



Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church
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Presiding Priest: Fr. George Alexson (cell) 703-314-6421
Orthros 8:45am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

May 21, 2017
Sunday of the Blind Man

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!

The joy and light of Pascha continue to fill our hearts as we proclaim to the world that our Lord is Risen, our hope is renewed, and the victory of life is ours through the grace of God. This glorious transfiguration from death to life that we celebrate is affirmed in the commemoration of this Sunday after Pascha as the Sunday of the Blind Man. Today we read from the Gospel of John about a man who was blind from birth. In His great compassion, Christ healed the man revealing the power of the grace of God and leading to our Lord's acclamation, I am the light of the world. (John 8:12) This miraculous event guides us to affirm the calling of Christ to be the light of the world, to have compassion for the needs of others and to give honor and glory to God for the marvelous works that are done in His name. For almost a century this has been the focus of the members of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association. Today we honor this legacy of compassion and service by observing AHEPA Sunday and offering our gratitude to the members of the AHEPA family. Throughout our Holy Archdiocese, these faithful servants of God are leaders in their parishes, in the institutions and organizations of the Church, and in using the strength and mission of AHEPA to meet vital needs around the world. Through social services, educational programs and scholarships, medical and philanthropic services, and advocacy, the members of AHEPA bring light to many who need hope, compassion to many in need, and give honor and glory to God through their witness of faith in Him. I ask all of our parishes to observe this day as AHEPA Sunday and to recognize the members of AHEPA. May we continue to offer our prayers and support for the faithful service of AHEPA, and in the light of the Resurrection, may we serve in compassion, rejoice in the power of God's abundant grace, and give Him honor and glory for the great works that are done.

With paternal love in our Risen Lord,

† DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America

WEEKLY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE for MAY 2017

Thurs. May 25 Ascension of the Lord 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy



EPISTLE READING : Acts of the Apostles 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 READING : The Gospel According To John 9:1-38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, 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. We 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 the 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... (Continued on the back page)

ANNOUNCEMENTS May 21, 2017



Christos Anesti!! Alithos Anesti!! What a wonderful Easter season we had this year. It is your stewardship and devoted support that allows our church not only to operate, but to plan and grow every year through the grace of God. As we enter the Summer season, please continue encouraging your fellow parishioners who have not pledged, to make a stewardship commitment to our church. Thank you!

Ron Baldinger, Stewardship Chair: ron.baldinger@gmail.com.



AHEPA – TODAY is AHEPA Sunday, a day dedicated to celebrating some great parishioners on their spectacular accomplishments and more. **Sat., May 27 is the annual AHEPA Memorial Day Tribute To Our Fallen Vets @ Arlington Cemetery.** Join us as we respect our dearly departed AHEPA heroes, followed by a group luncheon at City Diner in Arlington. Email: info@ahepa542.org or call 703.493.0897 for information.



The Philoptochos **LAWS (Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter) gift card drive** is being held during the month of May. We hope you can donate new \$25 or less gift cards for Target, Wal-Mart, grocery stores or gas to help women in need. If you would like to donate money, we can purchase gift cards for you.



International relief organization and nonprofit Compassion First has partnered with me to host an event to raise awareness for human trafficking. The event is **Fri. May 26th** at Belmont Ridge Middle School from 6:30pm to 8pm. There is no cost to attend, appetizers/

desserts and drinks will be provided, and you will get a complimentary "Not For Sale" t-shirt! Please visit <http://www.compassionfirst.org/events/leesburg> to RSVP or contact Annamaria Kendrat at ami_sings@aol.com for more information.

Sunday School – There is no Sunday School on **May 28th** due to the Memorial Day weekend. **June 11th** is the Sunday School, Greek School and Ellinomatheia Graduation Program. The theme for our Sunday School program is the life of the Holy Apostles. Also, please continue to support the OCMC by donating your coins in your child's OCMC coin box.

GOYA - June 4 is our monthly meeting after Liturgy. **June 10** at noon are GOYA Elections and end of year outdoor bbq/picnic at Great Falls Park. On **June 11**, Fr. George will bless our graduating high school GOYA seniors. On **June 18**, GOYAns will be handing out Father's Day gifts

Vacation Church Camp 2017 - June 12-16, 2017; 9:30am-12:30pm. The theme is the life of the Theotokos. More details and a registration form are on our website. **The registration deadline is May 28th.** See Denise Lansdell or Asha Ioanou with any questions.

(**Gospel Reading cont...**) 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 man?" 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.



PAREA (Our Company of Friends) – Time change! Our **June PAREA Luncheon** will take place on the **second Tuesday, June 13th, at NOON** at the **Mediterranean Breeze**, (20693 Ashburn Rd. #100, Ashburn, VA 20147 - Tel: 703-726-1045). Please let Marina know if you will be joining us (703-349-1842).

Camp Good Shepherd –VA : **July 2-8**, Camp Piankatank in Hartfield, VA, 5th-12th graders. Camp Good Shepherd is a Metropolis of New Jersey overnight youth camp for the Orthodox Christian youth in the Diocese. The camp program serves to instill in the child an understanding of the Orthodox faith while embracing the life of the Church and developing deep relationship with peers their own age. Contact cgsvirginia@gmail.com with questions.



Save the date! Annual Parish Picnic, Sat. Aug. 26, 12:00-3:00, Ashburn Farm Windmill Pavilion. Organized by the Stewardship Committee. All parishioners are invited! An online signup and RSVP will be forthcoming closer to the date.

Coffee hour today is sponsored by AHEPA Chapter 542 in honor of AHEPA Sunday. Thank you!