



Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

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June 2, 2019: Sunday of the Blind Man

((St. Augustine, in commenting on Jesus' proclamation in John 8:12 "I am the light of the world," connects it with the story in the very next chapter of the healing of the man born blind and with the biblical promise that one day we shall see him face to face.))

The Lord tells us: *I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.* In these few words he gives a command and makes a promise. Let us do what he commands so that we may not blush to covet what he promises and to hear him say on the day of judgement: "I laid down certain conditions for obtaining my promises. Have you fulfilled them?" If you say: "What did you command, Lord our God?" he will tell you: "I commanded you to follow me. You asked for advice on how to enter into life. What life, if not the life about which it is written: With you is the fountain of life?" Let us do now what he commands. Let us follow in the footsteps of the Lord. Let us throw off the chains that prevent us from following him. Who can throw off these shackles without the aid of the one addressed in these words: *You have broken my chains?* Another psalm says of him: *The Lord frees those in chains, the Lord raises up the downcast.* Those who have been freed and raised up follow the light. The light they follow speaks to them: *I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness.* The Lord gives light to the blind. Brethren, that light shines on us now, for we have had our eyes anointed with the eye-salve of faith. His saliva was mixed with earth to anoint the man born blind. We are of Adam's stock, blind from our birth; we need him to give us light. He mixed saliva with earth, and so it was prophesied: *Truth has sprung up from the earth.* He himself has said: *I am the way, the truth and the life.* We shall be in ... **(Continued on the back)**



EPISTLE READING:

Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34

IN THOSE DAYS, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she.

did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. He brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God

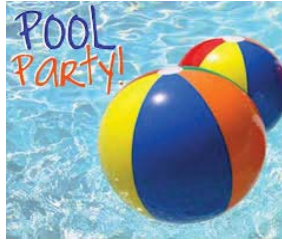


GOSPEL READING:

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 ...**(Continued on the back)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

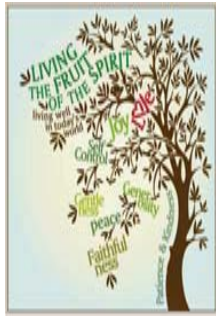


GOYA End of Year Party

TODAY! 1:30 - 4pm

Lake Newport Pool in Reston

Please see our GOYA Advisor, Lia Economou, with questions.



DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS TODAY!

Vacation Church Camp

"Fruit of the Spirit"

June 17-21; 9:00am-12:30pm

Our VCC is a wonderful way to learn about Orthodox Christianity and have fun through Lessons, Music, and Crafts.

All students ages 4-12 years

\$45 for 1 child, \$85 for 2 siblings, \$115 for 3 siblings

Discount if you can help Teach!

If any adults can help volunteer, please see Denise Lansdell today. Any time is appreciated!



Hope and Joy Meeting, June 3

6:30pm at church

We hope you can join us for our last meeting before Summer!



Sunday School Graduation, June 9

Greek School Graduation, June 16

A light lunch will be offered right after the students' presentation. All are welcome!



Join us the weekend of June 29/30

as we welcome His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos to celebrate our name day and new church home.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Camp Good Shepherd (July 7-13)
Diocese Summer Camp in
Hartfield, VA Campers age 10
(completed 5th grade) through 18
(completed 12th grade) at Camp
Piankatank. Register at
<http://app.campdoc.com/register/gomnj>



Coffee hour today is sponsored by
the **Parish Council**. Thank you!



Summer Service Hours
Begin Today
Orthros, 8:15AM
Liturgy, 9:30AM

WEEKLY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE for June

June 6 Ascension of Our Lord, 8:15AM, Divine
Liturgy 9:30 AM
June 15 Saturday of Souls, Orthros 8:15AM, Divine
Liturgy 9:30 AM
June 29 Sts Peter and Paul, Orthros 8:15AM,
Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM



**Our closing on the new
property has changed to
June 10! How can you
help? DONATE to our
Capital Campaign TODAY
so we can begin building!**

Have you heard....

- We raised over \$1.4 million!
- The property was appraised at \$3.3 million
(our purchase price was \$2.25 million)!
- Our plans to build a church were formally
approved by Loudoun County!

*Talk to a Parish Council member if you have
questions about our plans and updates.*

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

Changes to the Property Closing and Summer Event

My Fellow Parishioners,

Christos Anesti! I hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day and were able to reflect on the many sacrifices the brave men and women of our military make to keep us safe. We have several important updates about our Land Acquisition and upcoming events. I strongly encourage all of you to please review the information below and reach out to a Parish Council member at church, via phone, or email, should you have any questions.

Rental Income - Toll Brothers, the seller of our new land, has been allowing their landscaping company to use portions of our property to store their equipment. Toll informed us that the landscaper would like to rent back space on our property at \$2,000/month to continue this arrangement. The terms of the rent will be for as long as either our church or the landscaping company would like and may be terminated upon reasonable notice. **BENEFITS:** The rental payments will help defray our purchase costs, and as part of this arrangement, the landscaper will also maintain the property for us.

Closing Date - We and Toll have mutually agreed to push back our closing from June 1st to June 10th.

BENEFITS: This allows us time to draw up a rental agreement with the landscaper, and for Toll and our closing agent to have more time to finalize the closing documents. This will not negatively affect any of the terms we have previously discussed and in fact will save us 10 days of purchase costs.

Summer Kickoff Celebration - Due to the delayed closing and the presence of the landscaper's equipment, we have decided to postpone the Summer Kickoff Celebration and instead hold a Fall Kickoff on the new property in September. More details will be communicated in the coming weeks. **BENEFITS:** We will be able to celebrate once the property is officially ours with a welcome to the Fall season, and can still tour the property with His Eminence during his visit the weekend of June 29/30.

St. Moses Coptic Orthodox Church - At our Spring Special GA Meeting, you voted to enter negotiations with St. Moses to purchase 3 acres of our new land. Our goal was to complete negotiations and close the sale to them... **(Continued on the next panel)**



Welcome Father Patrick Viscuso!

Father Patrick was the first priest to serve our parish and is filling in today for Father George who is in Jerusalem with Presvytera Joanna.

(Cover Message Cont.) possession of the truth when we see face to face. This is his promise to us. Who would dare to hope for something that God in his goodness did not choose to promise or bestow? We shall see face to face. The Apostle says: *Now I know in part, now obscurely through a mirror, but then face to face.* John the Apostle says in one of his letters: *Dearly beloved, we are now children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. We know that when he is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.* This is a great promise. If you love me, follow me. “I do love you”, you protest, “but how do I follow you?” If the Lord your God said to you: “I am the truth and the life”, in your desire for truth, in your love for life, you would certainly ask him to show you the way to reach them. You would say to yourself: “Truth is a great reality, life is a great reality; if only it were possible for my soul to find them!”

(Announcement Cont.) simultaneous with our purchase. However, St. Moses has requested additional time to raise funds and study the land. **NEXT STEPS:** The Parish Council will continue to work with our broker, Pete Ebert, and our attorneys to negotiate a contract that is fair to both parties while still protecting our interests. If we are unable to come to an agreement with St. Moses in the coming weeks, our broker will resume his efforts to market the 3 acre parcel publicly. Please note that this means when we close on our property on June 10th, we will proceed with the loan from Sona Bank, whose terms we presented during the GA. Rest assured, we have the funds to service the loan from surplus in our Building Fund so we are protected while we either close with St. Moses or find another buyer.

Greg Joiner, Parish Council President



Are you getting our emails? If not, you are missing out on current announcements, event information, and our newsletter! Join our mailing list on our website, or email our Office Manager, Lia Economou, at liaecon@comcast.net.