

5 2nd Street
Herminie, PA 15637
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Cantor
Joseph Luzanski

Liturgical Schedule

Divine Liturgy
Sunday: 8:30 am
Holyday: 9:00 am

Confessions

One half hour before
the divine liturgy or
by appointment

Served By

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TODAY IS MOTHER'S DAY
THERE WILL BE A COFFEE
SOCIAL AFTER THE DIVINE
LITURGY TODAY.

Christ is risen! But, so what?

So, what does it mean to me that Christ is risen? It means not only that an historical event happened, not only that death has been destroyed, it means I am called to do something about it. The man born blind knew this, he knew that his healing would be incomplete, lacking: unless he went to the Pool of Siloam he would not receive his sight. Likewise, I too must do something about the Resurrection: I must repent.

It is easy in the Christian life to believe other people should change—all too easily I can see all kinds of sin elsewhere—but this is of no importance. I am the one called to change, I am called to repent, I am called to turn to the Lord. Never other people, only me. And when I do this—to the extent that I turn to the Lord—I participate in his Resurrection, I

Sunday of the Man Born Blind

Feastal Tone

Menologion

Isidore of Chios was an Egyptian Christian soldier martyred on the island of Chios in 251 during the persecutions ordered by the Roman emperor Decius.

Propers

Pages: 189-191

Fasts & Feasts

May 14 Sixth Sunday of Pascha (Man Born Blind)

May 18 Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ (9 am)

May 21 Seventh Sunday of Pascha (Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council)

May 27 Fifth All-Souls Saturday (9 am)

May 28 Pentecost - Descent of the Holy Spirit

May 29 Pentecost Monday: Feast of the Holy Trinity, Memorial Day (USA)

June 4 All Saints Sunday

June 5-29 The Apostles' Fast (The fast begins with the vespers on Sunday evening and concludes on June 29th)

June 24 Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John (9 am)

June 29 The Holy Glorious and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter & Paul (9 am)

participate in life to its fullness, I participate in perfect love.

Christ's actions to restore sight to this blind man are filled with symbolism. First, he mixes earth with saliva and anoints his eyes with mud. This gesture recalls the passage from the book of Genesis where the story of man's creation is narrated and God breathes life into a figure of dust "Gen 2:7" Jesus in curing that man is carrying out a new creation. The man, blind from birth, needs to be reborn, to begin a new life because now he can see.

Jesus tells him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam, and when the man does so he recovers his sight. The pool's water that cleanses his eyes is a symbol of the water of Baptism, which makes us capable of seeing with the light of faith. The Gospel points out, for the readers who are not Hebrews, that Siloam means "sent." Jesus is the One sent by God who, when we turn to Him, especially when configured to his death and resurrection in the waters of Baptism, makes us capable of seeing.

With this miracle, Jesus manifests himself, and He manifests himself to us as the Light of the World. The man blind from birth represents each one of us, who was created to know God; but due to sin has become blind; we are in need of a new light; we are all in need of a new light: that of faith, which Jesus has given us."

The blind man starts traveling along a road of growth in the faith. At the outset he knows nothing about Jesus. Then, astonished by the recovery of his sight, he will say at first to those who ask him that "he is a prophet" (v. 17).

There are two Gospel stories that are special to me. Both of these are read during the Pascal season. One of my favorite stories is a 2,000-year-old account of two travelers walking on a road.

Both these men had been disciples of Jesus before his death. As they walked toward the town

of Emmaus from Jerusalem, where their Master had been publicly executed a few days earlier, they talked about what had happened.

A third man, whom they didn't recognize, approached them and asked what they were talking about with such heavy sadness. The rest of the story will be very familiar to you. But the part that stays with me and influences me the most is: The disciples then said to each other, "When he talked with us on the road and opened to us the meaning of the Scriptures, didn't we sense the warming fire in our hearts?" To feel that warming fire is indeed a gift from God.

The second gospel that I love is the one we read today. The Sunday of the born blind.

I was born on Palm Sunday over seventy years ago, one of two twin boys born prematurely. One of the boys lived the other died. They were baptized and named by the parish priest. Joseph and John. Mother had already picked other names but Joseph stuck.

Babies born this early may have more health problems or need to stay in the hospital longer than babies born later. I was in the hospital for two months.

Vision problems, like retinopathy of prematurity happens when a baby's retinas don't fully develop in the weeks after birth. ROP usually affects both eyes. Children born prematurely are more likely than children born on time to have vision problems.

Being born premature and have spent time in a rich oxygen environment in the incubator in the hospital I have a multitude of eye issues. I've worn Radar O'Reilly glasses since the first grade. Poor vision leads to a lot of problems and bullying, I was never good at sports but my eyesight didn't prevent me from being an avid reader.

That being said, you can understand why I can somewhat identify with the Gospel of the Man Born Blind. I have hoped for years for such a healing and I am always been strengthened when I hear this Gospel. Sure I just misread the Epistle because the words ran away but that in no way takes away the specialness of this Gospel.