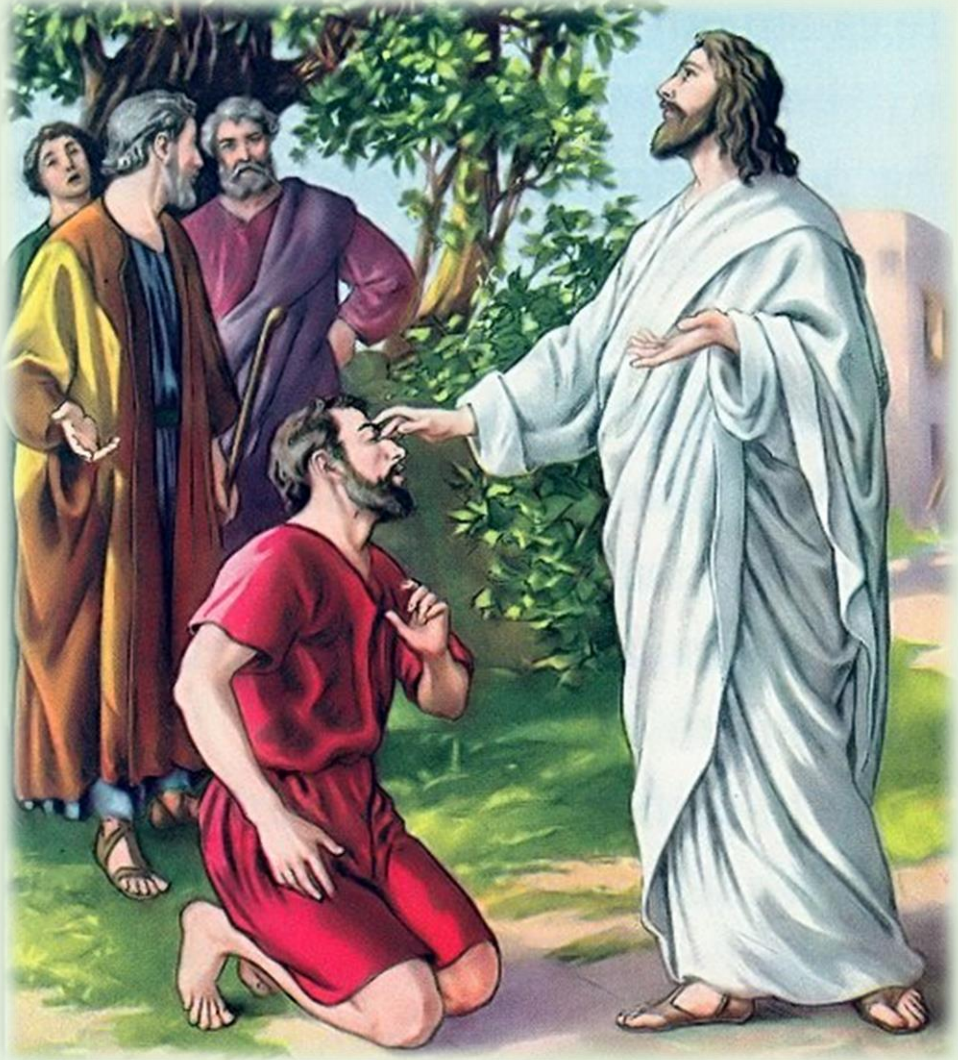


Sunday Bulletin
February 4th 2024 – 35th Sunday after Pentecost
Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar



Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church
1025 N Belle Vista Ave, Youngstown, Ohio 44509



Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian
Orthodox Church
Українська Православна
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Fr. Mykola Zomchak
Pastor

Anna Anderson
Choir Director

Chuck Woloschak
President of the Church Council

Ministries:

Altar Servers
Church Choir
Church School
Adult Education
St. Mary's Sisterhood
Sts. Peter & Paul Brotherhood
Senior UOL Chapter
Junior UOL Chapter
Orphanage Mission Ministry
Bingo Team

Fr Mykola Zomchak - Editor

Website:

<http://www.stspeterpauluoc.org>



STS Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

*We invite you to a celebration of
the Resurrection of Christ each week.*

February 4th 2024 – 35th Sunday after Pentecost
Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar

**“RECEIVE YOUR SIGHT;
YOUR FAITH HAS
HEALED YOU”**



**Bulletin is dedicated
in Memory of Elaine Ulbricht
on the 15th anniversary of her
passing away**

Tone 2 Troparion (Resurrection)

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

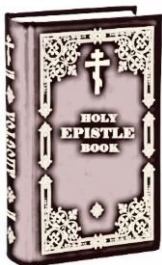
Tone 2 Kontakion (Resurrection)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and
rejoiced with You, //
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

Tone 2 Prokeimenon

*The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my
salvation. (Ps. 117:14)*
*V. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given
me over to death. (Ps. 117:18)*

The Reading is from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Timothy 1:15-17



BRETHREN, Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia and Verses Tone 2

V. May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

V. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! (Ps. 19:9)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

The reading is from the Gospel according to St. Luke 18:35-43

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.”

