

June 9, 2013: The 6th Sunday after Easter (Healing the man born blind)

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34:

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household. And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go."

Gospel: John 9:1-38:

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and

wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

The healing of the blind man from birth is somewhat unusual. By that I mean the way in which the healing took place.

First, the gospel reading is not telling us if the blind asked to be healed. In most healings we are led to understand that the cause of the illness is the sins of the sick person. In this instance, the sickness is the vehicle through which the power of God is revealed: *"Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him."*

Second, the ritual (procedure) of the healing is unusual. In most other cases, Jesus just said the word and the sick were healed. In this case, Jesus intervenes physically: *He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.*

God did something similar in the very beginning when He created (formed) man from earth. This leads us to conclude that the healing of the blind man from birth symbolizes the re-creation of man, the restoration of mankind by Christ the Lord.

Fr. George Bazgan

Blessing of Graves

The blessing of graves will take place on Saturday, June 8 (the last Saturday before the Lord's Ascension), at 10:00 AM at St. Michael's Cemetery.

Those who have loved ones buried in other cemeteries, are asked to contact Fr. George (474-0029) for scheduling.

SUMMER SCHEDULE OF CHURCH SERVICES

Due to the fact that Fr. George will be away between June 10 and July 18, there will be some changes regarding our Church services.

The church will be open every Sunday and Fr. Deacon Severian will serve the Akathist.

On June 23, the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by the V. Rev. Fr. Mircea Panciuk.

For any emergency, please call Fr. Mircea at 456-7737.

Have a pleasant Summer!



**St. Philip
Antiochian Orthodox Church
Invites you to**

**The Annual Two day Conference.
“Healing Our Diseases:**

"The Church as a Spiritual Hospital"

Guest Speaker: *V. Rev. Fr. Josiah Trenham (PHD)*

Pastor of St. Andrew Church, Riverside, California.

Founder and director of “Patristic Nectar Publication”

www.patristicnectar.org

When: June 14 – 15, 2013

Where: St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church
15804 – 98th Ave, Edmonton, AB.

Cost: \$25.00 (Includes refreshments and Saturday’s lunch)

Call Fr. Elias Ferzli @ 780 489 7943, frelias@telus.net

B.Y.O.Bible



MEMBERSHIP

At the Annual General Meeting, held on February 24, 2013, the decision was made to keep the membership unchanged, at \$100/person (\$200/couple).

We encourage all our members and supporters to pay their membership as soon as possible so we can complete the various projects during the warm season and also to be able to assist the Archdiocese with the annual dues.

Keep in mind that \$35 of each membership goes to the Archdiocese.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

KITCHEN RENOVATION

Our kitchen is in dire need for expansion and renovation.

**In the fall of 2012 we launched a campaign to fundraise
for this important project.**

The last estimate for the project came at around \$80,000.

**We appeal to all of our members, supporters and friends
to give generously towards this major project
and support our fundraising events!**

**All donors will receive a tax-deductible receipt
and our heartfelt appreciation.**

THANK YOU AND MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS YOU!