

## ANNIVERSARY OR OUR DEPARTED FOR THIS SUNDAY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>NAME OF THE DEPARTED</u>	<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>
31	<b>Cehade Batchoun</b>	<b>11</b>
31	<b>Joli Shihaiber</b>	<b>15</b>
1	<b>Marhaba Hauraney</b>	<b>66</b>
2	<b>Richard Haick</b>	<b>24</b>
2	<b>Robert Qaqish</b>	<b>15</b>
2	<b>Lawrence Omrin</b>	<b>14</b>
2	<b>Ispiro Halabi</b>	<b>9</b>
4	<b>Ernest Younes</b>	<b>10</b>
4	<b>Adnan Qaqish</b>	<b>45</b>
5	<b>Ajiaya Aziz</b>	<b>54</b>
5	<b>Josephine Ellis</b>	<b>34</b>
6	<b>Amalia Thalia Gregoriou</b>	<b>7</b>
6	<b>Shafic Shuhaibar</b>	<b>24</b>
6	<b>Nawal Chahine</b>	<b>18</b>

- **Please**, pray for the health of the following parishioners: Ellen, Robert, Alex, Sam, Elias, Nassar, Valentine, George, Nina, Sonia, George, Elizabeth, Beshara, Samer, Irene, Nadia, Mona, Christine and Toni, George, Jacqueline and Helena. If you have any names of people who need prayers, email them to father.

## ETERNAL LIGHT

- **June 6 – June 27:** in loving memory of **Georgette Fadel** from **Jocelyne Korkor & family**.
- **June 6:** in loving memory of **Ernest Younes** from **his family**.
- "Christ is Risen" from Pascha until Ascension we greet each other in person or in writing by Christ is Risen, Truly Risen.
- **2021 Graduates:** If you child is graduating high school or university, please send Amanda Qaqish directly his/her information with a picture. We need/her his name, school graduating from, degree and what will he/she be studying at the university. Email all information to [orthodoxchristianeducation@gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxchristianeducation@gmail.com).
- **Young Adults** getting together on Tuesday June 8th at 7 PM.
- **Engaged** couples getting together Tuesday June 22nd at 7 PM.
- If you have boxes with your sacrifice during Lent for **Food for Hungry People**, please, write a check to St. George and put in the memo **Food for Hungry people. Please, don't bring the box with change in it**, just write one check for that purpose or e-transfer. May God bless you.

### June Schedule of Services:

- **The Feast of the Ascension** will be celebrated with Vespers on Wednesday June 9th at 7 PM, Orthros at 6 PM on Thursday June 10th followed by the Divine Liturgy.
- **Soul Saturday** June 19th at 10 AM Divine Liturgy.
- **Birth of St. John the Baptist**, Divine Liturgy on Wednesday June 23rd at 7 PM.
- **Feast of St. Peter and Paul:** June 29th Orthros at 6:30 PM followed by the Divine Liturgy.
- **Pentecost Sunday June 20th followed by the kneeling service.**

- **Sunday June 13th at 7 PM the Ladies are organizing a seminar on hearing.**
- We would like to take the opportunity to congratulate our Gr. 12s going to post-secondary education. We are so proud of our graduating students. We would like to congratulate all of our graduates and pray for them in their future endeavours.

### 2021 Graduates:

*Youssef Freiga:* Ryerson Engineering

*Tony Zidan:* Biochemical sciences York University

*Mousa Aleilan:* Ryerson Engineering

*Talia Deratani:* physical and environmental science UofT Scarborough

*Mathew Alhaddad:* Humber College for Electrical Engineering

- Our annual Sunday School graduation will be held in church if we are allowed by public health guidelines, otherwise it will be outside as a drive thru/walk thru ceremony. All students and their families are welcome to come and pick up their graduation gift and certificate.

Graduation will be held on **SUNDAY JUNE 27, 2021 AT 12:00pm Outside in the church parking lot after liturgy.**

All of our Sunday school students JK - OTT2 are welcome!

Please come dressed to take a picture with Abuna

- The Sunday School needs teachers for September. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Amanda Qaqish. [orthodoxchristianeducation@gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxchristianeducation@gmail.com)
  - Sunday School registration for next year will be open late August, more details to follow. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Qaqish [orthodoxchristianeducation@gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxchristianeducation@gmail.com)
  - **PLEDGE FORM 2021:** Please fill your pledge form if you have not done so as to allow us to budget for this year. **Please see attached form.**
  - **Kindly Submit your Contribution through the Following Methods: Connect to the Church Website [www.stgeorgeto.org](http://www.stgeorgeto.org) Click on *Donate***
  - **“e-transfer” [info@stgeorgeantiochianchurch.org](mailto:info@stgeorgeantiochianchurch.org) Account Name: St. George Church**
  - **PayPal, or send your Cheque by Mail to: St. George Antiochian Church, 9116 Bayview Ave, Richmond Hill ON, L4B 3M9**
- Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice. (Psalm 112:5)

- **Bookstore:** New icons have just arrived in our bookstore. The Bookstore is located in the church's basement. Icons are great gifts for newborn, new home, your car or your children, and Christmas gifts. Please see Colette El-Hajj or Odette Boutros to see these new icons.
- **Please, don't forget to send your sacrificial giving to your church of St. George via e-transfer, or you can still bring your envelope with you and place it in the box by the candles. Your sacrificial giving (financial donation/support) will keep our doors open.**
- **Canned Food Drive:** please bring non-perishable canned food to donate to the needy and place them in the box outside in the Narthex.

**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 06, 2021****TONE 5 / EOTHINON 8****SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN**

VENERABLE HILARION THE NEW OF THE DALMATON MONASTERY;  
VENERABLE VISSARION OF EGYPT AND ATTALOS THE WONDERWORKER

*NOTE TO CLERGY: Remember to include this special petition in the Great Litany before the one for the head of state, as directed by the Antiochian Archdiocese.*

**Deacon:** For Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.

الشَّماس: مِنْ أَجْلِ الْمَثْرُوبُولِيَّتِ بُولُسَ وَالْمِطْرَانِ  
يُوحَنَّا وَفَكَ اسْرِهِمَا وَعَوْدَتِهِمَا سَالِمِينَ، إِلَى الرَّبِّ  
نَطْلُبُ.

**VARIOUS ARRANGEMENTS OF "CHRIST IS RISEN"**

Arabic ([slow, chant](#)) // English ([slow, chant](#)) // English-Arabic-Greek ([quick, chant](#))

English-Greek ([slow, choral](#)) // Arabic ([slow, choral](#))

- The Priest begins Divine Liturgy with "Blessed is the Kingdom" and the choir responds "Amen." Bearing the Paschal Candle, the Priest then leads the singing of the Paschal Apolytikion and censes the west side of the Altar Table.

**Priest:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

- The **Choir** then sings this twice, and the Liturgy continues with the Great Litany.

**THE FIRST ANTIPHON**

Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.

**Refrain:** Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High.  
(**Refrain**)

Glory... Both now... (**Refrain**)

هَلِّلُوا لِلَّهِ يَا جَمِيعَ الْأَرْضِ، رَتِّلُوا لِاسْمِهِ أَعْطُوا مَجْدًا  
لِتَسْبِحَتِهِ.

اللازمة: بِشَفَاعَاتِ وَالِدَةِ الْإِلَهِ، يَا مُخَلِّصُ خَلِّصْنَا.  
قُولُوا لِلَّهِ مَا أَرْهَبَ أَعْمَالُكَ، كُلُّ مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ  
يَسْجُدُونَ لَكَ وَيُرَتِّلُونَ لاسْمِكَ أَيُّهَا الْعَلِيِّ. (اللازمة)  
الْمَجْدُ ..... الْآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ ..... (اللازمة)

**THE SECOND ANTIPHON**

May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.

**Refrain:** Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the peoples give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the peoples give thanks to Thee. (**Refrain**)

لِيَتَرَأَفَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا وَيُبَارِكُنَا، وَلِيُضِيءَ بِوَجْهِهِ عَلَيْنَا  
وَيَرْحَمَنَا.

اللازمة: خَلِّصْنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ  
الْأَمْوَاتِ، لِنُرْتِّلَ لَكَ. هَلِّلُوبَا.  
لِتُعْرِفَ فِي الْأَرْضِ طَرِيقُكَ وَفِي جَمِيعِ الْأُمَمِ  
خَلَاصُكَ. تَعْتَزِفْ لَكَ الشُّعُوبُ يَا اللَّهُ تَعْتَزِفْ لَكَ.  
(اللازمة)

May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him. <b>(Refrain)</b> Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...	لِيُبَارِكُنَا اللَّهُ إِلَهُنَا، وَلْتَرْهَبَهُ جَمِيعُ أَقَاصِي الْأَرْضِ. <b>(اللازمة)</b> الْمَجْدُ... الْآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ ... يَا كَلِمَةَ اللَّهِ، الْإِبْنِ الْوَحِيدِ...
<b>THE THIRD ANTIPHON</b>	
+ Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face. <b>Refrain:</b> Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life! + As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire. <b>(Refrain)</b> + So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad. <b>(Refrain)</b> + This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein. <b>(Refrain)</b>	+ لِيَقُمْ اللَّهُ وَيَتَبَدَّدَ جَمِيعُ أَعْدَائِهِ، وَيَهْرُبْ مُبْغِضُوهُ مِنْ أَمَامِ وَجْهِهِ. <b>اللازمة:</b> الْمَسِيحُ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، وَوُطِئَ الْمَوْتُ بِالْمَوْتِ، وَوَهَبَ الْحَيَاةَ لِلَّذِينَ فِي الْقُبُورِ. + كَمَا يُبَادُ الدُّخَانُ يُبَادُونَ، وَكَمَا يَذُوبُ الشَّمْعُ مِنْ أَمَامِ وَجْهِ النَّارِ. <b>(اللازمة)</b> + كَذَلِكَ تَهْلِكُ الْخَطَاةُ مِنْ أَمَامِ وَجْهِ اللَّهِ، وَالصَّادِقُونَ يَفْرَحُونَ وَيَتَهَلَّلُونَ أَمَامَ اللَّهِ، وَيَتَنَعَّمُونَ بِالسُّرُورِ. <b>(اللازمة)</b> + هَذَا هُوَ الْيَوْمُ الَّذِي صَنَعَهُ الرَّبُّ، لِنَفْرَحَ وَنَتَهَلَّلَ بِهِ. <b>(اللازمة)</b>
<b>THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA</b>	
In the gathering places bless God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.	فِي الْمَجَامِعِ بَارِكُوا اللَّهَ، الرَّبَّ مِنْ يَنَابِيعِ إِسْرَائِيلَ، خَلِّصْنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، لِنُرْتِّلَ لَكَ: هَلِّلُوبِيَا.
<b>RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE</b>	
Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the 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.	لِنُسَبِّحَ نَحْنُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَنَسْجُدَ لِلْكَلِمَةِ، الْمُسَاوِي لِلآبِ وَالرُّوحِ فِي الْأَزَلِيَّةِ وَعَدَمِ الْإِبْتِدَاءِ، الْمَوْلُودِ مِنَ الْعَذْرَاءِ لِخَلَاصِنَا، لِأَنَّهُ سَرَّ بِالْجَسَدِ أَنْ يَغْلُوقَ عَلَى الصَّلِيبِ، وَيَحْتَمِلَ الْمَوْتَ، وَيُنْهَضَ الْمَوْتَى بِقِيَامَتِهِ الْمَجِيدَةِ.
• Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.	
<b>KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT</b>	
Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice,	وَلَيْنُ كُنْتَ نَزَلْتَ إِلَى قَبْرِ يَا مَنْ لَا يَمُوتُ، إِلَّا أَنْتَكَ دَرَسْتَ قُوَّةَ الْجَحِيمِ، وَقُمْتَ غَالِبًا أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُ، وَلِلنِّسْوَةِ حَامِلَاتِ الطِّيبِ قُلْتَ "افْرَحْنَ"، وَلِرُسُلِكَ

and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou  
Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

وَهَبْتَ السَّلَامَ، يَا مَانِحَ الْوَاقِعِينَ الْقِيَامَ.

### THE EPISTLE FOR BLIND MAN SUNDAY

*Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and preserve us.  
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man is no more.*

#### **The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (16:16-34)**

In those days, while we the apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination, who brought her masters much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, and cried out saying: "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And she did this 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 masters saw that the hope of their gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said: "These men are disturbing our city, and they, being Jews, are setting forth customs which are not lawful for us to receive or observe, since we are Romans." The multitude then rose up together against them, and the magistrates tore their garments off them, and commanded to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received such a charge, he cast 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. And the jailer, being roused out of sleep and seeing the prison doors open, drew his sword and was about to kill

أَنْتَ يَا رَبِّ تَحْفَظُنَا وَتَسْتُرُنَا مِنْ هَذَا الْجِيلِ.  
خَلِّصْنِي يَا رَبِّ، فَإِنَّ الْبَارَّ قَدْ فَنِيَ.  
فَصَلِّ مِنْ أَعْمَالِ الرُّسُلِ الْقِدِّيسِينَ الْأَطْهَارِ.  
(34-16:16)

فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ، فِيمَا نَحْنُ الرُّسُلُ مُنْطَلِقُونَ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ، اسْتَقْبَلَتْنَا جَارِيَةٌ بِهَا رُوحُ عَرَافَةٍ. وَكَانَتْ تَكْسِبُ مَوَالِيهَا كَسْبًا جَزِيلًا بِعَرَفَاتِهَا، فَطَفَقَتْ تَمْشِي فِي إِثْرِ بُولُسَ وَإِثْرِنَا، وَتَصيحُ قَائِلَةً: هَؤُلَاءِ الرِّجَالُ هُمْ عَبِيدُ اللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ، وَهُمْ يُبَشِّرُونَكُمْ بِطَرِيقِ الْخَلَاصِ. وَصَنَعَتْ ذَلِكَ أَيَّامًا كَثِيرَةً، فَتَضَجَّرَ بُولُسُ، وَالتَفَتَ إِلَى الرُّوحِ وَقَالَ: إِنِّي أَمُرُكَ بِاسْمِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ أَنْ تَخْرُجَ مِنْهَا. فَخَرَجَ فِي تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى مَوَالِيهَا أَنَّهُ قَدْ خَرَجَ رَجَاءً مَكْسِبِهِمْ، قَبَضُوا عَلَى بُولُسَ وَسِيلَا وَجَرَّوهُمَا إِلَى السُّوقِ عِنْدَ الْحُكَّامِ، وَقَدَّمُوهُمَا إِلَى الْوَلَاةِ قَائِلِينَ: إِنَّ هَذَيْنِ الرَّجُلَيْنِ يُبْلِلَانِ مَدِينَتَنَا وَهُمَا يَهُودِيَّانِ، وَيُنَادِيَانِ بِعَادَاتٍ لَا يَجُوزُ لَنَا قَبُولُهَا، وَلَا الْعَمَلُ بِهَا إِذْ نَحْنُ رُومَانِيَّوْنَ. فَقَامَ عَلَيْهِمَا الْجَمْعُ مَعًا، وَمَزَقَ الْوَلَاةُ ثِيَابَهُمَا، وَأَمَرُوا بِأَنْ يُضْرَبَا بِالْعِصِيِّ. وَلَمَّا أَتَخَنُوهُمَا بِالْجِرَاحِ أَلْقَوْهُمَا فِي السِّجْنِ، وَأَوْصَاوُ السَّجَّانَ بِأَنْ يَحْرُسَهُمَا بِضَبْطٍ. وَهُوَ إِذْ أَوْصَى بِمِثْلِ تِلْكَ الْوَصِيَّةِ، أَلْقَاهُمَا فِي السِّجْنِ الدَّاخِلِيِّ، وَضَبَطَ أَرْجُلَهُمَا فِي الْمِقْطَرَةِ. وَعِنْدَ نِصْفِ اللَّيْلِ، كَانَ بُولُسُ وَسِيلَا يُصَلِّيَانِ وَيُسَبِّحَانِ اللَّهَ، وَالْمَحْبُوسُونَ يَسْمَعُونَهُمَا، فَحَدَّثَتْ بَغْتَةً زَلَزَلَةً عَظِيمَةً حَتَّى تَزْعَزَعَتْ أَسُسُ السِّجْنِ. فَاِنْفَتَحَتْ فِي الْحَالِ الْأَبْوَابُ كُلُّهَا، وَانْفَكَّتْ قُيُودُ الْجَمِيعِ. فَلَمَّا اسْتَيْقِظَ السَّجَّانُ، وَرَأَى أَبْوَابَ السِّجْنِ أَنَّهَا مَفْتُوحَةٌ، اسْتَلَّ

himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried out with a loud voice saying: "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and fell down before Paul and Silas trembling with fear, and brought them out and said: "Masters, what must I do to be saved?" And they said: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him, and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes, and was baptized, he and his entire household. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, with his entire house, in that he had believed in God.

السَّيْفَ وَهُمْ أَنْ يَقْتُلَ نَفْسَهُ، لِظَنِّهِ أَنَّ الْمَحْبُوسِينَ قَدْ هَرَبُوا. فَنَادَاهُ بُولُسُ بِصَوْتٍ عَالٍ قَائِلًا: لَا تَعْمَلْ بِنَفْسِكَ سُوءًا، فَإِنَّا جَمِيعُنَا هَهُنَا. فَطَلَبَ مِصْبَاحًا، وَوَثَبَ إِلَى دَاخِلٍ، وَخَرَّ لِبُولُسَ وَسِيلًا وَهُوَ مُزْتَعِدٌ، ثُمَّ خَرَجَ بِهِمَا وَقَالَ: يَا سَيِّدَيَّ مَاذَا يَنْبَغِي لِي أَنْ أَصْنَعَ لِكِي أَخْلَصَ؟ فَقَالَا: آمِنْ بِالرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، فَتَخْلُصَ أَنْتَ وَأَهْلُ بَيْتِكَ. وَكَلَّمَاهُ هُوَ وَجَمِيعَ مَنْ فِي بَيْتِهِ بِكَلِمَةِ الرَّبِّ. فَأَخَذَهُمَا فِي تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ، وَغَسَلَ جِرَاحَهُمَا، وَاعْتَمَدَ مِنْ وَقْتِهِ، هُوَ وَذَوْوهُ أَجْمَعُونَ. ثُمَّ أَصْعَدَهُمَا إِلَى بَيْتِهِ وَقَدَّمَ لَهُمَا مَائِدَةً، وَابْتَهَجَ مَعَ جَمِيعِ أَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ، إِذْ كَانَ قَدْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ.

#### THE GOSPEL FOR BLIND MAN SUNDAY

##### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (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 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

##### **فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يُوْحَنَّا الْإِنْجِيلِي الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (9:1-38)**

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ مُجْتَازٌ، رَأَى إِنْسَانًا أَعْمَى مُنْذُ مَوْلِدِهِ. فَسَأَلَهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ قَائِلِينَ: يَا رَبُّ، مَنْ أَخْطَأَ أَهَذَا أَمْ أَبَوَاهُ حَتَّى وُلِدَ أَعْمَى؟ أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ: لَا هَذَا أَخْطَأَ وَلَا أَبَوَاهُ، لَكِنْ لِنَظْهَرِ أَعْمَالِ اللَّهِ فِيهِ. يَنْبَغِي لِي أَنْ أَعْمَلَ أَعْمَالَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَنِي مَا دَامَ نَهَارٌ. يَأْتِي لَيْلٌ حَيْثُ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُ أَحَدٌ أَنْ يَعْمَلَ. مَا دُمْتُ فِي الْعَالَمِ، فَأَنَا نُورُ الْعَالَمِ. قَالَ هَذَا، وَثَقَلَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ، وَصَنَعَ مِنْ ثَقَلَتِهِ طِينًا، وَطَلَى بِالطِّينِ عَيْنَيَّ الْأَعْمَى، وَقَالَ لَهُ: اذْهَبْ وَاغْتَسِلْ فِي بَرْكَةِ سِيلَوَامَ (الَّذِي تَفْسِيرُهُ الْمُرْسَلُ). فَمَضَى وَاغْتَسَلَ وَعَادَ بَصِيرًا. فَالْجِيرَانُ وَالَّذِينَ كَانُوا يَرَوْنَهُ مِنْ قَبْلُ أَنَّهُ كَانَ أَعْمَى قَالُوا: أَلَيْسَ هَذَا هُوَ الَّذِي كَانَ يَجْلِسُ وَيَسْتَعْطِي؟ فَقَالَ بَعْضُهُمْ هَذَا هُوَ، وَآخَرُونَ قَالُوا "إِنَّهُ يُشَبِّهُهُ". وَأَمَّا هُوَ فَكَانَ يَقُولُ "إِنِّي أَنَا هُوَ".

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.

فَقَالُوا لَهُ: كَيْفَ انْفَتَحَتْ عَيْنَاكَ؟ أَجَابَ ذَلِكَ وَقَالَ: إِنْسَانٌ يُقَالُ لَهُ يَسُوعُ، صَنَعَ طِينًا وَطَلَى عَيْنَيَّ وَقَالَ لِي "اذْهَبْ إِلَى بَرَكَةِ سِلْوَامَ وَاغْتَسِلْ." فَمَضَيْتُ وَاغْتَسَلْتُ، فَأَبْصَرْتُ. فَقَالُوا لَهُ: أَيْنَ ذَلِكَ؟ فَقَالَ: لَا أَعْلَمُ. فَأَتَوْا بِهِ، أَيْ بِالَّذِي كَانَ قَبْلًا أَعْمَى إِلَى الْفَرِيسِيِّينَ. وَكَانَ حِينَ صَنَعَ يَسُوعُ الطِّينَ وَفَتَحَ عَيْنَيْهِ يَوْمَ سَبْتٍ. فَسَأَلَهُ الْفَرِيسِيُّونَ أَيْضًا، كَيْفَ أَبْصَرَ؟ فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: جَعَلَ عَلَى عَيْنَيَّ طِينًا ثُمَّ اغْتَسَلْتُ، فَأَنَا الْآنَ أَبْصِرُ. فَقَالَ قَوْمٌ مِنَ الْفَرِيسِيِّينَ: هَذَا الْإِنْسَانُ لَيْسَ مِنَ اللَّهِ، لِأَنَّهُ لَا يَحْفَظُ السَّبْتَ. آخَرُونَ قَالُوا: كَيْفَ يَقْدِرُ إِنْسَانٌ خَاطِئٌ أَنْ يَعْمَلَ مِثْلَ هَذِهِ الْآيَاتِ؟ فَوَقَعَ بَيْنَهُمْ شِقَاقٌ. فَقَالُوا أَيْضًا لِلْأَعْمَى: مَاذَا تَقُولُ أَنْتَ عَنْهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ إِنَّهُ فَتَحَ عَيْنَيْكَ؟ فَقَالَ: إِنَّهُ نَبِيٌّ. وَلَمْ يُصَدِّقِ الْيَهُودُ عَنْهُ أَنَّهُ كَانَ أَعْمَى فَأَبْصَرَ حَتَّى دَعَا أَبَوِي الَّذِي أَبْصَرَ وَسَأَلُوهُمَا قَائِلِينَ: أَهَذَا هُوَ ابْنُكُمَا الَّذِي تَقُولَانِ إِنَّهُ وُلِدَ أَعْمَى؟ فَكَيْفَ أَبْصَرَ الْآنَ؟ أَجَابَهُمْ أَبَوَاهُ وَقَالَا: نَحْنُ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا وَلَدُنَا، وَأَنَّهُ وُلِدَ أَعْمَى، وَأَمَّا كَيْفَ أَبْصَرَ الْآنَ فَلَا نَعْلَمُ، أَوْ مَنْ فَتَحَ عَيْنَيْهِ، فَنَحْنُ لَا نَعْلَمُ، هُوَ كَامِلُ السِّنِّ فَاسْأَلُوهُ، فَهُوَ يَتَكَلَّمُ عَنْ نَفْسِهِ. قَالَ أَبَوَاهُ هَذَا، لِأَنَّهُمَا كَانَا يَخَافَانِ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، لِأَنَّ الْيَهُودَ كَانُوا قَدْ تَعَاهَدُوا أَنَّهُ إِنْ اعْتَرَفَ أَحَدٌ بِأَنَّهُ الْمَسِيحُ، يُخْرِجُ مِنَ الْمَجْمَعِ. فَلِذَلِكَ قَالَ أَبَوَاهُ، "هُوَ كَامِلُ السِّنِّ، فَاسْأَلُوهُ." فَدَعَا ثَانِيَةً الْإِنْسَانَ الَّذِي كَانَ أَعْمَى وَقَالُوا لَهُ: أَعْطِ مَجْدًا لِلَّهِ، فَإِنَّا نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْإِنْسَانَ خَاطِئٌ. فَأَجَابَ ذَلِكَ وَقَالَ: أَخَاطِئْتُ هُوَ لَا أَعْلَمُ، إِنَّمَا أَعْلَمُ شَيْئًا وَاحِدًا، أَنِّي كُنْتُ أَعْمَى، وَالْآنَ أَنَا أَبْصِرُ. فَقَالُوا لَهُ أَيْضًا: مَاذَا صَنَعَ بِكَ؟ كَيْفَ فَتَحَ عَيْنَيْكَ؟ أَجَابَهُمْ: قَدْ أَخْبَرْتُكُمْ فَلَمْ تَسْمَعُوا،



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.

فَمَاذَا تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَسْمَعُوا أَيْضًا؟ أَلَعَلَّكُمْ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضًا تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَصِيرُوا لَهُ تَلَامِيذُ؟ فَشَتَمُوهُ وَقَالُوا لَهُ: أَنْتَ تَلْمِيزُ ذَاكَ، وَأَمَّا نَحْنُ فَأِنَّا تَلَامِيذُ مُوسَى، وَنَحْنُ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ كَلَّمَ مُوسَى، فَأَمَّا هَذَا، فَلَا نَعْلَمُ مِنْ أَيْنَ هُوَ. أَجَابَ الرَّجُلُ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: إِنَّ فِي هَذَا عَجَبًا أَنْكُمْ مَا تَعْلَمُونَ مِنْ أَيْنَ هُوَ وَقَدْ فَتَحَ عَيْنَيَّ، وَنَحْنُ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَسْمَعُ لِلْخَطَاةِ، وَلَكِنْ إِذَا أَحَدٌ اتَّقَى اللَّهَ وَعَمِلَ مَشِيئَتَهُ، فَلَهُ يَسْتَجِيبُ. مُنْذُ الدَّهْرِ لَمْ يُسْمَعْ أَنَّ أَحَدًا فَتَحَ عَيْنَيَّ مَوْلُودٍ أَعْمَى. فَلَوْ لَمْ يَكُنْ هَذَا مِنَ اللَّهِ، لَمْ يَقْدِرْ أَنْ يَفْعَلَ شَيْئًا. أَجَابُوهُ وَقَالُوا لَهُ: إِنَّكَ فِي الْخَطَايَا قَدْ وُلِدْتَ بِجُمْلَتِكَ، أَفَأَنْتَ تُعَلِّمُنَا؟ فَأَخْرَجُوهُ خَارِجًا. وَسَمِعَ يَسُوعُ أَنَّهُمْ أَخْرَجُوهُ خَارِجًا، فَوَجَدَهُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: أَتُؤْمِنُ أَنْتَ يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ. فَأَجَابَ ذَاكَ، وَقَالَ: فَمَنْ هُوَ يَا سَيِّدُ لِأُؤْمِنَ بِهِ؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: قَدْ رَأَيْتَهُ وَالَّذِي يَتَكَلَّمُ مَعَكَ هُوَ هُوَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ: قَدْ آمَنْتُ يَا رَبُّ، وَسَجَدَ لَهُ.

#### MEGALYNARION FOR PASCHA IN TONE ONE

*The Angel cried unto her that is full of grace: O pure Virgin, rejoice, and again I say, rejoice; for thy Son hath arisen from the grave on the third day.*

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; dance now and be glad, O Zion, and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

إِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ تَقَوَّه نَحْوَ الْمُنْعَمِ عَلَيْهَا، أَيْبُهَا الْعَذْرَاءُ النَّقِيَّةُ أَفْرَحِي، وَأَيْضًا أَقُولُ أَفْرَحِي، لِأَنَّ ابْنَكَ قَدْ قَامَ مِنَ الْقَبْرِ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ.

إِسْتَنِيْرِي اسْتَنِيْرِي يَا أُورُشَلِيمُ الْجَدِيدَةَ، لِأَنَّ مَجْدَ الرَّبِّ قَدْ أَشْرَقَ عَلَيْكَ، إِفْرَحِي الْآنَ وَتَهَلَّلِي يَا صِهْيُون، وَأَنْتِ يَا نَقِيَّةُ يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ، إِطْرَبِي بِقِيَامَةِ وَلَدِكَ.

#### KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Receive ye the body of Christ; taste ye the Fountain of immortality.

جَسَدَ الْمَسِيحِ خُذُوا، وَالْيَنْبُوعَ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ ذُوقُوا.

- Instead of “We have seen the true light,” sing “Christ is Risen” ONCE.

## THE GREAT DISMISSAL

<p><b>Priest:</b> May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; <i>of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community</i>; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; <b>of our righteous father Hilarion the New, abbot of the Dalmaton monastery; Venerable Vissarion of Egypt and Attalos the wonderworker</b>, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.</p>	<p><b>الكاهن:</b> أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا الْحَقِيقِي، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، بِشَفَاعَاتِ أُمِّكَ الْكَلِيَّةِ الطَّهَارَةِ وَالْبَرِيَّةِ مِنْ كُلِّ عَيْبٍ؛ وَبِقُدْرَةِ الصَّلِيبِ الْكَرِيمِ الْمُخْيِي؛ وَبِطُلُبَاتِ الْقُوَّاتِ السَّمَاوِيَّةِ الْمُكَرَّمَةِ الْعَادِمَةِ الْأَجْسَادِ؛ وَالنَّبِيِّ الْكَرِيمِ السَّابِقِ الْمَجِيدِ يُوَحْنَا الْمَعْمَدَانِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسَيْنِ الْمُشْرِفَيْنِ الرُّسُلِ الْجَدِيرَيْنِ بِكُلِّ مَدِيحٍ؛ وَأَبِينَا الْجَلِيلِ فِي الْقَدِيسِينَ يُوحْنَا الذَّهَبِيِّ الْقَمِّ رَئِيسِ أَسَاقِفَةِ الْقُسْطَنْطِينِيَّةِ، كَاتِبِ هَذِهِ الْخِدْمَةِ الشَّرِيفَةِ، وَالْقَدِيسَيْنِ الْمَجِيدَيْنِ الشُّهَدَاءِ الْمُتَأَلِّقِينَ بِالظَّفَرِ؛ وَأَبَائِنَا الْأَبْرَارِ الْمُتَوَشِّحِينَ بِاللَّهِ؛ ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِ (ة) (فُلَانِ، فُلَانَةِ) شَفِيعِ(ة) وَحَامِي(ة) هَذِهِ الرَّعِيَّةِ الْمُقَدَّسَةِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسَيْنِ الصَّدِيقَيْنِ جَدِّي الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ، يُوَاكِيمَ وَحْنَةَ؛ وَأَبِينَا الْبَارِ هِيلَارِيونَ الْجَدِيدِ، مُؤَسِّسِ دَيْرِ الدَّالْمَاتُونِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِ بِيَسَارِيونَ الْمِصْرِيِّ، وَأَتَالَسَ الصَّانِعِ الْعَجَائِبِ، الَّذِينَ نُقِيمُ تَذَكَرَهُمُ الْيَوْمَ، وَجَمِيعِ قَدِيسِيكَ، إِرْحَمْنَا وَخَلِّصْنَا بِمَا أَنَّكَ صَالِحٌ وَمُحِبٌّ لِلْبَشَرِ.</p>
<p><b>Priest:</b> Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs...</p>	<p><b>الكاهن:</b> الْمَسِيحُ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، وَوَطَىءَ الْمَوْتَ بِالْمَوْتِ، وَوَهَبَ الْحَيَاةَ...</p>
<p><b>People:</b> ...bestowing life!</p>	<p><b>الجوقة:</b> ... لِلَّذِينَ فِي الْقُبُورِ.</p>
<p>• NOTE: This ending for the remainder of Bright Season matches what is correctly provided in the <i>Liturgikon</i> (third edition, p. 14).</p>	
<p><i>These texts have been prepared by the Department of Liturgics of the Antiochian Archdiocese. Portions of the Archdiocesan Service Texts include texts from The Menaion, The Great Horologion, The Pentecostarion, The Octoechos, and The Psalter of the Seventy, which are Copyright © Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, Massachusetts, and are used with permission. All rights reserved. These works may not be further reproduced, beyond printing out a single copy for personal non-commercial use, without the prior written authorization of Holy Transfiguration Monastery.</i></p>	

## **We Must Obey in Order to See: Homily for the Sunday of the Blind Man in the Orthodox Church** [Fr. Philip LeMasters](#)



John 9: 1-38

Christ is Risen!

Seeing is believing. There are many things in life that we will not accept unless we see them with our own eyes. And there are some things that we have to learn how to see because they are not obvious to the untrained eye. It often takes experience to see something rightly, to understand its true significance. If that is true in everyday life, it is all the more the case in how we know God.

We began our celebration of Pascha several weeks ago when we saw the light of a flame in the darkness of midnight. Until the brilliant light of the Savior's resurrection, humanity wandered in spiritual blindness as a result of being enslaved to corruption. "The wages of sin is death," and the darkness of the tomb had reigned supreme since the fall of Adam and Eve. Like the man born blind in today's gospel reading, our capacity to participate in the blessed holiness for which we were created was grossly deformed. Enslaved to the fear of death and cast out of Paradise, we were all held prisoner by the darkness of the tomb which extended to the depths of our souls.

In sharp contrast to that darkness, we celebrate in this glorious season of Pascha that the light of Christ shines even from the grave and extends to the darkest dimensions of our lives and relationships. To be radiant with the light of the resurrection is what it means to know God. To know Him is not merely to have religious ideas or emotions about Him, but truly to share by grace in the life of the Holy Trinity. It is to have the eyes of our souls cleansed, to have our minds illumined such that we move from darkness to light. The change is certainly not in our Lord, but in us who rise with Him from death to life, from the dark night of sin to the brilliant light of holiness.

This great blessing is not something that we give ourselves, but which our Lord has made possible as the God-Man Who unites divinity and humanity in Himself. That is how He heals us, personally taking upon Himself all the consequences of our corruption, even to the point of death, in order to conquer them through His resurrection. He brings every dimension and capability of the human person into His divine life, making us radiant with the holy glory that we share by grace. That is what it means to be truly human in His image and likeness.

When Christ spat on the ground and made clay to anoint the eyes of the blind man, He gave us a sign of how He restored us through His Incarnation, His entry into our world of flesh and blood, which was necessary for our healing. The blind man's sight was restored when he obeyed Christ's command to wash in water, which is a sign of how He illumines us in baptism. Of course, we are baptized into the Lord's death in order to rise up with Him into a life of holiness.

Our spiritual sight is not restored by denying our bodily limitations or the reality of the physical struggles that we face, whether illness, poverty, or anything else. Instead, our Risen Lord heals our souls when we offer ourselves fully to Him in obedience. The blind man in today's gospel lesson did what the Lord told him to do, walking to the pool of Siloam and washing off the clay from His eyes. He had to obey Christ's command by doing something that involved his whole person. That is how he overcame the blindness with which he had been born. Even though he thought of the Lord as only a prophet at that point, the man quickly professed faith in Him when the Lord told him His true identity. As Christ said of Himself as the Son of God to the man, "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you."

As Orthodox Christians, we routinely make bold claims about seeing the true light and beholding the resurrection of Christ. We employ the sense of sight in the worship of God with icons, crosses, candles, vestments, and in many other ways. We put on Christ like a garment in baptism and are filled personally with the Holy Spirit in chrismation. We receive our Lord's Body and Blood in Holy Communion, as we participate already in the Heavenly Banquet. He is the Bridegroom and, as His Church, we are His Bride and members of His own Body. We do not think of Him as only a prophet or a righteous man, but know that He is truly the Son of God. There is no question, then, that He has restored our sight, giving us all the ability to embrace Him from the depths of our souls. He has done for us what we could never do simply by ourselves, even as someone born blind could never give himself sight.

Imagine how great our responsibility is, then, to open the eyes of our souls as fully as possible to the light of Christ. For as He is infinitely holy, there is no upward limit to the holiness to which He calls us. Even as the healing of our bodies is a process that requires our cooperation and

effort, the same is true with the healing of our souls. The blind man had to exercise what little faith he had at first by obeying Christ's command. That was how he put himself in the place to receive such a miraculous blessing. And though we do not know the rest of his story, that was surely only the beginning of his journey. He had to live as one whose eyes had been opened by the mercy of the Lord.

If we are truly to enter into the holy joy of Pascha, we must follow the example of the man born blind. Our spiritual vision remains far from perfect, but our Risen Lord has given us all that we need to become radiant with His brilliant and holy light. That happens when we know and experience Him from the depths of our souls, which requires offering ourselves to Him through humble obedience in our daily lives. That means joining ourselves to His great victory over death by opening even the darkest and most difficult areas of our personalities and relationships to His healing light. There is no way to do that without living as our Lord taught, which means turning away from all that obscures His light in us, from all that keeps us captive to the darkened ways of sin and corruption that we find so appealing.

As we prepare to move from Pascha to the Ascension, let us discern where we persist in darkness and what we need to do in order to obey our Lord more faithfully as we rise with Him from the grave to the heights of heavenly glory. Let us grow in our personal participation by grace in the life of Christ by living daily as those who have beheld the glory of His resurrection and who have seen the true light. The Savior has already done the miraculous for us by conquering death. Now it is our responsibility to respond faithfully as we open ourselves to the Light Who shines so brightly that He overcomes even the darkest tomb. And as hard as it is to believe, He will illumine even the darkest and most corrupt dimension of our lives, if we will only offer ourselves to Him in humble, trusting obedience each day.

The good news of Pascha is not confined to a season of the year, but is always the fundamental truth of our life in Christ. Now we must live as those who have been blessed to behold the glory of the resurrection. Now we must remove every obstacle to embracing personally the brilliant, radiant light of the empty tomb. Now we must live with all the holy joy of a man born blind who can finally see the light. That is what it means to know God and to be truly human in His image and likeness, for Christ is Risen!

## **Sunday Of The Blind Man (taken from the Greek Archdiocese webstie)**



### Introduction

The sixth Sunday of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Blind Man. The day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. The biblical story of this event is found in the Gospel of Saint John 9:1-41.

### Background

The Lord Jesus was coming from the Temple on the Sabbath, when, while walking in the way, He saw the blind man mentioned in today's Gospel. This man had been born thus from his mother's womb, that is, he had been born without eyes (see Saint John Chrysostom, Homily LVI on John; Saint Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book V:15; and the Second Exorcism of Saint Basil the Great). When the disciples saw this, they asked their Teacher, "Who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" They asked this because when the Lord had healed the paralytic at the Sheep's Pool, He had told him, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (John 5:14); so they wondered, if sickness was caused by sin, what sin could have been the cause of his being born without eyes. But the Lord answered that this was for the glory of God. Then the God-man spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle. He anointed the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam." Siloam (which means "sent") was a well-known spring in Jerusalem used by the inhabitants for its waters, which flowed to the eastern side of the city and collected in a large pool called "the Pool of Siloam."

When our Lord Jesus Christ, then, came at midday to this city, which is also called Sychar (John 4:5), He was wearied from the journey and the heat. He sat down at this well. After a little while the Samaritan woman mentioned in today's Gospel passage came to draw water. As she conversed at some length with the Lord and heard from Him secret things concerning herself, she believed in Him; through her many other Samaritans also believed.

Therefore, the Savior sent the blind man to this pool that he might wash his eyes, which had been anointed with the clay-not that the pool's water had such power, but that the faith and obedience of the one sent might be made manifest, and that the miracle might become more remarkable and known to all, and leave no room for doubt. Thus, the blind man believed in Jesus' words, obeyed His command, went and washed himself, and

returned, no longer blind, but having eyes and seeing. This was the greatest miracle that our Lord had yet worked; as the man healed of his blindness himself testified, "Since time began, never was it heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind," although the Lord had already healed the blind eyes of many. Because he now had eyes, some even doubted that he was the same person (John 9:8-9); and it was still lively in their remembrance when Christ came to the tomb of Lazarus, for they said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have caused that even this man should not have died?" Saint John Chrysostom gives a thorough and brilliant exposition of our Lord's meeting with the woman of Samaria, the healing of the paralytic, and the miracle of the blind man in his commentaries on the Gospel of Saint John.

### Icon of the Sunday of the Blind Man

The icon of the Sunday of the Blind Man depicts the biblical story of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. Our Lord is shown placing the clay on the eyes of the man. He is with his disciples who are questioning Christ about the source of the man's affliction. The blind man is shown with his hand outstretched toward Christ expressing his faith and willingness to receive healing and grace from the Son of God. Our Lord has in His hand a scroll, which directs us to His statements, "I am the light of the world," (John 9:5), and "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed," (Luke 4:18). These are clear statements of the Gospel of salvation that comes through Christ. The scroll may also represent the role of Christ as Judge as depicted in Matthew and Revelation, and also later in the same passage on the healing of the blind man (John 9:39), Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind."

### Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Sunday of the Blind Man

The Sunday of the Blind Man is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. On this Sunday and throughout the Paschal period until the Apodosis or leave-taking of Pascha, the day before the Feast of the Ascension, the services begin with the chanting of the troparion of Pascha, "Christ is risen..." This is the last Sunday of the Paschal period before the Feast of the Ascension, which will follow on Thursday of this week. The Apodosis or Leave-taking of the Feast of Pascha is on Wednesday, a day which is free of fasting and celebrated with the joy and brightness of the Feast of Feasts.

Scripture readings for the feast are the following: At the Divine Liturgy: [Acts 26:1, 12-20](#), [John 9:1-38](#).

Hymn of the Feast, Kontakion (Fourth Tone):

I come to You, O Christ, as the man blind from birth. With the eyes of my soul blinded, I cry out to You in repentance, "You are the resplendent Light of those in darkness."

References Reading selection courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA

Icon of the Healing of the Blind Man used with permission from Theologic





# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter By The St George Sunday School Administrative Team  
Orthodox Christian Education



## Prayer



We reverence Your spotless icon, O gracious Lord, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Because of Your own good will You ascended the Cross in the flesh, that You might deliver those who You had created from the bondage of the enemy. We cry aloud unto You: You have filled all things with joy, O our Savior, for You came to save the world. Amen.



## Did You Know?

Did you know that the Apostles Fast occurs every year in June. The length of the Fast depends on how early or late Pascha is. In 2021, the Fast is one day, June 28th.

## Praying for Miriam



This month we learned our friend Miriam is unwell and currently staying at Sick Kids Hospital. Our Sunday school children had a zoom call with Miriam to wish her a speedy recovery. We continue to keep Miriam in our thoughts and prayers.



## Saints Peter and Paul. The Holy Apostles / June 29

On a single day, the memory of the sufferings of both these Apostles Sts. Peter and Paul is celebrated on June 29th. They suffered martyrdom on separate days, but by the spirit and the closeness of their suffering they constitute one. Peter went first, and Paul followed soon after him. May they intercede to Christ for us all.





# Happy Birthday to



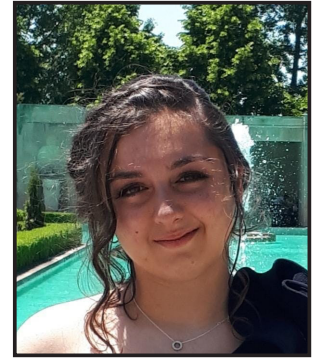
Celein Sarhan  
June 1



Yara Aleilan  
June 3



Christopher Tarazi  
June 9



Fanoula Novratidis  
June 13



Alexia Shaheen  
June 19



Reem Aleilan  
June 20



Alexander Wisch  
June 22

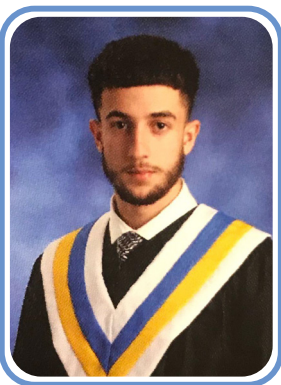


Anastasios Bobotsis  
June 24

We are so proud of our graduating students. We would like to congratulate all of our graduates and pray for them in their future endeavours.



## 2021 Graduates



Mousa Aleilan  
Ryerson Engineering



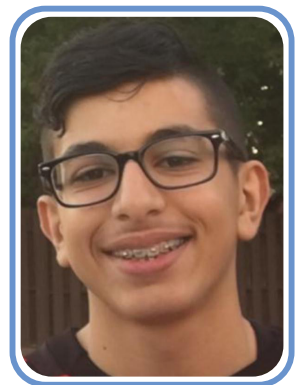
Tony Zidan  
Biochemical Sciences  
York University



Talia Deratani  
Physical and  
Environmental  
Science U of T  
Scarborough



Youssef Freiga  
Ryerson Engineering



Mathew Alhaddad  
Humber College for  
Electrical  
Engineering