³⁸ He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came

near, Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

“Lord, I want to see,” he replied.

Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

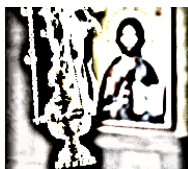


MEMORY ETERNAL

PLEASE PRAY FOR RESTING OF THE SOULS

Mariah N. Andrews, George Fill III, Robert Meredith, Oleksander Dymtro, Mark Vuksanovich, Soldier Vladyslav Chudakorov, Anna Adamovich, Soldier Serhiy, Roberta Lynn Canyo, Stephen, Mike, Zena, Michael, Darrell, Verna, Carl Swartzs.

All Who died during the war in Ukraine.



PRAYER LIST

PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING, COMFORT, AND SPIRITUAL PEACE



Metropolitan Anthony, Archbishop Daniel, Matt, Judith Shonn, Stephen Shonn, Ivanna Pavlusk, Simeon, Selma, Thelma Zemko, Elaine Cartier, Artur Bohuslav, Bohdan, Lori Hayda, Shirley Duffy, Michele (Senediak) Caulder, Mike Moon, Dobrodiyka Lilya, Sandy, Marilyn O'Leary, Dolly Mehalco, George, Alice Dobransky, Harold Owens, Dave Zylka, Marianne Carmack, Nicholas Yurchyk, Pauline Witkowsky, Eileen Maluk, Peter Anderson, Albert Auden, Michael Gino Maluk, Boris & Kathleen Vuksanovich, Mykola Prychodczenko, Kathy Zebel. People Suffering from any Illnesses. All Ukrainian people who are suffering from the war.

Prayer for the Sick

Lord of Love and Compassion, have mercy on the servant (Name) who is suffering from the illness. Stretch out your hand and heal your servant. Give wisdom and guidance to the doctors and patience to (Name), his family and friends! Heal him, so we may see Your miracles and strengthen our faith! For we know You are Holy and everything is possible with You! Amen!



to our loved members of the parish,
We pray that God blesses you with
good health, happiness, and joy!

Many Years!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS	
1 Rich Semchee 2 Katie & Bernie Rogenski's 4 Walter Duzzny 7 Gertrude Senediak 10 Betty Ewanish 15 Christina M. Thornton	21 Dee Bralish 23 Carole Senediak 2 Thomas G DeLuca 25 Kyle Crown 26 Walter Malys 27 Irene Husic 27 Sandy Burlock



Bulletin Dedication *(in memory or in honor)*

	Sun Feb 4 <u>Dedicated</u>	Sun Feb 11 <u>Available</u>	Sun Feb 18 <u>Available</u>	Sun Feb 25 <u>Available</u>
Sun Mar 3 <u>Available</u>	Sun Mar 10 <u>Available</u>	Sun Mar 17 <u>Available</u>	Sun Mar 24 <u>Available</u>	Sun Mar 31 <u>Available</u>
	Sun Apr 7 <u>Available</u>	Sun Apr 14 <u>Available</u>	Sun Apr 21 <u>Available</u>	Sun Apr 28 <u>Dedicated</u>

For bulletin dedication please call – 330-799-3830,
leave a voicemail if Fr Mykola is not near the phone.



Liturgical Schedule & Feast Days

Please contact Fr Mykola to schedule Prayer Services - 330-799-3830

SERVICE AND FEAST DAY SCHEDULE

- Sunday, February 4, 9:30AM – **Divine Liturgy, 35th Sunday.** *Lk.18:35-43.Panahyda*
- Sunday, February 11, 9:30AM – **Divine Liturgy, 36th Sunday.** *Mt.15:21-28.*
- Thursday, February 15 – **the Meeting of the Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.**
- Sunday, February 18, 9:30AM – **Divine Liturgy, 37th Sunday.** *Lk.19:1-10.*
- Sunday, February 25, 9:30AM – **Divine Liturgy,38thSunday.***Lk.18:10-14. Panahyda*

Upcoming dates & events

- **Adult study & Fellowship** *6pm:* Feb 13, Feb 27.
- Jan 28 - **Blessing of Water at the Mill Creek Park at Lake Glacier with other Orthodox Parishes, Sunday, Jan 28 at 3PM.**
- Feb 11 - **Souper Bowl soup give-a-way** will be Sunday, February 11th after church. We will be making soup on Saturday, February 10th starting at 9:00 am - Bulletin p. 6
- Feb 11 - **FOOD TRAYS** – Bulletin p. 6
- **FEB 11 – IS THE LAST DAY TO SUBMIT A BRICK FORM**
- **Feb 24 – Prayer Vigil for Peace in Ukraine (on the 2nd annieryary of the war in Ukraine)**
Feb 24, 6 PM – Catherdral of St. John the Evangelist 1007 Superior Ave E, Cleveland OH 44114
- Mar 24 – **Due date for 100th Church Anniversary Commemorative Book Ad Form**
- Sep 13-15 - **100th ANNIVERSARY of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish CELEBRATION**

Church School Calendar

- Sunday, February 4, **Church School SESSION 13**
- Sunday, February 11, **Church School SESSION 14**

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD AS OF	On January 21	On January 28
General:	\$ 1890.00	\$ 1890.00
Renovation:	\$ 117.00	\$ 117.00
Online Donations on Tithe.ly	\$ 35.00	\$ 20.00

Donations collected at the Malanka Celebration (Jan 27) - \$ 6576
 Sr UOL donated - \$ 1000
 Jr UOL donated - \$ 500
 St. Mary`s Sisterhood donated - \$ 500
Total Donations towards Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine - \$ 8576

SOUPER BOWL SOUP GIVE-A-WAY

will be Sunday, Feb 11th
after church. 11:30am – 1pm

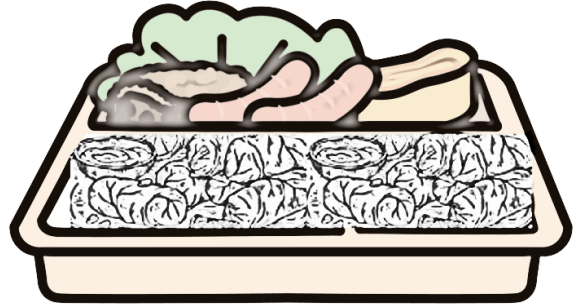


**We will be making soup on
Saturday, Feb 10th
starting at 9:00 am**

We will need donations for the soup. Potatoes, chickens, vegetables etc. Money can be donated for ingredients. We need helpers on Sunday to take soup to the drive-thru. See Anna if you have questions or donations.

FOOD TRAYS

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER
Cal or Text: 234.247.1534
by Mon. 2/5/2024



Pickup Sat. 2/10/2024 10-2:00 PM

UKIE TAILGATE TRAYS AND SAMPLERS

Stuffed Cabbage (12 Servings) - \$36.00

Halushki 3 Qts. (12 Servings) - 24.00

Kielbasa/Kraut (12 Servings) - \$36.00

Ukie Samplers - \$15

Halushki 1 Qt.- \$9



STS PETER & PAUL
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
 1025 N BELLE VISTA AVE, YOUNGSTOWN OH



PYROHIES SALE SCHEDULE

FOR ORDERS CALL OR TEXT – (234) 247-1534 Anna

February	Order by: <u>Monday, February 12</u>
	Pick-up on: Friday, February 16 , from 9:00 am – noon
	Order by: <u>Monday, February 26</u>
	Pick-up on: Friday, March 1 , from 9:00 am – noon
March	Order by: <u>Monday, March 11</u>
	Pick-up on: Friday, March 15 , from 9:00 am – noon
	Order by: <u>Monday, March 25</u>
	Pick-up on: Friday, March 29 , from 9:00 am – noon
April	Order by: <u>Monday, April 8</u>
	Pick-up on: Friday, April 12 , from 9:00 am – noon
	Order by: <u>Monday, April 22</u>
	Pick-up on: Friday, April 26 , from 9:00 am – noon
May	Order by: <u>Monday, May 20</u>
	Pick-up on: Friday, May 24 , from 9:00 am – noon

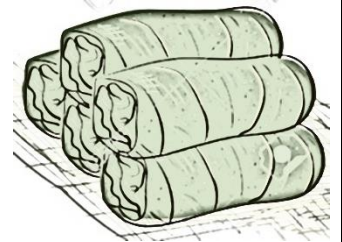


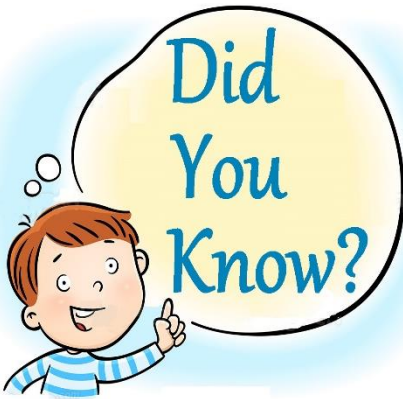
Potato & Cheese, Potato Onion, Kraut, or Potato & Kraut \$8.00 a dozen

STUFFED CABBAGE

for orders - (234) 247-1534 Anna

Order by: Monday, February 5
 Pick-up on: **February 10** from 10am-2pm





"DID YOU KNOW?" section

We are starting an addition to the Sunday Bulletin about our children. It will be published once a month and is due to Father by the first Sunday of each month. **Just fill out the one liner and text it to 732-507-3228 or email to stspeterpauluoc@gmail.com**

Example: *Do you know Susan can count to ten.
Robert is on the swim team.
Erika came in second place with a drawing.
John helped his neighbor sweep the snow.*



100 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

100th Church Anniversary Commemorative Book Ad Form

We are currently preparing our 100th Anniversary Commemorative Book. We are accepting memorial, honorary, and business ads from parishioners at this time. The costs are \$120 for a full page ad; \$70 for a half-page ad; and \$40 for a quarter-page ad. You can add photos for an additional \$10. If you want to sponsor the book, there is only a \$5 fee. The forms are in the vestibule. Or get the form online - <https://shorturl.at/dGIN6>

It is recommended that all photos be scanned and emailed to the address listed on the form. Checks should be made payable to Sts. Peter & Paul UO Church with Anniversary Book written on the memo line. The form and your check can be mailed to the rectory or turned into the Church Office:

ATT: Michael Sernulka. All submissions are due by March 24, 2024.

DEADLINE FOR BRICK ORDERS - FEB 11

ORDER a Commemorative

\$100 per BRICK

Bricks IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY

(it can also be a greeting or just a name)

that will go on the Belfry platform

Get a **PAPER FORM** in the back of the Church or order online.



(you will need a form for each brick) only **170 bricks left available.**

Do not postpone it. Order the Bricks early.

The Deadline for orders is Feb 11.

100TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTO DIRECTORY

In preparation for our parish's 100th Anniversary, we will be taking family pictures for our 100th Anniversary Directory. This is a wonderful way for your family to be part of this momentous occasion!

Picture Dates:

- Saturday, 2/17/24 11 AM - 6 PM
- Saturday, 3/2/24 11 AM - 6 PM

Make-up Day will be: * Saturday, 3/9/24 11 AM - 6 PM

- All picture appointments must be made in advance by **January 27, 2024**. Pictures will be taken in 15 minute time increments. Register for your family's appointment via email at:

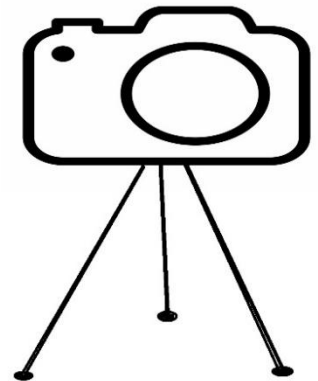
anniversary100pictures@yahoo.com

If you are unable to use email, please call (330) 766-5204 and leave a voicemail with your preferred date and time to schedule your appointment, and someone from the photo committee will get back to you to confirm it.

- All appointments are on a first-come, first-served basis, so sign up early!
- Out-of-town parishioners who are unable to attend a picture date may submit professionally taken pictures only to Father Mykola by February 28, 2024, in order to be included in the directory.

Organizations/Ministries Group Picture Day

Sunday, 3/10/24 after Divine Liturgy



Jesus Heals the Blind Beggar, Bartimaeus

The gospel for this Sunday is prescribed for the 14th Sunday of Luke chapter 18:35-43, which tells of the blind beggar Bartimaeus, who laying by the road near Jericho hears a commotion of people as they were passing by. Bartimaeus asks what is happening to which the people say, Jesus of Nazareth is passing by. He then cries out, "Jesus, Son of David have mercy on me!", after which the people tell him to be quiet. He then cries out even louder: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus hearing his plea stops and asks that Bartimaeus be brought to him. He then asks Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind beggar answers Jesus saying, "that I may receive my sight." Jesus then says, "receive your sight, your faith has made you well" – After which, he followed Jesus, glorifying God!

The Fathers of the Church in their writings point out that although physically blind, the eyes of his soul were illumined by God's Grace because he had believed what he had heard from others about Jesus. The saints also lift up the blind beggar man Bartimaeus as an example of earnest and humble prayer. Each time we come to Christ in prayer, the Fathers teach us to come to Him as blind beggars and cry to Him, as Bartimaeus did, to receive new light day by day, glorifying God. This gospel urges us to go to God in prayer and earnestly and persistently bring our physical and spiritual needs before Him. "Ask, He said, and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you". (Matthew 7:7)

It may be true we do not always receive what we ask for, but we must leave room for God to act in our lives according to His perfect will for us. Nevertheless, we do receive, a physical or spiritual healing, an unexpected solution to a personal problem, a new opportunity for reconciliation with someone, a renewed strength to face a distressful situation or some other blessing that we need. For Jesus' unfailing promise is that, "everyone who asks will receive, and anyone who seeks will find, and the door will be opened to him who knocks" (Matthew 7:8)

Let us always remember this promise as we go through life!

<https://www.sthermansoca.org/spirituality/jesus-heals-bartimaeus/>



On the Blind Beggar

Brothers and sisters

"As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, 'Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.' "

Beggars would often be found at the city gate where people are passing in and out. He is probably used to calling out to those who pass by, asking for money, begging for alms. Blindness and diseases of the eye were common illness in the ancient world.



Those who lost one of their senses would often develop their other sense much more. But it takes no special insight for the blind man to realize that the number of people on the road crowding into the city is much larger than usual.

A pushing, shoving crowd competes to stay up with someone who attracts their attention. The blind man cries out to whoever can hear him, "What is going on?" And one of the bystanders says, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

Once he is told that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by, he begins to yell at the top of his lungs:

"He called out, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'"

Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' " (18:38-39)

But this is no helpless, feeble cry for help. It is loud and insistent. He keeps on shouting. He won't be shut up, even though the crowd continues to tell him to stop. Some people are intimidated and subdued by their own handicaps. It's possible to almost give up. But not our Blind man.

What motivates his uncontrollable cry for healing? Faith.

To call someone "Son of David" as a title is equivalent to calling someone, "Messiah," for it signifies to the Jews a person who is the promised descendent of David who will sit upon the throne of Israel.

During most of his ministry, Jesus doesn't encourage others to refer to him as the Messiah, because the political implications of this title would soon prevent him from being able to minister effectively (Matthew 16:16, 20). But now his hour is come. His face is set towards Jerusalem where he will be crucified.

The blind man's request for mercy uses the same words that other beggars use. But this beggar's address to Jesus is startling. When he asks the "Son of David" for mercy, he is expecting far more than money. And he has faith that the Son of David, the Messiah, will grant his request.

"Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, 'What do you want me to do for you?'"

'Lord, I want to see,' he replied." (18:40-42)

But why does Jesus ask the obvious? I can think of two reasons: (1) to energize faith and cause it to be vocalized, or (2) to help the person himself determine what he wanted from Jesus. This question is nearly unique to Jesus' ministry.

Jesus' question, "What do you want me to do for you?" can be useful for us, his disciples, in our own ministry to people. For example we can ask each other, our youth and those outside the faith "How do you want us to pray for you?" or "What do you want Jesus to do for you?"

The fact is, some people do NOT really want to be healed -- a blessing, a prayer, perhaps, but not real healing. In the case of Blind man, Jesus is trying to get him to vocalize his faith, since Jesus responds to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." (18:42)

Jesus speaks a word, a command for healing, and the healing takes place immediately. What is so special about the blind man's faith? Once he hears that Jesus is there, he immediately begins to ask mercy of Jesus as Messiah, exhibiting insight into Jesus' true mission. But he also has an unstoppable faith, a faith that won't take no for an answer. The crowd tells him to shut up, and he calls out all the louder. People are embarrassed as the local beggar goes ballistic when Jesus comes to town, but he doesn't care. He has an intensity of desire that overcomes obstacles, rebuke, and embarrassment to achieve what he desires. Jesus is pleased.

Jesus is a bridge to the Father, always pointing people to a relationship with the Father. Jesus is trying to make people trust God on their own. Many can see Jesus only, but Jesus keeps encouraging their faith and pointing them to the invisible Father. We also can serve as bridges for people. At first, they are often VERY dependent upon us. We shouldn't be afraid of that, but not seek it. Rather we should see it as a stage of faith. Our goal is to help transfer their faith in us to faith in their Heavenly Father. Only when we have achieved this have we succeeded, only then have we become like Jesus.

"Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God." (18:43)

The once-blind man now becomes a disciple and joins Jesus' disciples. He now is ready. He is a man of faith, and is more than ready to leave begging and take up giving to others.

This blind man serves a tremendous encouragement to others who are in the same physical or spiritual that he was.

The story of the blind man now known to the church as Bartimaeus is a powerful example to us of how it pleases Jesus for our faith to see its opportunity, grasp it, and refuse to let it go until we receive what we need from God. Who would have thought this beggar would instantly become a giver!

The fathers also give a spiritual interpretation to this miracle, with the blind men symbolizing future generations who would come to faith only by hearing, without the benefit of seeing Christ in person (see Jn 20:29). Those who tried to silence the blind man are persecutors and tyrants who, in every generation try to silence the Church. Nevertheless, under persecution the Church all the more confesses Jesus Christ and calls us to do the same.

Brothers and sisters let us ask ourselves what can our faith help us become?

Amen.

Coloring page

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar



GOD WON'T ASK...

- God won't ask what kind of car you drove,
but He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
- God won't ask the square footage of your house,
but He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
- God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet,
but He'll ask how many others you clothed.
- God won't ask about your social class,
but He'll ask what kind of class you displayed.
- God won't ask how many material possessions you had,
but He'll ask if they dictated your life.
- God won't ask what your highest salary was,
but He'll ask if you compromised your principles to obtain it.
- God won't ask how much money you spent on yourself,
but He'll ask how much you gave back to Him.
- God won't ask how many promotions you received,
but He'll ask how you promoted others.
- God won't ask what your job title was,
but He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
- God won't ask what you did to help yourself,
but He'll ask what you did to help others.
- God won't ask how many friends you had,
but He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
- God won't ask what you did to protect your rights,
but He'll ask what you did to protect the rights of others.
- God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived,
but He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.
- God won't ask about the color of your skin,
but He'll ask about the content of your character.
- God won't ask how many times your deeds matched your words,
but He'll ask how many times they didn't.
- God won't ask if His Son loved you,
but He'll ask if you loved His Son.~

Love Your Enemies

A truck driver had been driving quite a few hours straight, and was tired and hungry, so he pulled into a truck stop and went into the restaurant to eat. While he was eating, a group of local Hell's Angels motorcyclists came into the restaurant to eat. While waiting for their food to be prepared, the Hell's Angels got bored. They began to harass the truck driver just for entertainment. They called him names, yelled at him, and so on. Then they started throwing rolled-up napkins at him. He just sat and ate quietly and totally ignored them. This upset them – they just couldn't get a rise out of him. So, finally, one of them walked over and dumped a plate of food over the truck driver's head. He still didn't react, other than to take some napkins and clean himself up as well as possible – while the Hell's Angels laughed at him. He paid his bill and quietly left to go back to his truck. The thugs joked around with the waitress after he left, saying, "You know, that fella sure was a wimp. He wasn't much of a man!" The waitress, looking out the window at the parking lot, said, "You know, he's not much of a truck driver, either. He just ran over a bunch of motorcycles on his way out of the parking lot!"

(from Our Daily Bread, February 28, 1990)

We chuckle at how the trucker handled the situation and probably can't help but admire him some, but... that is not Jesus' way to handle enemies! How did our Lord say to respond to situations where enemies confront us? In His Sermon on the Mount, Christ told us, "Love your enemies." It's natural for us to seek revenge, like the truck driver did – but "natural" isn't always good! As Christians we are called to a higher way of life. The Lord Himself told us about this. As He said in Luke 6: 32–35:

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and selfish."

A very radical idea! Loving friends? That's usually not too hard. But to love our enemies? Very unusual, very difficult. And that's what Christ wants us to do. As always, Jesus Christ practiced what He preached. Jesus just didn't say, "Love your enemies"; He really did it! When He was put on the cross, did He curse out those who did it to Him? Did He call down lightning or angry angels to "take out" those killing Him? He certainly could have

LOVE
Your
ENEMIES
Luke 6:27

done that. But He didn't. Instead, He loved them and prayed for them – "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

And the Lord is still forgiving His enemies today. For every time we sin, we make ourselves enemies of Christ. And what does He do? He forgives us and keeps on loving us.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we should be like Him. We should do the same: love our enemies, and forgive those who have hurt us. And if we really do that, it will be the case that, from our side anyway, we won't have enemies. *They* may still see *us* as enemies, but *we* won't see *them* as enemies. If, as Christ commands, we love and forgive our enemies, they really won't be our enemies anymore. St. Ephraim of Syria wrote about this sixteen hundred years ago: "Do not have any enemies except for Satan himself" ("On Admonition and Repentance", *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, 2nd Series, Vol. 13, Eerdmans, p. 333).

