



## Sunday of the Blind Man – May 25, 2025

The icon of the Sunday of the Blind Man depicts the biblical story of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. Our Lord is shown placing the clay on the eyes of the man. He is with His disciples who are questioning Christ about the source of the man's affliction. The blind man is shown with his hand outstretched toward Christ expressing his faith and willingness to receive healing and grace from the Son of God. Our Lord has in His hand a scroll, which directs us to His statements, ***"I am the light of the world,"*** (John 9:5), and ***"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,"*** (Luke 4:18). These are clear statements of the Gospel of salvation that comes through Christ. The scroll may also represent the role of Christ as Judge as depicted in Matthew and Revelation, and also later in the same passage on the healing of the blind man (John 9:39), Jesus said, ***"For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind."***

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## SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

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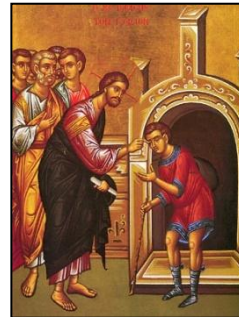
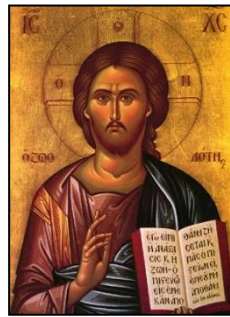
*Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople:* [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)

*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website:* [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

*Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website:* [www.atlmetropolis.org](http://www.atlmetropolis.org)

*St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website:* [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://www.saintchristopherhoc.org)

### St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210  
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

**Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor***

### **Liturgical Guide for Sunday, May 25, 2025**

**ON THIS DAY, THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA, THE CHURCH REMEMBERS THE OCCASION OF JESUS PASSING THROUGH THE TEMPLE, WHEN HE SAW A MAN WHO HAD BEEN BLIND SINCE BIRTH. HE HAD COMPASSION ON HIM, AND SO, PUTTING CLAY OVER HIS EYES, HE SAID TO HIM: “GO TO THE POOL OF SILOAM AND WASH.” AND AS THE MAN WASHED, HE RECOVERED HIS SIGHT; AND HE PROCLAIMED THE GLORY OF GOD. BUT HIS RELATIVES ASKED HIM: “WHO OPENED YOUR EYES THAT NO LIVING CREATURE CAN HEAL?” AND HE ANSWERED: “A MAN CALLED THE MESSIAH, OF WHOM MOSES WROTE IN THE LAW; HE IS THE SAVIOR OF OUR SOULS.” WE ALSO COMMEMORATE the Third**

Finding of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist; Therapon the Hieromartyr, Bishop of Cyprus; Finding of the Icon of St. Demetrios the Great-Martyr and Myrrh-Streamer on Syros; & Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne. *In your infinite mercy, O Giver of light, Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.*

## **Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Parish!**

We invite you to enter your name, mail/email addresses, in our Guest Register (near the entrance) if you are interested in joining and assisting with our mission's development. We want to keep you informed of our schedule and location of services. *You and your family are welcome; we look forward to knowing you. We invite you and your family to join and assist us often!*

*Please consider that only baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians in canonical good standing may approach for Holy Communion. All are invited to partake of the Antidoron ("instead of the gifts") distributed at the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy.*

## **FROM THE PENTECOSTARION**

From the Service of Vespers for today's feast: "But his relatives asked him: 'Who opened your eyes that no living creature could heal?' And he answered: 'A man called Jesus. He told me to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. He is truly Christ, the Messiah, of Whom Moses wrote in the Law: 'He is the Savior of our souls.'"

## **SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE**

### **1./2./10. Hymn for the Feast of Pascha – (see music distributed):**

*Sung three times after the opening of the Divine Liturgy, before the Small Entrance, and after the distribution of Holy Communion: Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.*

### **3. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Clergy:**

*On the occasion of the Paschal period, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: "In your choirs, bless the Lord, you of Israel's wellspring. Save us, O Son of God, who did rise from the dead, we sing to You: Alleluia!"*

**4. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of 1<sup>ST</sup>) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

**5. Hymn Commemorating Finding of Forerunner's Head – (not in Hymnal):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance:* Now Christ has revealed to us your sacred head once again, a most holy treasure hidden underground for so long, O Prophet and Forerunner. Therefore, we have assembled for the feast of its Finding, singing our God-inspired hymns in praise of the Savior, who saves us from destruction, by your earnest prayers to Him.

**6. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see music distributed):**

*It is sung in both Greek and English after the Small Entrance:* Made comely with garments woven from your venerable blood, you stand before the Lord, the King of Heaven and earth, O famed Martyr Christopher. With the choirs of Angels and the Martyrs you chant, singing the thrice-holy hymn and most awesome praises. Thus, by your intercessions with God, save us, your servants.

**7. Kontakion of Pascha – (Hymnal-pp.274-277):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance:* Into the grave You descended, Immortal One, yet You destroyed the power of Hades, and as victor You arose, O Christ our God; You proclaimed to the Myrrh Bearing Women a greeting of joy, You brought peace to Your Holy Apostles, and to the fallen You granted resurrection.

**8. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp.304-307):**

*Today, the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...":* The Angel cried out to the woman full of grace: Rejoice, O Pure Virgin; again I say, rejoice, for your Son is risen from the tomb on the third day. Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you. Exult and be glad, O Zion. Be radiant, pure Theotokos, in the resurrection of your Son.

**9. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.318-319):**

*On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord":* Receive the Body of Christ; drink from the font of immortality. Alleluia.

## **SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY**

*The Scriptures were not given us for this only, that we might have them in books, but that we might engrave them on our hearts. – St. John Chrysostom*

### **Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (John 20:11-18)**

*“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?’ Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your God.’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that He had said these things to her.”*

### **Epistle Reading (2 Cor. 4:6-15)**

*Brethren, it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to*



*despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.*

### **Gospel Reading (John 9:1-38)**

*As He walked along, He saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; 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 this, He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me,*

*'Go to Siloam and wash.'* Then 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 mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." 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 we do not know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would 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 they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether He is a sinner. One thing I do 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 also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples

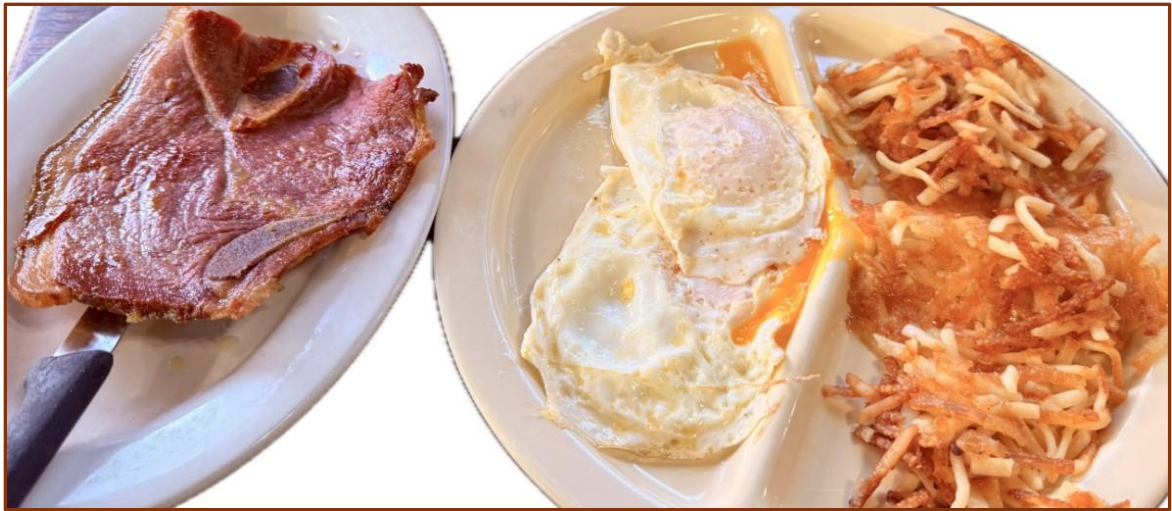
*of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but He does listen to one who worships Him and obeys His will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when He found him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is He, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in Him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen Him, and the One speaking with you is He.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshipped Him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near Him heard this and said to Him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”*

**THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE:**

*“Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things...” (Psalm 119:18)*



