

VARIABLES – MAY 21, 2023

SS. PETER & PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

REVEREND FATHER CHRISTOPHER DILLON, PASTOR

REVEREND FATHER GEORGE WASHBURN

“The person who loves God cannot help loving every man as himself, even though he is grieved by the passions of those who are not yet purified. But when they amend their lives, his delight is indescribable and knows no bounds.” ~ St. Maximos the Confessor

Welcome to all our visitors worshipping with us this morning! Please sign our Guest Register as you enter the church and be our guest for coffee and refreshments this morning after the service is over. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you personally to Ss. Peter and Paul.

6th Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Blind Man; Equals-to-the-Apostles Constantine & Helen

CONSTANTINE, PRINCE OF MUROM, & HIS SONS MICHAEL & THEODORE, THE WONDERWORKERS

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom—Hymns & Scriptures

Variable Hymns – see music in packet

Paschal Troparion

Christ is risen from the dead trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Entrance Hymn of Pascha, Russian

In the gathering places bless God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tn. 5, Byzantine

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion of Ss Constantine & Helen, Tn. 8

Having seen the image of Thy Cross in Heaven, and, like Paul, having received the call not from men, Thine apostle among kings, Constantine, entrusted the commonwealth to Thy hand, O Lord. Keep us always in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, O only Love of mankind.

Troparion for Ss Peter & Paul, Tn. 4, Carpatho-Russian

O first enthroned of the Apostles, teachers of the universe, entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world, and great mercy to our souls.

Clergy only – Kontakion of Pascha, Tn. 8

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal. Thou didst destroy the pow’r of death. In vic’try didst Thou arise, O Christ God, proclaiming rejoice to the myrrh-bearing women, granting peace to thine apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles 26:1, 12-20)

In those days, King Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: “I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.’ And I said, ‘Who art Thou, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus Whom you are persecuting.

But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles, to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance."

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (9:1-38)

At that time, when Jesus was passing, He saw a man blind from his birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam," [which means Sent]. So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." 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 do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind?" How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Why this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began 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 him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered, "And who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped Him.

Receiving Holy Communion: Only Orthodox Christians prepared through prayer, fasting, and a recent sacramental confession should approach the chalice for the Eucharist. The Orthodox Church does not practice “open communion” and has no intercommunion with non-Orthodox churches.

After taking Communion: Please return to your place and continue standing until the announcements.

Today's Commemorations and Prayer Requests

Take this list of prayer requests home with you and keep these people in your prayers this week.

For the living: Mets. Saba & Joseph; Pr. Stephen & Kh. Sally; Presb. Olga; Shs. Camille-Anna & Karla; Roger, Mary, Jeff, Michele, Paloma, Julian, Jacob, Michael, Ben, Anna, Elizabeth, Nicholas, Noah, Georgia, Karl, Ares, Rudy, Stacy & Anastasia, Marianne & John, Timothy, Fiona, Jeremiah, Alexander, Caitlin, Sophia, Jon & Serenity, Rosanna, Rose, Dennis, Euphemia, Rick, Jan, Tom, Jim, Bonnie, Jill & Steve, Paul, Matthew, Beverly.

For the reposed: For the newly-departed Lorraine, Grace, Ben, Presb. Zinnia; Met. Philip; Aps. Gordon, Jack; Prs. Tom, Stephen, Basil, David, Terry, Andronikos; Hmks. Ephraim, John, Athanasios; Mnk. Simeon; Nun Theophano; Dns. Mark, John, Mark, Nathaniel, David, Joseph, Michael, Daniel; Khs. Judy, Jedonne, Terry Elizabeth, Doris; Presb. Barbara; Charles, Demetrios, Helen, Barbara; Stella, Rick, Stephen, Christopher, Dolores, Chris, Rick, Florence, Judy, Ruth Ann, Ronald, James, Lucy, Rickie, Rachel, Jennie, John, Ernie, Suzi.

For those who are pregnant and their unborn children: Monica.

For those serving in the Armed Forces: Brycen, Jonathan, David, Jacob, Gregory, Daniel, Don, Scott, Michelle, Noah.