

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Many miracles in the Old Testament involve water. To name but a few, the water of the Nile turned to blood after Moses lifted his rod and struck the water before Pharaoh and His servants (Exodus 7:20). Not only was the Nile turned to blood, but also "their rivers, their canals, their ponds, and all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and there shall be blood throughout the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone" (Exodus 7:19).

In chapter 14 of Exodus, Moses divided the waters of the Red Sea, and the Hebrews passed over as if on dry land. When they were safely across, the waters came together, and their Egyptian pursuers were drowned.

On their forty year journey to the Promised Land, the Hebrews camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for them to drink. The people murmured against Moses, asking him why he had led them out of Egypt. God told Moses to strike the rock at Horeb. Then water came out of it so that everyone could drink (Exodus 17:6).

In Judges 6:36-40 we read about Gideon and the dew on the fleece. When Gideon squeezed the fleece, there was enough to fill a bowl with water.

On the Fourth Sunday of Pascha, the Church remembers the man who lay paralyzed at the Sheep Pool in Jerusalem for thirty-eight years, waiting for someone to put him into the pool. The first person to enter the pool after an Angel troubled the water would be healed of his infirmities, but someone always entered the pool before him. Seeing the man, the Lord felt compassion for him and healed him.

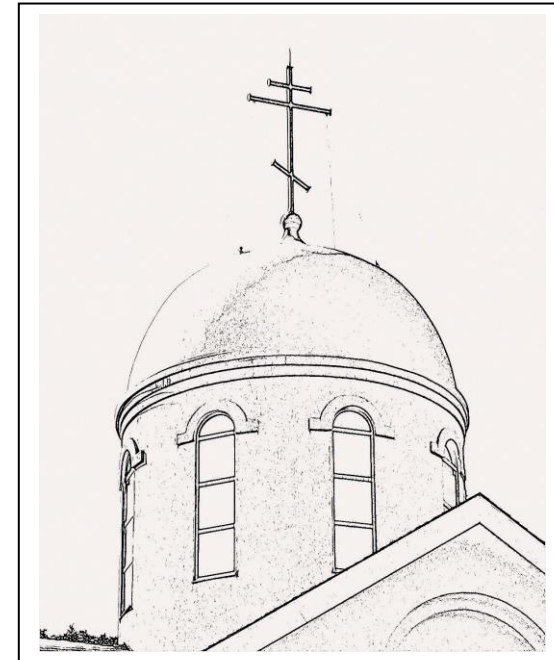
The Lord healed the paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and He remained there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Theologian, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

Like some Old Testament miracles, many of Christ's miracles also involved water, and they prefigure the Church's Baptism, which cleanses us of every sin. In the Sheep Pool, once a year, only one person was healed, but Christ saves endless multitudes by divine Baptism. Sometimes, as in the case of Saint Vladimir (July 15), Baptism can also heal our bodily infirmities.

In the Canon for the Paralytic, the Angel who stirred the water in the Sheep Pool is identified as the Archangel Michael. Some of the Troparia call him "Leader of the Angels," and "Supreme Commander" (Ode 1). In Ode 3 we ask him to "protect us from falling into the passions of life." In Ode 6, we ask Saint Michael to guide us on the paths of life." In Ode 8, we ask him to pray with all the Bodiless Hosts, that we may be granted deliverance from our offenses, correction of our life, and the enjoyment of eternal blessings.

As we remember the paralytic, let us ask Christ to "raise up our souls, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts" (Kontakion of the paralytic).

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton, *Choir Director*

May 7, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA - Paralytic

Tone 3. Repose of St. Alexis Toth, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in America (1909). Paralytic. Commemoration of the Appearance of the Sign of the Precious Cross over Jerusalem in 351 AD. Martyr Acacius the Centurion at Byzantium (303). Repose of Ven. Nilus, Abbot of Sora (1508). St. John of Zaden in Georgia, and 12 disciples: Ss. Shio, David, Anthony, Thaddæus, Stephen, Isidore, Michael, Pyrrhus, Zeno, Jesse, Joseph, and Abibus (6th c.). Ven. Nilus the Myrrhgusher of Lavra (Mt. Athos—1651). Monastic Martyr Pachomius (Mt. Athos—1730). The “ZHIROVITSKAYA” Icon of the Mother of God (1470).

Today’s Readings:

Epistle: Acts 9:32-42 and Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: John 5:1-15 and John 10:1-9

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

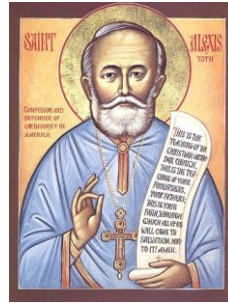
Saturday – **6:00pm Great Vespers**

Sunday – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Next Sunday’s Readings:

Epistle: Acts 11:19-26, 29-30

Gospel: John 4:5-42



St. Alexis of Wilkes Barre

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are **Mary Herelick, Mat. Faith Kuharsky, Marie Price, Zoran Pejovic, Ingrid Kopec, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Mary Tczap, George Stavrou, Margaret Makara, Dennis & Ann Marie Gahr, Michael Getmanov, Alan Diaz, Mary Ann Sivilic, and Lori Ratushnuk.**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for Coffee Hour after the veneration of the Cross. **The reception of the Holy Eucharist** is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.

Annunciations

TODAY – Please join us for Coffee Hour after we venerate the Cross at the end of Divine Liturgy. **Team #3** has Coffee Hour responsibilities today.

TODAY – By popular demand, the next episode of **The Chosen** will be shown at the end of Coffee Hour today. All are welcome to come and see, stay and watch.

Saturday, May 13 – The second of two **Diocesan Parish Council Conferences** will be held at **Holy Trinity Church in Randolph**. These conferences are designed to educate current and potential parish council members on issues related to healthy parish life. This year’s topic is **STEWARDSHIP**. Members of our own parish council are strongly urged to attend this session. Those who are not currently on our parish council, yet are interested in the topic, are more than welcome to attend and participate. Please **speak with Father Gary** if you are interested in participating.

Friday, May 19 to Sunday, May 21 – A **Young Adult Retreat** will be held at our diocesan youth camp, **St. Andrew’s Camp**, in Jewell NY. The theme of the retreat is “Living a Balanced Orthodox Life in an Unbalanced World”. Anyone between the ages of 18 and 39 are welcome to attend and participate. Please see the flyer located on the easel at the door of the parish hall for more information.

Sunday, May 21 – Ss. Peter and Paul Church in South River is hosting a **BBQ Fundraising event to benefit St. Andrew’s Camp**. Tickets are \$25 per person (\$15 for children 12 and under) and include all you can eat food. A gift auction and 50/50 raffle will also be featured. Please consult the flyer posted on the whiteboard in the Parish Hall for more details.

If you are doing spring cleaning in your homes and find that you have clothing and other fabric type items that you no longer need, please bring these items to the parish hall. On **Sunday, June 4**, all items brought to the parish will be weighed. The parish will then receive monetary compensation based on the total weight of items donated. Please speak with Liz Petrides with any questions you may have regarding this project.

MANY YEARS

Birthdays

Monday – Tami Economou

Wednesday – Paul Hanas

Thursday – Manya Shark

Please pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood!