

Sunday, May 24, 2020
Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!
6th Sunday of Pascha – Sunday of the Blind Man
Symeon, Stylite of the Mountain

WORSHIP SCHEDULE TODAY: Orthros: 8:00 a.m. & Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m.
Both services will be live streamed and found on our Ss. Constantine and Helen Facebook Page and You Tube Channel.

HYMNS FOR THE DAY: (Found in red hymnal book)

- # 198 – Χριστος Ανεστη/Christ is Risen
- # 5 – Τον συναρχον Λογον /The Word who with the Father
- # 242 – Της ψυχης τα ομματα/With the eyes of my soul
- # 134 – Του Σταυρου σου/The sign of the Cross
- # 240 – Ει και ταφω κατηλθεε/Though in the grave You descended

READINGS: **Orthros Gospel:** John 20:11-18.
 Epistle: Acts 16:16-34.
 Gospel: John 9:1-38.

(For further information go to Archdiocese website at: goarch.org or
The Metropolis of Chicago website at: chicago.goarch.org.)

THE NICENE CREED & LORD'S PRAYER are found on pages 52-54 and 71 of your blue service book. Everyone is encouraged to recite them out loud in both Greek & English.

PRE & POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS: The Pre-Communion prayers are found on pages 76-80 in your blue service book. The first four will be read in Greek and the next four in English. **Please recite them out loud as a congregation.** The Post-Communion prayers are found on pages 98-100 in Greek and pages 101-102 in English. These should be read by those who have received Holy Communion when they return to their seats.

COUNCIL CANDLE DUTY: JoAnn Massow

MEMORIALS

7 years Vicky Nonos-Aronis 18 years George Nonos

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

SERVICE SCHEDULE



Tuesday, May 26th – *Apodosis of Pascha* – Orthros: 5:00 p.m. &
Divine Liturgy: 5:45 p.m.

Τριτη, 26 Μαιου — *Η Αποδοσις του Πασχα*. Ορθρος: 5:00 μ.μ. και η
Θεια Λειτουργια: 5:45 μ.μ.

Thursday, May 28th – *Ascension of the Lord* - Orthros: 8:30 a.m. and
Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m.

Πεμπτη, 28 Μαιου — *Της Αναληψεως του Χριστου*. Ορθρος: 8:30 π.μ. και η Θεια
Λειτουργια: 9:00 π.μ.

These services will be lived streamed through our Facebook Page and YouTube Channel.

GRADUATE SUNDAY is still being planned to be held virtually on Sunday, June 14th. We will be announcing the Cathedral, Novak Family, Latos, GOYA and other designated scholarships on this day via live stream. Also our parish will acknowledge the accomplishments of our graduates from high school, college or university who submit their names in to the church office by Sunday, May 31st.

PASCHAL OFFERINGS: We truly appreciate and thank all that have made a gift to the Church this Easter. If you haven't already made your Easter Offering to our parish, please do so today. Your gift of love will help promote the Gospel of Christ's salvation.

During this time of COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis, your Priests and Parish Council are praying for everyone's good health and well-being. We also ask you to please remember our parish of SS. Constantine and Helen with a generous Easter Offering. Be as generous in your love for Him as He is in His love for you.

Easter Offerings may be mailed to the church office in the envelopes mailed to your homes or made electronically through the Tithe.ly Giving Program. Thank you all and Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen!

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES: The Metropolis of Chicago Youth Office has announced that the Jr. Olympics scheduled for May and the Fanari Camp Program that was to be held in June and July have been canceled.

FOOD PANTRY: The call to remember the hungry and needy of the world is a continuous call by our Lord Jesus Christ. Donations of pasta, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, canned meats, canned tuna, canned fruits, canned vegetables, dry beans, lentils are all needed. Other things needed are personal hygiene items, shampoo, and toothpaste, cleaning products, hand soap, dish soap, toilet paper and other paper goods. Cash donations are always welcome.

At this time, the Food Pantry will remain open on Fridays from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. However, instead of our regular parishioner crew working it, volunteers from the Ross Township office will. Anyone 18-40, without any medical conditions who would like to volunteer and work during these times is asked to contact Karen Petalas at the Township Office or Patty Makarounas through the church office.

JESUS CLOSET UPDATE: Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the shelters we work with in Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties are no longer accepting donations of clothing, bedding, blankets and other household items. Because of this we are forced to shut down our JC's Closet until further notice. Please do not bring any items to church as they pose a health risk for our workers and staff, and we do not have any proper areas to store these items. Thank you to all who supported this Outreach Ministry, and we look forward to working with you in the near future.

MEMORIAL DAY CEMETERY VISIT UPDATE: Due to the COVID –19 Pandemic we have been informed by Calumet Park Cemetery and Ridgelawn Cemetery that we will not be able to have our usual blessings of graves on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2020. This is because of the restrictions that the cemeteries have in regards to people gathering in large numbers for the health and safety of the public and the cemetery employees.

If you would like to, you may submit names of your beloved deceased family members to the church office to be commemorated on the Saturday of Souls, June 6, 2020. Names may be submitted (written clearly in English or Greek) with a donation for the poor and sent to the church office no later than Friday, June 5, 2020. No kolyva, prosphoron, wine or olive oil should be given. The Memorial Service for the dead will be offered following the Liturgy for the Saturday of Souls, which will be live streamed, beginning at 9:00am. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Ted at the church office.

