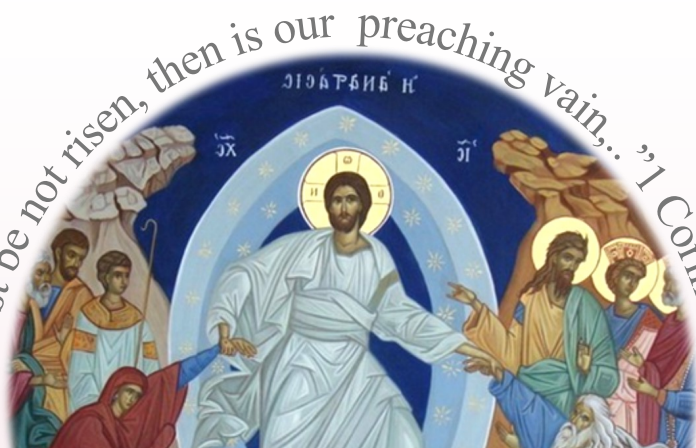


If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain... 1 Corint. 15:14



# ST. NICHOLAS

Serbian Orthodox Church

971 St. Clair Road, Johnstown, PA 15905 ■ 814-255-1853; Parish Priest : *Rev. Dragan Zaric*



## Fourth Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Paralytic

*Kontakion :*

I am grievously paralyzed in a multitude of sins and wrongful deeds. As You raised up the paralytic of old, also raise up my soul by Your divine guidance, that I may cry out, "Glory to Your Power O Compassionate Christ."

*Weekly Bulletin - Sunday May 7, 2017*

## **Sunday, April 24/May 7, 2017. 4th Sunday of Pascha-of the Paralytic**

- **Liturgical Readings:** *Gospel St. John ( 5, 1-15).*  
..... *Epistle: Acts. (9, 32-42).*
- **Donations**

Donation to the Building Fund for \$100 from Betty Majher in memory of her son Alex S Majher who passed away April 19<sup>th</sup>

Large Candle donations in memory of Donna Trbovich Wharton, Benjamin Kaseler , Nancy Adams , Mildred Krzanowsky and Nikola, Milka & Nick Jr Todorich

- Tickets/donations for the **111<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet** on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> can be purchased in the Candle Room. Cost \$15 per person. Sunday School children are free.

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### **Fourth Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Paralytic**

#### **Introduction**

The fourth Sunday of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Paralytic. The day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing a man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. The biblical story of the event is found in the Gospel of John 5:1-15.

#### **Background**

Close to the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem, there was a pool, which was called the Sheep's Pool. It had five porches, that is, five sets of pillars supporting a domed roof. Under this roof there lay very many sick people with various maladies awaiting the moving of the water. The first person to step in after the troubling of the water was healed immediately of whatever malady he had.

It was there that the paralytic of today's Gospel was lying, tormented by his infirmity of thirty-eight years. When Christ beheld him, He asked him, "Will you be made whole?" And he answered with a quiet and meek voice, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool." The Lord said unto him, "Rise, take up your bed, and walk." And straightaway the man was made whole and took up his bed. Walking in the presence of all, he departed rejoicing to his own house. According to the expounders of the Gospels, the Lord Jesus healed this paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and dwelt there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Evangelist, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

#### **Icon of the Sunday of the Paralytic**

The icon of the Sunday of the Paralytic depicts the biblical story of the Christ healing the paralytic. Our Lord, accompanied by His disciples, is shown blessing the paralytic. The man has risen and taken up his bed as commanded by Christ. The paralytic is bowing toward the Lord in reverence and in gratitude for the great miracle that has been done. In the background of the icon is the pool where the infirmed came for healing.



## **Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Sunday of the Paralytic**

The Sunday of the Paralytic is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. On this Sunday and throughout the Paschal period until the Apodosia or leave-taking of Pascha, the day before the Feast of the Ascension, the services begin with the chanting of the troparion of Pascha, "Christ is risen..."

Scripture readings for the feast are the following: At the Divine Liturgy: Acts 9:32-42 and John 5:1-15.

### **Hymn of the Feast -Kontakion (Third Tone):**

I am grievously paralyzed in a multitude of sins and wrongful deeds. As You raised up the paralytic of old, also raise up my soul by Your divine guidance, that I may cry out, "Glory to Your Power O Compassionate Christ." ([www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org))

Sunday School teacher Mr. Carlos Garcia -May 7, 2017

### ***How should I live my life?***

#### ***Do you want to be made well?"***

Today is the third Sunday after Easter, and today we hear a Gospel that brings us back in time to the Temple of God in Jerusalem. In one part of the Temple there was a pool whose waters were used to wash the sacrificial lamb. Around the pool, the sick would wait for it was understood that an angel would come to stir the water, and whoever was the first one to step into the water would be healed. Our Lord comes by and sees a paralytic lying on the ground waiting; however, due to his ailment, he can never be the first one in the water to be healed. Our Lord knows that this man has been ill for thirty-eight years and approaches him saying "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man says, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred." This Gospel story is an interesting reading in that our Lord asks the question, "Do you want to be made well?" As with the sick man, our Lord asks us the same question, Do you want to be made well spiritually or physically? And for us, we usually respond, there is no one to help us. The answer is our Lord Jesus Christ is the one to help us.

