



Welcome!

Whether you're searching for a new church home or just visiting, we're glad you're with us today. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr Thomas, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the offering basket as your offering today. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

This Week

Saturday, May 5

4:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, May 6

9:15 am Adult Education
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Church School after Divine Liturgy

Paschal Greeting

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!
Christos voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese! (Russian)
Christos anesti! Alithos anesti! (Greek)

To our Visitors: Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Mat. Janet Mihalick, *Choir Director*

Fourth Sunday of Pascha: Healing of the Paralytic

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

April 29, 2018

Announcements

➤ The men of our parish will sponsor our annual Mother's Day Brunch in honor of the women of our parish on Sunday, May 13. **Men of the parish** are reminded to give a **minimum \$10** contribution to Bob Madalinsky to sponsor the cost of the brunch. Contributions must be in by Sunday, May 6. The men are asked to stay and clean up the hall after the brunch.

➤ 18th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Lecture will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 7:00 pm at Saint John Byzantine Catholic Cathedral at 210 Greentree Road, Munhall PA 15210. **The speaker is Archbishop Alexander (Golitzin) of the OCA Diocese of the South and Bulgarian Diocese** on the topic "The Place of the Presence of God: Aphrahat of Persia's Portrait of the Christian Holy Man." Reservations **MUST** be made by Monday, April 30 using the online link at <http://www.bcs.edu/2018/03/14/18th-annual-ss-cyril-methodius-lecture/> or call 412-321-8383.



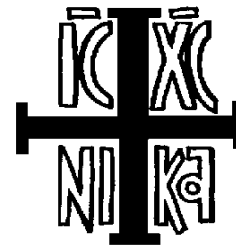
Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm: Known to be Hospitalized;** Georgiann Robes (Sewickley). *Home recovery* (none). *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Olga Bednar, Garnette Kerchum, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servant, (father) Charles (4/20/01); for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, (father) Charles. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of my family, Stephen and Archpriest Basil; special intentions. **From Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servant, Peter Kerchum. **From John & Olga** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov and for the health & salvation of our families. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the health of our grandchildren and Helen Billak on her birthday. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of Georgiann Robes and the Wasilko family.

Thank You

➤ **to Jim and Leslie Wokutch** who are sponsoring the bulletins for the month of April (\$60) as well as all the monthly categories of Holy Bread (\$50), Communion Wine (\$40), Candles (\$50), and Incense(\$10) in memory of Dn Joseph Mell and Olga Mell. May God richly bless them for their generosity and love for God's Church



St Nicholas Church will strive to glorify God through Orthodox Christian worship, sincere love and care for one another, and service to those in need around us.

Paralytic

On this day, the fourth Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the Paralytic and, as is meet, we celebrate the miracle wrought for him.

Verses

The word of Christ was strength for the Paralytic, And thus this word alone was his healing.

This event is placed here, because Christ worked this miracle at the time of the Hebrew Pentecost. For, having gone up to Jerusalem for the Feast, He went to the pool with five porches, which Solomon had built and which was called the Sheep's Pool, because it was there that they used to wash the entrails of the sheep that had been slaughtered in the Temple for sacrifice; the first person to enter it, when the water was troubled by an Angel once a year, was made healthy. Christ found in that place a man who had been ill for thirty-eight years and who lay there, despairing of finding anyone to place him in the water; from this we learn how beneficial endurance and patience are; and that since He was going to grant us Baptism, which cleanses every sin, God provided that miracles should be wrought in the Old Testament through water, so that, when Baptism was bestowed, it might be accepted. Jesus came to this paralytic, who was called Jarus, and questioned him; he related his despair over finding someone to help him.

It is celebrated now, because it occurred during the season of Pentecost, as did the wonders involving the Samaritan woman and the blind man which are commemorated on subsequent Sundays. We celebrate St. Thomas and the Myrrh-Bearers in assurance of Christ's Resurrection from the dead; but we celebrate the other wonders leading up to the Ascension, because they were done at different times in the season of the Hebrew Pentecost, and because St. John, whose Gospel is read during this period, is the only Evangelist to mention them.

