



MAY 17, 2026



***ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH***

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HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA , ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK

AND

METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

HIS GRACE BISHOP THOMAS, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE

OF CHARLESTON, OAKLAND , AND MID-ATLANTIC

REVEREND FATHER SERAPHIM MOSLENER

***Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. (John 16:23)
When a new person is baptized or Chrismated we say to that person, "Welcome Home!" The Church is where each person voluntarily belongs as one who believes in and belongs to Christ .***

We take this opportunity to welcome those guests worshipping with us.

Anyone wishing to request prayers for Health and Well-being, or a Trisagion prayer, please contact Fr. Seraphim

The Orthodox Church understands that the sacraments we experience are a fundamental part of the sacred life of a worshipping community that shares in "one body...one faith". (Eph. 4:5). Thus, we can only share Communion with those who are Orthodox and who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and Confession. If you are not Orthodox, or are not properly prepared, you are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing and then to take a piece of the blessed bread.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES FOR SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

TONE 5 / EOTHINON 8

SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

**Apostles Andronikos and Junia of the Seventy;
Athanasios the New, bishop of Christiano**

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

Choir: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (*twice*)

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High. (***Refrain***)

Glory... Both now... (***Refrain***)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the peoples give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the peoples give thanks to Thee. (***Refrain***)

May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him. (***Refrain***)

Glory... Both now... **O, only begotten Son and Word of God...**

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those that hate Him flee from before His face.

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

As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire. (***Refrain***)

So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad. (***Refrain***)

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein. (***Refrain***)

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA

In the gathering places bless ye 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.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

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.

APOLYTIKION OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

O beloved Apostle of christ God, Come quick and save a people with no recourse. He who let you rest your head on his breast, will not reject your peas on our behalf. Beseech him then, O wise and holy theologian. Dispel from us the dark and ominous clouds of disbelief. Grant us all of his peace and great mercy.

THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

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THE EPISTLE

Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and preserve us.

Save me, O Lord, for the godly man is no more.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (16:16-34)

In those days, while we the apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination, who brought her masters much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, and cried out saying: "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And she did this for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit: "I charge you in the Name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that the hope of their gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said: "These men are disturbing our city, and they, being Jews, are setting forth customs which are not lawful for us to receive or observe, since we are Romans." The multitude then rose up together against them, and the magistrates tore their garments off them, and commanded to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

Having received such a charge, he cast them into the inner prison, and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. And the jailer, being roused out of sleep and seeing the prison doors open, drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried out with a loud voice saying: "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and fell down before Paul and Silas trembling with fear, and brought them out and said: "Masters, what must I do to be saved?" And they said: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him, and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes, and was baptized, he and his entire household. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, with his entire house, in that he had believed in God.

THE GOSPEL.

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. **CONTINUED NEXT PAGE**

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.

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MAY SERVICES

MAY 17TH SUNDAY — SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN
MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
COUNCIL MEETING AT 12 NOON

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MAY 24TH SUNDAY—FATHERS OF THE 1st COUNCIL
MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

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MAY 31ST SUNDAY — PENTECOST
MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
Followed by KNEELING PRAYERS

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MEGALYNARION FOR PASCHA IN TONE ONE

The Angel cried unto her that is full of grace: O pure Virgin, rejoice, and again I say, rejoice; for thy Son hath arisen from the grave on the third day.

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; dance now and be glad, O Zion, and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Receive ye the body of Christ; taste ye the Fountain of immortality.

PRAYERS ARE OFFERED FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF:

Fr. Steven, Kh. Paraskeva, Carol, Debbie, Trish, Shannon, Justin, Perry Sassic & family, Roddy, Jan, Fr. Andrew, Frank, Charlene, Cindi, Harriet, Joann, Cindy, Ray, Marlene, Julianna, Elias, Carrie, Oliver, Pauline, Despina, Julius, Jonathan, Kristen, Luca, Sam, Michael, Esteven, Phephile, Kyriel, Justin, Levon, Aiden, Kayla, Joni, Kirsten, Jonathan K., Andrew, Yvonne Rosemary and Patti..

FOR THOU ARE THE RESSURECTION, THE LIFE, AND THE REPOSE OF THY SERVANTS WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP ESPECIALLY:

Prayers are offered in memory of..... Trisagion for George Volitich

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) A children’s SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS is meeting on Sunday, following Divine Liturgy and will continue through May 31st. The class will be taught by Jessica Hill. Children of all ages are welcome. The students and teacher will receive communion first each Sunday and be dismissed to their class in the room behind the altar.

2) Fr. Seraphim has not yet received permission to be retired. He will keep all updated.

3) **NO VESPER SERVICES FROM MAY 1ST. THROUGH AUGUST 31st.**

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY

“ ILLUMINATION is not simply seeing the things of God with the eyes but with the heart.”

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Last week of NO FASTING on Wednesdays and Fridays the Feast of the Ascension, THURSDAY, MAY 21st.

BLINDNESS TAKES MANY FORMS

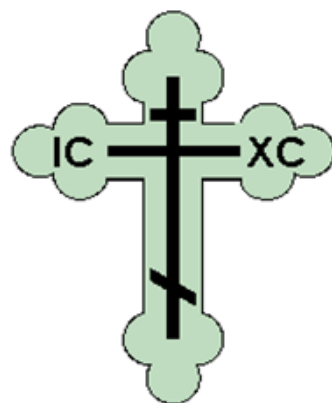
Helen Keller, who became a famous author and lecturer despite being both deaf and blind, was once asked if she thought there was anything worse than not having her sight. ***“ONLY ONE THING IS WORSE THAN BLINDNESS,”*** she replied, ***“AND THAT IS TO HAVE EYES AND NOT TO SEE!”***

The truth of Helen Keller’s words are painfully obvious in this morning’s Gospel lesson. Christ encounters a man who has been blind from birth. Because of his handicap, the blind man is somewhat of an outcast. Even the Apostles question their Master: ***“WHO SINNED THAT THIS MAN SHOULD HAVE BEEN BORN BLIND?”***

What is the reaction to Christ’s miracle of giving sight to the blind man? Some of his neighbors express doubt that he is really the same person they knew to be sightless. The Pharisees question him as they would a common criminal. The man’s own parents distance themselves from him, refusing to get involved in the controversy. The eyes of everyone were blinded to the fact that the Lord had chosen this unfortunate man to be a means of showing His power.

Sadly, many in today’s world do not see Jesus as being the ***LIGHT OF THE WORLD***, stubbornly remaining mired in the darkness of sin. May the words of the Kondakion for this Sunday remind us of our need to be illumined by our Saviour: ***“I COME TO YOU, O CHRIST, LIKE THE MAN BLIND FROM BIRTH, AND I CRY TO YOU WITH REPENTANCE: YOU ARE A RADIANT AND GLORIOUS LIGHT TO THOSE WHO STUBLE IN DARKNESS.***

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**OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment**