

## May 25, 2014: The 6<sup>th</sup> 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 the Graves**

The blessing of graves will take place on Saturday, May 24 (the Saturday before the Lord's Ascension), at 10:00 AM at St. Michael's Cemetery.

Those who have loved ones buried in other cemeteries, please contact Fr. George (473 - 0029) for scheduling.

## **PROHOD AT BOIAN**

This Sunday, May the 25<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday before the Lord's Ascension into heaven, we are all invited to partake in the Divine Liturgy and the blessing of the graves (Prohod) at our mother Church, *St. Mary's* in Boian.

Those who are unable to go to Boian, can take part in the Akathist service in our church with Deacon Severian.

**Thank you!**

## **THE PROGRESS OF OUR MAJOR PROJECTS**

1. We are happy to tell you that the roofs of the Church Hall and Office have been completed. The cost was just over \$60,000. In June, the entire ceiling of the Main Hall will be redone.

2. For the Kitchen renovation we are still waiting for the opinion of the experts as to how to proceed. Hopefully, this project will be completed this summer.

3. Another project is the renovation of the Church Basement (Fellowship room) and the creation of two classrooms for the Sunday School.

**Thank you all for your support!**

## GARAGE SALE

The Romanian Orthodox Church will be hosting a Garage Sale:

- Friday, May 30, 2014: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM.
- Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- Sunday, June 1 2014: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

*This is a fundraising event with proceeds going towards the kitchen renovation.*

*To make this event a success, we NEED your help!*

### ITEMS NEEDED :

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING (IN GOOD CONDITION).

ADULT CLOTHING (IN GOOD CONDITION).

TOYS /ELECTRONIC GAMES/OTHER ELECTRONICS.  
SPORTS EQUIPMENT.

SMALL HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES AND FURNITURE.

TOOLS.

GARDEN ITEMS.

MISCELLANEOUS (BOOKS, CHINA, DECORATIVE ITEMS, JEWELRY,  
PURSES, VASES, etc.).

Donations will be accepted between May 4 - May 29, every Sunday

from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM (or call to make other arrangements).

NOTE: *This event requires a large number of volunteers to sort, price and advertise so please let us know if you can lend a hand.*

For further information, to make a donation or to volunteer, please contact:

- Psa. MARIA BAZGAN: (780) 473-0029.
- MARIANA DIACONU: (780) 473-6711.
- MARIETA MIEILA: (780) 439-9310.

**Thank you very much!**



**St. Philip  
Antiochian Orthodox Church  
15804 – 98 Avenue.  
Edmonton, AB.  
(780) 489 7943**

Presents

**"You Shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10: 27).**

**A Two Day Conference: June 13 – 15, 2014.**

**Featuring:**

***The V. Rev. Fr. Patrick O'Grady***

Pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Antiochian Orthodox Church  
Pomona, California.



**Schedule:**

**Friday June 13:** 7:00 pm: Introduction.

**Saturday June 14:** 9:30 AM: Morning Prayer.

Session one: **OBEDIENCE**

Session Two: **REPENTANCE**

Session Three: **PRAYER**

**3:30 PM: Great Vespers.**

7:00 pm - Young Adults/Youth chat session with Fr. Patrick.

**Sunday June 15:** Matins: 9:45 AM.

Divine Liturgy: 11:00 AM. Fr. Patrick will deliver the Homily.

Lunch & Fellowship to follow Divine Liturgy.

This fascinating retreat is open to all who desire to live a life of gladness.

**Reservation is required prior to  
June 11, 2014.**

**Contact: Fr. Elias Ferzli: (780) 489 7943 / (780) 340 7865**

**[frelias@telus.net](mailto:frelias@telus.net)**

**Cost: \$20.00** (Includes refreshments, meals and Sunday's lunch).

