



St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church

The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor

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Saturday: Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday: Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.



May 21, 2017

The Sixth Sunday of Pascha

The Sunday of the Blind Man

Equals-to-the-Apostles Constantine & Helen

Plagal Tone 1 ~ Eothinon 8

Christ is risen. Indeed, He is risen.

To Our Guests:

Holy Communion is open only to those Orthodox Christians who are in good standing with the Church and have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and a recent confession. If you are not in good standing with the Church or are not an Orthodox Christian please do not be offended by this. While we are not yet in formal inter-communion with other faith traditions, we have much respect for their rites of worship and sanctuaries of prayer. We welcome you to our church and invite you to receive a blessing and partake of the antidoron at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

*As we move into the summer months, the weather is always very warm. While we need to dress comfortably because of this please remember that **shorts or above-the-knee attire, strapless garments, “spaghetti” strap garments, sleeveless or “tanktop” type garments, and tight-fitting, open or low-cut garments are not appropriate, especially for men, women and teenagers. It has always been our tradition to dress modestly and without drawing attention to oneself. Thank you.***

The Mission of St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church...

We love and worship God, proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith, and serve those in our parish, our larger community, and God’s people everywhere through worship, prayer, fellowship, education, charity, and outreach.

The Vision of St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church...

St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church is committed to growth: growth of our members spiritually, and growth of our members in the participation of parish life. We are committed to the education in the faith of our members and non-members. We will identify and initiate strategies to increase the involvement of the teens and the 20-40 age group of the parish. We will reach out to the larger community with invitations and messages about the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith and St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church. We will identify and implement strategies to enhance our financial stability.

Saints du Jour (May 21)

Equals-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and his mother Helena; Prince Constantine and his children, Michael and Theodore, wonder-workers of Murom; Hieromartyr Christopher, patriarch of Antioch.

Apolytikion of the Resurrection – Plagal Tone 1: Let us believers praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of a 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 Ss. Constantine & Helen – Plagal Tone 4: Constantine, who is Thine apostle among kings, O Lord, having beheld with his own eyes the sign of Thy Cross in Heaven, and like Paul having accepted Thy call not from man, entrusted the reigning city to Thy hands, delivering it with safety for all time by the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Who art alone the Lover of mankind.

Apolytikion of St. Basil the Great – Tone 1: Into all the world that received thy word went out thy voice; thereby didst thou divinely teach, explaining the nature of existing things and ordering the conduct of men. O venerable father, royal priesthood Basil, intercede with Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

Kontakion of Pascha – Plagal Tone 4: When Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal, Thou didst destroy the power of hades. In victory Thou didst arise, O Christ God, proclaiming ‘Rejoice’ to the myrrh-bearing women, granting peace to Thine apostles and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

Prokeimenon: Their voice has gone out into all the earth.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.

Epistle: The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles.

(Chapter 26:1,12-20)

IN THOSE DAYS, King Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense. “I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.’ And I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus Whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen Me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles – to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’” “Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance.”

Gospel: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John
(Chapter 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 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. 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.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 25th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Ascension of our Lord)

Saturday, May 27th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, May 28th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, June 3rd – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, June 4th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Sunday, June 4th – Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost, 30 mins after the end of Liturgy

Saturday, June 10th – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, June 11th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, June 17th – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, June 18th – Typica Service, 9:30 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On the occasion of the **40th Anniversary Celebration** of our parish, we welcome **His Grace Bishop ANTHONY**, bishop of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest, who is presiding over our festivities. We also welcome **Deacon Dan Grey** and his wife, **Shamassy Theresa**, of Pensacola, Florida, and all our guests and visitors. Welcome, and thank you for joining us on this special occasion.

Today’s Ushers: Tania Russell and Sevin Russell or Dwight Gillis. **Next Week:** Stephen Zelesnik and Mihai Leustean.

Coffee hour: Parish Potluck. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team 1.

Many thanks to **Gene Pituch**, who has graciously volunteered to serve as **Interim Choir Director** beginning next Sunday, May 28.

Next Sunday, Fr. Peter would like to meet briefly with the choir after Divine Liturgy. Thank you.

The **Parish Council**, God willing, shall hold their monthly meeting next Sunday, May 28, after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

God willing, Fr. Peter will attend the Diocesan **Parish Life Conference** this June. He will be out of town from June 15-18. Should you need the assistance of a priest during this time, please call Fr. George Wilson at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

As of May 14, 2017, 40 pledges were received totaling \$86,630. The collection for May 14, 2017, totaled \$1,741.00 for a year-to-date total of \$66,176.75, a weekly average of \$3,308.84. As of May 14, 2017, our expenses are \$66,609.69, a weekly average of \$3,330.49.

The church bulletin is available by email. Please tell Fr. Peter if you would like to receive it.

Spiritual Counsels...

“The virtuous man’s tongue is purest silver, the heart of the wicked is of trumpery value.” – Proverbs 10:20

CHALICE & DISCOS DONATIONS

Donations for our new chalice and discos set are graciously and generously provided by the following persons and families:

David and **Subdeacon Gregory Abramson** in memory of their parents, **Arthur** and **Toni**, and their brother, **Mark**;

John and **Lilli Colby** in memory of John's parents, **Don** and **Cassie**, and Lilli's parents, **Donald** and **Milanka**;

Mona DiGiovanni;

Dwight Gillis in memory of **Dorthie Gillis**;

Jim and **Sophia Hashek** in memory of **Nicholas** and **Barbara Kogos**;

Philip and **Rose Hrabar**;

Kumie Mamo;

Ann Morcos;

Naheel Rafeedie in memory of **Basem Rafeedie**;

Sevin and **Tania Russell**;

Nicole Sopko; and

Michael Zelesnik.

Saint Constantine and Empress Helena

Constantine's parents were Emperor Constantius Chlorus and the Empress Helena. Chlorus had other children by another wife, but from Helena he had only Constantine. After his coronation Constantine fought three great battles: one, against Maxentius, a Roman tyrant; the second, against the Scythians on the Danube and the third, against the Byzantines. Before the battle with Maxentius, while Constantine was greatly concerned and in doubt about his success, a brilliant Cross appeared to him in the sky during the day, completely adorned with stars and written on the Cross were these words: "By this Sign Conquer." Astonished, the emperor ordered a large cross to be forged similar to the one that appeared to him and that it be carried before the army. By the power of the Cross, he achieved a glorious victory over the enemy who was superior in members. Maxentius was drowned in the Tiber river. Immediately after that, Constantine issued the famous Edict of Milan in the year 313 A.D. to halt the persecution of Christians. Defeating the Byzantines, Constantine built a beautiful capital on the Bosphorus, which from that time on was called Constantinople. Before that, however, Constantine succumbed to the dreaded disease of leprosy. As a cure, the pagan priests and physicians counseled him to bathe in the blood of slaughtered children. However, he rejected that. Then the Apostles Peter and Paul appeared to him and told him to seek out Bishop Sylvester who will cure him of this dreaded disease. The bishop instructed him in the Christian Faith, baptized him and the disease of leprosy vanished from the emperor's body. When a discord began in the Church because of the mutinous heretic Arius, the emperor convened the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, 325. A.D., where the heresy was condemned and Orthodoxy confirmed. St. Helena, the pious mother of the emperor, was very zealous for the Faith of Christ. She visited Jerusalem, discovered the Honorable Cross of the Lord, built the Church of the Resurrection on Golgotha and many other churches throughout the Holy Land. This holy woman presented herself to the Lord in her eightieth year in 327 A.D. Emperor Constantine outlived his mother by 10 years. He died in Nicomedia in his sixty-fifth year in 337 A.D. His body was interred in the Church of the Twelve Apostles in Constantinople.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid