May 6, 2018
SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

Liturgical Schedule

May 5 (Sat) Divine Liturgy **5:00pm**
+Fr. Edward Lucas req by Don and Anna Mae Drago

May 6 (Sun) Sunday of the Man Born Blind
Divine Liturgy **10:30am**
Skylar Lindberg (16th Birthday) req by Julee Lindberg

May 10 (Thu) Ascension of Our Lord **7:00pm**
+*John Wesdock req by Julee Lindberg and Family*

May 12 (Sat) Divine Liturgy **5:00pm**
+Theodore Druga req by Ray & Linda Kubaacki

May 13 (Sun) Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council
Divine Liturgy **10:30am**
Mother's Day
For all living and deceased Mothers

The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of May 6 thru May 12 for +Ann Frendzel.

Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.

James Abraham, Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, Rosella Busko, Marion Campbell, John Fekete, Carl Magdic, Fr. John Petro, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Rose Marie Rupnik, Joseph Rusinko, Sue Sabol, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Margaret Weber, John Voron Sr.

April 29, 2018
Our Tithe to our Parish—$1,613.50

The Year End Parish Financial Report (Year 2017)
is available in the entrance to the church.

Please let Father John know if there are any 2018 graduates in our Parish.

POPE FRANCIS ON THE MEANING OF ASCENSION

The Ascension doesn't indicate Jesus' absence, but rather it tells us that He is Living among us in a new way. He is no longer in a particular place in the world as He was before the Ascension. Now He is in the Lordship of God, present in every space and time, close to each of us. In our lives we are never alone. We have this Advocate who awaits us and defends us. We are never alone. The crucified and risen Lord guides us. With us there are many brothers and sisters who, in their family life and their work, in their problems and difficulties, in their joys and hopes, daily live the faith and bring, together with us, the Lordship of God's love to the world. In Jesus Christ, risen and ascended into Heaven, we have an Advocate.

HOLY DAY THIS WEEK

This week we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of the Lord into heaven, a major holyday of our Church year. With this feast, we mark the end of the forty days of the presence of the Lord after his Resurrection … and his return to be enthroned at the right hand of the Father on high.

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

Jesus is the *light of the world.*

He is the one who reveals God to us … who lets us see the human face of God … and who shows us what it means to be able to *see.*

We all *look* … but not everyone is able to *see!* Even among those whose eyes are physically healthy … not all are able to see.

To those who dwell in darkness … God breaks into our world as a great light! Jesus also came into a world that sat in darkness … and He brought light to people's lives. He let them see the world as He saw it … as God originally intended it to be.

To be baptized into Christ is to put on Christ … to put on his eyes and heart and mind … his way of seeing. Baptism is a rebirth in Christ. As we are washed in the waters of baptism … we are reborn, renewed. We can then see with new eyes.

In today's Gospel, Jesus took some mud from the earth (reminiscent of the original creation when God formed the first human person also from the clay of the earth) … He then rubbed it on the eyes of the man who was born blind and told him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam … and the man was able to see. The Church sees in this event an image of baptism … washing and then being able to see. It is really an image of re-creation.

We have been baptized into Christ … we have been washed in the saving waters of baptism. We have been given the ability to *see* in a new way.

To live out our baptismal vocation … means to live in such a way that we can see the goodness of God's creation … the beauty in ourselves, each other and the world … and to lead other to this same vision.

FEAST OF THE HOLY ASCENSION

Presence … and absence …

These two themes punctuate the whole of our lives …

We rejoice at being together … we enjoy time spent with family and friends … we mark these with festive celebrations … and at times we simply take each other's presence for granted …

Until a separation comes … and then we are struck by the absence of the other person … and we all know the deep feelings of loss at such separations … whether the separations are for a short time … or permanent, as in the case of death.

The Scriptures shed light on our life. They too tell us the story of presence and absence. The disciples, along with the small community that gathered around Jesus, grew accustomed to his presence. They knew the deep sense of loss at his death … and the overpowering joy at his resurrection They rejoiced at being together again.

But … our reunions do not last forever. There was a sense of emptiness again at the time of the Ascension of the Lord … his departure from this earth. Yet, He did not leave his followers completely abandoned. He gave them a promise.

He told them to wait in Jerusalem until they were clothed with power from on high … that is, the coming of the Holy Spirit.

But first, they had to ***wait*** … that period of time wherein we experience loss … but anticipate a new presence.

Each moment has its own gift … even the time of loss … and waiting … has a gift to offer … if only we can be attentive to it.

A HUGE THANK YOU!!

Undoubtedly you have seen the new sign that graces the front of our church property. The old sign has served our parish well over the many years, but it was time to get a new sign, one that reflects the newness and the brightness and freshness of our parish spirit.

With the sign now pointing in both directions, it is easy to see coming either way up the hill. Soon there will be lighting installed so that it will be visible at night.

This sign has been donated by a very generous benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous. Let us pray for our benefactors that the Lord our God may shower his blessings upon them.