

**SUNDAY OF THE
BLIND MAN
MAY 17, 2015**



**STS. RAPHAEL, NICHOLAS AND
IRENE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**Rev. Fr. Barnabas Powell, Proistamenos
Jimmy Smith, Psaltis**

**3074 Bethelview Road † Cumming GA 30040
(770) 781-5250 cell (770) 861-3544 www.stsrni.org**

WORSHIP

We are so very glad you have joined us today, and we pray you will be inspired and encouraged by your time with us.



The Orthodox worship service is an ancient and timeless expression of how people have loved, served and worshipped God for many centuries, but it may be a bit of a different experience for you. Please feel free to use a service book or not and simply allow the words of the service to wash over you.

The central act of our worship culminates in people receiving communion. This is a very special time for us all and we have some specific beliefs about our communion together. This is why we never impose this service on those who are not prepared or are not baptized Orthodox. This service may raise questions in your mind.

Please feel free to ask Fr. Barnabas anything you wish after the service.

At the end of the service EVERYONE is invited to come forward and receive a portion of the “blessed bread” from Fr. Barnabas. No one should leave church “hungry!”

*Know you are welcome and we are glad you are here.
May God bless you and your family.*

Your Servant,

Father Barnabas

Apolytikion in honor of Sts. Raphael, Nicholas & Irene

Having contended on Lesbos for the sake of Christ God, you have sanctified the island since the discovery of your sacred relics, O blessed ones; wherefore we honor you, O Godbearing Raphael, together with Nicholas and virgin Irene, as our divine protectors and intercessors with the Lord.

EPISTLE READING

Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 1.

Psalm 11.7,1

You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed

IN THOSE DAYS, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel of John 9:1-38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

CONTINUED GOSPEL READING

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe": and he worshiped him.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

THIS WEEK

Father Barnabas is available to hear confession every Wednesday either before or after Vespers and by appointment. Please call or email the church office to request a time to meet with Father and avail yourself to this healing divine mystery of the Church.

*Please call the Church office for more information:
(770) 781-5250.*

TODAY, May 17

8:45 a.m. Orthos
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday School Graduation
40 day Memorial for Arthur Costakis
General Assembly

Wed., May 20

10:00 a.m. Bible Study Class
6:30 p.m. Vespers
Followed by Adult Education

Thurs. May 21

Holy Ascension
8:30 a.m. Orthos
9:30 Divine Liturgy

Fri., May 22

Church Administrative Offices
Will be Closed

Please see Events Calendar and Announcements at the front desk for more information on church activities.



Parish Council of 2015:

*John Patrick, President; Harald Hagen, Vice President;
David Chapman, Secretary; Chris Foxhall, Treasurer;
Anthony Birozes, Kosta Bozzuto, Marie Chapman, Helen McCart, Johnny Melts, Greg Pappas, Plutarch Vamvakias, Len Vanerstrom*

For Today:

*Ushers: John Patrick, Len Vanerstrom
Welcoming Ministry: Sharon Tyre
Fellowship Ministry: Diane Walters*

HYMNS



Singers and Chanters: Anthony Birozes, David Boyd, Marie Chapman, Emily Christy, Maria Hagen, Lynn Lucher, Jimmy Smith

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal of the First Tone

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate * with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born * for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. * For in His goodness He was pleased * to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, * and to raise up those who had died, * by His glorious Resurrection.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.

Please say a special prayer for the following individuals:

S and K Wilson, D. Sarandis, N. Thrasivouou



Please let us know in the office at officeadmin@stsrni.org if you know of any births, marriages, graduations, deaths, illnesses, or special events, so that we may keep our parish community informed.

Acolytes:

Jacob and Jimmy Atkinson, David Druffner, Mike & Peter Jordanopolos, Spiro Kefalas, Christos Kaloudis, Thomas Miller, Jacob Sparks, Mike Trainor, Alex & Niko Tzevelekos, Christos Zourzoukis
Senior Acolytes: Johnny Melts, Mike Manos, Dean Pryles

Jim & Angie Andropoulos
Sarante & Julie Athenson
Deane & Stephen Barnard
Anthony & Mary Birozes
Mabel Antigone Birozes
Renee Birozes
Lisa Boston
Deborah Bowen
David & Michelle Boyd
Kosta & Carolyn Bozzuto
Athena Catapano
David & Marie Chapman
Russell & Chyrisse Chason
Julie Chokos
Giles & Emily Christie
Rick & Jan Christy
Connie Condos
John & Shelia Consos
Keith & Mary Druffner
Quay & Trissie Farr
Chris & Liz Foxhall
William & Hayley Fulbright
Bill & Margaret Gasper
Rob & Carey Gilbert
Robert & Jennifer Guano
Harald & Stamatia Hagen
Michael & Ann Costakis Hayes
Robert & Ana Henning
Harriet Howell
Steven & Linda Hutka
Jennie Johnson
Vasilios & Mary Kaloudis
Jim Kanellos
Soula Levendakis &
Theodoros Kazazakis
Tasso & Laura Kefalas
Alex Levantis
Leon & Frances Lopez
David & Lynne Lucher
Archie & Florence Lytle
Tina Maheras
Bill & Margaret Manos
Bill & Audrey Marianes
Riley Todd & Elizabeth Marvos
Al & Helen McCart
Johnny & Becky Melts
Bill & Mary Milam
Matt & Athena Miller
Nikolaos Moissiadis & Family
Patricia Morris
Nick & Teddie Panos
Constantinos & Evelyn Pantazopoulos
Gregory Pappas

Gus Pappas
Tom and Lillian Pappas
John & Evon Patrick
Michele Perry
Mihai & Heidi Popa
Fr. Barnabas & Pres. Connie Powell
Pam Powers
Vic & Suzi Pryles
Marina Raymond
Aftan Romanczak
Mary Samaltanos
Dina Sarandis
Takanori & Kathryn Shoji
James Smith
Estelle Sofikitis
George & Anna Sofikitis
Dennis & Laura Sparks
O'Brien Statham
James Stockdill
Koko & Carol Tados
Steven & Thalia Thompson
Nick & Eva Thrasivoulou
Ed & Anne Trainor
Greg & Evie Tzevelekos
Eleanor Vamvakias
Plutarch & Tina Vamvakias
Len Vanerstrom
Rusty & Christine Waldron
Tim & Diane Walters
George & Thalia Zazanis
John and Mildred Zourzoukis

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Donations made this month in
remembrance of: Arthur Costakis,
and Kathleen Mary Gasper