



# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

Sunday May 9  
Sixth Sunday of Pascha/Tone 5  
The Blind Man



Protection of the Virgin Mary

8600 Grand Blvd.  
Merrillville, IN 46410  
(219) 947-4748 (Church)  
(219) 730-4698 (Hall Rental)

Great Vespers  
Saturday - 4 PM  
Feast Days - 7 PM  
Divine Liturgy  
Sunday - 9:45 AM  
Feast Days - 9 AM  
Sunday Adult class 9Am  
Children's classes after liturgy

Fr. Peter Bodnar, Rector

Fr. Christopher Sarafin

All services in English

A parish of the  
Orthodox Church in America

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Today's  
commemorated feasts  
and saints...

**6th SUNDAY OF  
PASCHA — Tone 5.**

**Blind Man.** Prophet  
Isaiah (8th c. B.C.).  
Martyr Christopher of  
Lycia, and with him  
Martyrs Callinica and  
Aquilina (ca. 250).  
Translation of the  
Relics of St. Nicholas  
the Wonderworker  
from Myra to Bari  
(1087). Ven. Shio of  
Georgia (6th c.).

## Tone 5 Troparion (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.

## Tone 4 Kontakion (from the Pentecostarion)

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

## Tone 8 Kontakion (Pascha)

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal,  
You destroyed the power of death.  
In victory You arose, O Christ God,  
proclaiming: “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing  
Women,//  
granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing  
resurrection on the fallen.

## Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our  
God! (Ps 75/76:11)  
v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in  
Israel. (Ps 75/76:1)

## **Readings for Sunday May 9 2010**

### **Acts 16:16-34 (Epistle)**

16Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." 18And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. 19But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. 20And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; 21and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe. 22Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. 27And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. 28But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." 29Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

### **John 9:1-38 (Gospel)**

1Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. 2And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. 4I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. 5As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. 6When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. 7And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. 8Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" 9Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." 10Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" 11He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." 12Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." 13They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. 14Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

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## **.Gospel (cont)**

15Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."16Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.17They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."18But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight.19And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"20His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;21but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.22His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.23Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."24So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner."25He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."26Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"27He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"28Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples.29We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from.30The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes!31Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.32Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.33If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.34They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.35Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" 36He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"37And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."38Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

## **Commemorated on May 9**

After the Midfeast (John 7:14), the Lord Jesus Christ came to the Temple again and taught the people who came to Him (John 8:2). After leaving the Temple, He opened the eyes of a man "who was blind from his birth (John 9:1).

The miracle described in today's Gospel (John 9:1-38) is even more remarkable than it might seem at first. St Basil and other Fathers tell us that this was not just a case of giving sight to a blind man born with eyes that did not function, but to someone who had no eyes at all! The second Exapostilarion for this Sunday says, "Along the way, our Savior found a man who lacked both sight and eyes...."

The Gospel says, "Since the world began, it was not heard that any man opened the eyes of one who was born blind" (John 9:32). There are examples in the Old (Tobit 2:17) and New (Mark 8:22-26) Testaments of blind people receiving sight, but this is something completely unprecedented.

The Savior placed clay in the man's empty sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he obeyed these instructions, the eyes of clay became living eyes! In his MENAION, St Demetrius of Rostov calls the blind man St Celidonius (see his account of St Lazarus in the Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles on January 4).



