

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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SUNDAY: MAY 14, 2023
SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

Schedule of Divine Services

Sunday, May 14: 10:20am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy

For all mothers – living & deceased

Monday, May 15: 6pm Confessions, 7pm Daily Vespers

Feast-Day Services at St. Pius Wednesday, May 17 ~

3:30pm Confessions, 4:30pm Great Vespers, 5:30pm Divine Liturgy

Thursday, May 18: Ascension of Our Lord (DAY OF OBLIGATION)

9am Matins, 6pm Confessions, 7pm Daily Vespers

For the deceased Betheny Wurats-Gayda w/Panachida, by Sdn. Raphael Ruggiero

Friday, May 19: Father's day off due to the feast Thursday

Saturday, May 20: 6pm Confessions, 7pm Great Vespers

Sunday, May 21: 10:20am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy

For the deceased George Batko on the 25th Anniversary of his passing, by
Stephanie Yovino & the Ellsworth Family

Don't Forget! We will switch to our summer schedule after Pentecost. Stay tuned for more details.

AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY..... Just as Jesus healed the blind man and gave him light through physical sight, so Jesus' LIGHT must shine within our souls to give us spiritual life. Through the brilliant light of His resurrection, grace is made available to us all. With Paul's missionary endeavors, Christ's light now was spreading into Europe. The light of His grace, bestowed through the sacramental mysteries, gives spiritual life to our immortal souls.

1ST READING: Acts 16: 16-34

In those days, while Paul and Luke were on their way to the place of prayer, they met a slave girl who had a clairvoyant spirit. She used to bring substantial profit to her masters by fortunetelling. The girl began to follow Paul and the rest of them shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God; they will make known to you a way of salvation." She did this for several days until finally Paul became annoyed, turned around, and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you, come out of her!" Then and there the spirit left her.

When her masters saw that their source of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the main square before the local authorities. They turned them over to the magistrates with this complaint, "These men are agitators disturbing the peace of our city! Furthermore, they are Jews, which means they advocate customs which are not lawful for us Romans to adopt or practice." The crowd joined in the attack on them, and the magistrates stripped them and ordered them to be flogged. After receiving many lashes, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was given instructions to guard them well. Upon receipt of these instructions, he put them in maximum security, going so far as to chain their feet to a stake.

About midnight, while Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God as their fellow prisoners listened, a severe earthquake suddenly shook the place, rocking the prison to its foundations. Immediately all the doors flew open and everyone's chains were pulled loose. The jailer woke up to see the prison gates wide open. Thinking that the prisoner had escaped, he drew his sword to kill himself; but Paul shouted to him, "Do not harm yourself! We are all still here." The jailer called for a light, then rushed in and fell trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas. After a brief interval he led them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" Their answer was, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, and all your household." They proceeded to announce the word of God to him and to everyone in his house. At that late hour of the night, he took them in and bathed their wounds; then he and his whole household were baptized. He led them up into his house, spread a table before them, and joyfully celebrated with his whole family his newfound faith in God.~~~~~In this passage from the *Acts of the Holy Apostles*, the Holy Evangelist Luke relates how Paul and Silas were arrested for preaching about Jesus at Philippi in Macedonia. The gospel message was spreading westward and now had reached Europe. Although Paul and Silas were in the abject darkness of their prison cell, the Light of the risen Savior continued to shine brightly within them. At midnight while they were praying and singing hymns to God, there was an earthquake which shook the foundations of the prison. All of the prison's doors flew open, and everyone's chains fell off. The Lord Jesus had provided for the deliverance of His faithful ministers. After this event, the jailer and his whole household were converted and baptized by Paul who preached the Good News to them. The splendid, radiant Light of the risen Jesus thus was made to shine brightly with divine grace within these first newly converted disciples in Europe.

GOSPEL: John 9: 1-38

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So, he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." So, they said to him, "[So] how were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So, I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know." They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.

Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So, then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So, some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." [But] others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So, they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if

anyone acknowledged him as the Messiah, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason, his parents said, "He is of age; question him." So, a 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 replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So, they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. ~~~~The Holy Evangelist John tells us how Jesus healed a man blind since birth. After performing this miracle, Jesus proclaimed Himself to be the Light of the world. He told His listeners to work for entrance into God's Kingdom while they have the Light of Life (Jesus) within themselves; for night (death) will come when no one will be able to work for salvation. Our Lord not only cured the man's physical blindness, but He also healed the spiritual blindness of his soul. We, likewise, need the Light of Jesus to shine within us. Through baptism, we participate in the Lord's new Passover and His resurrection, and we become the recipients of His infinite Light which dispels our own "spiritual blindness" and guides us through this shadowy world to an eternal New Life. Each of us truly can be enlightened and affected by His magnificent, refulgent Light which was emitted intensely from the tomb that once held His lifeless body.

SPIRITUAL OBLIGATION OF CONFESSION & COMMUNION: EASTER DUTY

In order to be a practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church, we are obligated to receive the two sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist at this designated season. This precept of the Church is called the EASTER DUTY, and the period for its fulfillment extends from the beginning of the Great Fast up until Pentecost Sunday. The Canon Law of the Church mandates that we make a worthy CONFESSION and then receive the real Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in HOLY COMMUNION during this sacred season. If someone hasn't already complied with this requirement of the Law of the Church, do not delay in going to Holy Confession and then receiving Holy Communion.

PATRONAL FEASTDAY CELEBRATION SLATED FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY:

Our Holy Spirit Parish will honor the patronal feast day of our church with a Pentecost Day Dinner on Sunday, May 28th. The Solemn Pentecostal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 11am, and after the liturgical rites, the festive Pentecost Dinner will follow in the Church auditorium. We ask that each parishioner bring a special dish for the dinner. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. In this year of 2023, we also are observing the 116th Anniversary of the founding of Holy Spirit Parish, which took place in the year 1907. As we celebrate a century-plus-sixteen years of our parish's existence, let us pray to God on our patronal feast day for His continued blessings!

PRAYER FOR OUR FOUR SAINTLY BISHOPS: Please pray for the causes of our four Sainly Bishops and ask them to intercede for your specific intentions: O Almighty God, our Lord, we bless You, we praise You, and we thank you for all the graces which You, in Your infinite mercy have bestowed upon us. We are especially grateful for giving us four saintly and heroic Bishops: Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, Bishop Paul P. Gojdich OBSM, Bishop Basil Hopko, and Bishop Alexander Chira, who, by their courage, charity, and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. By their great sufferings, humiliating imprisonment, and violent death they gave living witness to their Catholic faith and glorified Your exalted name. Therefore, O Gracious Lord, glorify them in return by Your divine power and inscribe their names in the book of Your Saints. For you are holy, our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever, Amen. With Ecclesiastical Approbation Acknowledgment of answered prayers: Postulator's office, 54 Riverview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15214, U.S.A.

PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS: Saints Cyril and Methodius, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen. St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen