

SS. PETER & PAUL

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Gospel Reading ~ Matthew 9:27-35
Epistle Reading ~ Romans 15:1-7
Holy Seven Youths of Ephesus

This Week at a Glance

Mon, Aug 5th

6:00 pm - Vesperal
Liturgy for
Transfiguration

Sat, Aug 10th

6:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sun, Aug 11th

9:00 am - 3rd & 6th
Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Grave Blessings

We will be going to 3 cemeteries today. We will meet at 12pm at the Orthodox monument.

Festival Supplies

Please pick an envelope on the bulletin board to donate items for the Food Festival. The more we can get donated the more profit the festival makes. As always, thank you for your generous support!

Gospel Meditation

Today's Gospel speaks about the healing of two blind men. It is a story which we find in Mark's Gospel but here with significant differences. For instance, Mark has only one blind man while Matthew has two. We should not just read this as just another miracle, another proof of Jesus' divine power. It begins with two blind men going after Jesus calling after him in desperation: "Have compassion on us, Son of David!" There is already an element of faith in calling Jesus by this messianic name and it also points to the healing power of Jesus. Jesus is more than an ordinary rabbi. When they catch up on Jesus, he asks them "Do you believe that I can do this?" Without their trust in him, Jesus cannot do anything for them. We remember what was said about the unbelieving people of Nazareth. These men say they do believe. "Your faith deserves it, so let it be done for you." They get their sight back. They can now see. Jesus tells them not to say anything about it. Jesus is not interested in being a sensation, he does not want people to have a wrong idea of his real mission. But they ignored his appeal and went about telling everyone of what had happened.

There is more here than meets the eye! What we have here is not just the restoration of their physical sight. They have gained insight. They can really see. They can see who Jesus really is, the Word of God, the Action of God and they simply have to share that experience with everyone else. It is not something that they can keep to themselves.

It is significant that the following story is about the healing of a dumb man. There are several instances of Jesus healing deafness and blindness in the Gospel. As disciples of Christ we need to be able to see and understand the message of Jesus and then we need to proclaim it everywhere.

Today is a day for us to be aware of our own blindness and our own deafness. We often have difficulty really hearing and accepting the Word of God and how many of us can claim that we can see Jesus as he really is? If we are to celebrate Christmas properly, we must learn how to listen to God's Word, with understanding and acceptance, and learn how to see deeply into the meaning of his life as it is presented to us. And it starts right there with the baby in the stable.

Pierogi

We will be making Buffalo Chicken and Jalapeño Potato pierogi's on August 13th. Please try to help for a few hours. This is our last pirogi making day before the festival. We have had unbelievable help so far and are asking for just one more day of pinching! Signup on the Bulletin Board.



Before



After

Rectory Improvements

Please feel free to take a look at the new back porch of the Rectory. In addition to the back porch, the front, side and rear doors have been replaced.

**When we bravely and quietly
endure the afflictions sent to us,
we participate a little,
albeit not fully,
in the sufferings of Christ.**

~ St. Macarius of Optina,



