturgy is a last chance to enjoy them, before we move on to the Great Feast of the Ascension on Thursday. Join us in one more Paschal celebration, and in the celebration of our human nature being raised up to heaven.

ST. TIKHON'S SEMINARY COMMENCEMENT AND PILGRIMAGE: St. Tikhon's Monastery will be holding its annual pilgrimage on Memorial Day weekend. The pilgrimage weekend will open Friday afternoon, May 26, with the arrival of the Hawaiian Myrrh-streaming Icon at 3:30 PM and close with Vespers and Matins on Monday evening, May 29, at 4 PM. On Saturday, May 27, the St. Tikhon's Seminary commencement will be held, including the graduation of our own Reader Ivan from the diaconal program. More information is available on the oca website.

KNOW YOUR FAITH: The next "Know Your Faith" series will be discussing Serge Verhovskoy's *The Light of the World*. (Not to be confused with Fr. Alexander Schmemmann's *For the Life of the World*, the subject of a recent "Know Your Faith" series.) This book focuses on the Orthodox understanding of Christ, who He is, and what He calls us to be and do. It's enriching and challenging for people at any level of theological knowledge. We will be meeting on Tuesday evenings, beginning Tuesday, May 31, at the Cup O Jo Café. Please let Fr. Joel know if you are interested.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISER: On Saturday, July 8, we'll be holding a chicken barbecue fundraiser. We'll need volunteers in the morning and early afternoon; please see Bill if you're able to help.

GRADUATION CELEBRATION: All the members of the parish are invited to a graduation party for John Schuler, at 1:30 PM on Sunday, May 28, in Myers Park Pavillion C.

WELCOME VISITORS! We warmly welcome all of our visitors! Please know that we are glad to have you here praying with us, and we invite you to stay after the service to enjoy a meal and meet everyone in our community.

PRAYER SCROLL

LIVING:

Apr Timothy H
Apr Herman S
Apr Sergius K
Apr Thomas E
Apr Stephen M
Apr John R
Apr Patrick C
Pr Adam S & Angie
Mother Raphaela
Mother Christophora
Mat Joanna B
Mat Katya
Mat Mary G
Kh Lynn
Mat Rebekah
Pani Amy
Joshua
Brittany
Gretchen
Marianne
Terrence
Helen
Judy
Mary & Susan

John & Carmine
Nathan
Leah
Helen
Lindsey
Elizabeth
Mary
Joe A
Daniel
Andrew & family
Carol
Elizabeth
David
Shirley
Christina
Jim & Kim
Rachel
Constantine & Maria
Gaetan
Christine
Samuel
Lisa
Lyudmila
Nickolay
Anetta

Zachary
Helena
Natasha, Lena, Vera,
Sergei
Caleb
Danielle
Larry, Mark, Katie
Ann
Dorothy
Ronald
Sheryl & Lacey
Alexander, Angela,
Anton
Peter
Gregory & Ann
Raymond
Vincent
Photini
Robert
Steven, Stephanie,
and family
Diana
Elizabeth
John
Felicia

Children: Anthony,
Mia, Isabel, Bear,
Victoria, Iva Bell,
Panagiotis, Ada,
Grace, Elias, Jack
Seminarians: Rdrs
Robert & Ivan
Birthdays: Casey
Anniversaries:

REPOSED:

Apr John U
Priest Matthew
Priest John
Apr Alexander
Dn Mark
Rdr Gregory
Daniel
Ada
Lillian
Joseph
Marie
Joseph
Laura

Martha
Stanley
Taissia
Stelufa
Theophan
Lynda
Florence
James
James R
Vasily
Mordecai
Alexandr
Ron
John
Eleanor
Harold
Alfred
Edward
Michael
Mat Julianna
Mario
Newly Reposed:
Robert, James, Pr
Ronald, Pr William,
Wilhelmina

BY THE NUMBERS: Last Collection: \$1730.00. Building Fund: \$0.00.
Weekly Budget: \$1150. MTD: \$3076.00. Monthly Budget: \$4600

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Confessions are heard before and after Vespers or by appointment.

Sunday, May 21: 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

Monday, May 22: Rector's Sabbath

Tuesday, May 23: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer with Akathist

Wednesday, May 24: 9 AM Divine Liturgy (Leave-Taking of Pascha)

6PM Great Vespers (Ascension)

Thursday, May 25: 9 AM Divine Liturgy (Ascension)

Friday, May 26: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

Saturday, May 27: 6 PM Reader's Vespers (Fr. Joel at St. Tikhon's)

Sunday, May 28: 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that Thou wouldst renew us and this parish by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with love and longing for Thee. Grant that we would seek not our own will, but to do Thy will in all things and to be willing to lay down our lives out of love for Thee and for our neighbor. Draw thirsty souls to this place and remove their spiritual blindness, granting them through Thy grace to see the beauty of Thy Holy Glory in this place. Fill this community with new life, spiritual vigor, and an insatiable desire to live godly and holy lives. Forgive us all of our sins as we fall down before Thee. Bring us all to a greater repentance and to an amendment of our lives as we look to Thee, the only merciful and loving Lord, Who calls all to salvation. We beg Thee, our merciful Lord, hear us, grant all of these petitions and all of our requests unto salvation: we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

FROM THE PENTECOSTARION

Christ our God, who took flesh through your compassionate mercy and taking pity in your ineffable compassion on one who had been deprived of light from the womb, you granted him divine brilliance, touching with soil his pupils with your moulding fingers. Do you now, O provider of light, illumine too the senses of our souls, as you alone are provider without stinting.

Who will recount your powers, O Christ? Who number the multitudes of your wonders? For twofold you appeared on earth through your goodness, twofold also the healings you bestow: for you opened not only the bodily eyes of one who was maimed from the womb, but also those of his soul. Therefore he confessed you the hidden God, who grant to all your great mercy.

Glory to God for all things!

HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH LANSING, NEW YORK



SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017
SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN
SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN

A SERMON ON THE MAN BORN BLIND

by Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Before his meeting with Christ the blind man had never seen anything. Everything was dark, he had to guess at things, to explore them by touch, to use his imagination. He had no clear authentic image of things. Then he met Christ, and Christ opened his eyes. And what was the first thing this man saw? The face of Christ, His gaze; the face of God become man, the divine gaze full of attentive, compassionate love resting on him, on him alone out of the whole crowd. Straight away he came face to face with the living God and encountered the miracle which so astonishes us: that God can focus His attention on each one of us – as on the lost sheep – and not see the crowd but see the one and only person. After that the man probably surveyed everything around him, and what he had known by description, by hearsay, became reality – “now I see”.

It happens at the present time also; it can happen to each one of us. Like the man born blind we live most of our lives on alms, we sit like beggars at the roadside holding out a hand in the hope that someone will notice, if not us at least our hand, and give us something to sustain us for the next few hours at any rate. Such sustenance comes for us in the form of a friendly gaze resting upon us, a word spoken to us, a kindness done to us. But all this still leaves us by the roadside, blind and begging for help.

When Christ was passing another blind man, Bartimeus, that one did not wait for the Saviour to come up to him and ask him if he wanted to be saved, if he wanted his sight. As soon as he sensed that something unusual was happening in the noisy crowd, and in answer to his question was told who was passing by, he began to shout for help. True, people tried to stop him; true, a slight doubt may have crept into his mind, was it worth shouting, calling for help, would the Lord hear, would He respond to such a trifling need as his? He went on clamouring for help because his suffering was so great, his need was so desperate. He was prepared to push past the people, fight his way through the crowd in order to reach God and be heard by Him.

If only we could realise how blind we are! If only we could realise that our knowledge of life, not only eternal, divine life, but earthly life, depends almost entirely on hearsay, that the life around us is dim and ghostly because we are blind, or (like the other blind man in the Gospel, not immediately cured by Christ) see things in a mist. If only we could remember what the Saviour tells us about the beauty and the glory of both eternal and earthly life and not be satisfied with our blindness, how earnestly would we try to detain Christ, so that He might pierce us with His gaze and speak His sovereign, healing, life-giving word to us. Then indeed we might see the astonishing beauty of Christ's face, the fathomless beauty of the divine gaze resting upon us with mercy and compassion and tenderness. We use our eyes so easily, but we see little, and that superficially. Let us seek the vision that can be ours only, when our hearts become bright and pure. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God; and in

the brilliance of God's presence we might see each other, each one either illuminated by God's love, shining with the glory of eternal life, or else wounded, darkened, expecting from us not just alms but the surrender of our whole life through love in order that he might receive sight, that to him also the Kingdom of Heaven might already be revealed on earth. Amen.

FROM *The Year of Grace of the Lord*

by “A Monk of the Eastern Church” (Fr Lev Gillet)

It is rare, if one has lived through the joy of Easter time sincerely, that one does not feel a certain constriction of the heart when the day of the Ascension comes. We know perfectly well that it is one of the great Christian feasts, and yet, despite ourselves, it seems like a parting, a separation, and that after it, our Lord is not with us in quite the same way any longer. The disciples did not react like this. They could have been overwhelmed with grief but, on the contrary, they “returned to Jerusalem with great joy” [Luke 24:52]. We, too, can try and enter into this joy of the Ascension. Why does the ascension bring joy to Christians?

First of all, the glory of our Lord must be very precious to us, and the Ascension is the crown of his earthly mission. He has accomplished on earth the whole mission which he had received from the Father. It is to the Father that his whole being reaches out. Now he will receive from the Father the welcome that his victory over sin and death – a victory gained so grievously – has merited for him. Now he will be glorified in heaven. The glory and the desire of our Lord are surely more important to us than the sort of “perceptible consolations” that we might receive from his presence. Let us know how to love our Lord enough to rejoice in his own joy. Then the Ascension marks God's acceptance of the Son's whole work of reparation. The Resurrection was the first dazzling sign of this acceptance, and Pentecost will be the last sign. The cloud which today envelopes Jesus as he ascends to heaven represents the smoke of the sacrifice rising from the altar to God. The sacrifice is accepted, and the victim is admitted to God's presence where it will continue to be offered in an eternal and heavenly manner. The work of our salvation has been accomplished and is blessed.

Jesus does not return to his Father in isolation. It was the incorporeal Logos which came down among men. But today it is the Word made flesh, both true God and true man, who enters the kingdom of heaven. Jesus brings into it the human nature which He had assumed. He opens the door of the kingdom to humanity. As if by proxy, we take possession of the benefits which are offered and made possible to us. “[God] hath raised us up together, and made us sit in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” [Eph 2:6]. There are places destined for us in the kingdom, if we are faithful. Our presence is desired and awaited.

WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 21

Troparion, Tone 5 (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion, tone 8 (SS Constantine and Helen)

Thy servant Constantine, O Lord and only Lover of man,
beheld the figure of the Cross in the heavens.
Like Paul, not having received his call from men,
but as an apostle among rulers set by Thy hand over the royal city,//
he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the Theotokos.

Kontakion, Tone 3 (SS Constantine and Helen)

Today Constantine and his mother Helen reveal the precious Cross,
the weapon of Orthodox Christians against their enemies,//
for it is manifest for us as a great and fearful sign in struggle.

Kontakion, Tone 4 (Blind Man)

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,
and call to Thee in repentance://
“Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness.”

Prokeimenon, Tone 8

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Another, Tone 8: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

Alleluia, Tone 8

v. Look upon me and have mercy on me!

v. Guide my steps according to Thy word!

Tone 1 v: I have raised up one chosen out of my peoples.

Communion Hymns

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality!

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

A HYMN OF PRAISE

St. Constantine, by St. Nikolai of Žiča

To Constantine, the shining Cross appeared;
Constantine saw it and glorified God.
It was a sign from the Son of God;
There is nothing more beautiful than this sign:
The sign of suffering and temporal trouble,
But also the sign of final victory.
By this sign which worked wonders,
Constantine set out and conquered everywhere.
In the midst of pagan Rome, which persecuted the Cross,
He raised the Cross on high, to the glory of the Savior.
That which for three centuries had been broken and cursed,
Now, for Rome, became great and holy!
For three centuries the Cross had been spat upon;
The earth had been bathed in the blood of the saints.
Empires and Emperors, arrogant and odious,
Were destroyed one by one, like weak reeds,
But the sign of the cross remained upright;
Miraculously and gloriously it shone on the world.
Constantine recognized it and raised it even higher;
That is why, in the calendar, his name is written.

(From The Prologue from Ochrid)