There are different ways of achieving this goal of not having enemies. Years ago, a mafia boss on the island of Sicily was on his death bed. He called for the local priest to come see him and hear his confession. He had decided he wanted to get right with God before he died. The priest came and, before he began to administer the sacraments, said, "Part of getting ready to die is that you need to forgive all your enemies." The mafia boss said, "Father, I don't have any enemies." The priest was surprised and said, "That's amazing! After all the years of your violent and criminal life, you must have enemies!" The mafia replied, "No, Father, I really don't have any enemies. I killed them all" (Michael Ignatieff, *Isaiah Berlin*, Metropolitan Books, 1998, p. 228).

That's not the right way to end up with no enemies! We do need to take action, however, to stop having enemies, even drastic action if necessary. St. John of Alexandria was the Patriarch of Alexandria, Egypt, many centuries ago. One day he was serving the Divine Liturgy, and as he was lifting up the bread and wine at the altar to God, he remembered something: he had had a falling out with a priest in a nearby parish that week. St. John felt that he himself was at least partly to blame for their argument. He realized, too, that he hadn't fixed the problem. So he put the holy gifts down on the altar, bowed to the people saying, "I will return soon" and walked right out of the church. He left and found the priest and talked with him and apologized to him. They were reconciled and all was well between them. Then St. John returned to his own church and finished the liturgy (Father Bill Olnhausen, Monthly Newsletter for January 2013, St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church in Cedarburg, Wisconsin). Whatever it takes – do it. Love your enemies enough so that you won't think of them as your enemies anymore.

The following are some ways to work on this:

Pray for your enemies

Back in the 600's A.D. there were definitely some people who considered St. Maximus the Confessor as their enemy. They hated him because he stuck to the truth about Jesus Christ and wouldn't give in to the latest heresy. They cut out his tongue and cut off his hands. St. Maximus'

response was to say this about enemies: "Pray for him sincerely to God" (St. Maximus, *Selected Writings*, Paulist Press, 1985, p. 73). Do you pray for other people? I hope so.

That person who is hard to get along with, who irritates you, who has hurt you, who you perhaps even think of as an enemy? Put that person at the top of your prayer list and pray for him more than for anyone else.

Thank God for something good about your enemy

It may not be easy to think of something good about some people if they've done bad things to us or said bad things about us. But you can always think of at least one good thing about that person. Focus on that one good thing.

Shift your anger

Is there someone who has angered you? St. Ambrose of Milan, back about 400 A.D., said that you should shift that anger at other people to anger at yourself. Instead of being angry at someone else, be angry at yourself that you are so spiritually weak that something about that other person caused you to fall into the sin of anger. Being angry at yourself will help your anger at others to fade away (St. Ambrose, *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, 2nd Series, Vol. X, Eerdmans, p. 17).

Treat them kindly

St. Barsanuphius lived in the deserts of the Gaza area of Palestine about fourteen hundred years ago. A very holy and wise man, he received many letters seeking spiritual advice and he wrote many letters giving spiritual advice. We still have some of them today and they are a good read. One writer explained to the saint about an enemy he had, and sought advice on how to deal with the hateful person. St. Barsanuphius' advise was simple and brief: "Do good to him" (Barsanuphius and John, *Letters From the Desert*, St. Vladimir Seminary Press, 2003, p. 178). Even if someone has hurt you badly and you don't feel kindly towards them, you can still act kindly towards them, even if it's just a matter of smiling and saying, "Hi, how are you?" As St. Barsanuphius said, "Do good to him." Act kindly, and who knows? Maybe they'll start to change a bit and act a little more kindly to you. If you both keep that up, pretty soon you won't be enemies anymore!

I doubt many of you were doing a lot of reading back in the 1920s. But if you were, you might have read the world's best-seller for a while back then, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, by Erich Maria Remarque. In this novel, Remarque tells the story of a common German soldier fighting in the trenches in northern France in World War I. One day, in the midst of an artillery bombardment, he jumped into a shell hole to try and stay safe. He was surprised to see also hiding in that shell hole a French soldier. Immediately, he thought to himself, "Ah, a Frenchman – one of my hated enemies! I must kill him quickly." He drew his knife and was about to kill his enemy when he noticed how badly wounded the fellow was. He hesitated and then thought to himself, "He certainly is too badly injured to hurt me, so why should I hurt him?" And so he put the knife away and went peacefully over to the man. It was quickly obvious

he was badly injured and would soon die. Neither spoke the other's language but they could still communicate a little with their hand gestures and eyes. The dying Frenchman motioned to his mouth and the German quickly figured out he was horribly thirsty due to losing so much blood. He took out his canteen and gave the man all the water he could drink. But it didn't slow down his death, which was obviously imminent. The dying soldier nodded a thank-you, and then pointed to his pocket. The German went into the pocket and found his wallet, which had in it a picture of the dying soldier's wife and children. The French soldier pointed to the picture and then to his eyes. The German got the message. The dying man wished to die while looking at the picture of his beloved ones. So the German took the photo, held it closely to the man's face, and the Frenchman looked at it. He soon died looking at the photo with a smile on his face. As the French soldier died, the German realized they were no longer enemies, but friends, even brothers (*All Quiet On The Western Front*, Fawcett Crest, 1958, pp. 189–195).

The enemies were turned into friends. Why? Because of simple acts of kindness.

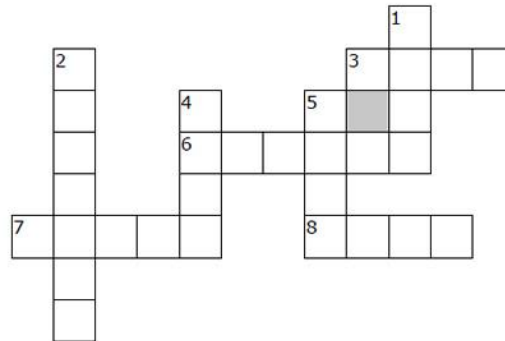
Do the same. Remember the words we looked at earlier by St. Ephraim: "Do not have any enemies except for Satan himself." Jesus Christ, in the Sermon on the Mount, instructed us, "Love your enemies."

It's all hard, very hard. We are Christians, however, and so are called by our Lord to do as He did, even when it is hard. The Lord said in Luke 6 that He will reward us if we obey Him in this regard. He tells us in verse 35 that if we love our enemies, "Your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High." What a wonderful reward! To be children of the Most High God! That's what He promises us.

Love Your Enemies

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Matthew 5:43-44

Based on Matthew 5:43-48



ACROSS

3. A warm feeling of affection for another person
6. Something good received in return for good behavior
7. Any person or group that is opposed to you
8. Something that causes harm; morally wrong; wicked

DOWN

1. Something that is pleasing; morally upright
2. Persons you know and like very much
4. To talk to God
5. A strong feeling of dislike for someone or something

Fr Andrew Harmon

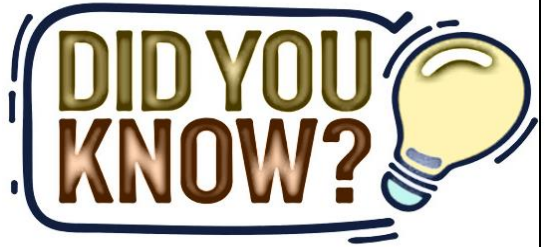
ENEMY
GOOD

EVIL
LOVE

REWARD
FRIENDS

HATE
PRAY

Sts. Peter & Paul Parish HISTORY FACTS



In 1926 by the efforts of Onufry Dziman, Nicholas Merdich, John Lopushansky, Michael Hospodar, and other officials, our own cemetery was bought for the sum of \$3,000.00. With an added fence, it was then valued at \$3,500.00

The consecration was accomplished by his eminence Archbishop John Theodorovich. The first recorded burials began in 1927. In later years, more land was purchased and today the cemetery totals fifteen acres.

"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

-Mark 11:22-25

IN MEMORY OF

ELAINE ULBRICHT

(+ FEB 4, 2009)

**ON THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY
OF HER PASSING AWAY**

**"MAY THE LORD REST HER
SOUL IN HIS HEAVENLY
KINGDOM"**



**LOVINGLY REMEMBERED BY
HUSBAND; HOWARD ULBRICHT,
DAUGHTERS; DOBR. GINNY YAVORSKYI,
KRISTA RHODES
GRANDCHILDREN; BRODY,
OPHELIA, AND VIOLET**

