

THE ST. ELIZABETH'S PARISH NEWS

St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Church

2265 E. Cherokee Dr. Woodstock, GA

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Reverend Father Matthew Dutko, Pastor

Phone: 607-206-0384

Email: FatherDutko@gmail.com

Sunday May 10th 2015

6th Paschal Sunday

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

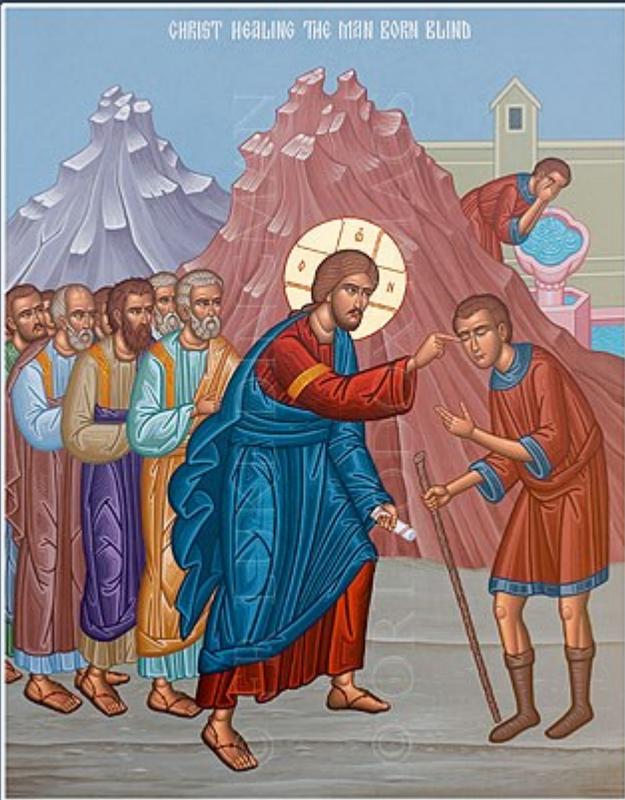
Gospel: John 9:1-38

Sunday of the Man Born Blind

Christ is Risen!!! Indeed He is Risen!!!

Sunday of the Man Born Blind *6th Sunday of Pascha*

Tropars and Kondaks and other Special Hymns: Blue Book pg. 206, Red Book pg. 229..



Weekly Schedule:

Wednesday 5/20 7:20 PM - Great Vespers for the Feast of The Ascension.

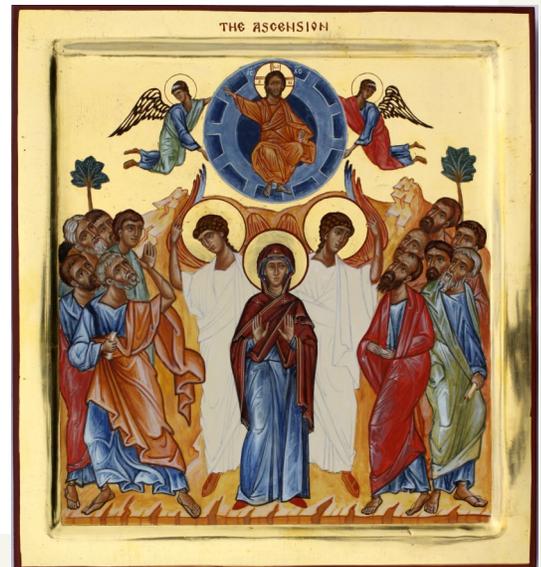
Thursday 5/21 9:30 AM– Divine Liturgy– **Ascension.**

Saturday 5/23 5 PM– Great Vespers

Sunday 5/24 10AM– Divine Liturgy

This Thursday is the feast day of the Ascension of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Ascension is one of the 12 major Feast Days of the Orthodox Church. It is one of the days of the year that if we are able, we should be in Church. Attending the Divine Liturgy on this Holy Day should be a priority for everyone who is able.

