

MAY 7, 2017
SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC
CHRIST IS RISEN!

**APPARITION OF THE SIGN OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS
OVER JERUSALEM**

The Precious Cross appeared in the sky over Jerusalem on the morning of May 7, 351 during the reign of the emperor Constantius, the son of Saint Constantine.

At that time the heresy of Arianism, which taught that Christ was merely a creature and not God, was causing great turmoil and division throughout the Empire. Even after the First Ecumenical Council at Nicea in 325, many people were drawn to this false teaching, and the Orthodox found themselves in the minority in many places.

Constantius, the ruler of the eastern part of the Empire, was a fervent supporter of Arianism. His brothers Constantine II and Constans, who were pious Orthodox Christians, ruled in the west. They were both killed in separate battles around 350, leaving Constantius as sole ruler. Also in 350, Saint Cyril became Patriarch of Jerusalem and began his zealous struggle against Arianism.

In May of 351 a luminous Cross appeared over Jerusalem, stretching from Golgotha to the Mount of Olives, a distance of about five and a half miles. The Cross was wide as it was long, and shone more brightly than the sun. Many people left their homes and workplaces to gather in the church and glorify Christ. The historian Sozomen says that this wondrous sign led to the conversion of multitudes of pagans and Jews to Christianity.

A letter from Saint Cyril to the emperor describing this phenomenon, and admonishing him to become Orthodox, has been preserved. The apparition of the Cross remained over the city for a whole week.

The vision of the Cross over Jerusalem strengthened the Orthodox faithful and contributed to the return of many Arians to the Church. It is also a reminder of the awesome Second Coming of Christ, when "the sign of the Son of man shall appear in heaven" (Matthew 24:30).

Text & Image from <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2017/05/07/107787-commemoration-of-the-apparition-of-the-sign-of-the-precious-cross>

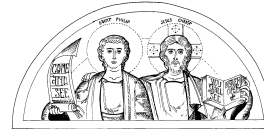


Everyday Evangelist

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Jn 20:21)

Organize a dinner party. Introduce a few non-Christian friends to a few Christian friends who are living out John 13:34-35 ("Love one another").

The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts 11:26)



**ST. PHILIP
ORTHODOX
CHURCH**

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215-527-8571

Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday 8:30 - 4:00

MAY 7, 2017
**SUNDAY OF THE
PARALYTIC**
CHRIST IS RISEN!

COMMEMORATIONS:

ST. LYDIA OF PHILIPPI (1ST C.)
MARTYR AKAKIOS THE CENTURION AT BYZANTIUM
(303)

APPEARANCE OF THE SIGN OF THE PRECIOUS
CROSS IN THE HEAVENS ABOVE JERUSALEM (351)
ST. DOMITIANUS, BISHOP OF MAASTRICHT
(NETH., 560)

JOHN OF BEVERLY, BISHOP OF YORK (721)
PRIEST ALEXIS TOTH OF WILKES-BARRE,
CONFESSOR AND DEFENDER OF ORTHODOXY IN
AMERICA (1909)

Tone 3

Eothinon 5 (St. Luke 24: 12-35)

Epistle: Acts 9: 32-42

Gospel: St. John 5: 1-15

**CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH BY
DEATH, AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE.**

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 3 - Let the heavens rejoice and let 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 to the world the great mercy!

TODAY: Sunday School and Coffee Hour after Liturgy.
Teens meet. Women of St Philip's meet.

SAINT PHILIP'S is a "Pan-Orthodox" parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese, serving Orthodox Christians of all backgrounds in the English language. If you are a newcomer to our community, please sign our guest book, and stay with us for the Coffee Hour today. AND, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AGAIN!

PLEASE PARK ONLY IN DESIGNATED PARKING SPACES; OTHER AREAS MUST REMAIN FREE FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCESS.

AMPLE PARKING is always available for Church Services in lots just across Clearview Road, thanks to our good neighbors at Solar Atmospheres. Thank you.

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH BY DEATH, AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE.

THE ALTAR CANDLES are lighted this week to the glory of God.

MANY THANKS to all who contributed to today's potluck coffee hour, and to all who set up and clean up. EVERYONE is invited to stay for refreshments after the Divine Liturgy. Your help with cleanup is appreciated!

IT IS TIME TO RETURN OUR FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE OFFERINGS. Thank you for remembering the needs of others.

THIS WEEK'S GREETERS: Todd & Kristi Moore

THIS WEEK'S CLEANING TEAM: Kim Berman, Todd & Kristi Moore

THANK YOU to all who fulfill these ministries!

Mark Your Calendar:

Men's Fellowship

Friday, May 19, 7 p.m. - Become a better husband.

Services for Ascension

**** Held at Holy Ascension Church, West Chester ****

Wednesday, May 24 - Vigil & Artoklasia 4:45 pm, Liturgy 6:30 pm

Pentecost

Sunday, June 4 - Kneeling Prayers, 1 p.m.

High School Graduate Recognition

Sunday, June 11

Apostles' Fast - June 12-28

Akathist

Wednesdays 7 pm, June 21 - July 26

Services for Sts. Peter & Paul

**** Held at St Paul Church, Emmaus ****

Wednesday, June 28 - Matins 6 pm, Liturgy 7 pm

Parish Life Conference

June 28 - July 2, Morristown, NJ (Hosted by St George, Little Falls)

www.antiochianevents.com/ny.html#

DURING THE PASCHAL SEASON:

- ✦ We say or sing the Resurrection Troparion every day with our devotions.
- ✦ We continue to share the good news with the greeting, "Christ is risen!"
- ✦ We read the Book of Acts and the Gospel of John in our family Bibles.
- ✦ There is no fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays. (Communion fast continues as usual.)
- ✦ In honor of the Resurrection, there is no kneeling, in Church or at home, until the Pentecost Kneeling Prayers.

This Week:

Monday, May 8: MORNING PRAYERS & Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, May 9: Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
SIXTH HOUR 12 noon
VESPERS for Mid-Pentecost, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 10: *Mid-Pentecost*
DIVINE LITURGY 10 a.m.
COMPLINE & Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 11: DIVINE LITURGY, 10 a.m.
Desert Fathers Reading Group, 12 noon
Beautification (Iconography) meeting, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 13: SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (Stuhltrager), 11 a.m.
Intro to Orthodoxy, 4:30
VESPERS at 6 p.m. - Confessions
Bible Bowl study

Sunday, May 14: SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN
MATINS 8:50 a.m., LITURGY 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Hour after Liturgy
Teen Group meets.

OUTREACH COLLECTION: Skin Care

WISDOM FROM FATHER B.: It takes 10 years to become Orthodox

UPDATE: At Vespers on Saturday, Apr 29: 30 Divine Services on Sunday, Apr 30: 163 OFFERINGS (2 weeks): Candles, \$603.19 Collections, \$610. Youth, \$28. Beautification, \$425. Bookshelf, \$20. Cemetery, \$505. Food for Hungry, \$129.57 Honorarium, \$1,000. Needy, \$1,000. Stewardship, \$6,120. Total received: \$10,440.76

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY