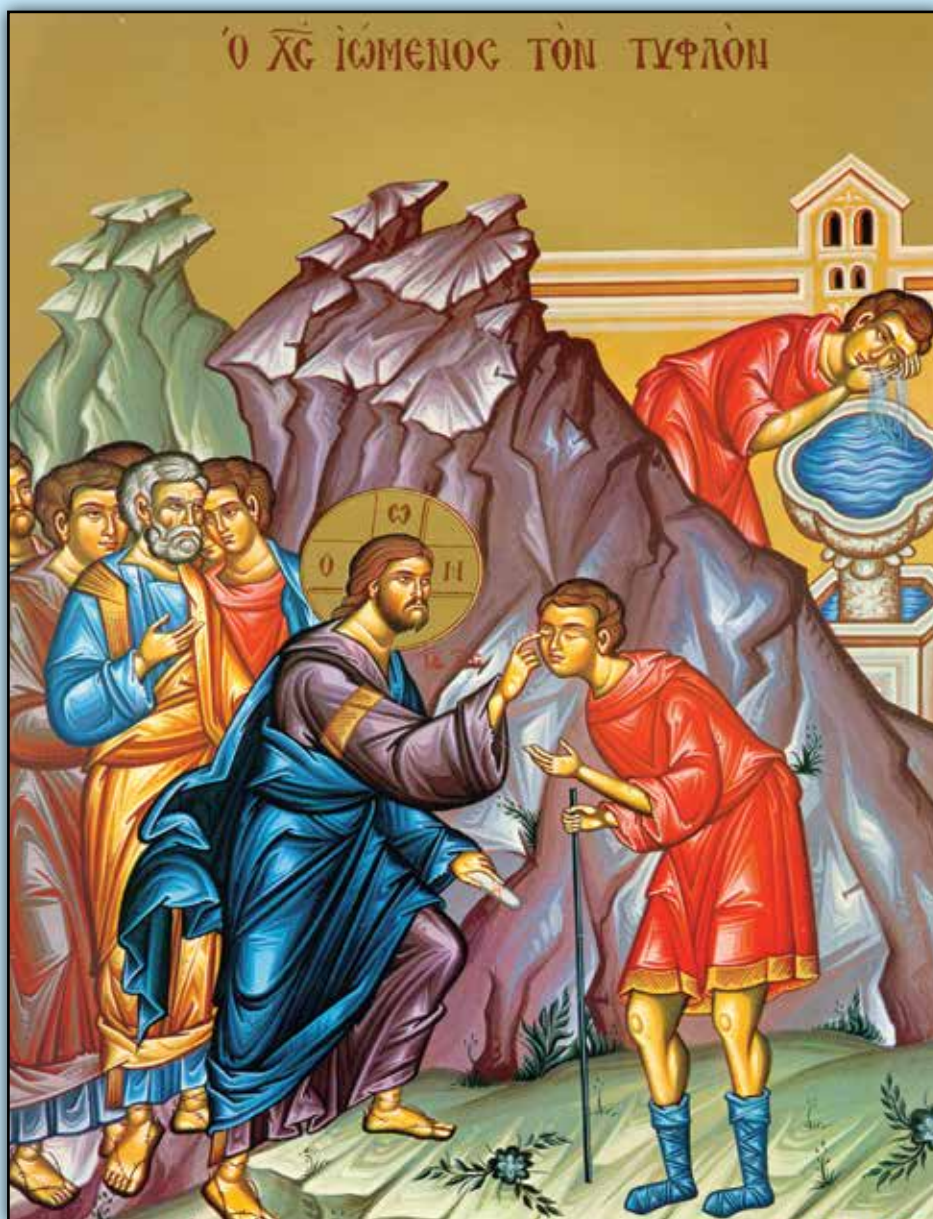


## SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND



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

## May 14, 2023: Sunday of the Man Born Blind

Epistle: Acts 16: 16-34

Gospel: Jn. 9: 1-38

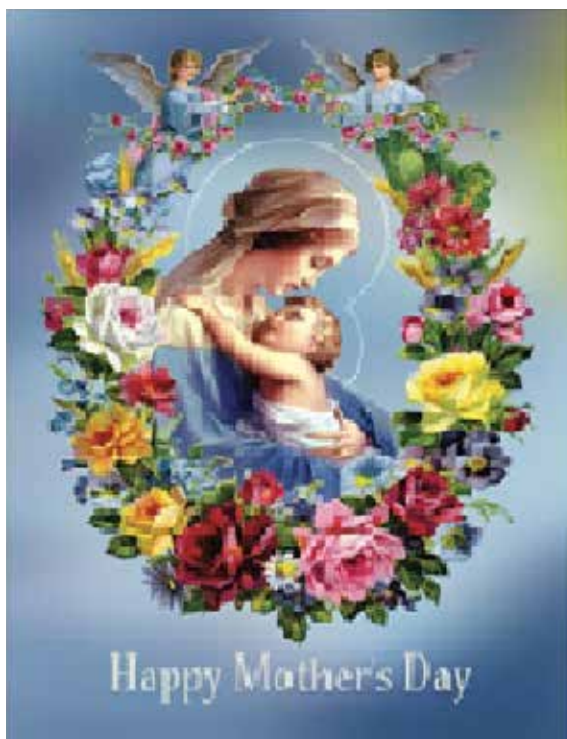
<b>Mon., May 15</b>		<b>No Divine Liturgy Today</b>
	6:00	Moleben to the Mother of God
<b>Tues., May 16</b>	9:00	+ Aaron Moskel (Family)
<b>Wed., May 17</b>	9:00	+ Michael Comerford (Jule Harris)
<b>Thurs., May 18</b>		<b>Ascension of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)</b>
	9:00	For Our Parishioners
<b>Fri. May 19</b>	9:00	+ Nancy Trygar (Toni & Mike Hvizdzak)
<b>Sat., May 20</b>		<b>No Morning Liturgy</b>
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	For Our Parishioners
<b>Sun., May 21</b>	10:30	+ Helen, Joseph & Cheplick Family (John & Mary Ann Turko)

### A REFLECTION ON MOTHERS' DAY

Today, we give thanks to our mothers for their gift of life and nurture by remembering them especially in our prayers, and with acts of affection and goodness. We fondly and gratefully recall their living as bearers of light in our earthly life. Mothers give special witness as active bearers of the light of faith to their children, to their spouse, and to the entire family.

Jesus said that a person does not light a candle and then put it under a basket for no one to see. The gift of our faith, the light of our faith is meant to

shine brightly. It is meant to be a source of rekindling the faith in others around us who may be struggling. Mothers seem to be blessed with a compelling grace to actively teach and model their lifegiving faith to their children and to others. They plant the early seeds of faith in Jesus Christ and nurture it throughout their lifetime. They do not surrender to being passive in the celebration of their faith for which all of us are so grateful. They are steadfast in their faith as witnessed by their steadfast participation in the Church.



