

Welcome!

In your hand is a guide to help make your worship experience more meaningful.

At 10:00 am the Divine Liturgy, which is the main worship service of the Orthodox Church, begins with the words from the priest "Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...".

The beginning of the service may be found on page 1 of the small red book entitled The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom (Holy Cross Press). Each Sunday the Epistle, Gospel and certain hymns change to express what is being celebrated that day. This guide has them printed out for you so you may follow along more easily.

We welcome people of all faiths and denominations to worship with us and appreciate your presence. For those who are not Orthodox Christians we ask that you not receive the Holy Communion when it is offered to the congregation. Those visitors who are Orthodox Christians may receive Communion provided you normally receive at your home parish and have not been restricted in any way. For Orthodox Christians, when in doubt whether to receive or not, please ask Fr. Gabriel in advance and he will be happy to advise you.

For those who are attending the Divine Liturgy today as part of your comparative religion college class requirement for research, there is a brief brochure located in the narthex of the Church which will help explain a little about the Orthodox faith and our local parish. Fr. Gabriel would be happy to speak with you in the fellowship hall during the refreshment hour if time permits.

An appointment may also be made where he would be pleased to provide you with some research material for your paper.

For those of you visiting an Orthodox Christian Church for the first time, you are in for an interesting worship experience. There is something in Orthodox worship that reaches all the five senses. Through **sight** with the icons (religious paintings), vestments and movements, through **smell** with the use of incense, with **sound** through the use of our own byzantine style music and liturgy, through **taste** with receiving Holy Communion and by **touch** with the lighting of candles and crossing oneself.

You will find that the Orthodox place a great emphasis on reverence in worship. The worship is joyful as well, but always with a sense of reverence before God.

Thank you for joining us this morning. Please ask one of the attendants in the narthex if you have any questions. They will be happy to assist you. May God bless your time with us and answer all your needs!

**ORTHROS GOSPEL: 8th
Plagal 1**

**THE FOLLOWING HYMNS ARE SUNG DURING AND
FOLLOWING THE 1ST ENTRANCE**

APOLYTIKION

The Word who with the Father and Spirit is co-beginningless, the one born from a Virgin for our salvation, let us praise and worship we the faithful; for he was pleased to ascent in the flesh upon the Cross, and death for us to endure, and raise all the departed, in his Resurrection glorious.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν· ὅτι ἠϋδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγεῖραι τοὺς τεθνεώτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

Ton sinánarhon Lógon Patrí ke Pnémati, ton ek Parthénou tehthénta is sotírian imón, animnísomen pistí ke proskínisomen; óti ivdókise

sarkí, anelthín en to Stavró, ke thánaton ipomíne, ke egíre tous tethneótas en ti endóxo Anastási aftoú.

TROPARION OF ST. MARKELLA

Obedient to the laws of the Lord and to his divine teachings, you kept them blamelessly, O Markella and being frightened of the violence of your father who pursued you O pure bride of Christ you hid in the mountains where he found you and took your life. Glory to him who has given you strength, Glory to him who has crowned you, Glory to him who works healings through you to everyone.

TROPARION OF ST. DEMETRIOS

The world found in you a great champion in dangers, a victor who could turn the nations back! As you restrained Levi in the arena, you also inspired Nestor to courage! Therefore Holy Great Martyr Demetrios, entreat Christ God to grant us great mercy!

KONTAKION

Though you descended in the grave, o immortal one, yet you destroyed the power of Hades; and you rose as victor, O Christ our God; to the Myrrh-bearing Women you said: Rejoice! And to your Apostles you granted your peace, the One who grants resurrection to the fallen ones.

Εἰ καὶ ἐν τάφῳ κατήλθες ἀθάνατε, ἀλλὰ τοῦ Ἄδου καθεῖλες τὴν δύναμιν· καὶ ἀνέστης ὡς νικητῆς, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, γυναιξί μυροφόροις φθειγᾶμενος, χαίρετε, καὶ τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις εἰρήνην δωρούμενος, ὁ τοῖς πεσοῦσι παρέχων ἀνάστασιν.

I ke en táfo katilthes athánate, allá tou Ádou kathíles tin dínamin; ke anéstis os nikitís, Hristé o Theós, Ginexí Mirofóris fthengxámenos: Hérete! Ke tis sis Apostólis irínin doróúmenos, o tis pesoúsi paréhon anástasin.

THE EPISTLE READING

Sunday of the Blind Man

*Verse: You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.
Save me, O Lord,
For the godly man had failed.*

The Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles

Chapter 16:16-34

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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. Then 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.

THE GOSPEL READING

Sunday of the Blind Man

John 9:1-38

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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.

SAINTS COMMEMORATED TODAY:

Sixth Sunday of the Paschal Season, the Man Born Blind; Thallelaïos, Martyr (+284); Nikostratos and Antiochos, Martyrs; Righteous Niketas; John and Righteous Joseph of Chios (+Xlth c.); Lydia of Phillippi (+1st c.); Greatmartyrs Isa and Photine.