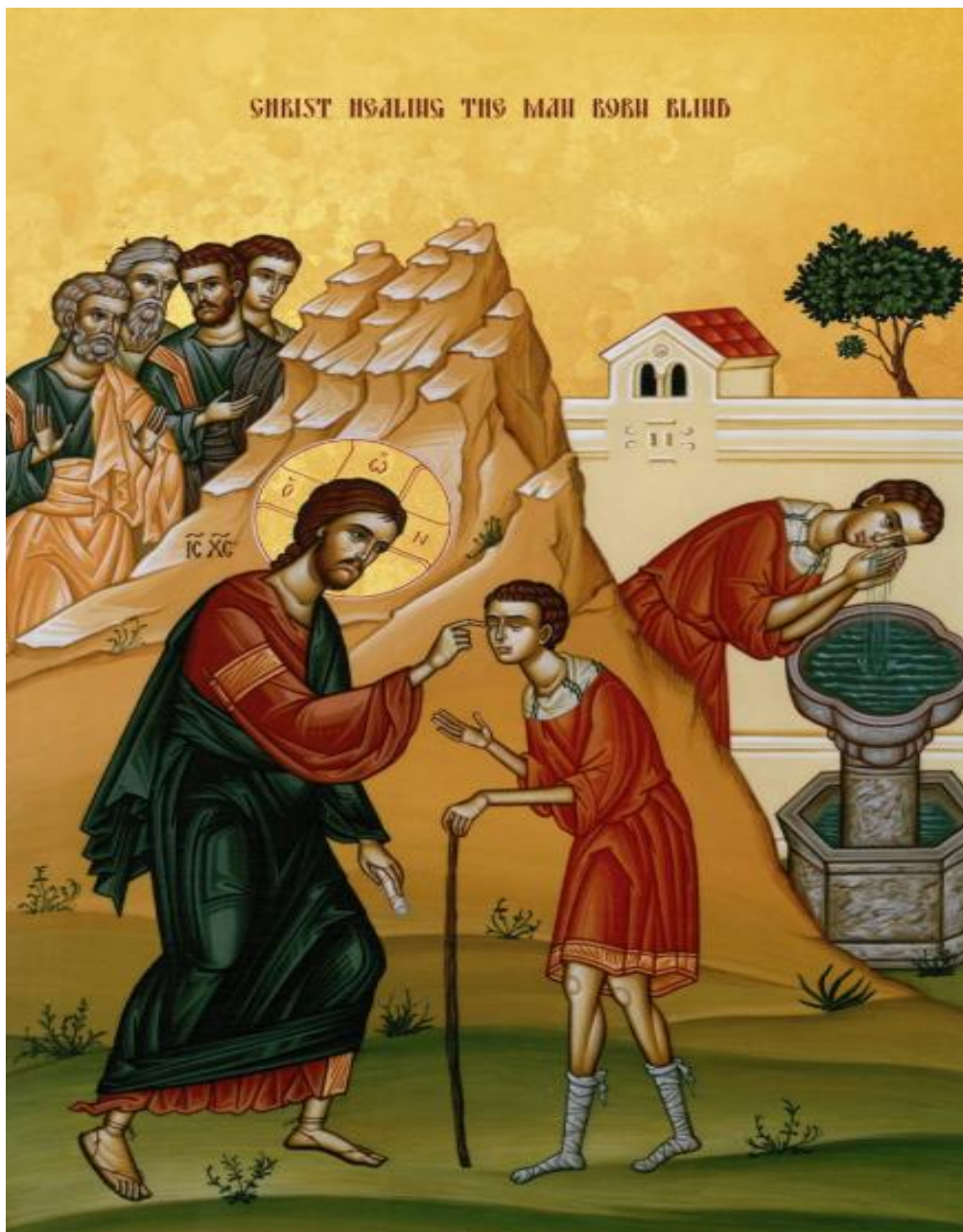


Христос Воскрес! Воистину Воскрес!



Christ is Risen ! Indeed, He is Risen!

УСПЕННЯ ПРЕСВЯТОЇ БОГОРОДИЦІ

Dormition of the Mother of God

Sunday, May 10, 2026

“Sunday of the Man Born Blind”

Reflections for this Weekend

In The Gospel of John chapter 9, the story begins with a question humanity still asks every day. The disciples see a blind man and immediately search for someone to blame. “Who sinned?” they ask. They cannot imagine suffering without guilt attached to it. Yet Jesus answers with a truth that overturns the entire logic of fear and condemnation. The man’s blindness is not presented as punishment but as a place where the works of God can be revealed.

This changes everything.

So often we measure our lives by what is missing. We look at wounds, limitations, failures, disappointments, and hidden griefs as evidence that God has abandoned us or judged us. But this passage reveals that God does not stand far away from human brokenness. Christ walks directly toward it. While others debate theology, Jesus kneels in the dust beside the suffering man. Religion wanted an explanation. Jesus offered compassion.

There is something deeply sacred about the detail that Jesus makes mud from the earth and places it upon the blind man’s eyes. The Creator who once formed humanity from dust now touches broken humanity again through dust. It is almost as though Christ is re creating the man before the eyes of the world. Healing is not merely correction. It is restoration into true identity.

Yet the deeper miracle in this chapter is not physical sight. It is spiritual awakening.

At first, the healed man only knows Jesus as “the man called Jesus.” Later he calls Him a prophet. Finally, after being rejected and cast out by the religious leaders, he encounters Christ again and worships Him as Lord. His eyes are opened in stages, just as every soul comes gradually into the light. Faith is rarely instantaneous clarity. More often it is a slow unveiling where truth deepens through struggle, confusion, and surrender.

Meanwhile, those who claimed to see remained blind.

The Pharisees possessed scripture, authority, and religious confidence, yet they could not recognize the living presence of God standing before them. Their blindness was not intellectual. It was spiritual pride. They were so certain of their own righteousness that they could no longer receive revelation. The tragedy of the passage is that the blind man receives sight while the sighted men lose theirs.

This remains one of the great dangers of the spiritual life. A person can know sacred language

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yet remain untouched by sacred love. One can defend doctrine while resisting transformation. True vision begins not in certainty but in humility. The soul must first admit its blindness before it can receive light.

There is also profound meaning in the fact that the healed man is abandoned after his miracle. The religious authorities reject him because his testimony threatens their control. This reveals a painful truth about spiritual awakening. Sometimes seeing clearly will separate us from systems, relationships, and identities that once defined us. Light can be costly. Truth can make us strangers to the world we once depended on.

Yet it is precisely after the man is cast out that Jesus comes and finds him again. This may be the tender heart of the entire chapter. Christ does not merely heal and disappear. He seeks the wounded soul personally. When human approval collapses, divine intimacy begins to deepen. The man loses the synagogue but gains the presence of God. What seemed like rejection becomes the doorway into communion.

The story finally invites every reader into self examination. We must ask ourselves where we are in the passage. Are we the disciples trying to explain suffering from a distance? Are we the Pharisees clinging to certainty while resisting truth? Or are we the blind man, slowly awakening to the One who has been seeking us all along?

The deepest blindness is not the absence of sight. It is the refusal of light when it appears. And the deepest miracle is not merely to see the world differently, but to finally see God standing before us and to answer Him with worship.

Christ is Risen ! Indeed, He is Risen!



*Welcome to all who are visitors in our church. We know you have found a special place in which to worship God and have found it to be a prayerful experience. Come back anytime!
You are always welcome here!*

**Please remember, in your prayers, all our parish members who are in convalescent homes
or are homebound because of illness.**

MAY DEVOTIONS IN HONOR OF MARY, our Mother & Protectress, will take place at approximately 9:10 a.m. each Sunday in the month of May. (Between the 8:50 a.m. The Third Hour and the 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy) This is a beautiful way to pay homage to the Holy Theotokos

The Courage to remembrance of death!!!!

The sixth step of the Ladder of Divine Ascent by John Climacus speaks about the remembrance of death, a subject that many people instinctively avoid. Yet Saint John presents it not as darkness, fear, or hopelessness, but as one of the greatest spiritual gifts given to the human soul. In the Eastern Christian understanding, remembering death is not meant to make us afraid of life, but to awaken us to the true meaning of life. It is a call to courage, repentance, wisdom, and freedom.

Most people live as though earthly life will last forever. We become absorbed by schedules, possessions, ambitions, conflicts, and distractions. We worry endlessly about what others think of us. We cling to temporary things as though they can save us. But the remembrance of death cuts through these illusions. It reminds us that life on earth is brief and fragile. Saint John Climacus teaches that when a person truly understands this, the soul begins to awaken from spiritual sleep.

This awakening requires courage because it forces us to face truths we often avoid. We see how much time has been wasted on pride, anger, jealousy, selfishness, and empty pursuits. We realize how often we neglect prayer, postpone repentance, or fail to love others deeply. Yet Saint John does not speak of this remembrance to condemn us. He offers it as medicine for the soul. The person who remembers death wisely begins to live differently. Petty arguments lose their importance. Vanity becomes meaningless. The heart becomes softer, more humble, and more compassionate.

The remembrance of death also teaches us courage because it frees us from slavery to fear. Much of human behavior is driven by fear: fear of losing control, fear of rejection, fear of suffering, fear of being forgotten. But when a Christian accepts the reality of mortality in the light of Christ's Resurrection, fear slowly loses its power. Death no longer appears as a hopeless end but as a passage into eternity. Christ Himself entered death and destroyed its dominion. Therefore, the believer who remembers death with faith begins to place trust not in earthly security but in the mercy of God.

Saint John Climacus describes this remembrance as a "daily death." This means dying each day to sinful passions and selfish desires. It is an inner crucifixion. Every time we choose forgiveness over resentment, humility over pride, silence over gossip, generosity over selfishness, we participate in this spiritual death. And just as Christ's Cross led to Resurrection, this daily dying leads to spiritual renewal and freedom. There is also deep wisdom in this step because the remembrance of death teaches us the value of the present moment. So often we postpone spiritual life. We say we will pray later, forgive later, change later, love later. But Saint John reminds us that the only moment truly given to us is now. When a person lives with

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eternity in .mind, every day becomes sacred. Every encounter becomes important. Every prayer becomes precious. The soul begins to live more attentively and more gratefully. This teaching does not produce despair; rather, it produces clarity. The saints were not obsessed with death because they hated life. They remembered death because they had discovered eternal life in Christ. Their hearts became fearless because they understood that nothing in this world lasts except love and communion with God. The remembrance of death purified their priorities and filled them with peace.

In modern life, people often try to escape the thought of death through noise, entertainment, constant activity, or material comfort. But beneath all these distractions, the human heart still longs for meaning. Saint John Climacus invites us not to flee from mortality but to allow it to teach us how to live wisely and courageously. The person who remembers death properly becomes more alive, not less. Such a soul treasures relationships, repents sincerely, prays more deeply, and walks humbly before God.

Ultimately, the sixth step of the Ladder is about standing honestly before eternity. It is about learning to live each day prepared to meet Christ with peace rather than regret. The remembrance of death becomes a spiritual compass guiding the soul away from illusion and toward truth. And in that truth, the believer discovers a holy courage the courage to let go of worldly fears, to seek the Kingdom of God above all things, and to trust completely in the One who conquered death and opened the path to everlasting life.



Вітаємо найкращими побажаннями всіх наших дорогих матерів.

висловлюємо почування великої любови, пошани і вдячності. Нехай цей, День Матері буде радісним, світлим і приємним. Нехай Вселаскавий Господь благословить Вас за Вашу доброту, чутливість та ніжну опіку. Нехай Пречиста Діва, наша Мати завжди тримає над

Вами свій опікунчий омофор.

Our warmest greetings to all our mothers on their special day

for all our mothers, a loving note with wishes, warm and true. for Mother's Day that's especially bright and especially nice for your kindness, thoughtfulness and tender care. Thank you for always being there.

May the Blessed Virgin - Mother of all - always watch over you.

To all Mothers who are awaiting us in Heaven, we offer our prayers

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Emergency:
602-329-3281

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DMofGod@cox.net

Website:
www.Ukrainianchurch.org

Sunday Divine Liturgy:
8:50 a.m. The Third Hour
And
Prayer Service for Peace in
Ukraine.
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Religious Education
September - May

Sacraments Penance:
Sunday before Liturgies
or by appointment

Baptism - Matrimony
In most instances
six-month membership
required

Funerals
Membership of an
immediate family member
required

**Communion to the
Homebound**
If you or your family
members are confined to a
health center or are
homebound, please contact
Fr. Hugo directly so that
arrangements can be made
for his visitation.

Sunday, May 10

“Sixth Sunday of Pascha - of the Man Born Blind”

“The Holy Apostle Simon the Zealot”

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34. Gospel: John 9:1-38.

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour and Moleben to the Holy Theotokos

9:30 a.m. Gods blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends

Monday, May 11

“Holy Apostles Cyril and Methodius, Apostles of the Slavs”

Epistle: Hebrew 13:17-21. Gospel: John 10:9-16.

Tuesday, May 12

“Our Holy Fathers Epiphanius”

Epistle: Acts 7:19-28. Gospel: John 12:19-36.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Wednesday, May 13

“Our Holy Martyr Glyceria”

Epistle: Acts 18:22-28. Gospel: John 12:36-47.

6:00 p.m. Vespers with the Divine Liturgy

Thursday, May 14

“Ascencion Of Our Lord”

Epistle: Acts 1:1-12. Gospel: Luke 24:36-53.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Friday, May 15

“Our Venerable Father Pachomius the Great”

Epistle: Acts 19:1-8. Gospel: John 14:1-11.

Saturday, May 16

“The Venerable Theodore”

Epistle: Acts 20:7-12. Gospel: John 14:10-21

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Sunday, May 17

“Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council”

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36. Gospel: John 17:1-13.

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour and Moleben to the Holy Theotokos

9:30 a.m. Gods blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends

In loving memory of + Lidia Stefanowska from Jolanta Soutus



We are most appreciative for your generosity in donations to the church, and pray that the Lord bless you all with many blessings and good health.