

Goula, Eileen Gray, James Seman, Fr. Lee Gross, Eileen Gray, James Seman, Mike Shuster, Greg Starr, Florence Kunder, Ed Kunder, Jim Bacigalupi, Katherine Sikoryak, Margaret Hospodar.

Prayers for our Parishioners. The particular law of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church directs that the pastor is to celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish entrusted to him on Sundays and days of precept [holydays of obligation]" (canon 294). This liturgy intention for all parishioners is "For the Intention of Parishioners." The faithful who attend the Divine Liturgy for the parishioners who participate, according to their state, in praying for that intention. We can continue this prayer for one another during the week by remembering several parishioners and families each week. Please remember this week: Scott and Debbie Hald & family, Deborah Halsey, Michael Hancher, Paul and Christine Hancher, Nancy Hencken, Robert Hencken, and from the Mission, Steven Krempasky.

Public Liturgies. In his episcopal letter of May 13th, Bishop Kurt Burnette announced that churches may reopen for public worship according to the directives of the public health authorities. The bishop has sent a four-page check list that must be completed by every pastor which covers all needed preparations (usher training, purchase of masks, gloves, sanitizer stations, removal of books from racks, and other conditions) before public assembly is allowed in each church of the Eparchy. The pastors are to submit the completed checklists to the syncelli. In his episcopal letter the bishop reminds those at danger or with health conditions or those who feel unwell to stay home. Bishop Kurt has continued the dispensation from the obligation to assist at the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and holydays of obligation. This week there is one holyday of obligation, Ascension of our Lord. In those states or counties where the stay at home orders remain, such as Fairfax County.

Virginia and Montgomery County, Maryland, the bishop exhorts all to follow the directives of the health authorities. Please keep in mind that Divine Law still requires us to keep the Lord's Day holy by prayer and by refraining from unnecessary work. The bishop cannot dispense Divine Law. Further, the Bishop had encouraged all to make a good confession later in the year when it is safe.

Live Streaming. In response to the spiritual needs the Faithful of Epiphany, the Divine Liturgy of the Sunday of the Man Born Blind today will be live streamed at 10:30 AM, visit <https://eolbcc.org/live/>. We offer thanks to Brian Jesse, the Epiphany website builder and webmaster as well as parishioner, for all his work for our parish.

Praying at home together. Although we are unable to pray together in church, we might consider praying these prayers in our homes so that we can be united in praying the same prayers. These are available on the web site of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, <https://mci.archpitt.org>. On Sunday, in place of the Divine Liturgy, The Typica, arranged as a Reader Service, is available on the web site of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute. Also available is the entire People's Molitvennik under Publications tab to use when participating in the live streaming Liturgy.

Messages from the Pastor. Father John has been sending email messages to the parishioners whose email addresses we have on our roster. If you have not been receiving these email messages, it might be because we do not have your email address, or you have changed it and we do not have it. We would like to have your email address to keep contact with you during this time when the physical locations of churches are closed. Simply email the parish office epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net.

Liturgy Intentions to be Rescheduled. If you have offered a Divine Liturgy for an intention to

be celebrated during the suspension, you will be contacted to reschedule when the suspension is lifted. The liturgies that are celebrated in private on Sundays will be for the intention of parishioners. The particular law of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church directs pastors to celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish entrusted to him on Sundays and days of precept [holydays of obligation]" (canon 294).

Ascension of our Lord. Forty days after He resurrected from the dead, the Lord Jesus ascended to heaven. With Christ human nature ascends and heaven is reopened. St. John Chrysostom said, "We who seemed unworthy of the earth, are raised to heaven." Ascension is also a sign of the promise of the sending of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost which the Lord promised. The Ascension is also a sign of the Lord's Second Coming, for the angels told the apostles, "This same Jesus, who you saw taken away, will return in the same manner." The observance of the Lord ascending to the Father with His glorified human nature is a reminder to us: "If then you were raised with Christ [resurrected in baptism], seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died [to the first Adam through baptism], and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with Him in glory" (Col. 3:1-3).

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Suspension of Public Services. Bishop Kurt Burnette allows the public celebration of liturgical services in conformity with the dictates of the local and state health authorities and after the eparchial check list has been submitted to the syncelli and approved. In Fairfax County and adjoining counties, the limit of ten persons in church remains, while for the rest of the Commonwealth 50% of the church capacity is allowed. Usually, there are one priest, two cantors, a sacristan and one technician for

live streaming. Five more people can now attend. Please remember to wear a mask in public assembly. Bishop Kurt continues to dispense from the obligation to assist at the Divine Liturgy for Sundays and holydays of obligation. His most recent communication is found at the Eparchial web site. www.eparchyofpassaic.com.

Executive Order. Governor Ralph Northam issued Executive Order #62 effective May 15th. This order delays northern Virginia counties from beginning Phase One that will begin that date in the other counties of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This means that only ten or fewer persons can be present in church at any time and safe distancing is in effect. All non-essential businesses and all social gatherings except family gatherings and public entertainments are prohibited.

Parish Office Schedule and Safety Protocols. In accordance with Bishop Kurt Burnette's and Governor Northam's most recent Orders, the office hours for Epiphany of our Lord continue to be amended to the following: Monday through Friday - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Jamie, the administrative assistant, will cover the office during those hours from home. All office calls will be forwarded to her cell phone. She will be teleworking Tuesday -Thursday. She will be physically in the parish office Monday and Friday only. Lucie, the financial assistant, has elected to work from home Tuesday through Thursday and the parish office only on Monday and Friday. Given that response to this crisis is so fluid and schedules can change so quickly, please call the office phone number before venturing out. Parish staff has established safety and health protocols at the parish office, as well. If you have business at the office, please use the new doorbell. We will respond through the intercom after verifying your presence at the door. Jamie is able to respond to the door from home as well. No one will come into the office from outside. If your visit includes an exchange

of goods, please leave them on the door step. We will attend to them. We ask this because there is not enough room in the office to observe the mandate to practice social distancing.

Financial Report. The yearly financial report has been prepared and is available in the parish office if anyone would like a copy. In addition, it will be available when the churches are reopened.

Book Store. The parish book store will be closed throughout the suspension of all activity through Thursday, May 28th.

Online Catechesis sessions. In his decree March 16th, Bishop Kurt Burnette suspended religious education classes for adults and children except for classes held on line by using a conference calling service such as Zoom for each grade. Catechists are asked to please check with parents for their approval. Arrangements are being made for Eparchial-wide catechetical classes on Zoom or another conferencing service taught by experienced, approved catechists. Parents and students will be informed when this method of eparchial-wide Eastern Christian Formation will take effect.

EPARCHIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop's Appeal. The 2019 Bishop's Appeal goal for Epiphany church remains the same, \$19,800. Our parishioners have pledged \$20,415.18. Sixty-nine households bought Epiphany church to our goal and above. And Epiphany Ladies Guild has given a donation of \$3,000. The present total is \$20,415.18. Montgomery County Mission parishioners have pledged \$6,800.08, exceeding their goal of \$6,000. Epiphany parish will receive a check for 40 % of our total. These checks usually arrive sometime during the summer and are not mailed until all pledges are satisfied. Epiphany of our

Lord parish in Annandale has an outstanding pledge total of \$133.

Contributions On Line. The Eparchy of Passaic accepts offertory and donations made for the parishes of the eparchy. If you want to make a contribution to Epiphany of our Lord, Annandale or Epiphany Mission, Gaithersburg, MD, online, please go to the link on our church web site www.eolbcc.org On the home page click on Epiphany of our Lord online giving. You will then be at a secure site of VANCO, the donation service used by the Eparchy of Passaic. You will be asked which parish you want the donation to be credited.

God With Us Online. A service of the Eparchy of Passaic Office of Eastern Catholic Formation provides online resources for the liturgical calendar for parents for Sundays and holydays. Visit <https://godwithusonline.org/catechetical-resources/>

Free MCI Classes. The following MCI classes are FREE to all members of our church, through July 1 so, all registration fees for the following MCI Online classes for any member of our church:
-Introduction to the Divine Liturgy
-Introduction to the Eight Tones
-The Divine Liturgy (like the Intro course, but tests all melodies in the green book)
-The Office of Vespers
-Mastering the Eight Tones
-Services for the Living (baptism, wedding)
Registrants must first complete the free Introduction to Church Singing class first, if they haven't done so already. Register at mci@archpitt.org.

Sunday of the Man Born Blind

COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- Parish Office New Schedule
- Scheduled Liturgy Intentions
- Financial Report
- Book store sales Suspended
- EMC Bingo - Suspended through 5/28
- Bishop's Appeal – Over goal!
- Contributions Online

EMC BINGO

05/12/20 – Team C - No Bingo
 05/19/20 - Team D - No Bingo
 05/26/20 – Team A – No Bingo
 06/02/20 - Team B - undetermined
<http://EMCBINGO.com>

May 17, 2020

TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$
Building Fund	\$
Holy Days	\$
Candles	\$
BCY	\$
Easter	\$
School of Religion	\$
Holy Water Bottles	\$
Catholic Home Missions	\$
St. Nicholas Fund	\$
Retired Nuns	\$
Retired Priests	\$
<u>Online Donation</u>	<u>\$885</u>
TOTAL	\$885

Tithing & Giving. "Online Donation" represents donations for Epiphany contributed by parishioners online and sent to Epiphany from the chancery. We have received a check from the eparchy that a second check. The Contributions sent to Epiphany for this week and last week will be posted in the bulletin next Sunday. Thank you for sending your weekly envelope donations by mail or online.

"Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth." (Dt. 8:18)

LITURGY AND LIFE

Prayer Intentions. Please remember in prayer: Msgr. George Dobes, Michael Mikulak, David Sayen, Mary McDonnell, Justine Ferrari, Louis Shanks, Caroline Zurun, Mary Beth Vieira, Irene Markovich, Mary Gaydos, Betty Markovchick, John Vernoski, Marge Rusnak, and Paul Vrabel. Please pray for these friends and relatives of parishioners: Shirley Anne Markham, Jeffrey Mikulak, Francine O'Leary, Russell Plasha, Patricia Delfine, Rev. Joseph Jugan, Steven



EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Byzantine Catholic Church
3410 Woodburn Road, Annandale, VA 22003
Phone: 703-573-3986 --- Fax: 703-573-0344
Very Rev. John G. Basarab - Pastor

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!	May 17, 2020	Christos voskrese! Voistinnu voskrese!
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DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

May 17 Sun. 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners
Sixth Week After Pascha
Leave-taking of Pascha
May 20 Wed. 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving 41st anniversary of Ordination
Father John
ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
May 21 Thurs. 10:00 AM Intention of Parishioners

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

May 24 Sun. 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – May 24, 2020

May 24 Sun. 8:00 AM
10:30 AM

USHER SCHEDULE – May 24, 2020

May 24 Sun. 8:00 AM
10:30 AM

All public services in church until May 28th in Northern Virginia can only have ten people. People in attendance must wear masks and maintain social distancing.

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD Byzantine Catholic Church The Sacraments – Our Life in Christ

Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation - (Baptism, Chrismation, Holy Eucharist). We follow the command of the Lord to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Chrismation (Confirmation) and Holy Eucharist (First Holy Communion) is imparted at the same time immediately following baptism

Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Infants – is scheduled at the Divine Liturgy on Saturdays or Sundays during the year except certain fast periods. Sponsors must be Catholics in good standing and supply a sponsor card attesting to that from their parish. While two Catholics in good standing is usual, one baptized non-Catholic can function as a Christian Witness with the Catholic sponsor. Both must be at least sixteen years of age. Details are available at the parish office.

Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Adults – follows a period of catechumenate. This is a period of spiritual formation. Please see the priest or deacon.

Mystery (Sacrament) of Crowning in Marriage – According to the Pastoral Policy and Guidelines for Marriage Preparation for the Catholic Church in New Jersey, couples wishing to marry must inform the pastor one year before the date of the wedding and be free to marry in the Catholic Church. Couples will meet with the priest and deacon in four sessions – to begin the pre-nuptial investigation, to take FOCCUS, a communications, values and religious inventory approved for use in the Catholic dioceses/eparchies, to complete the pre-nuptial investigation and for a session on the theology of the mystery (sacrament). They are also required to attend Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter.

Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance – The Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance is regularly available each Saturday 11:30 AM – 12:00 Noon. In addition, confessions are heard during the Christmas Fast (Advent) and the Great Fast (Lent) at other scheduled times. Visiting confessors are also scheduled at special times during the Great Fast. Confessions are also heard on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Great and Holy Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life endangering medical conditions as well as those who are to undergo surgery should avail themselves Week to prepare for the observance of the Lord’s Resurrection.

Anointing of the Sick – Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life-threatening medical conditions as well as those who are to undergo surgery should avail themselves of the sacrament of penance and anointing of the sick. If surgery is scheduled, please consider confession and anointing at the church before entering the hospital since there is more privacy for confession and less chance of interruption for confession and anointing. If you are unable to come to church, please call the rectory. Families of parishioners who have a medical emergency should contact the rectory office so one of the priests can go the hospital.

Holy Communion and Visitation of the Sick – Holy Communion is brought to our parishioners who are ill at the hospital or at home by the deacon on Sundays and at other times by arrangement. Please contact the deacon or the rectory office by Friday prior to the Sunday communion visitation.

Funeral Services – The Office of Christian Burial is offered in ways to accommodate the needs of the family. The Epiphany Ladies Guild as part of their charity offers a Mercy Meal for families at the Parish Center following the interment. Epiphany of our Lord cemetery is a portion of Fairfax Memorial Park. Parishioners who are interested in purchasing cemetery plots should see the deacon.

Byzantine Catholic Mission of Montgomery County - Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM; Religious Education & Social Hour 11:15-12:15: 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg, MD; (301) 482-0282.

Parish Administration

"The Church is not an organization with sacraments but a sacrament with organization."

Parish Clergy

Very Rev. John G. Basarab, Pastor
Deacon Elmer Pekarik, Deacon Peter Turko

Parish Office Staff

Jamie Bacigalupi, Administrative Assistant
Lucie Cantsilieris, Financial Assistant

Parish Council of Administration

Emil Koval, Greg Puhak, Sally Green

Parish Office Hours: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Monday- Friday
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Sunday

School of Religion - School of Religion classes meet on Sundays between Liturgies (9:20 AM - 10:20 AM) throughout the school year (September - June). Classes are offered for children grades Preschool & Kindergarten - High School

Announcements may be dropped off in the Parish Office, faxed to the office (703-573-1088) or email to epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net.

Registration - Individuals who wish to register in the Parish should stop by the Parish Office and complete a census form.

Epiphany of our Lord Church, Annandale, VA
<http://www.eolbcc.org>

Epiphany of our Lord does not conduct pastoral business on the website email.

PARISH USTAV

The Order for the Divine Liturgy
for
Sunday of the Man Born Blind

PLACE RIBBONS AT:

BLUE p. 11 Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy
RED p. 186 Sunday of the Man Born Blind

ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: Festal Tones

EXCEPT: Cherubic Hymn
We Praise You
Communion Hymn p. 177 **ALL D**
Our Father Paschal melody p. 167

1. Hymns during Incensation - Christ is Risen, p. 171
2. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
3. Sunday Antiphons and Entrance Hymn p. 14-15, 22-25
4. At the Troparia:
 - Troparion of Resurrection Tone 5 p. 189 RED
 - Kontakion of the Man Born Blind Tone 4 p. 189 RED
 - Kontakion of Pascha Tone 8 p. 189-190 RED
5. Scripture readings:
 - Prokeimenon of the Man Born Blind Tone 8 p. 190 RED
 - Epistle: Acts 16:16-24
 - Alleluia of Man Born Blind Tone 8 p. 190 RED
 - Gospel: John 9:1-38
6. Cherubic Hymn D and Church Slavonic on reverse of this sheet
7. Instead of *"It is truly proper..."*, "Anhel Vopijašče" on reverse of this sheet
8. At Dismissal Christ is Risen p. 170 RED

ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON – JEDINORODNYJ SYNE

Slava Otcu i Synu i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyňi i 4n a4i, 4n a v'iki v'ikov. Amiň. Jedinorodnyj Syne, i 4n a4 Božij, bezsmerten syj, i izvolivyj spasenija našeho radi vplotitisja ot svjatyja Bohorodicy i 4n a4i-d'ivy Mariji, nepreložno vočelov'ičivysja, raspnysja že, Christe Bože, smertiju smert' popravjy, jedin syj Svjatyja Trojcy, sproslavl'ajemyj Otcu i Svjatomu Duchu, spasi nas.

HOLY GOD – SVJATYJ BOZE

Svjatyj Bože, svjatyj kr'ipkij, svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas. Slava Otču i Synu, i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyňi i 4n a4i, 4n a v'iki v'ikov. Amin. Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas.

IŽE CHERUVIMY – LET US WHO MYSTICALLY

Iže Cheruvimy tajno obrazujušče, i životvorjasšcej Trojč'i trisvjatuju p'isň prinosjasšče, vsjakuju nyňi zitejskoje otveržim pečal'.

Amiň. Jako da Carja vs'ich podimem, anhel'skimi nevidimo dorinosima činmi. Alliluia. Alliluia. Alliluia.

SVJAT, SVJAT, SVJAT – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Svjat, svjat, svjat, Hospod' savaoth, ispolň 4n a4i zeml'a slavy Tvojeja: osanna vo vyšnich, blahosloven hrjadyj vo imja Hospodne, osanna vo vyšnich.

TEBE POJEM – WE PRAISE YOU

Tebe pojem, Tebe blahoslovim, Teb'i blahodarim, Hospodi, i molimtisja Bože naš.

ANHEL VOPIJAŠE – THE ANGEL EXCLAIMED

Anhel vopijaše blahodatnyj: čistaja D'ivo radusja, i paki reku radusja: tvoj Syn voskrese tridneven ot hroba. I mertvyja vzdvihnuvyj, l'udije veselitesja.

Sv'itisja, sv'itisja, novy Jeruslime: slava bo Hospodňa na Teb'i vozsija: likuj nyňi i veselisja Sione, ty že čistaja krasusja Bohorodice, o vostaniji Roždestva tvojeho.

OTČE NAŠ – OUR FATHER

Otče naš, iže jesi na nebes'ich, da svjatitsja imja Tvoje. Da prijdet carstvije Tvoje, da budet vol'a Tvoja, jako na nebesi, 4n a zemli. Chl'ib naš nasuščnyj dažd nam dnes'. I ostavi nam dolhi naša, jakože i my ostavl'ajem dolžnikom našim. I ne vvedi nas vo iskušeniye, no izbavi nas ot lukavaho.

DA ISPOLŇATSJA – MAY OUR MOUTH BE FILLED

Da ispolňatsja usta naša chvalenija tvojeho Hospodi, jako da pojem slavu tvoju, jako spodobil jesi nas pričastitsja svjatym tvojim, božestvennym, bezsmertnym, i životvor'ascim Tajnam; utverdi nas Bože vo Tvojej svjatyni vsja dni poučatisja pravd'i Tvojej. Alliluja.

Meditation on Today's Readings



SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

"[Jesus said to them] 'We have to do the works of the One who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'"

John 9: 1-38

During the fifty days of Pascha from Easter Sunday to Pentecost the holy fathers have appointed the gospel according to John to be read except one Sunday. On the fourth, fifth and sixth Paschal Sundays, each gospel has water as an element and is about baptism, because it is through the Sacrament of Baptism that humans participate in the death and resurrection of Jesus and share in the grace that comes from it. In order to show that the effects of the death and resurrection apply to men and women alike, the gospels on alternating Sundays are about men and women, namely, the Paralytic Man, the Samaritan Women, and this Sunday, the Man Born Blind.

The link with baptism is clear. In the gospel passage Jesus is in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. The day after the last day of the feast (we will hear that gospel on Pentecost which is the last day of the feast of Pascha) Jesus is in the temple area where He encounters this man born blind. Answering a question about Original Sin and Actual Sin posed by the apostles in a way to infer that baptism forgives both, Jesus begins to make clay with His spittle and anoints the man's forehead. He acts the way the Bible described God creating the first man - forming Adam from the clay of the earth and breathing the divine life into his lungs. Here Jesus makes eyes for the man with the water from His mouth, ritually completing the act of re-creating humanity undoing the incompleteness caused by human sin, both Original Sin of the first humans and the actual sins every one of their descendants commits. He sends the man to the pool of Silouam (Sent Pool) which is a pool created by a water tunnel that "sends" the water to make a pool to supply Jerusalem with water. At the ritual of baptism, first a person is anointed with oil blessed by invoking the name of God and then sent to the baptismal pool for a drowning death of the old, sinful human, and by this washing a newly reborn, resurrected human "Christ" comes out.

The Pharisees do not want to accept what they see before their eyes. There can only be one answer for what has happened, but they try to create other reasons in order to not have to accept the truth. Even the man's parents are called to testify. All wonder if this is the same person just as Jesus' friends and disciples have difficulty recognizing the resurrected Lord. The experience of Jesus' neophyte, the blind man who now sees, is related here to encourage all the baptized Christians. This is how you might be treated by work associates, government, friends, neighbors and even family because you are baptized if you try to live out being Christ-like. Just as we humans sentenced God to death and crucified Him, we humans try to do the same to each man or woman who has been inserted into Jesus (and the Father and Holy Spirit) at baptism. However, there is no other way to eternal life. The cross comes before the resurrection, but the resurrection most assuredly comes.

The man first calls Jesus a man but at the end of the gospel when Jesus tells him who He is, the man makes a *proskynesis*, a prostration, which is a sign that he admits Jesus is God. The evangelist John relates what happened that day as an enlightenment, a man born blind who has never seen reality now sees, while seeing people do their best to not see. Every person who submits to baptism sees with faith what is evident in creation, namely, there is a God who must have created all this; but since there is suffering and death, something has altered creation, yet there must be a way to escape it. Jesus explains that the span of each person's life is "the day" they have to work out their salvation with God. When "night," death, comes it is too late. In each person's day, Jesus is the light to see what to do and He provides the means to do the works.

Then he and all his family were baptized. Acts 16:16-34

During the fifty days of Pascha the Acts of the Apostles composed by Saint Luke is read in place of an epistle since the Acts tells what happened after Jesus is risen, ascended to the Father, and the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and the Church.

The account from the Acts of the Apostles is selected to reflect the gospel. In the gospel the Lord Jesus prefigures that in baptism He re-creates human beings through water and the Spirit by making clay from the water of His mouth and forming eyes for the blind man. The Acts of the Apostles narrates that after crossing into Europe and receiving the first European Christian, the wealthy merchant Lydia, Paul and Silas encounter a young girl possessed by an evil spirit who recognizes who these men are. Just as Paul and Silas exorcise the evil spirit so that the young girl can be free to perceive for herself that Jesus is the God Most High and "these men are servants of God Most High" so baptism begins with the rite of exorcism to free us from slavery to sin and evil spirits.

Paul and Silas are arrested, beaten and imprisoned. Rather than bemoan their pain and imprisonment they sing hymns to God for having been allowed to be persecuted for Christ and the Gospel and to share the sufferings of Christ on the cross.

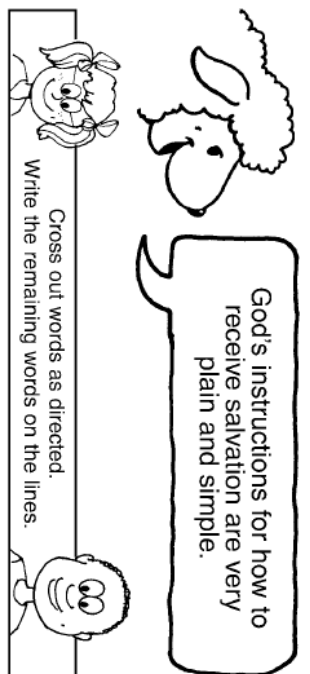
The miraculous intervention of God frees Paul and Silas from jail and frees the jailer and his family from the effects of Original Sin when Paul and Silas baptize them.

The readings during Pascha indicate why the Church believes and practices as it does about baptism. The Church notes that here and other places (Acts 16:5, 18:8, 1 Corinthians 1:16) there is the reference to baptism of not just adults but whole households which of course includes children and infants. From these references in Acts and the Epistle the practice of infant baptism is explicitly mentioned in writings of the second century. While some Christian churches do not baptize infants, Catholics and Orthodox follow the Bible accounts and baptize all ages for the forgiveness of sins and incorporation into Christ with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

From Ignatius Study Bible: John, The Navarre Bible: John, and Fr. John S. Custer The Holy Gospel: A Byzantine Perspective.

Children's Corner

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Cross out words as directed.
Write the remaining words on the lines.

1. Cross out every word in row 1 that contains the letter D.
2. Cross out every word in column B that contains the letter O.
3. Cross out every 4-letter word in row 4.
4. Cross out every word in column C that does NOT contain a V.
5. Cross out every word in column D that has more than 4 letters.
6. Cross out 2 words in column A that contain the letter H.
7. Cross out every word in column F that rhymes with "swing."
8. Cross out all the remaining words that contain the letter M.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	abide	define	believe	deceive	confide	decide
2	in	on	to	often	the	bring
3	Lord	God	Master	Savior	Jesus	King
4	some	not	have	and	also	unto
5	you	most	they	will	may	ring
6	he	for	the	seems	them	be
7	healed	lost	saved	killed	met	fling

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