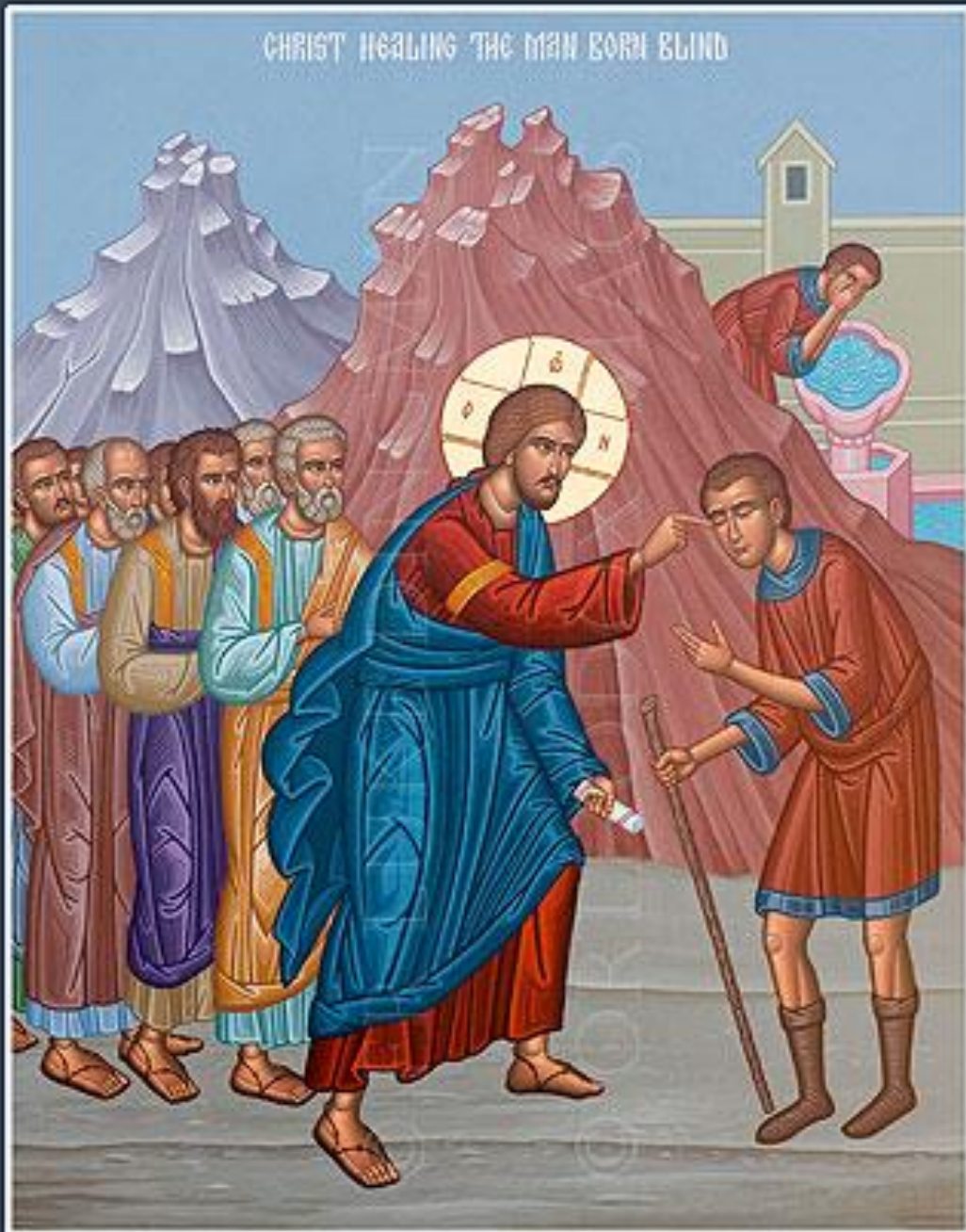


**St Ignatios of Antioch
Melkite Greek Catholic Church
1003 Merry Street
Augusta, Georgia 30904
706 364-6219**



**Sunday of the Man Born Blind
14 May, 2023**

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND



OUR RADIANT LIGHT (John 9:1-38)

THE BAPTISM OF CATECHUMENS ON PASCHA was one of the most widespread practices of the early Church. Speaking of baptism, St. Paul had written, “We were buried with [Christ] through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom 6:4). The connection Paul made between Christ’s burial in the earth and our burial in the water was so powerful in the minds of early believers that Holy Saturday, the eve of Christ’s resurrection, became the most appropriate day for baptism in both East and West. Those baptized on this day would share in the Eucharist for the first time on Pascha, the “Feast of Feasts” and celebrate their new life in the days that followed.

To this day the Scriptures we read at the Divine Liturgy on this Sunday reflect on various aspects of the mystery of baptism. In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles we saw the jailer and his family baptized after experiencing the power of God and hearing the word of the Lord. In the Gospel we see the Lord approach a blind man at the Pool of Siloam – water again – and healing him. The Lord anoints him and he is able to see for the first time in his life. More than

that, he sees with the eyes of his soul and confesses his faith in Christ. Countless people today are familiar with a similar image from the eighteenth-century hymn, *Amazing Grace*, where the new believer proclaims “I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see.”

These readings taken together suggest a pattern that has been followed throughout the centuries. People have heard the word of God, then been baptized, and anointed (chrismated), when they came to faith in Him.

Sight and Light

In the Middle East Holy Saturday is still the most popular day for baptisms. Christians of all traditions call this day *sabt al-noor*, the Saturday of Light, from another early image of baptism. Very early in the Church’s life baptism came to be called Holy Illumination. The term is used by St Justin the Philosopher in Rome and St Clement of Alexandria in the second century to say that when we come to know God, then we are able to see clearly. Like the man once blind, we are delivered from darkness and, most particularly, we are able to see the divine plan. Our “spiritual eye becomes full of light” and we can recognize the hand of God at work among us.

At a baptism our radiant new nature is represented by the shining white garments the newly baptized puts on while we sing, “*Give me a robe of light, O You who clothe Yourself with light as with a garment, O most merciful Christ our God.*” We find the same image described beautifully in Agathangelos’ description of the baptism of the first Armenian Christians in the fourth century: “They went forth in great joy, in white garments, with psalms and blessings and lighted lamps and burning candles and blazing torches, with great rejoicing and happiness, illuminated and become like the angels.”

For the same reason the Church describes the Feast of the Theophany, the remembrance of Christ’s baptism, as the Feast of Light. As we say in Kondakion for the feast, actually the first verse of St. Romanos’ Kondakion on the Life of Christ:

Today you have appeared to the inhabited world, and your light, O Lord, has been signed upon us, who, with knowledge, sing your praise, ‘You have come, You have appeared, the unapproachable Light.’

The Gospels say that, at Christ’s baptism, the heavens were opened, which the Fathers assumed to mean that the mystery of the Trinity was revealed. Christ is the Light who enables us to see by revealing the mystery of God and His plan for our regeneration to the world.

Clement of Alexandria also speaks of this light as being “signed” upon us. He describes this sign as a “seal,” a mark of belonging – in this case, to Christ. At our chrismation, the completion of our baptism, we receive this “seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit” who affirms that we belong to the Lord. We are His, and He is ours, as a pledge of the life that awaits us in glory.

Our Call to Respond

In the passage from Romans quoted above, St Paul makes another connection. As we have seen, he links baptism in water with Christ’s burial; he also relates Christ’s risen life to the way the baptized should live here and now. We can live a ‘resurrection life’ by following the Scriptural

precepts that characterize the new life for believers. Later in the epistle St Paul expresses it this way, “...*present your bodies a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*” (Rom 12:1, 2).

The first verse concerns our actions. Where in the Old Covenant people would offer animals, grain or other offerings in the temple, we the baptized are told to offer all our faculties as our act of worship. “Turn this body in which you are clothed into a censer...” we read in the letters of St Anthony the Great. There is nothing that we have or that we are which is not meant to be given over to God. We are called to commend “ourselves, one another and our whole life to Christ God.”

Sometimes this “spiritual worship” is a matter of giving things up, as during the Fasts. At other times, such as during this festive season, it may be a matter of sharing the things that we enjoy with others in acts of hospitality. In either case we are called to see all our actions as oblations, like the prosphora, the candles or the incense we give over completely to God in church.

The second verse is concerned with our attitudes. We are urged to avoid thinking like people who do not know God: to avoid thinking that the purpose of life is acquiring more and more of the world’s goods or respect. If our values are formed by the commercials we see on TV or the lifestyles promoted there, then we are conforming to this world. After all, sitcoms or reality shows never feature people who serve others, do they?

If we accept the social engineers’ idea that other people – even our own older relatives or unborn children – are an inconvenience to be put aside, then we are conforming to this world. If we endorse the concerns of special interest groups rather than the values of the Gospel, then we are conforming to this world. We have been given a new life; we need to develop a new mind as well.



Sunday Collections

Attendance	Date	Collection
26	March 19, 2023	10,000.00
26	March 26, 2023	165.00
33	2 April 2023	1,060.00
40	9 April 2023	580.00
28	16 April 2023	10.00
30	23 April 2023	
30	30 April 2023	1,041.00
31	7 May 2023	552.00

Syrian Earthquake Relief \$ 775.00

Divine Liturgy Intentions: For the Living:

Bishop Francois, Fr. Eugene Mitchell, Fr. James Graham, David Mangelsdorf, Brian Frank, Maria Barklage, Nookid Graham, Ali de la Vega, Dn. Kent & Diana Plowman, A Special Parish Intention, Mandie, Stephanie, Nick Baiad, Medical Personnel and First Responders

For the Dead:

Announcements

We are live-streaming on our Facebook page at the following days & times:

Friday – 6:00 PM Weekday Vespers

Saturday – 6:00PM Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00AM Orthros & 10:00AM Divine Liturgy

As announced last week, Fr. Michael will be away on vacation starting on Wednesday and returning to Augusta on Monday, May 22nd. The schedule of services while he is away will be:

Next weekend, Saturday May 13th **ONLY**, 6pm, Dn. Sami Jajeh will celebrate the Typika service with Holy Communion.

Feast of the Ascension – Reader's Vespers, Wed, May 17th at 7pm.

Weekend of **May 19-20** – Regular weekend schedule, Fr. Rob Adams, a bi-ritual priest from Kentucky, will be the celebrant.

Reader's Vespers will also be celebrated, as usual on Friday the 12th and the 19th.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND TOWN –Most Holy Trinity parish will be hosting a Men's Holy Hour every Friday morning from 6-7am. There will also be a coffee hour and reflection time afterwards – Men from all parishes are invited to attend for whatever portion of the time they are available. For the Ladies – St. Joseph's will be hosting a Women's Holy Hour on the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

National Association of Melkite Youth

NAMY Conference 2023

Our Melkite Mission: Becoming Disciples, Making Disciples

Who: Melkite Youth throughout the US, ages 13-18

When: Monday July 10th- Friday July 14th, 2023

Where: St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire

Why: Faith, Fellowship, Fun

For more information:

Please contact Fr. Thomas & Pres. Rebekah Moses at namy@melkite.org



Resurrectional Troparion

(Tone 5)



Let us, O faith - ful, praise and wor-ship the Word,



co-e-ter-nal with the Fa-ther and the Spi - rit, born of the



Vir - gin for our sal - va - tion, for He was



pleased to be lif - ted in the flesh up - on the Cross and



to en-dure death and to raise the dead by His



glo - ri - ous Res-sur - rec - tion.

Festal Troparion

(Tone 5)



Christ is ri - sen from the dead and by His death



He has tram-pled u-pon Death, and has gi-ven life to those



who were in the tombs.



Al Ma-see-hu qa-ma min bayn il am-wat wa wa - ti al



maw-ta bil mawt, wa wa-hab al ha-yat li - la-dhee-na fil



qu - boor.



Chris-tos a-nes - ti ek ne - kron tha-na - to



tha - na - ton ba - tee - sas, kai tees



en dees mni-ma - si zo - in kha-ri - sa - me-



- nos.

Kondakion of Pascha

(Tone 2)



Though You went down in the tomb, O im-mor - tal



One, You o-ver-threw the po-wer of Ha - des and



rose vic - to - ri - ous, O Christ God, You



gree - ted the oint - ment bear - ing wo - men, say-



- ing: Re-joice! You gave peace to Your a-pos - tles, and to



those who had fal-len, re-sur-rec - tion.

Hirmos of Pascha

(Tone 1)



The an-gel cried out to the one who is full of grace:



Hail, O im - ma - cu - late vir - gin! Hail! a - gain: for your



Son is ri - sen from the tomb on the third day.



Shine, shine, O new Je - ru - sa - lem! For the glo - ry of the



Lord has shone up - on You. Re - joice and



be glad, O Si - on, and you, O pure one, O Mo - ther of



God, ex - ult in the re - sur - rec - tion of your Son.

Prokimenon

Reader: You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

All: You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord my God!

All: You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

Reader: You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always

All: From this generation.

Readings for the Week:

Monday:	Acts 17:1-9	John 8:42-51
Tuesday:	Acts 17:19-28	John 8:51-59
Wed:	Acts 18:22-28	John 6:5-14
Thursday:	Acts 1:1-12	John 9:39-10:10
Friday:	Acts 19:1-8	John 10:17-28
Saturday:	Acts 20:7-12	John 10:27-38

Saints of the Week:

May 14: Commemoration of the Holy Martyr Isidore of Chios
May 15: Commemoration of our Holy Father Pachomios the Great; and of our Father Achillos the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Larissa
May 16: Commemoration of our Holy Father Theodore the Sanctified
May 17: Holy Apostles Andronicus and Junias
May 18: Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Peter, Denis and their companions
May 19: Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Patrick, Bishop of Prussa and his companions
May 20: Commemoration of the Holy Martyr Thalleleos
May 21: Commemoration of the Holy Sovereigns, Equals to the Apostles, Constantine and Helen

Word Search

M	Z	I	A	Y	Y	Q	L	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	E	N
I	F	E	C	Q	R	A	B	B	I	H	S	L	O	O	P	P
S	B	Y	Y	V	P	M	D	X	Q	T	R	G	E	B	C	I
D	V	E	X	T	T	A	P	S	J	G	O	H	S	C	M	A
S	E	S	O	M	V	O	A	I	Y	V	B	C	N	D	I	M
S	T	T	S	E	F	I	N	A	M	R	H	V	V	K	Z	K
W	G	U	H	T	A	B	B	A	S	S	G	P	A	Y	E	T
H	S	I	L	O	A	M	H	S	B	L	I	N	D	S	Y	H
S	X	S	I	M	Z	W	T	D	T	N	E	N	H	I	N	G
A	E	K	L	B	M	N	O	H	N	N	N	N	B	N	E	I
W	J	E	D	S	E	M	G	Q	I	G	P	Y	X	N	N	L
E	Y	V	S	R	D	I	X	U	M	Q	O	N	A	E	P	J
L	U	G	A	I	N	S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	W	O
E	Z	P	W	P	R	O	P	H	E	T	E	A	W	S	O	H
O	W	Y	J	V	T	A	S	G	Q	B	I	R	T	H	R	K
Y	X	F	R	B	G	S	H	J	D	W	M	I	L	B	K	M
M	C	L	A	Y	P	W	I	P	S	U	Z	B	O	D	S	U

Beg
Believe
Birth
Blind
Clay
Day
Disciples
Eyes

Light
Manifest
Moses
Neighbors
Night
Parents
Pharisees
Pool

Prophet
Rabbi
Sabbath
Siloam
Sinned
Spat
Wash
Works

Parish Information:

Rt. Rev. Michael Skrocki, JCD
Pastor

abounamike@aol.com

Knights of Columbus **JFK Council**

1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm.

Odd-numbered months at St. Ignatios

Even-numbered months here at Most Holy Trinity

4th Degree Assembly

2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Odd-numbered months at Most Holy Trinity

Even-numbered months here at St. Ignatios

Publicans Prayer Group

Postponed until Further Notice

New Parishioners:

Please register with Fr. Michael.

Mystery of Holy Confession

Please contact Fr. Michael to set up a convenient time.

Mystery of Christian Initiation

Expectant parents should notify Fr. Michael prior to the birth of the child. Adult converts should contact Fr. Michael so arrangements may be made for any necessary instruction and sacraments.

Mystery of Holy Crowning

Those planning to marry should notify the Fr. Michael at least six months prior to the desired Wedding date.

Mystery of Holy Anointing

Please notify Fr. Michael when you or a family member is in need of anointing.

To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers of the Eparchy of Newton, please call the **Victim Assistance Coordinator** at 1-800-479-5910.

Elliott Sons Funeral Homes

Observing Catholic Funeral Rituals and Traditions for Over One Hundred Years

4255 Columbia Rd. 2524 Lumpkin Rd.
Martinez, GA 30907 Augusta, GA 30906
(706) 868-9637 (706) 793-0123

Se Habla Español



TRIBBY'S Hill High Animal Hospital

www.HillHighAnimal.com
Mark Tribby, DVM

4120 Wheeler Rd.
David Tribby, DVM



MARIAN MEDICAL, LLC

VA disability exams Nexus letters and DBQs



Thomas J. Seiter, Jr., M.D.
Major, U.S. Army (Retired)

4775 Washington Rd
Evans, GA 30809

Office (762) 994 - 3529
Fax (706) 364 - 8283
info@marian-medical.com



Ronda Doucette
(706) 832-7752

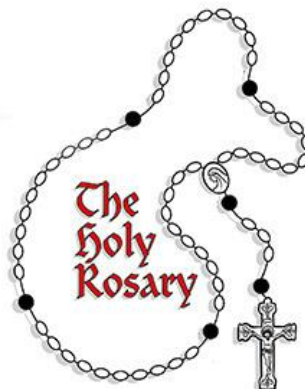
GiggleBeanBoutique.com
FB Gigglebean by Ronda Group

Advertise With Us

Will be in Printed &
Emailed Bulletin
\$15.00 Month

Business Card Size

Contact Ronda 706-869-2288



**Meets
Saturdays
11:45**

**AT
ST. IGNATIUS
CHURCH**

THOMAS POTEET & SON FUNERAL DIRECTORS

"Family Owned and Operated"

214 Davis Rd.
Augusta, Georgia 30907
706.364.8484
www.thomaspoteet.com

George B. Hall, DMD

706-738-0775

**"Only brush the teeth
you want to keep"**



St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School



(706) 733-6193
stmaryssaints.org

1220 Monte Sano Ave.
Augusta, GA 30904