

Though God may delay the gift, though there may be many who seek to hold us back, let us not desist from asking. For in this way most of all we shall win God to our side.

Other Church Fathers point out that although the blind beggar was physically blind, the eyes of his soul were illumined by God's grace because he had believed what he had heard from others about Jesus. The saints also lift up the blind beggar as an example of earnest and humble prayer. Each time we come to Christ in prayer, so they teach, we should come to Him as blind beggars and cry out to Him to receive new light day by day.

Upcoming Services

Sat. Jan. 28 **Divine Liturgy** 9:30 a.m. (Fr. Joseph)

Reader's Vespers 4 p.m.

Sun. Jan. 29 **Reader's Service (Typika)** 9:30 a.m.

Parish News

Steering Committee Meeting – Today, Sun. Jan. 22 after Typika service.

Parish Education Classes – Sun. Jan. 29 after Typika service.

Craft and Hobby Fair – Sat. Feb. 4 from 10 – 4 p.m. Vendors, food and drink. See Mike and Michelle Dibaggio if you have any questions.

House Blessing – Fr. Vjekoslav will bless houses, January and February. There is a sign up sheet at the desk for those who want Fr. Vjekoslav to bless their house.

Birthday Wishes - Larissa Holowaty is celebrating her birthday, Jan. 24. May God grant her many years!

Our mission is to glorify God through worship, according to the Orthodox Christian faith, to love one another, and to serve those in need.

ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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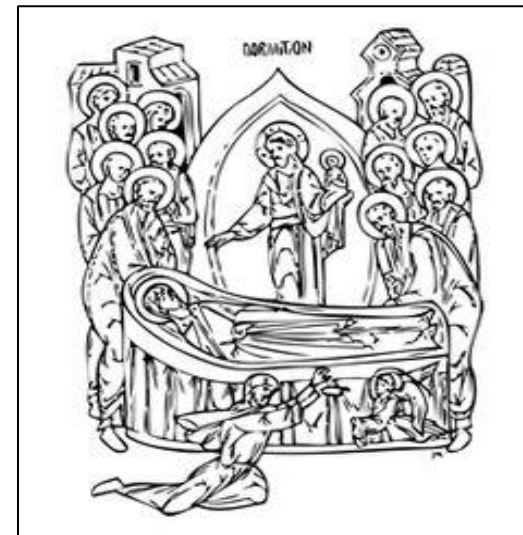
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*Orthodox Church in America (OCA)
Diocese of Eastern PA*

January 22, 2023

32nd Sunday after Pentecost

Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia



Welcome! Please join us for coffee and light refreshments after the service!

Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death./ To the thief Thou didst open Paradise./
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy./ and Thou didst command
Thy disciples, O Christ God,/ to proclaim that Thou art risen,// granting the world great
mercy.

Tone 1 Troparion (Church)

In giving birth you preserved your virginity / in falling asleep you did not forsake the
world, O Theotokos / You were translated to life, O Mother of Life // and by your prayers
you deliver our souls from death.

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people with peace.

V. Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

1 Timothy 1:15-17 (Epistle)

Timothy my son: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus
came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I
obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern
to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal,
immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever.
Amen.

Tone 7 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High.

V. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night.

Luke 18:35-43 (Gospel)

As Jesus was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging.
And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that
Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David,
have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet;
but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still
and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked
him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive

my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well."
And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the
people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Tone 7 Kontakion (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,/ for Christ descended,
shattering and destroying its powers./ Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:/
"The Savior has come to those in faith;// enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

Tone 2 Kontakion (Church)

Neither the tomb nor death could hold the Theotokos / who is constant in prayer and
our firm hope in her intercessions / For being the Mother of Life // she was translated
to life by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb.

The Healing of the Blind Beggar

Jesus often urged people to go to God in prayer and persistently to bring their physical
and spiritual needs before Him. "Ask," He said, "and you will receive; seek, and you will
find; knock, and the door will be opened to you." It is true that we don't always receive
what we ask for. We must leave room for God to act in our lives according to His perfect
will for us. But nevertheless we do receive – a physical or spiritual healing, an
unexpected solution to a personal problem, a new opportunity for reconciliation with
someone, renewed strength to face a distressful situation or some other blessing that
we need. Jesus' unfailing promise is that "everyone who asks will receive, and anyone
who seeks will find, and the door will be opened to him who knocks."

A good example of spiritual alertness is provided by the blind beggar, whom Jesus met
while coming to Jericho. The blind beggar had heard about Jesus and His work from
others and believed in His royal kingship. As Jesus came by, the blind beggar eagerly
seized on the only opportunity he would probably have in his life to speak to Jesus in
person. The people tried to stop him from bothering Jesus, but he persisted until he
had his attention.

Those who tried to silence the blind beggar are persecutors and tyrants who, in every
generation, try to silence the Church. Nevertheless, under persecution, the Church all
the more confesses Jesus Christ.

Commenting on the healing of the blind beggar, St. John Chrysostom writes: Therefore
learn, my beloved, that though we be very vile and outcast, but ye approach God with
earnestness even by ourselves we shall be able to bring about whatever we ask...