



*Welcome to St. Athanasius the Great
Byzantine Catholic Church
"Christ Is Risen! Christos Voskrese!"
"Indeed He Is Risen! Voistunu Voskrese!"*

We welcome all to the Divine Services at our parish. Our restrooms are in the Dormition Hall behind the Rectory next door. On Sundays, after Divine Liturgy, our potluck luncheon is open to everyone, especially our guests. Come join us for fellowship.

We celebrated our patronal feast day this past week on May 2nd. Congratulations to all parishioners and friends of St. Athanasius the Great Byzantine Catholic Church. May we continue to grow in God's graces.

Need to request an appointment with Father?

Father is available for confession or spiritual direction by appointment, and he welcomes you to contact him whenever you need him.

Prayers for the sick or other intentions:

If you have a special intention for the sick, birthdays, deceased, need to request a Liturgy or other service to be offered for someone please give a note, text or call Father at 216-532-6364.

Opportunities to Help with Fundraising....we are called into service

At this time, our parish is unable to exist without fundraising initiatives. Our most successful venture over the years has proved to be the traditional pierogi and European baked goods made in our commercial kitchen and sold at the various local Farmers' Market venues. **Volunteers are always needed to help with the baking and selling.** Cleaning the work areas and equipment are also welcomed opportunities to serve (can be an evening after work). **You are always needed, even if it is for a couple of hours.**

There will be no Carmel Market during the month of April. Bakery activities will continue however, for Market Wagon twice a week and to build inventory for the Summer Market, which begins in May. **Please contact John Danovich, (317) 538-7444, to schedule a workable day and time (Tuesday through Saturday) for you and/or your family.**

Opportunities For Service At St. Athanasius

- The Summer Farmer's Market in Carmel runs on Saturday mornings beginning in May and lasts through September. Volunteers are needed to bring products to the market and sell them to free up those who spend their days preparing the products Tuesday through Friday.
- Pierogi pinchers and bakers are always needed (Tuesday through Friday).
- Our worship space needs to be kept maintained; plants watered, candles filled, carpet vacuumed.
- Our social space needs to be kept clean and organized, including bathrooms. Please clean up chairs as well as tables in the hall.
- Items for the food pantry are always needed; (food, cans with pop tops, toiletries), Toothbrushes also are almost out.
- Bags for the food pantry need to be assembled every week.
- In the garden: weed around garlic, prep soil for planting.
- Preparation for hosting after the liturgy during the upcoming Eucharist Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2024 ByzanTEEN Rally

The Rally will take place in San Diego on **June 27-30, 2024**. Registration for the event will be open on Jan 20th, and we are thrilled to invite all teens in your parish ages 13-17. The price for the event weekend is \$380.

10th NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS JULY 17–21, 2024

For the first time in a generation, the Church in the United States will gather for a National Eucharistic Congress. The Congress will be held in Indianapolis and those interested in attending need to register <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/>

St Athanasius will host a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Friday (July 19) at 4:00 PM for registered Congress participants interested in experiencing worship in the Byzantine Rite. 100-200 people are expected. **We will have, available for purchase, the products we sell at the Farmers' Market venues throughout the year. To maximize this opportunity for fundraising, help is needed NOW from many volunteers to generate an inventory of products.**

There is also opportunity, after the liturgy on July 19, to sell ethnic food (ala carte) to be eaten on site or taken away. If we offer this, we will need many people involved in the preparation before and delivery during the event. A planning meeting, relatively soon, is needed to discuss the details. Anyone interested, willing and able to take the leadership in managing this opportunity to not only provide hospitality to our guests (e.g. Bishops, clergy, laity) but also maximize fundraising, please contact John Danovich as soon as possible.

There are many maintenance projects (e.g. repair pot hole in parking lot, insulate the church to reduce utility bills) that need addressed. If you know of anyone who can write grants and/or identify organizations to supply money for these projects please contact a parish advisory board member.

