

## Parish Announcements

- **Sunday School:** The final children's Sunday school classes for the year will meet today.
- **Feast of the Ascension:** Our parish's titular feast will take place this week. Services will be held on Wednesday, June 5, with Orthros for the Leave-taking of Pascha at 9:30 AM, Vigil at 4:45 PM, and Liturgy at 6:30 PM. A potluck will follow.
- **Pilgrimage to Emmaus** (June 10-11): St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church of Emmaus, PA will host a celebration for the feast of the Axion Estin Icon of the Mother of God next week. Events will begin on June 10 at 6 PM, with Vespers and anointing of pilgrims followed by a potluck meal and a presentation by Fr. Theodore Petrides. On June 11, Matins will be held at 8 AM and Liturgy at 9 AM. If interested in carpooling on June 10, please contact Frances Z.
- **Parish Life Conference:** This year's PLC will run from June 26-30 at Antiochian Village.

## Ways to Get Involved

- **Lord's Pantry:** The Lord's Pantry is requesting personal care items, cleaning supplies (especially laundry detergent and dish soap), and paper products for its Christmas in July program. Please bring items to the church by June 30 for distribution in July to those in need.
- **DERD Syrian Relief Program:** For details on contributing to relief efforts, see <http://antiochian.org/syrian-relief-program-introducing-derd>.
- **West Chester Food Cupboard:** We are now collecting **canned fruit, boxed pasta, and spaghetti sauce**. Please place your donations in the clear plastic bin in the library. Your contributions really help the needy in our West Chester area community! Thank you!

## Prayer Requests

### LIVING:

Catechumen Yiannis B.; Catechumen Amelia B.; Catechumen Laurie W.; Catechumen Roy B.; Catechumen Peter Y.; Catechumen Braden M.; Catechumen David S.; Newly Illumined Amira S.; Tina D. (recovering from surgery); John D. (sick); Theodore D. (eye); Joe (Sarah B.'s uncle, recovering from surgery); Cindy (Mark R.'s sister, recent hospitalization); Seraphim B.; Kathy A. (cancer and stomach); Jeff K. (recovering from knee surgery); Marlan A. (spine); Alexandra C.; Sue (Yiannis B.'s aunt, undergoing chemotherapy); Tom (Yiannis B.'s uncle); Fiona (Jane S.'s family friend); Elias (Lisa K.'s cousin, tumor); Mary (Jeff K.'s cousin, cancer); Vincent and Marteen (Mitri D.'s family); Bp. Alexander (undergoing chemotherapy); Christina (Lisa K.'s mother); Suad and Nasri (ill); Jack (Coleen's dad, for continued healing); Nicholas (John C.'s friend); Daniel (Mark R.'s son); Orthodox suffering from persecution; those suffering from war and disasters

### DEPARTED:

Arlene (Elise S.'s grandmother)  
Nita S. (one-year memorial)

Gertrude (Patrick B.'s grandmother)  
Samir (Jeanne K.'s cousin)

Those killed in recent natural disasters

Orthodox Christians and others recently murdered and killed during the fighting in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere in the world

Sunday, June 2, 2019



# HOLY ASCENSION

Orthodox Christian Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Diocese of  
Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic

Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch  
and All the East

### Primate

His Eminence, the Most Rev. Metropolitan Joseph  
(Al-Zehlaoui)

### Diocesan Hierarchy

His Grace, the Right Rev. Bishop Thomas (Joseph)

### Pastor

Rev. Fr. Daniel Meyer

### Subdeacon

Vladimir Moses

Saturday Vespers - 5:00 PM

Sunday Orthros - 8:25 AM

Sunday Liturgy - 9:30 AM

Confessions - Saturday evenings,  
following most divine services,  
and by appointment

For an updated service and event  
schedule, visit our online calendar:

[HolyAscension.net/calendar](http://HolyAscension.net/calendar)

### THE EPISTLE

*The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (16:16-34)*

In those days, as we Apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the Name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

### THE GOSPEL

*The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (9:1-38)*

At that time, when Jesus was passing, He saw a man blind from his birth. And His Disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him Who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As He said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" [which means Sent]. So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he;" others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash;' so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born

blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered, "And Who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe;" and he worshiped Him.

### Divine Liturgy Variables

#### Resurrectional Apolytikion in Tone Five

Let us believers praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation – for He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

#### Apolytikion of Holy Ascension in Tone Four

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

#### Kontakion of Pascha in Tone Eight

O Christ our God, though Thou didst descend into the grave, yet didst Thou overthrow the power of Hades and rise as an immortal conqueror. Thou didst greet with joy the myrrh-bearing women and to Thine apostles hast sent Thy peace and to the fallen, O Lord, didst bring resurrection.

### Did you know ...

When pride retreats from a man, humility begins to dwell in him, and the more pride is diminished, so much more does humility grow. The one gives way to the other as to its opposite. Darkness departs and light appears. Pride is darkness, but humility is light.