

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND



*Icon of the Man Born Blind -- John 9:1-38*





**PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**  
**BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE**  
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**Next Liturgy:** Saturday, May 20th, at 10am

**DIVINE LITURGY - PATRONAGE CHURCH**

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday of the Man Born Blind 5.14.2023	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Divine Liturgy	For Living and Deceased Mothers of Our Parish
Ascension of Our Lord 5.17.2023	6:30pm	Divine Liturgy	For Living and Deceased Members of Our Parish
Sunday of the Fathers of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council 5.21.2023	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	For: +Ursula Kerscher From: Anna Esquela

This is the **Sunday of the Man Born Blind**, and the last Sunday of the Paschal period before the Feast of the Ascension, which will follow on Thursday of this week.

The *Divine Liturgy During Pascha* booklets, with Propers, are located in the pews. **1**

**GCU BYZANTINE FAMILY DAY AT KNOEBELS 2023:** Join the GCU on **June 11, 2023**, from 11am – 9pm, for a family day at Knoebels Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA. The schedule of events for the day and discounted ticket books can be purchased at [www.GCUUSA.com](http://www.GCUUSA.com). You can call the GCU with questions regarding this event at 724-495-3400, ext. 3810.

**2023 BYZANTEEN EPARCHIAL YOUTH RALLY:** This year’s rally will take place on **Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>** at the Carpathian Village in Cresco, PA. We are waiting on more details, but ByzantTeen Rally 2023 participants must be age 13 by November 1, 2023, and not have reached the age of 18 by June 27, 2023. You can find both the rally’s Teen and Chaperone Registration forms on the Eparchy’s website at [eparchyofpassaic.com](http://eparchyofpassaic.com), click on “Youth and Young Adult Ministries,” then “Byzanteens Youth Ministry.” If you are interested in attending this rally, please let Fr. Serhii know so he can make sure you receive any updates that he receives. If you are enrolled in ECF, our church will cover the registration fee.

**2023 EPARCHIAL ALTAR SERVER CONGRESS:** Registration for this year’s Altar Server Congress, is now open! It will take place at the Carpathian Village, 802 Snow Hill Road, Cresco, PA, from Sunday, **July 16<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please visit [eparchyofpassaic.com](http://eparchyofpassaic.com), click on “Youth and Young Adult Ministries,” then “Altar Server Congress,” for camper registration forms and further information. You can also contact Fr. Michael Salnicky at 570-595-3265, if you have any further questions. Please let Fr. Serhii know as soon as possible, if you are interested in attending. If you are enrolled in ECF, our church will cover the registration fee.

**2023 GCU BYZANTINE FAMILY DAY AT KENNYWOOD AMUSEMENT PARK – 101 YEARS:** Join the GCU on **Thursday, July 27, 2023**, from 11am – 9pm for unforgettable fun. The park is located in West Mifflin, PA. For tickets, or more information, please contact the Fraternal Communications Department at 1-800-722-4428 X3927, or email [mkullen@GCUusa.com](mailto:mkullen@GCUusa.com). You can also visit the GCU’s website – [www.gcuusa.com](http://www.gcuusa.com).

**METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY:** Most Rev. William Skurla, Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh, has invited all clergy and faithful to the Assembly of the Byzantine (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church at St. Mary’s Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsboro, NJ, **November 2-5, 2023**. The theme of this Assembly is “*Living Our Faith, Moving Forward, Appreciating Our Past.*” Registration begins June 15<sup>th</sup>. The Assembly cost is \$250 for individuals and \$400 for couples. The Maria Theresa Foundation will underwrite the registration fees of individuals and couples between the ages of 18 and 35. Special rates for hotel accommodations have been arranged at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bridgewater, NJ. For more information, contact the Assembly coordinators, Fr. Ed Cimbala, at 212-677-0516 or Fr. Yuriy Oros at 609-394-5004. The assembly website is [byzantineassembly2023.org](http://byzantineassembly2023.org), and the email is [byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com](mailto:byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com).

The sixth Sunday of Holy Pascha is observed by our Church as the Sunday of the Man Born Blind. This icon depicts the biblical story of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. Our Lord is shown placing the clay on the eyes of the man. He is with His disciples who are questioning Christ about the source of the man's affliction. The blind man is shown with his hand outstretched toward Christ expressing his faith and willingness to receive healing and grace from the Son of God. Our Lord has in His hand a scroll, which directs us to His statements, "I am the light of the world," (John 9:5), and "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed," (Luke 4:18). The scroll may also represent the role of Christ as Judge. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind" (John 9:39).