The **sixth Sunday of Holy Pascha** is observed by the Byzantine Catholic Church as the Sunday of the Blind Man. The day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. The biblical story of this event is found in the Gospel of Saint John 9:1-41.

Services for the Week of May 5 – May 12, 2024				
	Day	Time	Service	Readings
Sunday	May 5 Sunday of the Man Born Blind	8:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 12:30 PM	Matins Divine Liturgy Luncheon ECF	Acts 16:16-34 Jn 9:1-38
Monday	May 6 Job Venerable		No Services	Acts 17:1-15 Jn 11:47-56
Tuesday	May 7 Appearance of the Sign of the Cross		No Services	Acts 17:19-28 Jn 12:19-36
Wednesday	May 8 John Apostle and Evangelist	6:00 PM	Vespers	1 Jn 1:1-7 Jn 19:25-27 & 21:24-25
Thursday	May 9 Ascension of Our Lord Obligatory Holy Day	6:00 PM	Divine Liturgy	Acts 1:1-12 Lk 24:36-53
Friday	May 10 Simon the Zealot Apostle	6:00 PM	Divine Liturgy	1 Corin 4:9-16
Saturday	May 11 Cyril and Methodius Apostles to the Slavs	5:00 PM	Vespers Confessions	Heb 13:17-21 Jn 10:9-16
Sunday	May 12 Sunday of the Fathers of the 1 st Ecumenical Council Mother's Day	8:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 12:30 PM 1:00 PM	Matins Divine Liturgy Luncheon ECF Ukrainian DL	Acts 10:16-18 & 28-36 Jn 17:1-13

Financial Report 4/28/2024

Date	Bakery Sales	Building Fund	Candles	Holy Day	Sunday Tithes	Weekly Total
4/28	\$278.42		\$52.00		\$1,807.48	\$2,137.90

Sunday of the Man Born Blind

Acts 16:16-34

Paul and Silas in Prison ¹⁶ Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” ¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her. ¹⁹ When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰ They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.” ²² The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. ²³ After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴ When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

John 9:1-38

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind ⁹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” ¹⁰ “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked. ¹¹ He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.” ¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said. **The Pharisees Investigate the Healing** ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner

perform such signs?” So they were divided. ¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. ¹⁹ “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?” ²⁰ “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” ²⁶ Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?” ²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out. **Spiritual Blindness** ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” ³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

“.....In the miracle of the healing of this blind man Jesus draws a distinction between those who know they are blind and those who say that they can see. The story ends with Jesus saying that there is no excuse for the blindness of the religious leaders. It’s not so much that they can’t see, it’s rather the fact that they don’t want to see. It’s a lot like selective hearing. At times we hear only what we want to hear. Likewise, there is a degree to what we see and to what we want to see. The Pharisees had a closed door policy when it came to understanding Jesus. They couldn’t see that Jesus was the promised Messiah and yet, the blind man came to see Him as the Son of God. The Lord discloses many things about Himself every day to those who are open to His teaching. In this instance He was disclosing Himself in the miracle of the restoration of sight in the blind man. But the Pharisees, who could see, missed it because of their blindness. How many people do you know that don’t believe in miracles. There are many who have difficulty in accepting the fact that a miracle has taken place and are stubborn in accepting it as a miracle. They feel that they are just too sophisticated to believe in such things. But miracles do happen and at times an even deeper but less dramatic miracle takes place that we tend to overlook..... **Spiritual blindness** can take on many different forms. For example, we could be blinded by prejudice, self-interest can blind us, or even politics can cause us to become spiritually blind. Do all politicians operate from a moral and honest platform? How many people here could say that they trust all politicians? It’s true that there are those who are honest and sincere and try their best to serve their constituents faithfully. But there are those who are voted into office and have compromised their morals by giving in to pressure groups on questions of abortion and same sex marriages for the sake of their positions.”
<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/sunday-of-the-man-born-blind-michael-tkachuk-sermon-on-character-146830>



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Weekend Divine Services

Saturday: 5 PM Vespers
Sunday: 8:15 AM Matins
10 AM Divine Liturgy

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