This year in Sunday school, we have focused on the question "How should I live my life?" There are many things we can do to live our life; however, there are actually several other questions that go to deeper such as "who am I," "what is the meaning of life," "how should I act," "where will I go after I die?" We may ask, how do I begin to even answer those questions. The answer is found in the Gospel story; we answer those questions by understanding that our help is in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The answer to our questions begin with the truth that I should live my life in Christ, for in Christ, I am a child of God; in Christ, I am to serve others; in Christ, I am to love my God with my whole heart, mind, soul, and strength; and in Christ, I will live with Him for all eternity. For the answer to life's questions always begins with our Lord Jesus Christ. In Him, I live; In Him I am comforted; In Him I find strength when everything seems to be tumbling down. You may ask, "Is this all there is to know?" Actually, there is one more thought to remember.

In second Corinthians, chapter 5, there is one bible verse that sums up the Good News of Jesus Christ. The bible verse goes as follows: *for God made Him, who knew no sin, to be sin, so that in Him, we may receive the righteousness of God*. By ourselves, we are separated from the Father and from heaven because of sin. There is nothing we can do by ourselves that could get us into heaven. We are like the sick man in the Gospel story; we need help. Thus our help comes from our Lord, for in Christ, we put on the righteousness of God, we put on His holiness, we put on the new garments and we remove the old garments of our sins. This is the essence of the Good News that the Apostles preached to the world. Now we come back to our everyday life, and we should live each day in Christ, knowing we are a children of God and knowing that we receive His holiness and He takes our sins away. In Him, I live today with love, joy, peace, patience, forgiveness, knowing that someday I will be with Him for all eternity. Christ is Risen - Truly He is Risen!

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### **Patronal Feast Day of St. Mark's Monastery in Sheffield, Ohio**

It is with boundless paternal joy, that we inform you that on the very feast of St. Mark, i.e., on **Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017**, the Monastery of St. Mark in Sheffield, Lorain, will celebrate its Patronal Feast Day—*Slava*.

Therefore, it is our pleasure, on behalf of the Abbot of the Monastery, the Most Venerable Archimandrite Leontije (Alavanja), to herein:

#### **MOST SINCERELY INVITE ALL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CLERGY AND FAITHFUL**

To participate in this wondrous Paschal celebration of the Monastery Patronal Feast and Agape which will follow in continuation. The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, at which we will officiate, will begin at 10:00 AM.

Also, we herewith notify all, that from now on in, all monastery patronal feast day celebrations will be held on the very day of the feast. In like manner, hence forth three parishes will be designated as hosts for these monastery patronal celebrations.

The honor of being hosts for this year's celebration, has been bestowed upon the faithful of the St. Sava Cathedral in Parma, Cleveland, Holy Archangel Michael Church, Akron, and Holy Trinity Church, Youngstown (Raccoon Rd.)

On this occasion, we express our most heartfelt appreciation to this year's hosts, for their demonstrated love toward this, our holy sanctuary, and in so doing to the Risen Lord Himself and His intercessor, the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark.

#### **WELCOME, INDEED – OUR JOY!**

WITH ARCHPASORAL BLESSINGS,

**+IRINEJ**

BISHOP OF EASTERN AMERICA

## - Friday, May 12, 2017 –Divine Liturgy (St. Basil of Ostrog)

**SAINT BASIL OF OSTROG**—Basil was born in Popova, a village in Hercegovina of simple and God-fearing parents. From his youth, he was filled with love for the Church of God and when he reached maturity, he entered to the Monastery of the Dormition (Assumption) of the Birth-giver of God in Trebinje and there received the monastic tonsure. As a monk, he quickly became renown because of his genuine and rare ascetical life. Saint Basil took upon himself mortification upon mortification each one heavier and more difficult than the last. Later, against his will, he was elected and consecrated bishop of Zahumlje and Skenderia. As a hierarch, he first lived in the Monastery Tvrdoch and from there, as a good shepherd, strengthened his flock in the Orthodox Faith, protecting them from the cruelty of the Turks and the cunning ways of the Latins. When Basil was exceedingly pressed by his enemies and, when Tvrdoch was destroyed by the Turks, he moved to Ostrog, where he lived an austere ascetical life, protecting his flock by his ceaseless and fervent prayer.(\*). He died peacefully in the Lord in the sixteenth century, leaving behind his incorruptible relics; incorruptible and miracle-working to the present day. The miracles at the grave of St. Basil are without number. Christians and Muslims alike come before his relics and find healing of their most grave illnesses and afflictions. A great people's assembly (pilgrimage) occurs there annually on the Feast of Pentecost.

(\*) A new church was built upon the ruins of the old Tvrdoch Monastery in our day by Nikola Runjevac from the village of Poljica near Trebinje. A wonderful and glorious monumental church (Zaduzbina) before God and before His people

### HYMN OF PRAISE

#### SAINT BASIL OF OSTROG

Saint Basil, one chosen by God,  
And of every affliction, wondrous healer,  
With the power of your Christ, Whom you greatly loved,  
The gravest of the ill, you were able to heal,  
Even now, for anyone who honors you, you are able [to do]  
And who firmly believe in the Living God.  
O glory of the Serbian people, do not cease to help,  
For the sinful, do not cease to pray.  
In heavenly glory, you are a saint of God  
And saints are men with a full healthy spirit,  
In you [Basil] we see a true man,  
Free from sin and overly filled with healing,  
In whom the fire of the Holy Spirit burns,  
In whom the love of the resurrected Christ stands.  
To the All-powerful God and to you, we are grateful,  
Because through you, God pours out abundant mercy,  
Through His saint, glorious and of angelic face -  
Basil the Serbian, God's chosen one!