

**May 10, 2015**

**Sunday of the Man Born Blind**

**Epistle: Acts 16:16-34; Gospel: John 9:1-38**

**Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord God & Savior Jesus Christ**

**Epistle: Acts 1:1-12; Gospel: Luke 24:36-53**



**Welcome to our Church! If you are looking for a spiritual home, contact Father Artur or the office staff for more information. God bless you.**

<b>Today</b>	8:30 am	Rosary
	9:00 am	Festal Matins
<b>Mother's Day</b>	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy for Parish Family & Friends Fr. Chris: Thanksgiving for 34 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination Barbara & Harry DeLap by Dorothy Curl
<b>Monday</b>		Eternal Lamp: <b>Cyril &amp; Methodius Apostles to the Slavs</b>
May 11		<b>Epistle: Acts 16:16-34; Gospel: John 9:1-38</b>
	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy; Blessings for Bishop Gerald by Pettit/Adamsko Family Fr. Chris: +Diane Sullivan by Gloria Macy
	7:00 pm	Advisory Board Meeting
<b>Tuesday</b>		<b>Epiphanius &amp; Germanus Bishops</b>
May 12		<b>Epistle: Acts 17:19-28; Gospel: John 12:19-36</b>
	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy; Intentions of Bishop Gerald by Pettit/Lowe Families Fr. Chris: +Richard Smigula by Margaret Soyka
<b>Wednesday</b>		<b>Leave-Taking of Pascha</b>
May 13		<b>Epistle: Acts 18:22-28; Gospel: John 12:36-47</b>
	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy; Jenny Ford by Ford Family
	5:30 pm	OLPH Devotions
	6:00 pm	Vigil Divine Liturgy of the Ascension/Blessing of the Litija Bread Intention of OLPH Parishioners by Ford Family Fr. Chris: +Joanne Ukena by M/M Richard Jacobs
<b>Thursday</b>		<b>Ascension of Our Lord/Holy Day of Obligation</b>
May 14		<b>Epistle: Acts 1:1-12; Gospel: Luke 24:36-53</b>
	9:00 am	Festive Divine Liturgy; For Parish Family and Friends/Myrovanije
	6:00 pm	Pot luck dinner
	7:00 pm	THEOSIS Bible Study
<b>Friday</b>		<b>Post-festive of Ascension/Pachomius the Great Venerable</b>
May 15		<b>Epistle: Acts 19:1-8; Gospel: John 14:1-11</b>
Abstinence	6:00 pm	Divine Liturgy; +Catharina Licky by Ford Family Fr. Chris: +Richard Smigula by Margaret Soyka
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Post-festive of Ascension/Theodore Venerable</b>
May 16		<b>Epistle: Acts 20:7-12; Gospel: John 14:10-21</b>
	2:00 pm	OLPH Ladies Tea
	5:00 pm	Great Vespers with Litija
	6:00 pm	Divine Liturgy; Jenny Ford by Ford Family
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Sunday of the Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council/Post-festive of Ascension</b>
May 17		<b>Epistle: Acts 20:16-18 &amp; 28-38; Gospel: John 17:1-13</b>
	8:30 am	Rosary
	9:00 am	Festal Matins
	9:30 am	Confessions
	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy for Parish Family & Friends Fr. Chris: +Diane Sullivan by Gloria Macy
	Eternal Lamp:	Intention of Bishop Gerald by M/M Tom Plut



**Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church  
Bishop: His Grace Bishop Gerald Dino**

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**SCHEDULE:**

**Sunday:**

Rosary 8:30 am

Festal Matins 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Monday, Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Tuesday, Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Wednesday

OLPH Devotions, 5:30 pm

Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm

Friday, Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm

**Saturday:** Great Vespers 5:00 pm

Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday - Friday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Thursday OFF

**Parish Advisory Board Members:**

Dorothy Curl, Dave Dark, Lubomyra Kmetyk,

Brian Fitzpatrick, Harry DeLap

**Parish Finance Council Members:**

Matthew Blain & Eva Schuler

**Confession Schedule (Mystery of Reconciliation):**

9:30-9:50 am on Sundays, before or after weekday

Liturgies, or by appointment with Father

**Mysteries of Baptism/Chrismation/Eucharist:**

Must be arranged three months in advance.

(Pre-Jordan requirement)

**Mystery of Crowning:**

Must be arranged six months in advance

(Pre-Cana requirement)

**Sick and Shut-Ins:** It is the family's responsibility to notify the parish office when a parishioner is in the hospital or confined to home because of sickness or old age. Father will bring the confined person the Holy Mysteries on a regular basis. It is recommended that one receive the Anointing of the Sick before any major surgery. Please don't let the priest be last to know that someone is ill!

**Eastern Christian Formation Program:**

All grades meet every Sunday after Liturgy for 45 min

***Physician and Help of those in sickness, Redeemer and Savior of the infirm;  
O Master and Lord of all, grant healing to your servants. Be clement, show mercy to those  
who have sinned much, and deliver them, O Christ, from their  
Iniquities, that they may glorify Your might divine!***

Fr. Julian Gnall  
Fr. Anthony Romero

Roy Smith  
Sven & Barbara Svensson  
Michele Koetter  
Abraham Haddad  
Lillian Murphy  
Stephen Horner  
Demetrius Yackanich  
Jenny Ford  
Marilyn Fore  
Robert Hasaka  
Frank & Martha Arden  
Pricilla Hughes  
Sharif Rabadi

Paola Terlaza  
Henry Zuggler  
John & Margie Disque  
Phillip Fall  
Walter Jakymiw  
Olga Bodnar  
Frances Brannan  
John Deflice  
Kristoff Rajala  
Jordan Smith  
Marge Merrills  
Maggie Batsel  
Katrina Anderson

Laura Dominguez  
Robert Zadel  
William Frank  
Joseph Koetter  
Mary Nell Preisler  
Jackie De Paolis  
Donny Terry  
Mary Murphy  
Lorraine Hubbell  
Quintin Santamaria & Family  
Heather Mattax  
Larry Bennett



*Prayers in honor of and to the Blessed Virgin are a powerful weapon  
against sin, and for healing.*

**The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary are now said every day through  
All Saints' Sunday (June 3 this year).** As we sing in the Easter Irmos:  
"Rejoice in the Resurrection of your Son!"

*If you recite the Rosary at home, please offer these intentions, and join us  
on Sunday at 8:30 am. Those who recite the Akathist to the Mother of God  
or the Rosary receive a partial indulgence when they do so in private,  
plenary indulgence when they do so as a group*



### ***Intentions of the Rosary***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Decade:** Help for persecuted Catholics, especially in communist and Islamic states
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Decade:** Spiritual and physical growth of our parish and the Byzantine Catholic Church
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Decade:** Increase in vocations to priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life to serve the Byzantine Catholic Church
- 4<sup>th</sup> Decade:** Repose of the souls who have no one praying for them
- 5<sup>th</sup> Decade:** Healing of the sick in body, mind and soul

### ***Holy Father's Intentions for May***

**Universal:** Care for the suffering—That, rejecting the culture of indifference, we may care for our neighbors who suffer, especially the sick and the poor.

**Evangelization:** Persecuted Christians—That persecuted Christians may feel the consoling presence of the Risen Lord and the solidarity of all the Church

**What I Still Possess!**

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess!



**THEOSIS**

*Thursday, May 14*  
*6 pm--potluck dinner*  
*7 pm--Bible Study*

**VOCATION ICON**

*Today: Donlin*  
*Next Sunday: Gloetzner*



**We thank** all of our Mothers—living and deceased—for the gift of life and for their nurturing us in life and seeking the best for us. We wish our Mothers a Happy Mother's Day, rich in the blessings of the Lord!



DATE	READER	TROJCA	GREETER	COUNTER	HOST
5/17	Michael Wells	Grace Brewer	Eva Schuler Miles Gloetzner	Eva Schuler Brian Fitzpatrick	Riley Eva's birthday

**Barbara's Hall Report:**

Thanks to Dorothy Curl and Irene Bradley for making a great pasta brunch. Irene made three big trays of cheddar pasta and Dorothy brought lots of salad, and yummy French bread. (Yes, I do love bread!) And lots of people helped clean up. All the kids had a great time playing in the park, and even got dessert there!

### **Leaving Taking of Pascha**

This Wednesday, we celebrate the leave-taking (Otdaniije) of Pascha after 9.00 am Divine Liturgy the Shroud will be taken from the Holy Table and presented to the faithful to venerate one last time this year while the Paschal Troparion and Sticheras are sung.

The Shroud will be removed at 6:00 PM—just before the beginning of the Vesper Divine Liturgy for the Ascension! The Shroud since Pascha has been on the Holy Table as a sign of the Lord's Resurrection and His 40 days with us. With His Ascension, Jesus leaves this world to ascend to His Father. During the leave-taking ceremony, we will sing *Christ is Risen* for the last time this year.

### **Solemn Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord This Thursday**

This Thursday is the Solemn Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven. It is a holyday of Precept (OBLIGATION) for all members of our Byzantine Catholic Church in the USA. [We do not transfer the Feast to Sunday.]

Vesper Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Wednesday at 6:00 PM and on Thursday at 9:00 AM. All are expected to attend one of two Divine Liturgies to satisfy their responsibility before God and His Church!

### **Myrrh-Bearers Retreat Mark Your Calendars Now And don't forget to Register!**

"Women, be heralds of the Good News!" is the call to all women of this parish to participate in this year's Myrrh-bearers Retreat at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, AZ from Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.

