

May 24, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Pascha (The Blind Man)

Acts: 16: 16-34

John 9: 1-38

Upcoming Services:

All services are cancelled (see notice on next page)

The Ascension of the Lord (May 28)

The disciples did not expect the Resurrection. The women did not either. When they came to anoint Jesus with spices, they had but one thought: "Who shall roll away the stone from the door of the sepulcher for us?" And after finding the tomb empty the women fled in fear. Later the disciples listened to Mary Magdalene's mysterious message of glad tidings with fear and amazement, with doubt and mistrust. Of the eleven, only Saint John alone grasped the mystery of the empty tomb: "and he saw, and believed" (John 20:8). The Lord did not rise in order to return again to the fleshly order of life, so as to live again and commune by means of preaching and miracles. Now he does not even stay with them, but only "appears" to them during the forty days, from time to time, and always in a miraculous and mysterious manner. "He was not always with them now, as He was before the Resurrection," He came and again disappeared, He no longer permitted them to continue in their former relationship toward Him, but took effectual measures to secure these two objects: That the fact of His Resurrection should be believed, and that He Himself should ever after be apprehended to be greater than man." There was something new and unusual in His person. His was not an open presence, but rather a testimony of the fact that He was present." That is why the disciples were confused and frightened. Christ arose not in the same way as those who were restored to life before Him. He had suffered, was dead and buried, and now rose to a higher mode of existence in a body of glory, immortal and incorruptible. He ascends to the Father, yet He does not "go away," but abides with the faithful forever (cf. The Kontakion of Ascension). For He raises the very earth with Him to heaven, and even higher. In the phrase of Saint John Chrysostom, "God's power manifests itself not only in the Resurrection, but in something much stronger". For "He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19). The Ascension is the token of Pentecost, the sign of its coming, the Lord Himself told the disciples, "If I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you" (John 16:11). "The Lord ascended to heaven and sent the Comforter to the world" "The Church is the fulfillment of Christ," the very existence of the Church is the fruit of the Ascension. It is in the Church that man's nature is truly ascended to the Divine heights.

Reader Schedule:

Sun. May 24 - Jim Hamer
Sun. May 31 - Wesley Hatch
Sun. June 7 - Greg Kuzmenchuk
Sun. June 14 - Kurtis Lauser

Birthdays:

May 27 - Constance Mace

May 30 - Kyle Domsohn

Upcoming Events:

Sun. June 7 - Pentecost Buffet- following liturgy in church hall, if Church has resumed

Tue. June 23 - Executive Board Mtg. 7 pm

Sun. July 12 - Family Picnic following Liturgy, if possible in Hibernia Park, Pavilions 5 & 6.

Notices:

Covid-19 Virus Shut Down

Based on this information the following would have to be achieved in order to reopen churches:

1. Chester County would have to enter into the Yellow Phase before reopening church can even be considered.
2. The City of Coatesville would have to end its restriction on "gatherings of 4 or more unrelated persons in public places."
3. We would need the blessing of our Hierarchs

These are the stipulations we are required to follow, without all three of these occurring we will not be able to reopen our church. We will continue to provide updates via phone chain, bulletin, facebook and our website for any new information.

Church President, Tabitha Bentley

Church Phone Chain

The Church call chain will now be handled by Illaria Stelle, Katie Thomas, and Brenda Euler. Thank you to Carol Bentley and Lillian Maskula for their dedication in doing this over the years.

May Charity

Parishioner Care Fund

For bulletin additions contact Wesley Hatch by Friday 6 pm

Anniversaries:

None this week.

Notices:

Ascension Liturgy

On May 28th Fr. Nick, Wes and Linda will celebrate Liturgy and return the shroud to its side altar.

Students Graduating

We will be honoring those graduating from kindergarten, 5th grade, 8th grade, high school, and college on Graduation Sunday July 12 (if possible). Give Tabitha Bentley names of anyone celebrating one of these milestones.

Easter Lillies

Easter Lillies will be given away in the Church yard near the Church Hall entrance after 12 pm on May 28th. Individual plants will remain there until all are taken. Feel free take some.

Priest at Cemetery

On Monday May 25th Fr. Nick will be at the cemetery from 11am - noon and will pray at graves if requested.

Church Phone

No trespassing signs will be going up on the Church gates to remind people not to go into the gated areas of the Church yard. This is in response to kids playing in our church yard recently.

Prayer Corner:

For the Health of: Avelino Tejaró, Carol Bentley, Toby Seip, Erin Bove, Ann Gara, Chris Mican, & Richard Ziegler