

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024

SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

ST CYRIL, ARCHBISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles Chapter 16, Verses 16-34: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.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John Chapter 9, Verse 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.

CHRISMATION TODAY: Today at the beginning of Divine Liturgy, **Kieran Snow** will be Chrismated into the Orthodox Faith. We congratulate Kieran on this joyous entry into the fullness of our faith and we extend a heartfelt *Αξιως* to him!

MEMORIAL SERVICES: Today's Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the souls of **Athanasios G. Spyridis**, 40 days since his passing, **Charles Siouris**, 2 years since his passing, **Garifalia Sioruis**, 5 years since her passing, **Alexander Siouris**, 7 years since his passing, **Panaiota Sioris**, 18 years since her passing, **Michalis Siouris**, 58 years since his passing, and **Angeliki Siouris**, 62 years since her passing. May their memory be eternal! Αίωνία η μνήμη!

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR: Under our invitational program is being hosted by the **Rakos family** in celebration of the Chrismation of **Kieran Snow** and in honor of all the **Kalliopes** whose name day we also celebrate. May the light of Christ guide your every step, Kieran! And χρονιά πολλά to all our Kalliopes!

RETURN OF YOUTH MINISTRIES: We are happy to announce that GOYA, JR. GOYA, and HOPE have returned to the Cathedral! If your child or children are interested in joining our programs, please contact **Vicky Spachis** (GOYA) vicky.spachis@annunciation.org, **Mia Fanourgiakis** (JR. GOYA) mia.fanourgiakis@annunciation.org, or **Natalia Mavroudis** (HOPE) natalia.mavroudis@annunciation.org

COMMUNITY KITCHEN: Every third Tuesday of the month, we come together to prepare, serve, and share a hot meal with those in our neighborhood. Our next Community Kitchen will be **Tuesday, June 18**. If you are interested in volunteering please contact **Maria Polyzos** at maria.polyzos@annunciation.org or sign up at <https://www.annunciation.org/community-kitchen-signup>

REALM UPDATE: Exciting news is on the horizon as we implement REALM Church Management Software to revolutionize the way we donate and manage the Cathedral's finances. We're thrilled to announce that our transition to this powerful tool is fully underway and we have already securely processed thousands of dollars in gifts received through this system. We're excited to share the many benefits this innovative tool will bring to our community. Go to <https://www.annunciation.org/realms> to sign up.

AN INVITATION TO HOST COFFEE HOUR: As part of our revitalized coffee hour program, we're calling on all ministries, organizations, and our parishioners (individually or in teams!) to sign up to host one or more coffee hours over the course of the year. We'll supply the coffee/ cream/ sugar, tablecloths, napkins, utensils – and you supply the goodies (e.g., pastries, donuts, bagels & cream cheese, small sandwiches, fruit/vegetable/cheese platters and assorted dips, or other similar items). We're currently seeking hosts for the following Sundays in June: the 23rd, and the 30th, and the full month of July (7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th). Please reach out to Irene Melitas (irene.melitas@annunciation.org, or, 925.212.8561) to sign-up and learn more.

STEWARDSHIP CALL: We are all blessed with certain gifts. It is important to develop these gifts, multiply them and offer them back to God. Please take a moment to fill out your annual Pledge card and don't forget to fill out the back offering your skills and talents!

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS: June 23 General Meeting-Welcoming all members to our end of year wrap up meeting. Please join Philoptochos in the conference room, 2nd floor after the conclusion of liturgy.