## **PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**



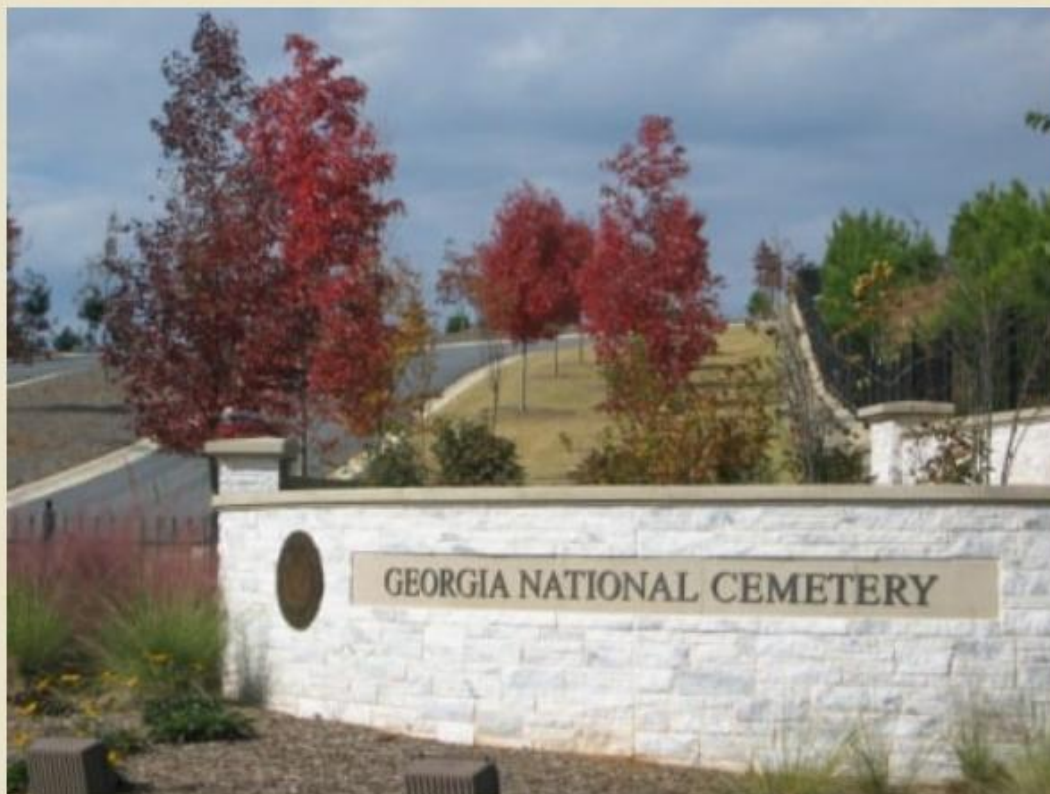
Imagine tasting this hearty Southern breakfast that was both comforting and satisfying. On the first plate is a thick slice of country ham – salty, smoky, and perfectly seared, with its crisp edges glistening. Beside it, two farm-fresh eggs, cooked to golden perfection, framed with home fries – crisp, golden brown, seasoned with a touch of salt, pepper, and a secret seasoning for extra flavor. Completing the meal was lightly toasted bread. Together with freshly brewed coffee, this meal caused our table to be abuzz with lively conversation.



This wasn't just any two-hour breakfast near the Atlanta airport runway. It was a moment where ideas took off and landed, opinions sizzled, and unexpected inspiration was served alongside our Saturday morning meal. Whether considering the best way to cook eggs or dreaming up fresh ideas to assist our parish over toast, this breakfast discussion was as fulfilling as our first sip of coffee. ***Are you ready to learn more about the opportunities we discussed? We hope you will find a moment to ask us! Our pleasure!***

**Fr. George will offer a Trisagion Service for our departed brethren on Memorial Day at Georgia National Cemetery. He will visit graves of our loved ones, beginning at the gravesite of Marion Lindstrom, SECTION 11, SITE 2746 at 9:00 a.m. If you wish to join him, please meet there at 9:00**

**a.m. *May the memory of our departed brethren who served our country be eternal.***



**Entrance to Cemetery**





**"A Night in Greece" – 2025**  
**Saturday, August 16th**

**~ ~ We need EVERYONE's Help to Sell Tickets  
and Sponsorships ~ ~**

**Share the link below with family, friends, coworkers!!**

**Click for Sponsorships & Tickets: <https://www.greekfestfayette.com/>**

This is a Fundraiser to support OUR Building Fund and  
Charities within OUR community.

**With a \$100.00 ticket OUR Guests will Enjoy ALL of this!**

- > Appetizers - Spanakopita, Tiropita's, and Dolmades
- > Dinner - Greek Chicken, Potatoes, Salad, Green Beans, Pastitsio, Souvlaki, Gyros, Giouvetsi, Fresh Baked Bread, Tourliou Tourliou
- > Dessert - Baklava, Kourambiedes, Koulourakia
- > Water, soft drinks, beer and wine

\*Guests will enjoy a Live Greek Band and Greek Dancing – OPA!

**Facebook link to share with friends and family!!**

**[https://facebook.com/events/s/greekfest-fayettes-a-night-in-  
/1146921094115751/](https://facebook.com/events/s/greekfest-fayettes-a-night-in-/1146921094115751/)**

**Click below to Sign Up to Volunteer:**

**[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4CA4A62FA4FE3-47913143-  
greekfest#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4CA4A62FA4FE3-47913143-greekfest#/)**

**Any Questions?**

Contact your GreekFest Tri Chairs

Emilia Moraitis – [emoraitis@bellsouth.net](mailto:emoraitis@bellsouth.net)

Claudia Sliwinski – [claudia.sliwinski@yahoo.com](mailto:claudia.sliwinski@yahoo.com)

Julie Skouteris – [gsjs401mq@gmail.com](mailto:gsjs401mq@gmail.com)

**Thank you for YOUR Support!**



After church services, **George Psihountas** will share a special announcement about **2025 GreekFest Fayette**. Flyers and printed resources are on the front table for you to encourage patrons to participate. Remember updates are shared in our *Weekly E-Bulletin*, our Parish & GreekFest websites, Facebook, and Sign-Up Genius. ***We appreciate your help promoting this fundraiser.***

## Calendar of Upcoming Events:

June	1	General Meeting for all
	8	Prayer Shawl Blessing Guest: Bloom Our Youth
	19	<u>Batter Day!</u> For GreekFest 8:30
	21	Folding Day! 9:00
	22	Bonus Father's Day Luncheon
	26	<u>Batter Day!</u> For GreekFest 8:30
	28	Folding Day! 9:00

## Greek Fest Baking



Sign up [here](#)



Includes:  
Appetizers, dolmathes,  
cookies and baklava

Questions? Call Helen 770-298-4493

On this the 1054<sup>th</sup> Sunday of our St. Christopher's parish community, we continue to thank each of you for your presence and support. Although it may seem like we are just a handful of men, women, and children, if we commit ourselves to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will experience the miracle of growth as the Holy Spirit brings others into His service to help us build His new church in the Peachtree City, Georgia, area for the glory of God! On behalf of our parish, we thank you. ***Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!***

The devil does not hunt after those who are lost; he hunts after those who are aware, those who are close to God. He takes from them trust in God and begins to afflict them with self assurance, logic, thinking, and criticism. Therefore, we should not trust our logical minds. (St. Paisios of Mt. Athos)



The one who gets up and keeps going after every fall reaches paradise.

St. John Chrysostom



## Welcome to our Newest Parish Council Member...



We thank **Steve Theodorakis** for his noteworthy ministry to our Parish Council and Building Committee as its Chair. Recently, Steve asked us to reassign these responsibilities to other parishioners so he could fulfill other needs. The Parish Council selected **Stephen Sarantis** as the new Building Committee Chair and it chose **Jim Sliwinski** to serve out Steve's remaining parish council term ending December 2026. This week, Jim completed his Parish Council training and other requirements. This Sunday, Fr. George will administer the Oath of Office to Jim after church services. Earlier this week, Stephen Sarantis chaired a combined Building Committee and Parish Council Meeting with our church architect to further plan for our new church. ***Congratulations, Steve, Stephen, and Jim... we appreciate you generously offering your time and talents to serve our Risen Lord's Vineyard at St. Christopher Church. We are blessed with many talented parishioners and thank all.***

# We Praise God for Our Youth & Their Faithfulness in Growing in the Grace of God

Sunday, May 18th, was the last day of religious education classes for 2024-2025. **Katie Wilson**, Religious Education Chair, led the recognition service for our high school graduates and on behalf of our parish family thanked our teachers for their important ministry, our parents for supporting their

students this past year, and our students who faithfully participated. We look forward to their return to classes in August.



During Sunday's prayer, Fr. George prayed, *"As these new graduates of our Religious Education Ministry of St. Christopher Church set out from the safe harbor of our parish family across the ocean of their lives, may the Precious Holy Cross be their shining and guiding star."* Fr. George then gave a special commemorative cross from His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our two graduates, Stella and Laina, to reinforce the prayer offered in their behalf.