The theme is Myrrh-bearers—Women of Faith with a focus on Heart to Heart Evangelization! The retreat is for girls 7-11 years, teen girls from 12-17 and for women 18+ years. Costs range from \$75 to \$175 per person based on track and room accommodations.

Registration forms are available on the table at the entrance to the church or in the office.

### **Alive in Christ Retreat Camp for Boys and their Fathers**

What could be better than a long weekend of prayer, sports, spiritual talks, games and skits in the beautiful Palomar mountain Range The "Alive in Christ ascetical boot camp for Byzantine Catholic boys and their fathers will be held this year July 30 – August 2<sup>nd</sup>, at "Palomar Christian Conference Center" Northeast of San Diego, CA.

Boys and young men 7-17 will join Bishop Gerald in this decade long tradition, and return enlivened and enlightened. (Boys 7-10 are required to have a male guardian with them.)

***Application deadline is June 29<sup>th</sup>.***

For registration forms and more information, please see Fr. Artur.

## FEAST OF ASCENSION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

After forty days of different appearances and teaching, Jesus summons the apostles to a final meeting with him. **The most detailed rendering is in St. Luke's Acts of the Apostles.** In all the accounts, Our Lord takes the eleven out to Mount Olivet, where He gives His last teaching: that they are to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes to them, the "power from on high"; that He will be us always, until the end of time; that they are to proclaim the gospel around the world; Then He ascends into heaven. In Luke, two men, who represent Moses and Elias, tell the apostles to go back and wait for the Spirit.

**The Icons of the Ascension always show Our Lady in the center: she is there as His Mother but also as the first witness of the Good News.** She will be there again in both Pentecost icons and the account of Pentecost in Acts. In most of the icons, the apostles are shown in movement, but Mary is always shown still, her arms lifted up in the Orans position, in silent prayer. All together represent the united Church. Jesus is generally shown in a mandorla\* of glory, His robes bright, and His hands raised up in blessing. Usually angels are shown in the act of lifting Him up in a cloud toward heaven. It is worth noting that **when the Jews spoke about divine glory, they would often say a radiant cloud, which was the Divine Presence,** the Shekinah of YHWH.\*\*

Beginning on Friday, there are nine days of prayer to prepare for Pentecost: **the first novena.** In this nine-day octave, the ancient church gathered for daily prayer and "breaking of the bread" in the upper room, the room of the Last Supper, while "they were continually in the Temple praising God."

*\*A mandorla is set around Jesus or a saint in an icon to demonstrate that what is happening is out of the worldly experience: it is used in the Transfiguration, Descent to Hades, and Ascension. It is also used for Elias/Elijahs' chariot.*

In His human body, the Lord returned to the glory He has at the right hand of the Father on high. In this way, He lifts our human nature to deification and is enthroned as the High Priest Who has suffered human death, yet is risen for the sake of His human life. We glorify the Lord and await His coming again in glory.

---- Fr. David Petras, in the *Typikon of the Byzantine Catholic Church*



**SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND**  
We continue the baptismal theme and the use of water, but here spiritual blindness is removed as well as physical. It is important to note that the man “was born blind” as this emphasizes the power of the miracle.

And we continue the Pentecostal theme as well, because the later history of Jewish Christians being expelled from synagogues is put into this story from Jesus’ lifetime.

The Holy Spirit strengthens us in persecution: this newly cured man loses everything because he defends Jesus and the miraculous cure. But when he hears the voice of Jesus, he worships Him.

So too for us – the United States remains the most religious country of the “First World” industrialized nation. Christians number 78.4%, other religions 4.7%, and religious but unaffiliated 5.8%. Secular unaffiliated are 6.3% and agnostics are only 2.4%. Atheists are a mere 1.6%. You would not know that from the shouting in the media about religion being intrusive and unwanted!

Only 4% of Americans doubt or deny God! Yet the voices of God’s enemies are loud in the media, in political progressive leadership, and are working to shut religion out of the public square. ***The danger arises that a small but strong minority can use legislation, public policy manipulation, and misinformation to push religious believers around.*** We talk about persecution --- what if real, legal and violent persecution actually hits us? Will the 96% religious believers stand firm? Or will too many waver and yield to “best for the nation” nonsense and so open the doors to trouble?

When Jesus was alive, those who believed in Him were not thrown out of synagogues. That happened only in the 80s of the first century. The writer in John’s Gospel takes an incident of his church’s experience and puts it into the time of Jesus’ preaching, in order to make a point to his local church: this is how you should respond, with faith. The young man confesses that Jesus is the Son of God! He is one of the very first in the gospel to do so. He loses everything, but finds strength and peace alike in that profession of faith.

What will we be willing to risk if the laws turn against us? The martyrs of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the spiritual heroism of this man who was born blind, will have to guide us and encourage us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as we truly see the faith.