The Feast of the Ascension is one of the *Great Feasts of our Lord*. Christ's ascension into heaven is the fulfillment of the testimonies revealed in the Old Testament. Our Lord's ascension into Heaven was the final act of His mission of salvation for the world. In the Icon of the Ascension, we see Christ rising into the heavens on a cloud. Below Him, on the Mount of Olives, is the Apostles surround by Mary (The Mother of God) in the middle. The theology or the meaning of this, is to represent that Christ's earthly ministry, His incarnation, which began in the womb of Mary, is now fulfilled in His glorious ascension into Heaven. Now Christ, who is both fully man, and fully God ascends into Heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father in His resurrected human body; thereby making it possible for all humanity to enter the Kingdom of Heaven in the same manner. This joy for all humanity is made possible by Christ through the entirety of His Incarnation. Through Christ's Salvific mission, His Passion, death on the Cross, Resurrection, and finally **fully completed** through His ascension into Heaven. Humanity now has the ability to receive Christ's "free gift"; to enter into eternal life in the same manner as our Saviour did. We too can now ascend into heaven on the last day with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FR. MATTHEW

- **Camp Nazareth Registration Open!**- Camp Nazareth Registration is available online. Don't hesitate to register as early as possible. There is an *early bird* discount for those who register by May 15th! Cost for Camp is not a concern, if you need any assistance please see me. I will help anyone who has trouble through the online registration process.
- **Every Little Bit Helps**- Anyone who is willing to aid in the maintenance of the Church grounds please see me. There is lots to do. Feel free to come anytime to help keep the Church property beautiful!
- **Thank you**- To those who helped out in the beautification of our Church grounds by weeding and placing more pine straw in front of the Church!
- **National ACRY** - Thank you to the National ACRY who over the advent season had a fundraiser for our benefit. Because of their generosity we will be able to purchase vestments and other needed items for our parish. May God Bless the ACRY!
- **Parish Council Meeting** - Today!
- **Altar Society Meeting** - Next Week!

More on Ascension...

At the Great Vespers on the eve of Ascension there is a reading from the **Book of Isaiah (62:10-63:3, 7-9)**. Long before the birth of Christ on the first Christmas, Isaiah prophesies Christ's salvific mission. That Christ would come and suffer the passion for us, be rejected by us, and redeem mankind because of His "steadfast love". Isaiah tells us that Through Christ's incarnation (life, work, passion, death, resurrection, and ascension) that He has prepared the way for us to enter into Heaven. Just as Christ himself ascended into Heaven in His restructured human body, we too, now by His grace, will have the same opportunity.

In the first part of this reading, Isaiah 62:10-12 is a very powerful vision of the Ascension of Christ and what it now means for humanity. It begins "Go through, go through the gates!" (Is. 62:10) because this is exactly what Christ is now doing, he is returning to Heaven *through the gates*. In Christ's incarnation he condescended and became fully man (while remaining fully God). Christ took on the lowly form of humanity in order to redeem us; He did what we could not do for ourselves. Now the angels in Heaven rejoice because Christ returns triumphantly to Heaven, fulfilling His salvific mission; Christ returns to Heaven *through the gates*. "The Heavens prepared His throne...the angels marveled at the sight of a human being more exalted than themselves".

The "daughter of Zion" (Is. 62:11) is the Church. The Church is who the good news of salvation is proclaimed for. Through Christ's ascension into heaven our "salvation is coming" (Is. 62:11), the door to paradise is now opened. The Church and her people are now "the holy people, the redeemed of the Lord" (Is. 62:12). Where once the human race was exiled from paradise, now the *city is not forsaken*, rather the entire human race is redeemed through Christ and salvation is available through the Church, the Body of Christ.

In the special hymns for the vespers of the Feast of Ascension, The angels in heaven pose the question "who is this who has ascended into heaven"? Who is this King of Glory? How has one in the flesh entered into the heavenly courts? Christ is the One "who comes from Edom, with dyed garments" the "One who is glorious in His apparel" (Is. 63:1). His apparel is dyed red, "like one who treads in the winepress" (Is. 63:2) because Christ suffered the Cross for us, so that we too could ascend to the very heights of heaven just as He did on Mount Olivet. Through this reading of the prophecy of Isaiah we are shown the majesty and steadfast love of Christ, who condescended in order to save mankind, unworthy as we are.

If you are interested in reading more, please ask Fr. Matthew

Prayer List

Evelyn Melnikoff, Pani Betty Jean Baranik, Fr. James Gleason, The Paccio Family, Johanna, James, Herbert and Mary Schleining, Patricia James, Anna, Basil, David, Dianna, Denise, Alex, Jason, Athanasia, Ethel, Kathy, Lester, Sally, Jack, Angela, Tyler, Maria, Bezerra Family, Phillip, Jeff, Lesley, Page Family, Stephen (Blessed Repose), The Blonar Family, Anna (Blessed Repose), Louise,

Through the prayers of St. Elizabeth, the Birth-giver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, and all the Saints, may our Risen Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ have mercy on us and save us!