**Helen Psihountas**, on behalf of our Philoptochos Society, gave them spiritual tool kits to nurture them during their college years. **Stephen Sarantis** gave them a monetary gift



from the Parish Council on behalf of our parish family. Our Philoptochos offered a beautiful reception with congratulatory cake in honor of Stella and Laina.



*Parents, grandparents, and Godparents, as an affirmation of your critically important reinforcement, Fr. George asks that each family pray the following pray now that we have completed the academic year – both the religious one and the public and private schools our youth attend. This past Sunday, we prayed as a parish family. Today, let each family join hands like in the photo above in thanksgiving that we have a nearby parish to offer the eternal water that refreshes us forever. Let us thank our religious education as well as our public and private schools' teachers and staff that nurture our youth and build them up. With the conclusion of the academic year, we have an opportunity to thank the Lord for the blessing of His wisdom and knowledge, and to ask Him to preserve our students and those who support them.*

## **Prayer at the End of the Academic Year**

*O Lord, we are grateful for Your numerous blessings that You have richly bestowed upon us in Your loving-kindness. We praise and give thanks to You, and we ask You to look graciously upon us and our students. Pour into their hearts, minds, and upon their lips, the spirit of wisdom, understanding, piety, and godly fear. Enlighten them with the light of Your knowledge, and protect them with strength and steadfastness, so that they may quickly apprehend and willingly embrace all that they have received which is good and beneficial, and in accordance with Your divine law.*

*Grant that they grow in wisdom and understanding. May they prosper in everything for the glorification of Your Holy Name. Give them health and long life that they may labor for the building up and glory of Your Holy Church, this nation, and of all Your people.*

*For You are our God, Who is mighty in mercy and gracious in strength, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

# Join Us This Sunday with Your Family



## **Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday of the Blind Man**

**7:45 Orthros**

**9:00 Divine Liturgy**

**11:30 Let's EAT!**

## **Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day**

### **9:00 Trisagion Service at Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, GA**

[Fr. George will offer a Trisagion Service for our departed brethren on Memorial Day at Georgia National Cemetery. He will visit the graves of our loved ones, beginning at the gravesite of Marion Lindstrom, SECTION 11, SITE 2746 at 9:00 a.m. If you wish to join him, please meet there at 9:00 a.m. May the memory of our departed brethren who served our country be eternal.]

## **Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> – Holy Ascension of our Lord**

**9:00 Divine Liturgy**

## **Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> – Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council**

**7:45 Orthros**

**9:00 Divine Liturgy & Memorial Service** (*Pat MacDougall – 3 years & Manuel Rozakis – 3 months*)

**10:30 Blessing of Five Loaves** (*offered by Presbytera Marinda and Fr. George Tsahakis*) & June Commemorations

**11:30 Philoptochos General Meeting**





My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

**Χριστός ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!**  
**Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!**

Often when something bad happens to us, we attempt to find a reason. “What have I done wrong?” Many times, people blame God for allowing a misfortune to take place. And so, when our Disciples encounter a blind man, they ask their Teacher, our Lord, “*Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?*” (John 9:2) According to our limited human understanding, this question would seem to be a crucial one, but our Lord answers, “*It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him*” (John 9:3).

Our ever-patient Lord, seeing the like patience of the blind man is moved. Taking His spittle and making clay from dust, Jesus anoints the man’s eyes and tells him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam, to demonstrate the miracle to the people. St. John Chrysostom naturally draws the comparison that, just as God created Adam and Eve from His Divine breath and the dust of earth, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity gives sight and new life to the blind man in the same way. The Grace of our Lord is surely responsible for the healing of the Blind Man, but equally as necessary is the synergy of the man himself, for all human beings have free will. God has power over all things, but we, of all His Creation, are unique: He wants us to choose to work together with Him.

After the miracle, the blind man’s problems are far from ended. On one side, his neighbors do not believe that this is the same man born blind. On the other side, the Pharisees and authorities wish to interrogate the man, and to use his own words against Christ, whom they hate. However, the man still shows his characteristic patience, defending the ministry of Jesus as coming from God. Though the man is cast out from the synagogue, Jesus approaches him, asking, “*Do you believe in the Son of man?*” 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. (John 9:35-38) Indeed, it is a wonderful thing that this man is at peace, having been given His vision, and having met the Creator of all.

Like this man, we (and those in every century and era) can truly meet Jesus Christ, but it is up to us if we are to be personally connected with Him. This is what matters to God: if we are going to use the gift of our free will to remain separated from Him, or to live close to Him forever.

**+SEVASTIANOS**  
**Metropolitan of Atlanta**

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