## Sermon on Mother's Day

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Today we celebrate Mother's Day. Motherhood is a wonderful feeling. A mother not only gives life to a child, but also protects him throughout his life. A sensitive heart and tender love, caring attitude and self-sacrifice - these are the feelings with which every mother cherishes her child.

You all have probably heard the familiar story about the mother's bill. One day, when my mother was washing the dishes, her young son came up to her and handed her a bill in which he made his demands for the services rendered: I shopped 3 times, cleaned the kitchen 3 times, wiped the dishes 5 times, cleaned my shoes 7 times, 4 laid the table twice, made the bed twice, took care of my younger sister once, etc. The mother read the bill, looked at her son, wiped her hands on the apron and wrote a note on the back: for the 9 months that I carried you under my heart, for all the sleepless nights, for washing your diapers, for wiping your tears, for carrying you in my arms, for reading fairy tales, for cooking, cleaning, I don't give you an account for all this, because everything I did for you, I did it out of love and I ask no reward for it.

They say that a mother's love is the most perfect image of God's love. That is, it is love that precedes us; that is, we do not need to somehow earn or claim it. She is here before us. A mother's love - is not selfish love. Gives quietly, imperceptibly, silently and without the right to reward.

It is also the mother's fate to see the peaks of happiness and the deep sorrow of her children's hearts. Teach a child to walk, talk, love. But also letting her go, watching her go the wrong way, or feeling her pain. Sometimes to get a kiss on the cheek, and sometimes even a blow to the soul.

Elder Paisius (Паїсіій) says: "A woman's heart becomes useless if the love that a woman has in her being does not find a way out. Look: another woman can have five, six or even eight children. She may not have a penny in her heart, but she is happy. She has both noble magnanimity and courageous fortitude. Why? Because she found her purpose."

The Apostle Paul says that a woman will be saved by bearing children if she abides in faith, love and holiness with modesty. (1 Tim. 2:14-15). The Lord called every woman to motherhood. Once upon a time, women were afraid to be childless, but today they are afraid to give birth to children. Children are a blessing from God, it is said in the Holy Scriptures: "The inheritance of the Lord is children; the fruit of the womb is a reward." Therefore, on this Sunday, when we celebrate Mother's Day, the church teaches about what a Christian mother should be. What is the essence of women's happiness in motherhood and raising children.

Mother is the soul of the family, she invests wonderful feelings of love and tenderness in her child. She bears great responsibility in her family, as our proverb confirms: one corner of the house is held by the father, and three by the mother. The father must help the mother in raising children and create suitable conditions for the wife so that she can perform her duties well.

3

"A child loves and respects his father. But this love for the father also increases thanks to the tenderness and warmth of the mother's love," Elder Paisius teaches.

Parents should be an example for children, because they educate not so much by words, but by their own example. The Holy Fathers teach that the family is a domestic church, where the husband should love his wife as Christ loved the Church and even gave his life for her, and the wife should love her husband.

Also, today it is worth reminding children how they should love and respect their parents. Because this is exactly what the Lord's commandment calls for: Love your father and mother.

Therefore, dear believers, on this Sunday, when we celebrate Mother's Day in our nation, the church recalls the responsibilities of motherhood and would like to congratulate all women and mothers on this beautiful day. Because everything blooms and blossoms in May, so a mother's sacrificial heart always blooms with love for her child.

Our dear mothers, let love fill your hearts! Remember that you are guardian angels in your families, in our world and in our parish family.

Jesus, save all our mothers.

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**GOD WITH US +ONLINE+:** The next free virtual program entitled, *"The Pauline World, Understanding the Apostolic Church,"* presented by Rev. Daniel Dozier, will take place in a two-part series **Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>, from 8-9:30pm**. Join us as we embark on a journey into the world in which St. Paul lived, worked, was converted to Christ, and then spent his life preaching the Gospel. Rev. Daniel will give us insights into the people to whom St. Paul was preaching, and the current events and political arena which surrounded him, to gain important context for more fully understanding his numerous epistles in Scripture and the Apostolic Church as a whole. For more information and to register for this program, visit [godwithusonline.org](http://godwithusonline.org).

**GCU ANNUAL HELPING HANDS DAY AT MT. ST. MACRINA, UNIONTOWN, PA:** To assist the Sisters of St. Basil, they are looking for volunteers to work both inside and outdoors on **Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:30am – 2pm**. You can bring your own garden tools, if you would like. Lunch will be served. Please visit [www.gcuusa.com](http://www.gcuusa.com), click on "Events," and then "Helping Hands Day at Mt. St. Macrina," to register. If you can't volunteer, but would still like to help, you can make a donation to help purchase supplies and flowers for the event at the above noted website. The GCU will be matching total donations made by Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, up to \$2,000. Please consider helping out this great cause! You do not have to be a GCU member to volunteer or make a donation.

*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Christós Voskrése! Voistinnu Voskrése!*

4

# CHILDREN'S CORNER

## Jesus Heals the Blind Man

Find as many words as you can in the letters below. Go from left to right.  
The first one is done for you.

**BLIND**OPEACESONSATBEGODPRAISEEMAN

- |                 |                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <u>BLIND</u> | 14. _____                 |
| 2. _____        | 15. _____                 |
| 3. _____        | 16. _____                 |
| 4. _____        | 17. _____                 |
| 5. _____        | 18. _____                 |
| 6. _____        | 19. _____                 |
| 7. _____        | 20. _____                 |
| 8. _____        | <b>Super Word Finder!</b> |
| 9. _____        | 21. _____                 |
| 10. _____       | 22. _____                 |
| 11. _____       | 23. _____                 |
| 12. _____       | 24. _____                 |
| 13. _____       | 25. _____                 |

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** The people of Ukraine, that peace may be soon be restored to their land, our parishioners, the founders of our parish, our benefactors, those who are sick, and those who cannot make it to church. Also, Fr. Serhii, and his family, Marge Dulina, Mike Skovran, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Nancy Erdek, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Anne Gupman, Anna Martin, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Georgianna Kostak, Sandra Suseck, Howard Guba, our first responders, and all military service men and women throughout the world.

*May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician and Healer of souls and bodies,  
grant them peace and good health for many blessed years!*

**STEWARDSHIP:** (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733> – the link is also on our website)

**Patronage Church (May 7, 2023):      Hagerstown Mission (May 6, 2023):**

Donation amounts will be posted in next week's bulletin.

**MOTHER'S DAY COMMEMORATION:** We will be remembering our living and deceased mothers during Divine Liturgy today. Please join us in the social hall, after Liturgy, for some refreshments.

**CONFESSION:** Fr. Serhii is available 20 minutes before or immediately after Divine Liturgy.

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND & JORDAN:** Don't miss this trip of a lifetime. Hosted by Fr. Ed Cimbala. Visit Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Mt. Nebo, Madaba, Amman, Petra, Jericho, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem, January 21-31, 2024. For more information, please contact Fr. Ed at 908-872-2928 or [fredcimbala@gmail.com](mailto:fredcimbala@gmail.com).

**WELCOME TO OUR PARISH:** We welcome all new visitors, to our parish family, and are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and hope you will become an active part of our parish community. If you would like to be added to our parish email list, send us an email at [patronage.church@gmail.com](mailto:patronage.church@gmail.com).

*“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples” (Isaiah 56:7).*



## *Jesus' Power over Blindness*

There is a blindness resulting from sickness which obscures the vision and is remedied by the passage of time. There is a blindness which is caused by some fluids and this, also, when the trouble is removed, is generally cured by the skill of medicine. From this you may know that when one is cured who has been blind from birth it is not a case of skill but of power. The Lord gave health, and He used no medicine, for the Lord Jesus healed those whom no one else had cured ....

What did He wish in that He who gave back life at His command bestowed health by His Word, saying to the dead: "Come forth" and Lazarus came forth from the tomb; saying to the paralytic: "Arise, take up your pallet" and the paralytic arose and began to take up the pallet on which he was carried when he was paralyzed in all his limbs. Why, I say, did He spit and

make clay and spread the clay over the eyes of the blind man and say to him: "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is interpreted "sent")? So he went away and washed and began to see. What is the reason for this? An important reason, unless I am mistaken, for he whom Jesus touches sees more.

Notice at the same time His divinity and his sanctity. As the Light He touched and shed light; as Priest He fulfilled in the figure of baptism the mysteries of spiritual grace. He spat so that you might realize that the things within Christ are light. One who is cleansed by the means which Christ uses truly sees. His spittle cleanses and so does His Word.

*St. Ambrose of Milan*

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit  
[www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)**