The best testimony you and I can give to the gift of our mothers is to ourselves become bright bearers of the light of faith. Choose to nurture the seed of faith planted within you by your mother by learning more about your faith, your Church. Choose to actively share your faith with those whom you

have been given to love and nurture in your life. Celebrate your faith energetically and enthusiastically, and without reservation, in imitation of your mother's gift to you. Choose to put aside your passivity! It only limits and constrains the gift so freely given to us by our mother.

The Blessed Mother of God gave her passionate and unconditional 'yes' to celebrate God's plan through her. It led to a gift for all of us beyond our comprehension – God's saving plan for all of us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. The love and unconditional commitment of our earthly mother has given you and me opportunity to celebrate life and all its wonders as recipients of God's love. In testimony to our loving mothers, let us live as bright bearers of light!

God bless all of our mothers in ways only He can for many blessed and happy years! May the souls of our loving departed mothers be granted eternal peace with Jesus Christ!

-- Archbishop-Emeritus Stefan Soroka

## **HOW THE VIRGIN MARY PROTECTS HER FAITHFUL CHILDREN FROM ALL EVIL**

The Virgin Mary is first of all a mother, and a very powerful spiritual mother! She is fully united with her

Son in Heaven and seeks to use all of her power to protect her children, who are invited to turn to her in their time

of need. St. Louis de Montfort, an 18th century priest who dedicated his whole life to leading souls to Jesus through Mary, wrote about the protection she offers in his book entitled True Devotion to Mary. He compares her to a hen who gathers her brood under her wings, saving them from outside enemies.

