

Memorial Day- Monday, May 29th. Our priests will be at these places. Best is to make an appointment and time with them so they can accommodate you. Best if you come early because after 10 many are looking for a priest. Fr. John Kalomas will be at Memorial Park from 9am 'till 11:30 am. Fr. Athanasios will be at Elmwood Cemetery from 9 am 'till 12 pm.

Save the date for our Edgewater Greek Festival. It will take place on Saturday, July 8th and Sunday, July 9th. More information to follow.

St. Andrew's has Graves for Sale @ Elmwood Cemetery, Section 3B and @ Memorial Park at the Cypress Gardens. Please call the church for additional information if you are interested (773) 334-4515.

The newly-released DVD of the Greek Liturgy by Fr. Ivan Moody is now on sale for \$20.00. After Divine Liturgy today, there will be a table in the hallway between the Church and the church office where the DVD can be purchased. All proceeds are donated to St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE!



PHILOPTOCHOS

Sunday May 8th until May 28th- Annual Dreamcatchers Personal Items Drive sponsored by St Andrew Parish, Sunday School, Greek School and Philoptochos. These items are specifically requested by the Dreamcatcher's organization "Helping Women in Need":

Hand /Body Lotion, Body Wash, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Hand Sanitizers
Please place these items in the specifically labeled bins in the hallway of the auditorium.

If you prefer to donate, \$6.00 will pay for a kit; stop by the Philoptochos table with cash or a check made out to SAWPS. As always, thank you for your ongoing support of this very worthy drive. To learn more about Dreamcatchers, please log onto their website: www.thedreamcatcherfoundation.org. Please contact Vonnie Karafotias if you have any questions at vonnie@karafotias.com or call at: 708-280-6537. As always thank you for your ongoing support of this very worthy drive.

****DATE CHANGE**:** Thursday, May 25th, 6:30 pm, President's Room: Board meeting

****DATE CHANGE**:** Wednesday, May 31st, 6:30pm, President's Room General Meeting & Elections

Members in good standing and who have paid their dues are eligible to vote

Members who have attended four meetings are eligible to run for the board or an office

Thursday, June 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the kitchen we will be baking Melomakarona for the June 4th Pentecost Sunday reception. Please join us if you can. The more the merrier!

Friday, June 16th 10:30 am Sarah's Circle Sack Lunch making in St Andrew's kitchen for our monthly outreach project. If you are able to attend, please contact: Vicki Karagianis at 773-327-3194 or Vonnie Karafotias at vonnie@karafotias.com If you are unable to attend, please consider making a \$2.00 donation, which will cover the costs of making one sack lunch for a woman at Sarah's Circle, a local Edgewater women's shelter supported by Philoptochos throughout the year.

Welcome to Saint Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church

"Proclaiming Orthodoxy Since 1926"

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Fr. John N. Kalomas – Proistamenos

Fr. John Kutulas – In Loving Memory

Fr. Athanasios Minetos



SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017 (Sunday Of The Blind Man)

STEWARDSHIP QUOTE– *There Are Two Types Of Blindness; The Physical And The Spiritual. One Who May Have Lost Their Physical Sight Can Still Be A Great Steward Of God For They Possess The Spiritual Sight. Those Though Who Have Lost Their Spiritual Sight May Have Not Lost The Physical Being But Are Blinded To That Which Is Godly.*

UPCOMING SERVICES

Thursday, May 25th, Ascension of Our Lord

Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 3rd, Saturday of Souls

Orthros 9:00 a.m. Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday, June 5th, Monday of the Holy Spirit

Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

FOR NON-ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS: *We welcome those Christians not fully united with us. It is a consequence of the sad divisions of Christianity that we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist and for which we must all pray. We do however invite you to receive the blessed bread that is given out to all at the end of service.*

Sunday Of The Blind Man

Icon of Jesus Healing the Blind Man Today we heard at the Divine Liturgy the account of the Holy Evangelist John the Theologian about the healing by Jesus Christ of the man born blind, that is, who had never seen anything before. It is characteristic that, when this Gospel account ends, the Lord said: "For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind" (Jn 9:39). And His spiteful enemies, the scribes and Pharisees, probably with irony and mockery, asked Him: "Are we blind also?" (Jn 9:40). And they received an answer, as the Lord told them: "If ye were blind, ye should have no sin" (Jn 9:41), because if a person does not know and does not see, he cannot transgress consciously and does not sin so greatly. Even if he makes a mistake, the Lord Himself does not find it a sin, if the person did not know he was sinning. So the Lord spoke, "If ye were blind, ye should have no sin, but now ye say, we see; therefore your sin remaineth" (Jn 9:41).

Remember, this is a frightful sentence, because it was pronounced by the One who alone can justify or condemn, and He said their sin remained. Our Lord Jesus Christ gave the former blind man not only physical, but also spiritual vision. At the same time, the Gospel illustrates how, by their determination, Christ's enemies are blinding themselves all the more, persisting in their delusions.

When the Lord healed the blind man, he was asked how it had happened. He said that he could not answer this question: he had been blind when the Lord approached Him. Probably he had heard what the Savior's name was, which is why he answered: "A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight" (Jn 9:11). They asked him who Jesus was, and he said "I know not" (Jn 9:12). He was led to the Pharisees, and they examined him. He said shortly: "He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see" (Jn 9:15). Now there was a dispute between the Pharisees and Christ's enemies, "a division among them," as is said in the

Gospel (Jn 9:16). Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the Sabbath day" (Jn 9:16), which means he did not obey the law. Others argued saying, "How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?" (Jn 9:16). The former blind man hears this dispute and the truth becomes clearer and clearer to him. So the words of one of the group of Pharisees (how can a man that is a sinner do such miracles) becomes the guiding line for his further actions. He was asked again and again, and cross-examined, and as they kept asking the same questions, he finally told them: "I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? Will ye also be His disciples?" (Jn 9: 27). For them, rabid enemies of Christ, to be His disciples?! The man had no idea, of course, what a blow his words were to them. So they told him with spite and anger: "Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence He is" (Jn 9:28-29).

The Church, telling us today about this miracle of the Savior, at the same time chants in the person of each of us: "Blind with my spiritual eyes, I come to you, O Christ, like one born blind." Not long ago we prayed to our Lord intensively: "Grant that I may see my own sins." If we ask to see, to be able to see our sins it means we cannot see them as well as is needed. This is because our "spiritual eyes" are blind. This is why this church prayer is full of sense and meaning for each of us. The Holy Fathers also always say that people cannot see their sins as clearly as they should

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Given by + Metropolitan Philaret of New York and Eastern America

EPISTLE READING:

Acts 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:

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 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.