

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Administrator: Reverend Michael D. Kunitz, M. Div.
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Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family
Sub-Deacon: Raphael Ruggiero

May 10, 2026

Sunday of the Man Born Blind

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday May 10: Sunday of the Man Born Blind: 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy
IHO All Mothers Living & Deceased

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy

Monday May 11: Ss. Cyril and Methodius the Apostles to the Slaves
6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy

Wednesday May 13: 5:00 PM Confessions 6:00 PM Great Vespers with Lijtia 7:00 PM Vigil Divine Liturgy

Thursday May 14: HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION – Ascension of Our Lord
8:00 AM Festal Matins
12:00 Noon Divine Liturgy (St. Pius X)

Friday May 15: 6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy
IMO Maxine Kulp

Saturday May 16: 5:00 pm Confessions, 6:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday May 17: Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council: 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy
IHO Mary Anne Meredith for her health & God's Blessing by Mary Dzurichko

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy

Divine Liturgies are open for intentions for this new year. If you would like to make an intention for a Liturgy, please call the office or fill out request form in the back of the church and give it to Fr. Michael.

SAVE THE DATE: We will celebrate the 119th Anniversary of our parish on Sunday, May 31. More details to follow.

EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES (ECF): Our ECF program has begun meetings on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 5:00 pm in the church hall. We hope the program will continue to grow to weekly meetings. For more information, please see Eugene Yeo.

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: May God grant you many happy and blessed years!
May 9 – Marcelino Revilak

Don't see your birthday or anniversary? Let us know so we can update the directory!

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: If you are interested in learning to lead Matins as a Reader's Service on Sunday before Liturgy, please see Father Michael. Matins is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.

ICONS AVAILABLE: There are several blessed icons in the church hall, there is no cost to take these home, though a free will offering for the benefit of the parish is welcome.

MORNING LITURGY COFFEE SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS: In addition to attending services together, it is important that we spend time in conversation with one another. To make it truly a time of sharing – we ask everyone to sign up to host a Sunday. We look forward to seeing you!

EVENING LITURGY SOCIAL: In addition to attending services together, it is important that we spend time in conversation with one another. Please join us in the hall following the liturgy for fellowship. We look forward to seeing you!

EPISTLE: Acts 16:16-34:

As we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl with an oracular spirit, who used to bring a large profit to her owners through her fortune-telling. She began to follow Paul and us, shouting, "These people are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She did this for many days. Paul became annoyed, turned, and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." Then it came out at that moment. When her owners saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them to the public square before the local authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These people are Jews and are disturbing our city and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us Romans to adopt or practice." The crowd joined in the attack on them, and the magistrates had them stripped and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After inflicting many blows on them, they threw them into prison and instructed the jailer to guard them securely. When he received these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and secured their feet to a stake. About midnight, while Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God as the prisoners listened, there was suddenly such a severe earthquake that the foundations of the jail shook; all the doors flew open, and the chains of all were pulled loose. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew [his] sword and was about to kill himself, thinking that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted out in a loud voice, "Do no harm to yourself; we are all here." He asked for a light and rushed in and, trembling with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you and your household will be saved." So they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to everyone in his house. He took them in at that hour of the night and bathed their wounds; then he and all his family were baptized at once. He brought them up into his house and provided a meal and with his household rejoiced at having come to faith in God.

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. Then Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind.”

A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL: I have often pointed out that Christianity holds a unique place in world of religions since it is the only one where God Himself comes to all of us in a manner which is comprehensible to our human senses. He comes to us bodily, in a way that we can see, hear, smell, and even taste. Clothed in our human flesh, He speaks to us not merely through intense contemplation or through the singular visions of singular visionaries, but through His own mouth into our own ears.

The search for God is something which is written on each and every human heart. From every age and in every place, we have all desired to know the One who made us, who made the world we live in, who put forth into us our drive to discover our purpose for being. Every system of religious belief is built upon that urge to reach out to God, but the fullness of faith is only ever produced when that God reaches out back to us. That is to say, that the fulfillment of the most important of humanity’s most powerful existential and spiritual desire is found concretely only in Christianity. The core teaching of Christianity is that God became a man and walked among us, so that we would know that He, through His great love for us, has stopped at nothing to open our blind eyes and to free our souls from bondage to evil and ignorance.

We must be careful though, for just because we have an earnest desire to know our Creator, and our Creator has earnestly put Himself before us in a way which is comprehensible, this does not mean that we can immediately understand or intuitively grasp Him. Our conceptions about who God is, and what God expects must be formed by more than just a brief encounter in the scriptures or in a personal private revelation or even in years of academic study. It must be formed by the culmination of the experience we acquire on our personal journey and encounters with Him as a whole. Christ came not to contradict the law but to fulfill it. For some, they saw His fulfillment as a contradiction of their own understanding and so either choose to reject Christ outright as the Pharisees did or chose to worship only the distorted vision of God which they had created for themselves as the heretics did and still do.

When Christ opens our eyes and ears, we must do whatever we can to make sure that our focus and attention remain on Him, and to not let our understanding be muddled by faulty preconceptions, fears, and other various spiritual weaknesses. Christ, through His Church, has continually taught the fullness of the revelation which He brought, and perpetually points us to the avenues by which we will come to more fully know Him who created us. We must be on guard against being willfully blind to that truth, and we must be ready to embrace Christ more as we continue our journey in this life, so that we may be prepared for what we will face in the life to come.

SAINT OF THE DAY: 5/10 **The holy apostle Simon the Zealot**, one of the Twelve; also called the “Canaanite.” Tradition tells us that it was Simon who was the bridegroom of the wedding which Jesus attended in Cana of Galilee. He preached the Gospel in Mauretania in Africa, and was finally crucified like his Lord.

5/11 **The holy priest-martyr Mocius at Byzantium.** A Roman by birth and a priest in Amphipolis in Macedonia, he suffered at the time of Diocletian. He destroyed a statue of the god Dionysius by his prayers, which roused some of the pagans to fury against him, but led others to faith. (250)

Our holy fathers Cyril and Methodius, Apostles to the Slavs, were brothers, born in Thessalonica in the first half of the ninth century. Since Methodius had been a soldier among the Slavs in Macedonia, he was considered an excellent candidate for carrying the Gospel to the Khazars. After the invention of the first Slavonic alphabet by Cyril, they began translating the Gospel and the liturgical books into Church Slavonic. At the invitation of Prince Rastislav, they went to Moravia to spread and confirm the Faith. They went to Rome at the invitation of the Pope, and Cyril fell ill and died there on Feb. 14, 869. Then Methodius returned to Moravia and continued his apostolic work until his death on April 6, 885.

Our holy father and confessor Basil Hopko (1976).

5/15 **Our venerable father Pachomius the Great**, a soldier who converted to Christianity. He received the monastic tonsure from the hermit Palaemon, founded monasteries and grouped houses subject to one monastic rule under the jurisdiction of a head Hegumen. (346)

ON-LINE GIVING: If you wish to make a monetary donation to our parish – you can do so on our website or by using this QR code. Remember every dollar helps support the mission of our parish community. Thank you.



PRAYER FOR OUR FOUR SAINTLY BISHOPS: Please pray for the causes of our four Saintly 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 Avenue, 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.