

and tend not to see when proposing their ideas. They forget, or do not know, that a person is a sinful creature. Therefore, as the Blessed Augustine said, people differ only in the extent to which each of them is evil. We should always realize how sinful and corrupt we are, and beg God to heal our soul's eyes the way he gave physical and spiritual recovery to this former blind man about whom we heard. Amen.

+ Ever-memorable Metropolitan Philaret
of New York and Eastern America

THE EPISTLE

Reader: *The Prokimenon in the 8th Tone: Make your vows and pay them to the Lord our God.*

Choir: Make your vows and pay them to the Lord our God.

Reader: *In Judea is God known, His name is great in Israel.*

Choir: Make your vows and pay them to the Lord our God.

Reader: *Make your vows.*

Choir: And pay them to the Lord our God.

Reader: The Reading is from the Acts of the Holy Apostles: [Acts 16:16-34]

GOSPEL

Reader: *Alleluia in the 8th Tone.*

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: *Look upon me and have mercy on me.*

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: *My steps do Thou direct according to Thy saying.*

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel [John 9:1-38]

Welcome to

Sts. Theodore Orthodox Church

96 Los Robles St., Williamsville NY 14221

Tel: 716-634-6712

www.ststheodore.org

Priest John Boddecker

Deacon Andrew Hammond

Deacon George Hammond

We are a parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, and all are welcome to worship with us! Our services are in English. Please join us for lunch downstairs after the service.

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

ХРИСТОСЪ ВОСКРЕСЕ! ВОИСТИНУ ВОСКРЕСЕ!

HRISTOS A ÎNVIAT! ADEVĂRAT A ÎNVIAT!

April 30/May 13, 2018

Sixth Sunday of Pascha Sunday of the Blind Man

This Week's Schedule

Wednesday	Vigil for the Ascension	6:00 pm
Thursday	Divine Liturgy for the Ascension	8:00 am
	Festal Potluck Meal	6:00 pm
Saturday	Confession and Communion Rule	4:00 pm
	All-Night Vigil	5:00 pm
Sunday	Hours and Divine Liturgy	9:00 am
	<i>Meal in Trapeza after Services</i>	

HYMNS

Troparion of Resurrection – Tone 5: Let us, O faithful, praise and worship the Word / Who is co-unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit, / and Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh / and to endure death, // and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Sunday of the Blind Man - Tone 4: Blinded in the eyes of my soul, / I draw nigh unto Thee, O Christ, like the man blind from his birth, / and in repentance I cry to Thee: / Thou art the exceeding radiant Light // of those in darkness.

Kontakion of Resurrection - Tone 8: Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming “Rejoice!” to the myrrh-bearing women; / granting peace to Thine apostles, // and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

MEGALYNARION

Refrain: The angel cried unto her that is full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin! And again I say, rejoice! For thy Son is risen from the grave on the third day, and hath raised the dead, O ye people, be joyful!

Irmos: Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee; dance now and be glad, O Zion, and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

PARISH NEWS

- ❖ **Christ is Risen! Христосъ Воскресе! *Hristos a înviat!***
Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!
- ❖ **Paschal Litia:** Fr John will be available to serve the Paschal Litia in commemoration of your departed

Orthodox loved ones buried in local cemeteries by appointment between now and the Feast of the Ascension.

- ❖ **Feast of Ascension:** The Feast of the Ascension of Christ is Thursday, May 17. There will be vigil on the eve of the feast at 6:00 pm and Liturgy on day of the feast at 8:00 am. There will be a festal meal at the Church at 6:00 pm on the day of the feast. Please mark your calendars.
- ❖ **Hierarchal Visit:** Metropolitan Jonah will be visiting our parish the weekend of June 17. Please mark your calendars and plan to be at services that weekend for our hierarchical visit. More details will be made available shortly.

A WORD FROM THE HOLY FATHERS

The Church, telling us today about this miracle of the Savior, at the same time chants in the person of each of us: “Blind with my spiritual eyes, I come to you, O Christ, like one born blind.” Not long ago we prayed to our Lord intensively: “Grant that I may see my own sins.” If we ask to see, to be able to see our sins it means we cannot see them as well as is needed. This is because our “spiritual eyes” are blind. This is why this church prayer is full of sense and meaning for each of us. The Holy Fathers also always say that people cannot see their sins as clearly as they should.

A long time ago we already gave this example from one ascetic’s life, who asked God to let him see to what extent human nature was corrupted by sin. And when the Lord, in a certain mysterious vision, revealed to him the degree to which man is corrupted by sin, the ascetic felt that he could lose his mind from fear, and he was begging God to hide this vision from him forever. This is the extent to which people are corrupted by sin. St. Macarius of Egypt said a person can be good, but deep in his soul the roots can be poisonous. Our Lord Jesus Christ came to heal us of this brokenness, because no other force in the world can heal us of this frightful corruption by sin. This is what current reformers of life forget