

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.

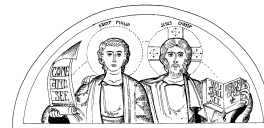
The Lord healed the paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and He remained there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Theologian, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

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).

Text and Image <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2022/05/15/37-sunday-of-the-paralytic>



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

Metropolitan ANTONIOS,
Patriarchal Vicar



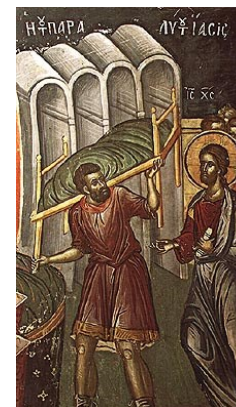
His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor
215-954-9286



Father James Thayer
215-692-0890



May 7, 2023
SUNDAY OF THE
PARALYTIC

CHRIST IS
RISEN!

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:

- ◆ Orthros, 8:45 am
- ◆ Divine Liturgy 10 am
- ◆ Sunday School & Coffee Hour
- ◆ Women of St. Mariamne

1970 Clearview Road, Souderton, PA 18964
www.st-philip.net (215) 721-4947

Emails: office@st-philip.net nbushelli@gmail.com frjamesthayer@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. If you or anyone you know is in the hospital or
homebound and would like a visit, please call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

	This Week:	Next Week (May 14):
COFFEE HOUR	J-K - BAGELS/DONUTS	The Men of St Philip
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Kristi Moore	Gabriela P.; Rachel C.
ALTAR CANDLES:	Chebeleu — Radu's Birthday	Tinjala — Gabriela's Birthday
USHERS:	Steve K. & Rdr Nick	Todd M. & Steve K.
CLEANING TEAM:	Serge, Alex, Sarah K.	Jekels & Teens
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Chris; Mariya; Abraham	Calvin; Angie; Dale

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

This Week:

- Monday, May 8:** Church open
- Tuesday, May 9:** Matushka Olga Sewing Club 1 p.m.
- Wed, May 10:** MID-PENTECOST
Vespers 6 p.m. & Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m.
Festal Potluck to follow
- Thursday, May 11:** Twelve Baskets Full Serving night 6 p.m.
- Friday, May 12:** Confession 6 p.m.
Holy Unction (fasting in prep) 6:30 p.m.
Fasting refreshments
- Saturday, May 13:** Catechism & Inquirer Class 5 p.m.
Great VESPERS 6:30 p.m.
Confession 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 14:** SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN
Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission 9am
ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Sunday School & Coffee Hour

ATTENDANCE: Vespers for Apr 29: 51 Divine Services Apr 30: 182
OFFERINGS 4/30: Candles, \$198.85. Collections, \$97. Youth, \$1.
Building Fund, \$20. Classical School Fund, \$2,080. Food for Hungry,
\$530. Mission Chapel, \$100. Pastoral Discretion, \$68.12. Twelve
Baskets, \$50. Women's Fund, \$10. Stewardship, \$3,195. Total
received: \$6,349.97.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

SPECIAL APPEAL

Three ways you can help as we are gearing up for another **Vacation Church School**, of growth in faith and love for God: 1) See Kate Gohl about volunteering; 2) Pray for Fr. Noah, leaders, and students; 3) Consider offering a financial gift to cover expenses.

Mark Your Calendar:

Ascension
Thursday, May 25

Pentecost
Sunday, June 4

All Saints
Sunday, June 11

Apostles' Fast & Sts. Peter & Paul
June 12-29

PLC Conference 2023:
"A Vision for an Orthodox America"
June 28-July 2

VCS 2023
July 31-Aug 4

**MAY OUTREACH
COLLECTION:**
Skin Care Products

**CHALLENGE
FOR 2023:**
"You are the Salt
of the Earth"

Pray For:

Living	Departed
N.I. Peter, Sarah, William	+Lucy
N.I. Timothy	
Our Metropolitan-Elect Saba	(May Parish Diptychs)
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	+Paul
Faithful in Ethiopia and Eritrea	+Bahia
Archpriest Mark Kh. Joyce	+Kh. Jane
Pr. Andrew & Mat. Taisia, family, & parishioners	+LuAnn
George	+Lida
Linda	+Donna
Tadessa	
Nicole	<u>Catechumens</u>
Raymond	Zachary,
Patrick	Brandy, Nora,
Doris	Gavinn,
John	Lorelei, &
John	Otto,
James	Taylor &
James	Bethany
Lasha B	Denis
Otari B	Lucretia
Helen	Ryan
Wadieh	Christina
Anesia	Alina & Elsa
Mary	Kate
Mary	Nicholas,
Sophia	Rachel, Luka,
Elias	& Leo
Victoria	Michael
Alexandra	Evan
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, & all Missionaries	Tiffany
New & Expectant Mothers & their children	Caden

For the people of our land, and their repentance, healing & unity

The 12 Baskets Full team asks for prayers for our homeless Philly friends —George, Bill, Jim, Jalil, Mark, Joel, Eric

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