

+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

Metropolitan Saba of New York and all North America

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SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023

TONE 5 / EOTHINON 8

SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN;

EQUALS-TO-THE-APOSTLES CONSTANTINE AND HELEN

CONSTANTINE, PRINCE OF MUROM, AND HIS SONS MICHAEL AND THEODORE, THE WONDERWORKERS

Christ is Risen / Χριστός Ανέστη / المسيح قام



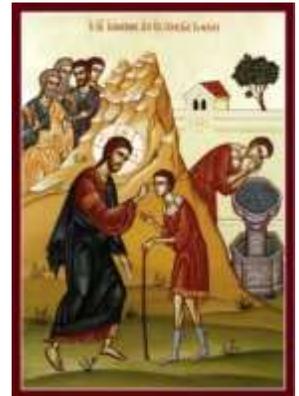
The Holy, Glorious, God-Crowned and Great Sovereigns Constantine and Helen and the Sunday of the Blind Man

Before a great battle, a brilliant Cross appeared to Constantine in the sky during the day, completely adorned with stars and written on the Cross were these words: "By this Sign Conquer." Astonished, the emperor ordered a large cross to be forged similar to the one that appeared to him; and that it be carried before the army. By the power of the Cross he achieved a glorious victory over the larger enemy. Immediately after that, Constantine issued the famous Edict of Milan in 313 to halt the persecution of Christians. When a discord began in the Church because of the heretic Arius, the emperor convened the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325, where the heresy was condemned and Orthodoxy confirmed. Helen, the pious mother of the emperor, visited Jerusalem, discovered the Honorable Cross of the Lord, built the Church of the Resurrection on

Golgotha and other churches throughout the Holy Land. This holy woman presented herself to the Lord in her eightieth year in 327. Emperor Constantine died ten years later at age 65.

On this day, the sixth Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the miracle wrought by our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ upon the man who was blind from his birth.

The Savior met this man, born blind and incurable after every human effort, while leaving the Temple on the Sabbath. Saints John Chrysostom, Basil the Great and Irenaeus teach that the man was born without eyeballs. Jesus spat into the dirt, made clay, rubbed it in his eye sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam, a famous water spring in Jerusalem. The Savior did not send him there because his eye sockets were filled with clay, nor did the pool have healing power, but instead to test his faith and obedience. Jesus fashioned the eyes of the blind man from the dirt as God fashioned man from the dirt. The blind man proclaimed that Jesus healed him, but this confession caused him to be cast out by the enemies of the truth. Even his own parents would not defend him. However, the blind man followed Jesus from that moment forward.



THE EPISTLE (For Ss. Constantine and Helen)

Their voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (26:1, 12-20)

In those days, King Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: "I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' And I said, 'Who art Thou, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus Whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles, to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance."

إلى كل الأرض خرج صوته.
السماوات تذبح مجد الله.

فضل من أعمال الرسل القديسين الأطهار.

في تلك الأيام قال الملك أغريبا لبولس: «مأذون لك أن تتكلم عن نفسك». فحينئذ بسط بولس يده وطفق يحدّث. «لما انطلقت وأنا على ذلك إلى دمشق، بسطان وتوكيل من رؤساء الكهنة، رأيت في نصف النهار على الطريق أيها الملك، نوراً من السماء يفوق لمعان الشمس، قد أشرق حولي وحول السائرين معي. فسقطنا جميعاً على الأرض، وسمعت صوتاً يكلمني ويقول باللغة العبرانية: شاول، شاول! لماذا تضطهدني؟ إنه لصعب عليك أن ترفض المناخس. فقلت: من أنت يارب؟ فقال: أنا يسوع الذي أنت تضطهده. ولكن قم وقف على قدميك، فإني لهذا ظهرت لك، لأنتخبك خادماً وشاهداً بما رأيت وبما سأترأى لك فيه، وأنا أنحك من الشعب ومن الأمم الذين أنا الآن مرسلك إليهم، لفتح عيونهم فيرجعوا من الظلمة إلى النور، ومن سلطان الشيطان إلى الله، حتى ينالوا مغفرة الخطايا ورحمة بين المقدسين بالإيمان الذي بي.» «فمن ثم أيها الملك أغريبا ما عصيت الرؤيا السماوية، بل بشرت الذين في دمشق أولاً، وأورشليم وأرض اليهودية كلها، ثم الأمم أيضاً، بأن يتوبوا ويرجعوا إلى الله عاملين أعمالاً تليق بالتوبة.

THE GOSPEL (For Sunday of the Blind Man)

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.

الإنجيل (الأحد الأعمى)

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يُوْحَنَّا الْإِنْجِيلِي الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (9:1-38)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ مُجْتَازٌ، رَأَى إِنْسَانًا أَعْمَى مُنْذُ مَوْلِدِهِ. فَسَأَلَهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ قَائِلِينَ: يَا رَبِّ، مَنْ أَخْطَأَ أَهَذَا أَمْ أَبَوَاهُ حَتَّى وُلِدَ أَعْمَى؟ أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ: لَا هَذَا أَخْطَأَ وَلَا أَبَوَاهُ، لَكِنْ لِنَظَرِ أَعْمَالِ اللَّهِ فِيهِ. يَنْبَغِي لِي أَنْ أَعْمَلَ أَعْمَالَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَنِي مَا دَامَ نَهَارٌ. يَأْتِي لِيَلْ حَيْثُ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُ أَحَدٌ أَنْ يَعْمَلَ. مَا دُمْتُ فِي الْعَالَمِ، فَأَنَا نُورُ الْعَالَمِ. قَالَ هَذَا، وَثَقَلَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ، وَصَنَعَ مِنْ ثَقَلَتِهِ طِينًا، وَطَلَى بِالطِينِ عَيْنَيِ الْأَعْمَى، وَقَالَ لَهُ: اذْهَبْ وَاغْتَسِلْ فِي بَرَكَةِ سِلْوَامٍ (الَّذِي تَفْسِيرُهُ الْمُرْسَلِ). فَمَضَى وَاغْتَسَلَ وَعَادَ بَصِيرًا. فَالْجِيرَانُ وَالَّذِينَ كَانُوا يَرُونَهُ مِنْ قَبْلُ أَنَّهُ كَانَ أَعْمَى قَالُوا: أَلَيْسَ هَذَا هُوَ الَّذِي كَانَ يَجْلِسُ وَيَسْتَعْطِي؟ فَقَالَ بَعْضُهُمْ هَذَا هُوَ، وَآخَرُونَ قَالُوا "إِنَّهُ يُشْبِهُهُ". وَأَمَّا هُوَ فَكَانَ يَقُولُ "إِنِّي أَنَا هُوَ". فَقَالُوا لَهُ: كَيْفَ انْفَتَحَتْ عَيْنَاكَ؟ أَجَابَ ذَاكَ وَقَالَ: إِنْسَانٌ يُقَالُ لَهُ يَسُوعُ، صَنَعَ طِينًا وَطَلَى عَيْنَيَّ وَقَالَ لِي "اذهب إلى بركة سلوأم وَاغْتَسِلْ". فَمَضَيْتُ وَاغْتَسَلْتُ، فَأَبْصَرْتُ. فَقَالُوا لَهُ: أَيْنَ ذَاكَ؟ فَقَالَ: لَا أَعْلَمُ. فَأَتَوْا بِهِ، أَيُّ بِالَّذِي كَانَ قَبْلًا أَعْمَى إِلَى الْفَرِيسِيِّينَ. وَكَانَ حِينَ صَنَعَ يَسُوعُ الطِّينَ وَفَتَحَ عَيْنَيْهِ يَوْمَ سَبَّتٍ. فَسَأَلَهُ الْفَرِيسِيُّونَ أَيْضًا، كَيْفَ أَبْصَرَ؟ فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: جَعَلَ عَلَى عَيْنَيَّ طِينًا ثُمَّ اغْتَسَلْتُ، فَأَنَا الْآنَ أَبْصِرُ. فَقَالَ قَوْمٌ مِنَ الْفَرِيسِيِّينَ: هَذَا الْإِنْسَانُ لَيْسَ مِنَ اللَّهِ، لِأَنَّهُ لَا يَحْفَظُ السَّبْتَ. آخَرُونَ قَالُوا: كَيْفَ يَقْدِرُ إِنْسَانٌ خَاطِيٌّ أَنْ يَعْمَلَ مِثْلَ هَذِهِ الْآيَاتِ؟ فَوَقَّعَ بَيْنَهُمْ شِقَاقًا. فَقَالُوا أَيْضًا لِلْأَعْمَى: مَاذَا تَقُولُ أَنْتَ عَنْهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ إِنَّهُ فَتَحَ عَيْنَيْكَ؟ فَقَالَ: إِنَّهُ نَبِيٌّ. وَلَمْ يُصَدِّقِ الْيَهُودَ عَنْهُ أَنَّهُ كَانَ أَعْمَى فَأَبْصَرَ حَتَّى دَعَا أَبِي الَّذِي أَبْصَرَ وَسَأَلَهُمَا قَائِلِينَ: أَهَذَا هُوَ ابْنُكُمَا الَّذِي تَقُولَانِ إِنَّهُ وُلِدَ أَعْمَى؟ فَكَيْفَ أَبْصَرَ الْآنَ؟ أَجَابَهُمْ أَبَوَاهُ وَقَالَا: نَحْنُ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا وَوَلَدَنَا، وَأَنَّهُ وُلِدَ أَعْمَى، وَأَمَّا كَيْفَ أَبْصَرَ الْآنَ فَلَا نَعْلَمُ، أَوْ مَنْ فَتَحَ عَيْنَيْهِ، فَنَحْنُ لَا نَعْلَمُ، هُوَ كَامِلُ السِّنِّ فَاسْأَلُوهُ، فَهُوَ يَتَكَلَّمُ عَنْ نَفْسِهِ. قَالَ أَبَوَاهُ هَذَا، لِأَنَّهُمَا كَانَا يَخَافَانِ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، لِأَنَّ الْيَهُودَ كَانُوا قَدْ تَعَاهَدُوا أَنَّهُ إِنْ اعْتَرَفَ أَحَدٌ بِأَنَّهُ الْمَسِيحُ، يُخْرَجُ مِنَ الْمَجْمَعِ. فَلِذَلِكَ قَالَ أَبَوَاهُ، "هُوَ كَامِلُ السِّنِّ، فَاسْأَلُوهُ." فَدَعَا ثَانِيَةَ الْإِنْسَانِ الَّذِي كَانَ أَعْمَى وَقَالُوا لَهُ: اعْطِ مَجْدًا لِلَّهِ، فَإِنَّا نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْإِنْسَانَ خَاطِيٌّ. فَأَجَابَ ذَاكَ وَقَالَ: أَخَاطِيٌّ هُوَ لَا أَعْلَمُ، إِنَّمَا أَعْلَمُ شَيْئًا وَاحِدًا، أَنِّي كُنْتُ أَعْمَى، وَالْآنَ أَنَا أَبْصِرُ. فَقَالُوا لَهُ أَيْضًا: مَاذَا صَنَعَ بِكَ؟ كَيْفَ فَتَحَ عَيْنَيْكَ؟ أَجَابَهُمْ: قَدْ أَخْبَرْتِكُمْ فَلَمْ تَسْمَعُوا، فَمَاذَا تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَسْمَعُوا أَيْضًا؟ أَلَعَلَّكُمْ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضًا تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَصِيرُوا لَهُ تَلَامِيذٌ؟ فَسَمِعُوهُ وَقَالُوا لَهُ: أَنْتَ تَلْمِيزُ ذَاكَ، وَأَمَّا نَحْنُ فَإِنَّا تَلَامِيذُ مُوسَى، وَنَحْنُ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ كَلَّمَ مُوسَى، فَأَمَّا هَذَا، فَلَا نَعْلَمُ مِنْ أَيْنَ هُوَ. أَجَابَ الرَّجُلُ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: إِنَّ فِي هَذَا عَجَبًا أَنْكُمْ مَا تَعْلَمُونَ مِنْ أَيْنَ هُوَ وَقَدْ فَتَحَ عَيْنَيَّ، وَنَحْنُ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَسْمَعُ لِلْخَطَاةِ، وَلَكِنْ إِذَا أَحَدٌ اتَّقَى اللَّهَ وَعَمَلَ مَشِيئَتَهُ، فَلَهُ يَسْتَجِيبُ. مُنْذُ الدَّهْرِ لَمْ يُسْمَعْ أَنَّ أَحَدًا فَتَحَ عَيْنَيَّ مَوْلُودَ أَعْمَى. فَلَوْ لَمْ يَكُنْ هَذَا مِنَ اللَّهِ، لَمْ يَقْدِرْ أَنْ يَفْعَلَ شَيْئًا. أَجَابُوهُ وَقَالُوا لَهُ: إِنَّكَ فِي الْخَطَايَا قَدْ وُلِدْتَ بِجُمْلَتِكَ، أَفَأَنْتَ تَعْلَمُنَا؟ فَأَخْرَجُوهُ خَارِجًا. وَسَمِعَ يَسُوعُ أَنَّهُمْ أَخْرَجُوهُ خَارِجًا، فَوَجَدَهُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: أَتُؤْمِنُ أَنْتَ بِأَبْنِ اللَّهِ. فَأَجَابَ ذَاكَ، وَقَالَ: فَمَنْ هُوَ يَا سَيِّدُ لِأُؤْمِنَ بِهِ؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: قَدْ رَأَيْتَهُ وَالَّذِي يَتَكَلَّمُ مَعَكَ هُوَ هُوَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ: قَدْ آمَنْتُ يَا رَبِّ، وَسَجَدَ لَهُ.

Love your Neighbor

May- Project Mexico/ St. Innocent Orphanage

Project Mexico is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that performs works of mercy in the name of Jesus Christ, building homes for the poor in Mexico and by providing education and shelter for orphaned boys through St. Innocent Orphanage.

Sunday School Graduation

Dear Parents, Christ is Risen!

I want to make you aware of a couple of important dates. We are approaching the last few Sundays of Sunday School and Sunday School Graduation.

- **May 14, 2023:** Last Day of Sunday School
- **May 21, 2023:** Sunday School Graduation. **No Sunday School**

We look forward to seeing you these next few Sundays of the school year and celebrating with a pizza party after our Sunday School Graduation.

Donors Needed

Dear Parishioners,

We need one donor for a 17x72 white Analogion anology cover. The cost is \$220.00. We received a donation for one Analogion. We still need one more. God bless you all!



Dear parents of graduates.

We at St. John's, would like to recognize our graduates by publishing their names, photos and biographies in the church bulletin. In this way, we all can know who they are and what is next for them in life. We are proud of them.

Please, help us doing this by submitting their pictures and bio via email.

Information about Donating Stock

Dear Parishioners,

One of our parishioners who has donated stocks to the building fund sent us some helpful information:

If a person holds stock that has appreciated in value and that has been held for at least a year, the benefits that can be gained by donating the stock – as opposed to selling it and donating the cash directly – are:

1. The person does not pay tax on the capital gains. For example, if they acquired the stock for \$10,000 and it is now worth \$15,000, then by donating the shares, they don't have to pay tax on the \$5,000 capital gains.
2. The person gets to claim a charitable deduction for the full \$15,000 value (subject to a certain percentage of the person's adjusted gross income.)

Here's some info: <https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/07/donatestock.asp>

** This is for informational purposes and should not be considered advice; Please consult a tax professional before proceeding*

Monthly Lunches for the Fellowship Hall

The Ladies' Committee would like to revive our monthly sponsored lunches to help raise funds for the new fellowship hall! The idea is to have two families pick a date and together provide a meal to serve after Sunday liturgy. The Ladies' Committee will sponsor a lunch at the church on Father's Day, but would love to have volunteers lined up for the months following. Please contact Fadwa Samara with any questions or to sign up at 510.909.0119 or fvsamara@gmail.com. Thank you!!

Upcoming Events

Wednesday May 24th	At 6:00 pm: Evening Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Ascension عيد الصعود
Sunday, June 4th, 2023	Ten-year memorial service for the handmaiden of God Loraine Remy, the late mother of Paula Farbarik. May her memory be eternal!

Coffee Hours

May 21st	Sponsor Needed
May 28th	Sponsor Needed
June 4th	Sponsor Needed
June 11th	Omima Kanaan and her husband Rick on the occasion of the removing of their Crowns!

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Khalid Haddad** (Fairouz Freij's nephew), **Nick Nicola**, **Nadia Frangieh**, **Souhila Swies**, **Noha Schulze**, **George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † Also, for the good health of their family!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Jill (Photini) Norgaard** on her baptismal names' day. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Fuad**, **Nadia**, **Rami** and **Andera Sweis**. Many years!
- † St. John parish family in memory of **Helen Addas**. May her memory be eternal! Also for the good health of **Helen Ghantous**, **Elaine McClintic**, **Katarena Helaneh Borzghol**, **Elaina Nassoura**, **Costa Adranly** and **all who are named after Sts. Constantine and Helen**, equals to the apostles on their feast day (may 21st) many years!
- † Marina Evans in memory of **Valentina**. May her memory be eternal!

Candles for the altar table and in front of the icons of Christ and the Theotokos offered by:

- † Ibrahim Fasheh in memory of Hanada Fasheh for one full year. May her memory be eternal!



- † Altar Servers: Nathan Sweis, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin, James Dudum and John Dudum

St. John Orthodox Church
501 Moraga Way
Orinda, CA 94563

You could use this QR code for your donation





*Rocco's Ristorante
Pizzeria*

ST. JOHN'S PIZZA DAY

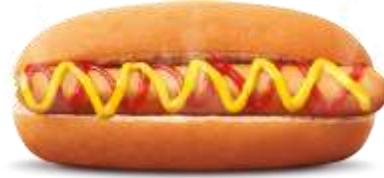
Mention St. John and 25%
of proceeds will benefit
our building fund

JUNE 1ST, 2023
**LUNCH AND DINNER
TAKE-OUT OR DINE- IN**

2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd,
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

St. John's Church
FATHER'S DAY PICNIC
Sunday, June 18th

s



Let's treat all the Fathers, Grandfathers, Godfathers & Uncles to a delicious BBQ Lunch complete with burgers, hot dogs, salad, chips, cold drinks & a delectable homemade dessert bar!!!

Immediately following Divine Liturgy on the church grounds

\$15/adult

Kids 12 & under – FREE

Organized by the St. John Ladies

All proceeds to benefit the Building Fund!!



For more information contact Rula Adranly at rulaadranly@comcast.net
