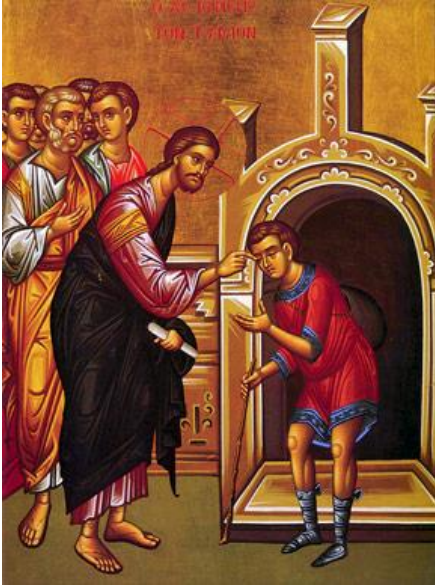


# +St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church+

A Parish of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania of the Orthodox Church in America  
106 Welles Street , Nanticoke, PA 18634 \* (570) 735-2263 \* [www.stjohnsnanticoke.org](http://www.stjohnsnanticoke.org) \* [stjohnsnanticoke@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsnanticoke@gmail.com)  
Rev. Fr. Adam R. Sexton, Pastor - Katherine Panzitta, Senior Warden

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~May 29, 2011

## *Sunday of the Blind Man*

### Schedule of Services:

**Monday, May 30 – Pilgrimage – St.  
Tikhon's Monastery**

**Wednesday, June 1 – Festal Vespers 6 pm**

**Thursday, June 2 -Feast of the Ascension**

**Divine Liturgy – 9am– Fellowship Breakfast**

**Saturday, June 4 – Great Vespers 4 pm**

**Sunday, June 5 – Divine Liturgy 9:30 am**

**Memory Eternal George Thomas** – Sometime during the night of Friday, May 27, George Thomas fell asleep in the Lord at the Birchwood Nursing Home. George had returned to his Orthodox faith earlier this year and had been reunited to the Holy Orthodox Church. George was able to partake of the Holy Mysteries only a week before his repose. George was 59 years old. Info on funeral services is forthcoming. May George's memory be eternal! (A Pannikhida will be offered for George following Divine Liturgy today.)

**Ascension Fellowship Breakfast** – Please plan to attend the Divine Liturgy for the Great Feast of Our Lord's Ascension this Thursday at 9am. We will have a fellowship breakfast following the Holy Liturgy. Bring a dish to share or just simply come to breakfast. There will be plenty for all.

**St. John's Flea Market** - St. John's will be sponsoring a summer outdoor flea market beginning Saturday, June 11, 2011, on the picnic grounds across the street from the church. The flea market will run every Saturday until August 27. Hours - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Open for hodgepodge merchants along with Farmers and Food Vendors. Inquiries call Helen Conner @ 570-740-1286 or Kitty Panzitta @ 570-474-5191.

**Orthodox Family Picnic at Knoeble's**– On Sunday, July 17, the Central PA FOCA is sponsoring a family picnic for all Orthodox at Pavilion K at Knoeble's from 1pm until whenever. Cost is \$7.50 per person (\$5 for kids). Bring your own beverages etc and please bring a desert if you like. RSVP by July 10 to Gary Lelo (215) 538-5321 or [pglelo71@verizon.net](mailto:pglelo71@verizon.net) . See flyer on bulletin board in the narthex.

**Wilkes Barre Cathedral's Chicken BBQ Dinner**– Friday June 17 from 3-6 pm. Take outs only. Incl ½ chicken or ½ rack of ribs. Baked potato, veggie, cole slaw, roll & butter, dessert & drink. \$9 for chicken and \$12 for ribs. Call 822-7725 for info or reservations. Deadline for reservations is Jun 13.

**Let My Prayer Arise In Thy Sight As Incense:** - St. John's has recently run out of sacred incense and has had to purchase more for our worship needs. The cost for quality incense isn't especially high, but it does take a bite out of our smallish budget from time to time. Cost per pound is about \$60. Four pounds were purchased. Please consider sponsoring a pound, or even a half pound, in memory of a loved one.

**Happy Birthday, St. John's! We're having a party! Who should we invite?** - Please remember to bring in those lists of names and addresses of your loved ones or other people of importance to this parish who you think would like an invite to our New Century festivities. We need names and addresses if possible. We don't want to leave anyone out! Return these to Mary Ann Oram, or to Father Adam directly.

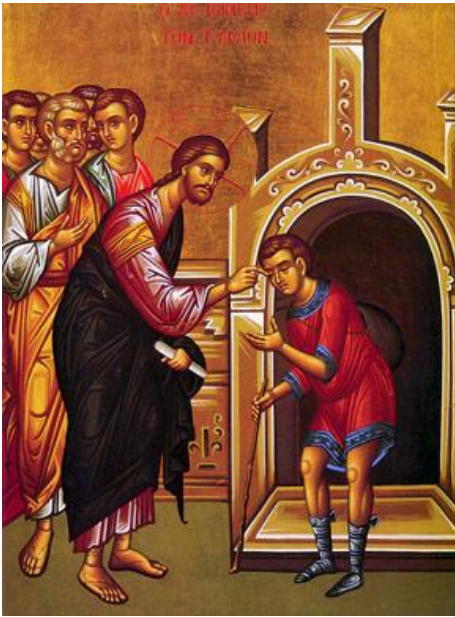
**St. John's church school children thank you for your donations!** - Congratulations to Thomas Readler who was the winner of the first New Century donation raffle which was an Easter goodie basket. As of Palm Sunday the total donation collection for the New Century celebration was \$84. We will continue to take donations up to and including Memorial Day Weekend and we do take change! Don't forget for every \$1 donated in one day complete an entry form for the next drawing which will be held Memorial Day Weekend. The next goodie basket will be "Hodgepodge". Thanks to all of you for your generosity. There is a donation basket at the entrance of the church and downstairs in the church parlor.

**Church School gives Parish a Gift** – The Church School has made a donation of \$150 to the parish from the moneys they have collected from Fellowship Coffee Hour raffles and other fundraisers. The parish accepts this offering with gratitude to God and encourages this stewardship that our children are learning from an early age.

**Memory Eternal! - Departed:** May 30 Zinovia Sewczuk (1992) / June 3 Nicholas Buriak (1975) / June 4 Barbara Dora Rohowski (1964) / June 5 Mary Sukawatsky Ramsey

**Many Years! – Birthdays & Anniversaries:** May 29 Rdr. Joseph Paprota (1950) / May 31 Torrie Panzitta (19??) James & Mary Ann Oram (1969) / June 1 Betty Sarochinsky (1926) / Edward Wancio (1939)

# Sunday of the Blind Man



The sixth Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Blind Man. The day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. The biblical story of this event is found in the Gospel of Saint John 9:1-41.

The Lord Jesus was coming from the Temple on the Sabbath, when, while walking in the way, He saw the blind man mentioned in today's Gospel. This man had been born thus from his mother's womb, that is, he had been born without eyes (see Saint John Chrysostom, Homily LVI on Matthew; Saint Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book V:15; and the Second Exorcism of Saint Basil the Great). When the disciples saw this, they asked their Teacher, "Who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" They asked this because when the Lord had healed the paralytic at the Sheep's Pool, He had told him, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (John 5:14); so they wondered, if sickness was caused by sin, what sin could have been the

cause of his being born without eyes. But the Lord answered that this was for the glory of God. Then the God-man spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle. He anointed the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam." Siloam (which means "sent") was a well-known spring in Jerusalem used by the inhabitants for its waters, which flowed to the eastern side of the city and collected in a large pool called "the Pool of Siloam."

When our Lord Jesus Christ, then, came at midday to this city, which is also called Sychar (John 4:5), He was wearied from the journey and the heat. He sat down at this well. After a little while the Samaritan woman mentioned in today's Gospel passage came to draw water. As she conversed at some length with the Lord and heard from Him secret things concerning herself, she believed in Him; through her many other Samaritans also believed.

Therefore, the Savior sent the blind man to this pool that he might wash his eyes, which had been anointed with the clay-not that the pool's water had such power, but that the faith and obedience of the one sent might be made manifest, and that the miracle might become more remarkable and known to all, and leave no room for doubt. Thus, the blind man believed in Jesus' words, obeyed His command, went and washed himself, and returned, no longer blind, but having eyes and seeing. This was the greatest miracle that our Lord had yet worked; as the man healed of his blindness himself testified, "Since time began, never was it heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind," although the Lord had already healed the blind eyes of many. Because he now had eyes, some even doubted that he was the same person (John 9:8-9); and it was still lively in their remembrance when Christ came to the tomb of Lazarus, for they said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have caused that even this man should not have died?" Saint John Chrysostom gives a thorough and brilliant exposition of our Lord's meeting with the woman of Samaria, the healing of the paralytic, and the miracle of the blind man in his commentaries on the Gospel of Saint John.

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). This 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."

**Kontakion :** I come to You, O Christ, as the man blind from birth. With the eyes of my soul blinded, I cry out to You in repentance, "You are the resplendent Light of those in darkness."