

This Week at St. George

Sunday, May 25, 2014

10:00AM Divine Liturgy (Father Virgil)

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

6:00PM Vespertal Liturgy for the Feast of Ascension (Father Jeffrey)
Potluck Immediately Following

Frate Family Move

Father Jeffrey and his family will be moving to Prescott on **Tuesday, May 27th** and are expected to arrive around **4:00pm**. If anyone is available to help unload the truck their new address is 1168 Country Club Drive. Please contact Ty Freedman for details at 928-848-7824.

Vespertal Liturgy

There will be a Vespertal Liturgy for the Feast of Ascension on Wednesday, May 28th at 6:00pm. Everyone is encouraged to make every effort to attend, and also, if you are able, please bring a pot luck dish to continue the celebration after Liturgy.

Church Secretary Position Open

We are seeking a volunteer church secretary to join our church council (approximately 2 hours per week). The key position duties include: collect, open and distribute church mail; create and distribute church meeting agendas and letters; document council meeting and annual meeting minutes; send greeting cards as needed; maintain select church files. Please see a board member if you are interested.

If you have bulletin announcements, please contact Jill Normandin by Thursday to have your announcement included in the Sunday bulletin. Email jillnormandin@gmail.com or call 928-533-3977 (email is preferable so no details are missed).



Prayers for the Safety of
Abducted Bishops and the
Nuns of Ma'aloula, Syria

The Archdiocese asks all faithful to
remember in prayer all of those who
are affected.



St. George Orthodox Church of Prescott

Sunday, May 25, 2014—Sunday of the Blind Man

Served by Fr. Jeffrey Frate and
V. Rev. Fr. Virgil Suci (Interim Priest)

607 W GURLEY STREET, PRESCOTT, AZ 86305
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METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

The Epistle Reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

The Gospel Reading is from 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.

Prayer List

Matthew Bricker, Greg, Lauren and family, Aiden and Alyssa, Vanessa Bricker, Nathan Bricker, Kathy, Mary, Dan and Marcia Hill, Valentina Thommen, Fr. Makarios Mwaura and family (Kenya), Amber Brogger & children, Elena Cook, Walt Thayer, Vera Timotijevic, John Walendziak, Cynthia DeLeone, Roman Benyk and Thom Mellema.

For our sons and daughters serving in the U.S. Armed Forces; Jordan Verespe, Don (Spyridon) Hock, Col. Stephen Close, Matthew Bricker, Joseph Peck and Benjamin Peck.

And for the departed Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Gabriel Cooke, may his memory be eternal.

As members of an Orthodox Christian family, we are called upon to pray for each other. If you would like us to remember you or your loved one in our prayers, please contact the church office at 928-777-8750 or e-mail the name of your loved one to jillnormandin@gmail.com

For our Visitors this morning!

If this is your first visit to an Orthodox Christian liturgy we welcome you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and pray that you will be edified through your participation this morning! The Eastern Orthodox Church traces her lineage back to the Day of Pentecost and the birth of the New Testament Church. We are liturgical in worship, using the liturgies developed in the fourth century by St. John Chrysostom, St. Basil the Great, and St. Gregory the Theologian (during weekdays of Great Lent.) We are the "Church of the Bible" since it was in the bosom of the Church that the NT Canon of Holy Scripture was birthed. We are hierarchical in structure in that we are organized under the ancient structure of the Patriarchies of the original Sees of Antioch, Jerusalem, Constantinople, Alexandria, and, by the 11th century, Russia. We are Eucharistic in that the apex of our worship experience is to commune with God in the Body and Blood of Christ as He Himself taught as recorded in St. John's Gospel, chapter six. We ask that you will join us at the conclusion of the Divine Service for our fellowship meal in the hall next door. **Please also note that Holy Communion in the Orthodox Christian tradition is reserved for those Orthodox Christian who have prepared themselves to receive the Holy Mysteries.** We do invite you to receive the blessed bread which is offered to all after the dismissal. May the Lord richly bless your worship with us in this morning's Divine Liturgy!

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

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.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FORERUNNER'S HEAD DISCOVERY IN TONE FOUR

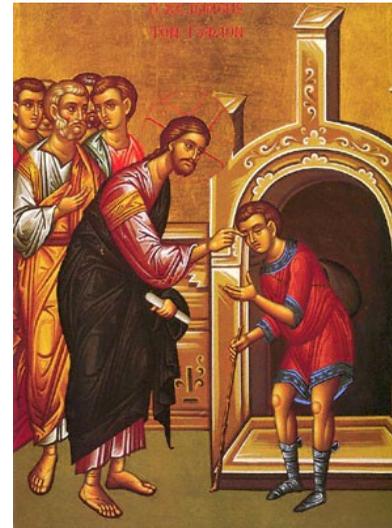
Christ God hath revealed to us thy truly venerable head as a divine treasure that had been concealed in the earth, O Prophet and Forerunner John. Wherefore, as we gather on the feast of its discovery, with our hymns inspired of God, we praise Christ the Savior, who by thy mighty prayers saveth us from every kind of harm.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE

Liberator of captives, defender of the poor, physician of the sick, and champion of kings, O trophy-bearer, Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment-bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.



Sunday of the Blind Man (May 25)

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 Matthew; 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."

Therefore, the Saviour 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.



Third Finding of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist (May 25)

Because of the vicissitudes of time, the venerable head of the holy Forerunner was lost for a third time and rediscovered in Comana of Cappadocia through a revelation to a certain priest, but it was found not, as before, in a clay jar, but in a silver vessel, and "in a sacred place." It was taken from Comana to Constantinople and was met with great solemnity by the Emperor, the Patriarch, and the clergy and people.