Mary, the beloved Mother of chosen souls, shelters them under her protecting wings as a hen does her chicks. She speaks to them, coming down to their level and accommodating herself to all their weaknesses. To ensure their safety from the hawk and vulture, she becomes their escort, surrounding them as an army in battle array. This she does out of the pure love she has for us, especially those who are daily devoted to her. This

simple truth has been confirmed by many throughout the years, especially exorcists.

Famed exorcist Fr. Gabriele Amorth discovered this reality in his dialogues with the devil, where the devil said to him, “I am more afraid when you say the Madonna’s name, because I am more humiliated by being beaten by a simple creature, than by Him.”

Pope Francis related similar words in a homily at St. Mary Major, “Where the Madonna is at home the devil does not enter; where there is the Mother, disturbance does not prevail, fear does not win.”

Let us stay underneath the wings of the Blessed Mother and let her safely guide us to eternal life!

## **SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND**

Today the Church celebrates the Sunday of the Healing of the Blind Man. This man, who had been “born blind,” encountered Jesus when the Lord was leaving the Temple in Jerusalem. The man was, apparently, begging for money or food at the gate of the Temple and when Jesus spoke to him he listened and was obedient to the Lord’s command. Unlike the other figures in the Gospel account, this man alone had never seen the miraculous works of Christ, and yet, trusted in his word. We too, who

have “not seen and yet believe” trust in the word of the Lord and follow in his ways. In this way, we, who were formerly blinded by sin, have begun to see through faith.

But, how do we trust in the Lord and follow in his ways? In the Epistle today, we are reminded on the conversion of Saul who, blinded by anger and his persecution of the Church, discovers that he is persecuting Christ himself and is called to join in the healing ministry of the Lord. We too, those who have been

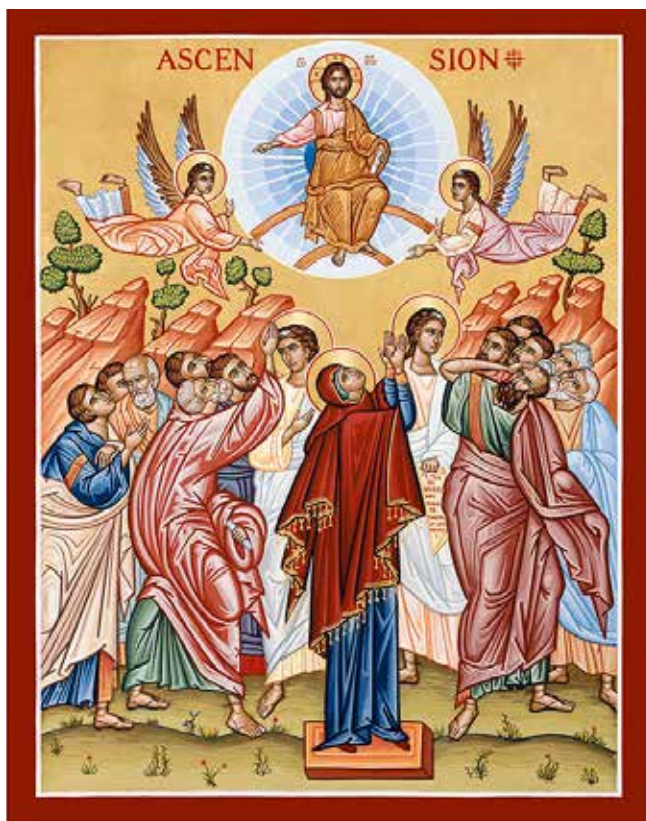


baptized into Christ and have received the vision of faith, are called to do “work[s] befitting [our] repentance.”

And what are those works which we are called to do if not to follow in the ways of Christ and Saint Paul, to bring healing to those who are spiritually blind through

ignorance of Christ? To help those to whom God has called us to minister “to open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the dominion of Satan to God; that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by faith in me.”

## THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD



narrative. “*He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took Him from their sight.*” (1:9). Our Church celebrates this event of Christ’s glorification. It celebrates all that Christ has done and accomplished for us. The Kontakion of the Feast summarizes all of Christ’s work:

When You fulfilled the plan of salvation for us and united all things on earth to those in heaven, O Christ our God, you ascended in glory, never leaving us but remaining ever-present. For You proclaimed to those who love You; “I am with you and no one else has power over you.”

The Icon of the Ascension is an icon of joy. It celebrates the meaning of this event for the Church and the world. The Ascension took place on the Mount of Olives. Thus, the

The Acts of the Apostles records the Ascension of Christ in a very simple

mountainous background of the panel, dotted with images of scattered olive

trees. The figure of Christ ascending in glory is surrounded by a circular nimbus composed of various bands of color, symbolic of the heavens. This nimbus itself is supported by angels whose presence is yet another indication of the glory and divinity of Christ. It recalls the Old Testament image of God enthroned upon the Cherubim.

In the foreground of the Icon, the image of the Mother of God is seen surrounded by two groups of apostles. Of prime importance is her position—directly below Christ. This entire grouping, the Mother of God and the Apostles, stands as an expression of the establishment and role of the Church. The Icon includes not only those who actually witnessed the Ascension. It also includes the Apostle Paul, in the

Icon at the head of the group on the right, who historically could not have been there. What is intended is that the Church witnesses to this event.

The Mother of God, she who had once carried the Christ within herself and was therefore the temple of the Incarnate Son of God, stands here as a personification of the Church, the body of Christ, whose head is the ascending Savior. The gesture of her hands, uplifted in faith and prayer, expresses the role of the Church, ceaselessly interceding for the salvation of the world. The direction of movement of this whole group, their gestures, the focus of their eyes and postures, everything is directed upward: toward the Source of Life of the Church, its head Who abides in heaven.

## **WHY DO WE STAND, AND NOT KNEEL, FROM EASTER TO PENTECOST?**

In the tradition of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, it is not correct to kneel at anytime from Easter to Pentecost. Despite the fact that other churches do it or “visitors...are surprised” does not change the fact that kneeling is not proper during this time. In the Ukrainian Catholic Tradition, the action of kneeling and prostrating is a penitential posture. It is the position of a sinner

seeking forgiveness. It is NOT a position of adoration (as it is in the West). This is why it is practiced so often in the Lenten season.

Standing is the proper position for giving praise and thanks to God in the spirit of joy and happiness. During the Paschal Season (Easter to Pentecost), the time for repentance, and fasting, is over. It is the time of our salvation for

“Christ is Risen!” We express our joy, thanksgiving and adoration for this fact and the fact that we who have “...been baptized into Christ and put on Christ” have also risen with Him. It is for this reason that kneeling is improper during this holy season. To kneel during this season is to imply that you do not

accept the Resurrection of Christ. By standing for all prayer, (even private before and after services) we are demonstrating, in a bodily way, that you believe that “*Christ is risen from the dead, and by death He has trampled death and to those in the graves He has granted life.*”

## MAY DEVOTIONS

The month of May is devoted to our heavenly Mother, Mary. A Moleben service will be offered on Mondays in May, at 6:00 pm. Come to church, join

us in honoring her, who God first honored, by choosing her to be the Mother of His Son.

## NEXT FUNDRAISER

Here's the latest: The FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL is scheduled for next weekend, May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> from noon to 7 pm. On the same days, the FLEA FAIR CLEARANCE will be held from 9 am to 4 pm. We've made a lot of progress in the gym. Items have been consolidated on the tables and the unopened boxes have been sorted and readied for sale.

We're soliciting bakers and donors of baskets for the Bake Sale

and Basket Raffle. (If you're unable to make a basket, you can donate new items and we'll put the basket together for you.) Also, we will need volunteers for the events. Anyone interested, please call Jule (570) 357-6171, Michaelene (570) 209-2026, or Mary Ann (570) 313-1989....or sign up on the sheet in the vestibule. Prior to the events, we'll have a meeting to discuss any remaining questions.

## COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of May 2023 is Team #1:

Jerry Sereditch, Michaelene Davis, and Gloria Jablonski.

**Sunday Collection for May 6 & 7, 2023: \$1,797.00**

## Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *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*

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