



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

877 Francine Lane, Santa Maria, CA 93455

Rev. Justin Taylor, *Rector*

V. Rev. Lawrence Russell, *Pastor Emeritus (Retired, Attached)*

FrJustin@odox.org

www.odox.org

Confessions:

During & after Vespers, before Divine Liturgy, or by Appointment

Christ is Risen! Христос воскрес! Χριστός ἀνέστη! Hristos a înviat! Al-Masīh qām!

ქრისტე აღდგა! Cristos ha Resucitado!

Upcoming Services

Sunday, May 17

(Sunday of the Blind Man)

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, May 20

9 am Divine Liturgy *(Leavetaking of Pascha)*

6 pm Great Vespers

Thursday, May 21

9 am Divine Liturgy *(Feast of Ascension)*

Saturday, May 23

5:30 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, May 24

(Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council)

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, May 17

Sunday of the Blind Man (Tone 5)

Acts 16:16-34

John 9:1-38

Sunday of the Blind Man

At the end of Chapter 8 in Gospel of Saint John, the Savior was disputing with the Pharisees in the Temple during the Feast of Tabernacles. He told them, "Your father Abraham was glad that he should see my day; and he saw it and rejoiced" (John 8:56). The Jews said that Jesus was not even fifty years old, so how could He claim to have seen Abraham? The Lord replied, "Before Abraham was, I am." I am, of course, is the name that God revealed to Moses in the Burning Bush. When the Jews picked up stones to throw at Him, He hid Himself and went out of the Temple.

We read in SaInt John's Gospel (9:1-38): "As He passed by, he saw a man who was blind from birth."

Christ's disciples asked Him who had sinned, the blind man or his parents that he had been born blind. Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God might be manifested in him" (John 9:3). It was thought that a person who had some affliction must have sinned (or his parents did) to deserve such

Many Years!

5/18: Fr Lawrence (Birthday); 5/19: Kate Russell

(Birthday); 5/21: Jim Fiolek & Brandon Smith

(Birthday); 5/22: Chris Clemens (Name's Day)

* **Millar Wedding 5/17:** 3 pm @ St Barbara's Orthodox Church in Santa Barbara.

punishment. In the Book of Exodus (20:5), God said that he would visit "the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation." This, however, applied to the sin of idolatry, if the children emulated their parents' behavior.

The blind man was not born blind just so the miracle could be performed, but seeing the man in such a condition, the Lord decided to use him in a way that would manifest God's glory. He Who is the Light of the world healed the blind man and enlightened him. Giving sight to the blind was one of the signs which would identify the Messiah (Matthew 11:4-6).

The Lord made clay when He spat on the ground, and placed it in the man's empty eye sockets and sent him to the pool of Siloam to wash. Most versions of the Gospels translate the word *επεθηκεν* as "anointed," but it can also mean "to spread on," or "to smear." Siloam means "sent," and in Saint John's Gospel Christ says about forty times that He Himself had been sent by the Father."

This manner of healing reminds us of the way God created man by fashioning him from the dust of the earth. In the Old Testament God created man from the dust of the earth, now Christ, the same God, fashions eyes from the clay and places them in the blind man's empty sockets.

Jesus tests the faith of the blind man by sending him to the Pool of Siloam (which means "sent"). He respects the man's freedom, but asks for his voluntary and free participation in the miracle. The blind man, with faith, obeys God's command. He goes and washes in the pool, and he returns seeing.

The former blind man's life was not made easier, however. He becomes the object of the Scribes' and Pharisees' evil and hatred, those who believed in God and in the observance of His Law. They themselves were blind, yet they were suspicious of the formerly blind man, imagining that he only pretended to be blind and now was able to see.

They questioned the man who was blind, but when they see the miracle before their eyes, instead of believing, they shut the eyes of their souls. Then the man's parents were questioned. They were afraid to confirm the miracle that happened to their son who was born blind, because they did not want to be expelled from the synagogue. They tried to avoid trouble by concealing the truth. Therefore, they said, "He is of age, ask him!"

The blind man was healed, not only in the eyes of his body but eventually in his soul as well. He recognizes Jesus as God, and does not hesitate to confess it before the religious rulers with courage that many of us would envy. Faith alone is not enough, we also need to confess our faith in order to become genuine children of God. When we confess Christ before men, He will confess us before His Father, as the Lord has promised us: "Everyone who shall confess me before men, I also shall confess him before my Father who is in Heaven; and whoever denies me before men I also will deny him before my Father who is in Heaven" (Matthew 10:32).

Please pray for...

Archpriest Matthew; Archpriest Lawrence Farley; Joe (Sunday's brother); Thomas; Helen; Marija (cancer); Maria; the nun Paraskeva and her mother Radojka; Ginny; the newborn Sieglinda (for health); Derek (Nektarios) for employment/housing assistance; Miles (Larissa's grandson); Zoi and Valeri (Oxana's parents); Natalia (Nina Slater's sister); Maria Carmen (Joseph Nuno's mother); Carol (Eddie's mother); the child Rastko; Vasilije; Sophia; Steve; Alexis; Angelina; Helen (cancer); the child Uriah; Anna (sick); Alexis; Shawn; Claude; Olga (recovery from surgery); Kyle; Virginia (cancer); Lana; Ben, Maggie, Ada, and Stevie; Alexandra (health)...

...Emma Saperstein and the child to be born of her, and Scott; Leanna Marchell and the child to be born of her, Brandon, Elizabeth, and Margaret; Luisa and the child to be born of her (Fetzko's friend); Angelina and the children to be born of her (Brown's friend)...