

Francine O'Leary, Russell Plasha, Patricia Deltne, Rev. Joseph Jugan, Steven Bacigalupi, Katherine Sikoryak, John Ryaby III, Guillermina Donalson, and Steve Smith

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' families each week. Please pray for these parishioners: James Kotula, Joseph Kotula, Emil and Annie Koval, Carol Kovalick, Peter and Carol Kovalick, Andrew Kovch, Gregory and Julia Kowalski, and from the Mission, Steven Krempasky.

Public Liturgies. The Commonwealth of Virginia began Phase Three July 1, 2020. 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 and with the bishop's permission. For churches, Phase Three requirements are the same as Phase One requirements. Governor Northam's amended Executive Order #72 March 23, 2021, makes no changes for churches. This means that the Parish Strategic Plan and the Eparchial Checklist are still applicable. This means churches may open at 50% of capacity provided health department requirements are met. It is important for public health not to slacken in observing the Strategic Plan. Bishop Kurt continues to dispense Liturgy so those who are at risk or feel unsafe may remain at home. 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 the Faithful to make a good Confession when the pandemic is over. The Divine Liturgy of the Man Born Blind today will be live streamed.

Praying at Home Together. If you are remaining safe at home, you may consider praying the Divine

Liturgy in your 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>. The entire People's Molitvennik is available 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 some parishioners are remaining safe at home. Simply email the parish office

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. Jamie has begun rescheduling weekday liturgy requests according to the date of the request. If you have scheduled a weekday liturgy, that liturgy will remain on the date requested. However, if you scheduled a liturgy on a Sunday, the intention will not be rescheduled until after the pandemic or until Bishop Kurt is able to assign a second priest to be able to celebrate two Sunday liturgies. There is no pre-scheduled Divine Liturgy for Sunday of the Man Born Blind, May 9th.

Mother's Day. Today our nation observes Mother's Day, and we offer our prayers at the Divine Liturgy for our mothers, grandmothers and godmothers. We, their children, offer them our thankful gratitude for giving us life and all the sacrifices unique to motherhood. May God bless them and grant them many years and may God grant eternal repose to our departed mothers.

Holyday of Obligation. Ascension of our Lord is a holyday of obligation for all Eastern Catholics. There will be two Divine Liturgies, a Vigil Liturgy Wednesday, May 12th at 7:30PM and Thursday at 10:00 AM. Bishop Kurt continues to dispense from the obligation during the pandemic.

All Souls Saturdays. The Fifth All Souls Saturday will be May 22.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

On-line Giving Now Set Up. Bishop Kurt directed that all parishes have online giving service in place with www.tithe.ly by August 31, 2020. Both the parish and the mission now have online accounts with tithe.ly and these can be accessed at the church or mission web sites. To make an online contribution, go to the church web site. On the home page is a link that says Epiphany of our Lord online donation. Click on that and you will be directed to Epiphany's tithe.ly account. Please note that where you see Offertory, that is a drop-down menu that allows the donor to specify what the donation is for: Sunday offertory, Building Fund, St. Nicholas Fund, or eparchial collections. Please show care in the category Recurring Giving. If it is not a donation to be given each week or month, please make that adjustment that this is a one-time donation.

Amortization Schedule. The current balance on the \$1.8-million-dollar loan from the eparchy for the new church is \$911,282.67. We have now made the 2021 first quarter interest payment of \$6,834.82. For the 2021 year we will pay \$26,775.98 in interest and \$75,000 in principle. For the 2021 year end we will have paid out \$101,775.98 bringing our loan balance to \$836,282.67.

Parish Festival Meeting. The Festival Committee will meet at a Zoom meeting Tuesday, May 11th at 7:30PM.

EMC Bingo. Due to the Pandemic, Bingo has been suspended indefinitely. Observance of local, state, Catholic Mutual, and eparchial requirements for safe distancing and sanitizing does not make reopening Bingo economically feasible. We will continue to monitor health and scientific information as it becomes available to guide the determination of opening safely for our parishioners and Bingo patrons.

Spring 2021 Awards Club. The winner of the sixth drawing is Rand and Debra Bass, #032. The next drawing will take place today, May 9th.

Parish Bulletin. The parish bulletin will continue to be posted weekly on the Epiphany website: www.eolbcc.org. It will also be posted on the

bulletin board in the narthex and photograph of the bulletin can be taken.

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 door: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Parish staff has established safety and health protocols at the parish office. If you have business at the office, please follow these protocols: 1. **use the RING doorbell**; Jamie is able to respond to the telephone and the doorbell from home as well. 2. wear **a mask** 3. **sanitizer station** when you come and leave; 4. observe **social distancing**. We are only able to accommodate three adults in the office at one time, including two staff members observing safe distancing.

Mission Update. The Mission is making progress with the engineering company, VIKA and the steady expert supervision as well as on-site labor of Jack McLaurin. The financial update is as follows: The Mission has paid VIKA \$43,532.83 to date. The Mission has paid Montgomery County \$6,832.88 in fees to date and \$712.57 in property taxes (because we have not celebrated religious services there until we obtain a permit, we cannot apply for property tax relief for religious exemptions). The total for expenditures is \$51,078.28. Jack McLaurin has done the Mission has saved architect fees and hiring a project manager. The total monetary amount transferred from Epiphany Mission Savings to Epiphany Mission checking is \$51,814.10. The balance remaining in savings is \$294,345.

Book Store. The Bookstore is open this Sunday and by appointment. Please contact a Bookstore manager and be prepared to wear a mask and not to use the rest rooms in the Social Hall.

Restroom Availability FYI. There are no *campus restrooms open to the public, including* our vendors. We have only two buildings being cleaned weekly, the church for our parishioners and the parish office for our office staff. The day care bathrooms are for the exclusive use of the day care children and staff and restricted for their safety. Please note that the church restrooms are open for the use of our parishioners on Sundays and weekday Divine Liturgies.

EPARCHIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop's Appeal. The Bishop's Appeal 2020 began October 1st. Pledges and payments will be accepted through June 1, 2021. Any contributions received after December 31, 2020, must be attributed to the 2021 tax year. The goal for this year's campaign is the same as last year, \$19,800 for the church and \$6,000 for the mission. The parishioners at the church have pledged or given \$20,635. The parishioners at the mission have pledged or given \$4,225. This is an incredible response in this difficult time. May God bless you for your sacrificial offerings to our eparchy and for our eparchy's donations to European eparchies. If we reach our goal, we will receive a 40% refund of the total received.

Byzanteen News. With the blessing of Bishop Kurt, we are pleased to announce the following events for Byzanteens (ages 13-17):
Sunday, May 23 – Byzanteen Virtual Evening Out: *The Power of the Holy Spirit*, 6:00-7:30 PM (Registration opens soon.) **Sunday, June 13** – Byzanteen Virtual Evening Out: *Saints for All Time and in All Time - Soaring Like Eagles*, 6:00-7:30 PM (Registration will open in late May. Save these dates for in-person events: **Saturday, July 3, 2021:** Watch Party of the 2021 Virtual National Byzanteen Rally. **Where:** St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Nesquehoning, PA. **Time and other details** to be announced pending finalization of plans by Intereparchial Youth Commission. (Registration opens soon.) **Friday, July 30 to Monday, August 2** – Passaic Eparchial Byzanteen Rally 2021: *Be Not Afraid: Christ Not Covid*. **Where:** Carpathian Village/St. Nicholas Shrine. Details to follow. Covid regulations will be followed. Registration limited to 20 girls and 20 boys, ages 13-17. (Registration opens soon.) Questions/Information, contact me at frdeacontom@gmail.com.

SS. Cyril and Methodius Lecture. The 21st annual Ss. Cyril and Methodius Lecture, sponsored by Ss. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA is held each year proximate to the feast of Ss. Cyril and Methodius.

This year it is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18th. Originally it was announced that the lecture would be in person at St. John's Cathedral Center and virtually on-line with live stream. The seminary now states that the in-person lecture is cancelled and the lecture will be exclusively virtual. Join our Seminary community at the lecture by accessing the seminary web site www.bcs.edu. This year the scholar invited is Deacon Dr. Daniel Galadza, a deacon of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Toronto, Canada, son of Father Roman Galadza. The topic of his lecture is *The Liturgy of Jerusalem*. The liturgical year of Jerusalem, the cradle of Christianity, influenced how the Church celebrated the conception, birth, life, death and resurrection of our Lord and the events of the Mother of God and the saints. Dr. Galadza completed studies at the University of Toronto and the Sheptytsky Institute before defending his doctorate in Byzantine liturgy at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome in 2013. He has been a junior fellow at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection in Washington, D.C., assistant professor at the University of Vienna, visiting professor at the Pontifical Oriental Institute, and is currently a research fellow at the Centre of Advanced Studies of the University of Regensburg, Germany.

Sunday of the Man Born Blind

COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- On Line Contributions
- EMC Awards Club
- Parish Office Safety Protocols
- Amortization Schedule
- Mission Development
- Bishop's Appeal
- Festival Meeting Tuesday, May 11th

EMC BINGO

Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

<http://EMCBINGO.com>

May 9, 2021

TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$5,611.00
Building Fund	\$1,565.00
Holy Days	\$ 100.00
Candles	\$150.75
SOR	\$ 22.00
Easter	\$250.00
Easter Candles`´	\$130.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$320.00
St. Nicholas Fund	\$371.00
	<hr/>
	\$8,519.75

Tithing & Giving. This report is the income of week 5/2/21. The next report will reflect offertory for May 9. "Online Donation" represents donations for Epiphany contributed by parishioners online and sent to Epiphany from our online giving account. Our online giving is operational and can be accessed through the parish or mission web sites. Thank you for continuing to use your giving envelopes.

"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, Richard Wytko, Tim Ryan, Fr. Lee Gross, Rand Bass, and Greta Koehl. Please pray for these relatives and friends of our parishioners: Eileen Gray, James Seman, Mike Shuster, Greg Starr, Florence Kunder, Kelly Kunder, Francine O'Leary, Russell Plasha, Patricia Delfine, Rev. Joseph Jugan, Steven Bacigalupi, Katherine Sikoryak, John Ryaby III, Guillermina Donalson, and Steve Smith.



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 9, 2021	Christos voskrese! Voistinnu voskrese!
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DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

Sun. May 09 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

Sixth Paschal Week

VIGIL OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Wed. May 12 7:30 PM +Sam Giordan by Fran DeLoath

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Thurs. May 13 10:00 AM Intention of Parishioners

Sat. May 15 10:00 AM +Mary Marichak by John Vernoski

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

Sun. May 16 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – May 16, 2021

Sun. May 16 One server will be assigned under Phase Three Reopening Plan.

USHER SCHEDULE – May 16, 2021

Sun. May 16 Ushers check with Bob Wargo for assignments next Sunday

**All public services in church in Phase Three in Virginia can have 50% of capacity.
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.

<p style="text-align: center;">Epiphany of our Lord Church, Annandale, VA http://www.eolbcc.org Epiphany of our Lord does not conduct business on the website email.</p>

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. 189 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. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
2. Sunday Antiphons and Entrance Hymn p. 14-15, 22-25
3. 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
4. Scripture readings:
 - Prokeimenon of the Man Born Blind Tone 8 p. 190 RED
 - Epistle: Acts 16:26-34
 - Alleluia of the 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. Instead of "*We have seen the true light...*", Christ is Risen B
9. At Dismissal Christ is Risen p. 170 RED

ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON – JEDINORODNYJ SYNE

Slava Otcu i Synu i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyňi i prisno, i vo v'iki v'ikov. Amiň. Jedinorodnyj Syne, i Slove Božij, bezsmerten syj, i izvolivyj spasenija našeho radi voplotitisja ot svjatyja Bohorodicy i prisno-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 Otcu i Synu, i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyňi i prisno, i vo v'iki v'ikov. Amin.

IŽE CHERUVIMY – LET US WHO MYSTICALLY

Iže Cheruvimy tajno obrazujušče, i životvorjasšče Troje'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 nebo i 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 vozdvihnuvyj, l'udije veselitesja.

Sv'itisja, sv'itisja, novy Jerusalime: slava bo Hospodňa na Teb'i vozsija: likuj nyňi i veselisja Sione, ty že čistaja

OTČE NAŠ – OUR FATHER

Otče naš, iže jesi na nebes'ich, da svjatitsja imja Tvoje. Da prijedet carstvije Tvoje, da budet vol'a Tvoja, jako na nebesi, i na 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 day 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 is about baptism, because it is through the Sacrament of Baptism that humans are initiated to participate in the death and resurrection of Jesus and share in the grace that comes from it. In order to show that 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 descendents 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 re-born, 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.

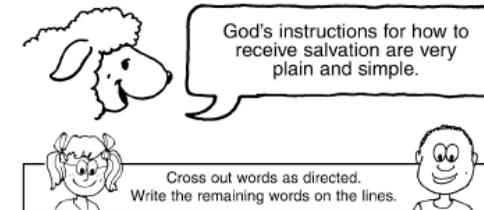
The miraculous intervention of God frees Paul and Silas from jail and frees the jailer and his family from the effects of Original Sin when Paul and Silas baptize them.

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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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
