

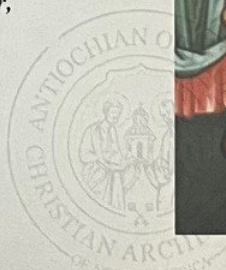
LESSONS FROM THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

People in many parts of the world go to spas to bathe in mineral waters that are thought to aid health. This has been going on for centuries. Indeed, at the time that Jesus lived, there was at one of the gates of Jerusalem a pool called Bethesda. It had five porticos and in these came many sick people, seeking cure of their illnesses. Periodically the waters were "troubled," that is stirred up (thought by an Angel), and the first person who entered the pool at this time was believed to be certain of cure.

Christ came one day to this pool, and among the multitudes lying there He noticed a man who had been paralyzed for 38 years. Jesus approached him and asked, "Do you want to be made well?" This was not an idle question; rather it was one of rare psychological insight. The sick man responded, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred." Jesus then said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." That is exactly what he did, to the delight of the man, but to the consternation of some of the people who objected to his bearing his bed on the Sabbath.

The Church has seen fit to have this Gospel account read on every 4th Sunday after Pascha. There are surely lessons about resurrection involved in this story. It points out that many Christians are spiritually paralyzed in their daily lives. Jesus calls us to perfection, to follow Him and be lights in this world of darkness. Is not the very Church, as a result, spiritually paralyzed in its witness to the world? The Gospel for this day bids us to RISE from our apathy and sin, and through the power of Christ take up the banner of our Faith.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.



Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

A Gift of Blessing

Visit the Church Gift Shop.

See the Beautiful Icons, Crosses & Home Censers

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Church Calendar: Check the Link. <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/service.html>

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor
Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment
DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES SUNDAY MAY 03, 2026
SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN,
PIOUS JOSEPH OF ARIMATHAEA & RIGHTEOUS NICODEMUS

Christ Is Risen! Indeed, He Is Risen!

PASCHAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

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

المسيح قام من بين الأموات، ووطىء الموت بالموت، وهب الحياة للذين في القبور.

*Χριστός ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζῶν χαρισάμενος “

Verily, Jesus is Risen from the tomb, as He had foretold, and hath bestowed life eternal upon us, and Great Mercy.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

MEGALYNARION FOR PARALYTIC SUNDAY IN TONE ONE

The angel spake to her that is full of grace, saying, O pure Virgin, rejoice; and I say also, Rejoice; for thy Son is risen from the tomb on the third day.

We believers in unison bless thee, O Virgin, crying: Rejoice, O gate of the Lord. Rejoice, O living city. Rejoice, O thou from whom didst rise upon us from the dead the Light of Resurrection, He Who was born of thee.

We Celebrate Today

On May 3 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate **Martyrs Timothy** the reader and his wife **Maura of Egypt**; and **Peter, archbishop of Argolis**.

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

Verses

The word of Christ was strength for the paralytic;
So that this word alone was the man's full healing.

Jesus healed the Paralytic at the Sheep's Pool, located near the Sheep's Gate of Jerusalem, where people sacrificed their beasts and washed their insides. The pool had five sides, with a porch and arch on each. A number of people, afflicted with various diseases, passed through them, waiting at the water for an angel to come down and stir it. Once it moved, whoever stepped into the water first was instantly healed. One poor man, whose story is recounted in today's Gospel lection in the Divine Liturgy, waited 38 years for someone to lower him into the water, because he was unable to move into the water himself. However, the Savior merely commanded the man to get up and walk, and he was healed.

In Thine infinite mercy, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Fr. Paul Yerger. Fr. Leo . Deacon Terry. Kh. Janet Henderson. Joy Logue. Dolores Nosser. Rick Collins. George Michael Nasif. Lynne Abraham. Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas. Michael Farris. Athena. Georgia. Andrea Simon. Chuck Abraham. Drew Anderson. Carla Leese.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries **May**, Jay Jabour (5), Donna Thornton (16), Mickey & Jaynie Fedell (18), Cole & Janet Gleason (20).

+Holy Bread & Coffee Hour. Are offered by Richard and Tatiana Martin & their family.

+Keep in your prayers. Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, & John Morgan Mcright. Who are preparing themselves for the Holy Sacrament of Chrismation.

+Mother's Day Brunch Sunday May 10. Is Offered by Rhonda (Thomas)Wright.

+Antiochian Men Meeting, Monday May 18 @ 6 pm.

+Parish Council Meeting Tuesday May 19 @ 6pm.

+Fast free There will be no fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays, not only during Bright Week but until the Feast of the Ascension May 21, for the whole forty days. (This was the decision of the Holy Synod of the Church of Antioch in 1997).

+Diocese OF Miami & The Southeast 2026 PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE (PLC) *hosted by St. Nicholas Church of Springdale, Arkansas June 10 - 13, 2026* If you would like to register or have any questions about PLC, please get in touch with miamiplc@antiochianevents.com

The Church Fathers Teach - Spiritual death

It does happen that sometimes, a person does not feel the need to repent to cleanse himself, simply because he does not see a sin as a sin – especially his own sins – nor sense a need for repentance. He does not see his sins because he works for sin. For he who delights in sin, and who lends the compassion of his heart to sin, and delights in the thoughts of sin cannot see his sin. When a man begins being at enmity with sin, rejecting it with his mind and heart, then God will grant him a great gift – the sight of his sin. It is very important for all of us to maintain a critical awareness of our spiritual state. When we lose the ability to see ourselves from the outside – the ability to be critical of ourselves – we inevitably fall into the realm of charm. This deplorable state of charm means one is demonically seduced by one's imaginary virtues – either one's righteousness or one's infallibility, but in general, it is self-loving pride; the most murderous sin, which no one and nothing can shake.

DIVINE LITURGY MAY 03, 2026

"DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM"

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

THE EPISTLE

O chant unto our God, chant ye. Clap your hands, all ye nations.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (9:32-42)

In those days, as Peter went throughout all regions, he came down also to the saints who dwelt at Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who was bedridden for eight years and paralyzed. And Peter said to him: "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; arise and make your bed." And immediately he arose. And all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned back to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha (which means Gazelle). She was full of good works and of charitable deeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they placed her in an upper chamber. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him: "Come to us without delay!" So, Peter arose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him into the upper chamber. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and other garments which Tabitha made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body, he said: "Tabitha, arise!" And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and raised her up. Then he called the saints and widows and presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

The GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (5:1-15)

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first, after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for 38 years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. So, the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befalls you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus Who had healed him.