Hymns and Readings for Today

Paschal Troparion

Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm!
He has trampled down death by death!
He has become the first born of the dead!
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world great mercy.

Kontakion of the Sunday Tone 3

By Thy divine intercession, O Lord,
as Thou didst raise up the paralytic of old,
so raise up my soul paralyzed by sins and
thoughtless acts;
so that being saved I may sing to Thee:
Glory to Thy majesty, O Boutiful Christ!

Kontakion of Pascha 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 Myrrhbearing Women,
granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing
Resurrection on the fallen.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 33) Tone 1

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set
our hope on Thee!

Epistle (Acts 9:32-42)

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all
parts of the country, that he also came down to the
saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain
man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden
eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to
him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise
and make your bed." Then he arose immediately.
So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and
turned to the Lord.

At Joppa there was a certain disciple named
Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman
was full of good works and charitable deeds which
she did. But it happened in those days that she
became sick and died. When they had washed her,
they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda
was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that
Peter was there, they sent two men to him,
imploing him not to delay in coming to them. Then
Peter arose and went with them. When he had
come, they brought him to the upper room. And all
the widows stood by him weeping, showing the
tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while
she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and
knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he
said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes,
and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave
her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had
called the saints and widows, he presented her
alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa,
and many believed on the Lord.

Gospel (John 5:1-15)

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus
went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by
the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew,
Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great
multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed,
waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel
went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred
up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after
the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever
disease he had. Now a certain man was there who
had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw
him lying there, and knew that he already had been
in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do
you want to be made well?"

The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to
put me into the pool when the water is stirred up;
but while I am coming, another steps down before
me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and
walk." And immediately the man was made well,
took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the
Sabbath.

The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It
is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your
bed."

He answered them, "He who made me well said to
me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked
him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up
your bed and walk'?" But the one who was healed
did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn,
a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus
found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you
have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse
thing come upon you."

The man departed and told the Jews that it was
Jesus who had made him well.

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:
"Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: 'Rejoice, your
Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
With Himself He has raised all the dead.'" Rejoice,
O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the
Lord has shone on you. Exult now, and be glad, O
Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the
Resurrection of your Son!

Communion Hymn of the Sunday

Receive the Body of Christ! Taste the Fountain of
Immortality! Praise the Lord from the heavens!
Praise Him in the Highest!

...For as a gold refiner having cast a piece of gold into the furnace suffers it to be proved by the fire until such time as he sees it has become purer: even so God permits the souls of men to be tested by troubles until they become pure and transparent and have reaped much profit from this process of sifting: wherefore this is the greatest species of benefit.

Let us not then be disturbed, neither dismayed, when trials befall us. For if the gold refiner sees how long he ought to leave the piece of gold in the furnace, and when he ought to draw it out, and does not allow it to remain in the fire until it is destroyed and burnt up: much more does God understand this, and when He sees that we have become more pure, He releases us from our trials so that we may not be overthrown and cast down by the multiplication of our evils. Let us then not be discontent, or faint-hearted, when some unexpected thing befalls us; but let us permit Him who knows these things accurately, to prove our hearts by fire as long as He pleases: for He does this for a useful purpose and with a view to the profit of those who are tried. (St John Chrysostom – *Homily on the Paralytic*)

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: The Road to Emmaus

Questions to ask/review:

- Where were the men going? Why?
- Who was the stranger?
- What did the stranger discuss with them?
- The scriptures do not specifically report how the stranger proved Jesus was the Messiah by explaining the Old Testament. What may he have said and taught them?
- When did they know that He was Jesus?
- What are some times when you did not realize Jesus is "with you"?
- Imagine the excitement and bewilderment of this time when the disciples first learned that Christ was risen. What may they have been thinking and feeling?

Suggested activities at home:

- Read the scripture before bed: Luke 23:13-39.
- Go on a hike with your child.
- While outside, look at the budding spring around you and recall the rebirth of Pascha.
- Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to see you with us all the time. Amen