DIAMONDS are produced from coal that outlasted the pressures place upon them.

STEWARDSHIP: Wherever we live, we observe two common items made of glass: windows and mirrors. We look “through” a window but “at” a mirror. A mirror simply reflects what is in front of it. We look at a mirror to see how we look, but we don’t need a mirror to see how other people look; we need a window.

Our life style can be like a window or mirror. “Window” people look beyond themselves, at other people, at the world. “Mirror” people see only themselves. Therein lies their misery.

Christ and His followers are “window” people. Through Christian stewardship, they find life’s highest joy in helping support God’s work in the world through His Church. When it comes to supporting our Cathedral of Ss. Constantine and Helen, are you a “window” person or a “mirror” person?

Every parishioner should be a supporting member, a steward, of our Cathedral. Everyone should contribute what they can. We all need to have the willingness to make a commitment of faith and to “go on record” as being a believer and a supporter of God’s work through His Church. Since the Coronavirus Pandemic hit, the income of our parish has been cut by 90%. If some of you have not yet returned your 2020 Pledge Form to the church office, please do so without delay. Also, keep current in your payments. To make giving easier for all our faithful, we have established an online program called [Tithe.ly/give](https://tithe.ly/give). This will allow those who have internet accessibility to continue to make offerings for stewardship payments, candles, Helping Hand, Food Pantry and other donations that help cover the costs of operating our parish with just a click of your computer keys. Read on below and check out the link listed. It is a symbolic profession of faith when we all work together and help our church to better plan for its various financial needs and expenditures. Thank you.

During this difficult situation and time of separation, we are working hard to make sure you can stay connected to your church. Services are being streamed. Bible studies and youth groups are being held on Zoom. And now, you can support the church from your home! Click the following link to access the Cathedral's online giving page. Make sure you select what type of donation you want to make and if you'd like to cover our processing fees. You also have the ability to enter your stewardship number (listed on your stewardship envelopes) which would help our office a ton!

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=1385847>

ISN'T IT FUNNY...How simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world’s going to hell?

...How we believe what the news media says, but question what the Bible and Church says?

...How everyone wants to go to heaven provided they do not have to believe, think, or do anything that Jesus Christ teaches?

...How someone can say “I believe in God” but still follow Satan (who, by the way also “believes” in God)?

...How lewd, crude, vulgar, and obscene things pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of Jesus and prayer is suppressed in the schools and workplace?

...How you can send jokes and gossip through e-mail like wildfire, but are silent about sharing the message of Jesus Christ?

...How someone can be fired up for Christ on Sunday, but an invisible Christian the rest of the week?

...How I can be more worried about what other people think of me than what God thinks of me?

If you think about, it really isn’t very funny at all!

BLINDNESS: SYMBOLISM OR REALITY?



exist in the world.

One day as Jesus was walking the streets of Jerusalem. He encountered a man who was born blind. After placing clay on his eyes, our Lord instructs him to “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.” He obeys and to the amazement of all, the man is now able to see! Not everyone, however, rejoices at this miracle. The Pharisees put the poor man through an inquisition, practically accusing him of faking his blindness! They refuse to believe that Christ was “from God”, pompously pointing out that He did not properly keep the Sabbath, which made Him a “great sinner” as far as they were concerned. Their hardened hearts blinded them from recognizing the reality that Jesus was the Messiah.

The Church Fathers teach us that the blind man is symbolic of all humanity, for we all need the illumination that Christ, the Light of the world, brings. In the early Church, when catechumen were frequently baptized on Holy Saturday, this Gospel lesson was read as a reminder that this Sacrament is one that “opens the eyes of our soul” to the glory of God. It should be noted that in addition to opening the man's eyes, Jesus opens his heart as well. As the Gospel lesson ends, the man worships Christ and calls him “Lord.” Indeed, his “sight” is now complete, for he is able to “see” the divinity of Jesus!

“LEAVING” WITHOUT “LEAVING US ALONE”



Forty days after His glorious Resurrection, Christ ascended from the Mount of Olives, returning to His heavenly home. One can only imagine how the Apostles felt when He vanished before their very eyes. For three years, they spent nearly every moment with Jesus. They heard His teachings...they witnessed His miracles...they shared in intimate discussions with Him. Now, their Master was gone.

Soon, however, the Apostles realized that this, too, was part of God's plan. Christ's work on earth was completed. He had come to “*seek and save the lost.*” That being accomplished, it was necessary that He return to heaven to “*prepare a place for us.*” But while our Lord physically left this world, He did not leave us alone! At the Mystical Supper, He explained to His Apostles: “**It is to your advantage that I go away. If I do not, the Comforter will not come to you, but if I go, I will send Him to you**” (John 16:7). Even in His Resurrected Body, Christ could only be at one place at a time. The Holy Spirit, however, is “*in all places and fills all things!*” Christ continues to be with us through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Moreover, He told His followers: “**Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world**” (Matthew 28:20). How can we ever think that our Lord has really left us, when we constantly greet one another with these words: “*Christ is among us – He is and always shall be*”?

As we celebrate the FEAST OF THE ASCENSION, may we rejoice at the Lord's “home coming!” May God allow us to, one day, be united with Him in His kingdom.