

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 (Exod 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" (Exod 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 from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/05/26>



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA



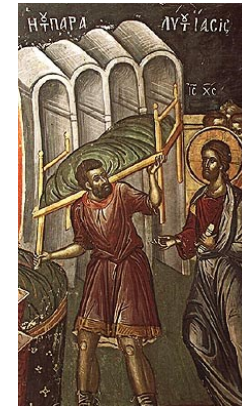
His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor
215-954-9286



Father James Thayer
215-692-0890



May 26, 2024
**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:

- ◆ *Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission 9am*
- ◆ *Orthros, 8:45 am*
- ◆ *Divine Liturgy 10 am*
- ◆ *Coffee Hour (NO Sunday School)*

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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 (June 2):
COFFEE HOUR	POTLUCK—Bagels	Alemash, Almaz, Hirut
PROSPHORA BREAD:	John Child & Rachel C.	Kristi Moore
ALTAR CANDLES:	Tinjala—Mother’s b-day/Maria Gabriela	Chebeleu—24th Wedding Anniv.
USHERS:	Todd M. & Dan M.	Steve K. & Sdn. John
CLEANING TEAM:	Natalia M; Jocey J; Radu C	Catechumens & Karsten B.
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Sh Hannah; Sze; Christian; Zach W; Zach F	Myriam; Conor; Daniel

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

This Week:

Monday, May 27: Office closed — Memorial Day (Memory Eternal!)

Tuesday, May 28: Matushka Olga Sewing Club 1 p.m.

Wed, May 29: **MID-PENTECOST**
Divine Liturgy 10 a.m., w/festal potluck to follow
Little COMPLINE & Patristic Reading 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 30: Vespers (Slavic Tones) 6:30 p.m.
Parish Council 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 31: Vespers & Artoklasia 6 p.m.
Festal Orthros 7 p.m.
Divine Liturgy (St. Justin Martyr) 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 1: Teen Trip to Archdiocese Headquarters
Great **VESPERS 6:30 p.m.**
Confession 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 2: **SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN**
ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Sunday School & Coffee Hour
Women of St. Mariamne

ATTENDANCE: Vespers for May 18: 39 Divine Services May 19: 200
OFFERINGS 5/19: Candles, \$315. Collections, \$402.62. Book Shelf Ministry, \$170. Building Fund, \$500. Camping, \$1,000. Classical School Fund, \$20,500. Food for Hungry, \$1,172.09. Needy Fund, \$65. Stewardship, \$17,962. Total received: \$42,086.71. Cemetery Account, \$200.

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, June 13

Pentecost
Sunday, June 23

Sts. Peter & Paul
Saturday, June 29

Save the Date!
2024 Parish Life Conference
June 27-30, 2024

VCS 2024
July 29-Aug 2

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Newly-Illumined Peter, Alexandra, Isaac, Mary, Basil, Silouan, Luke, Leo, Andrei, Winnifred Faithful of the Holy Land Met. Onuphy and faithful of Ukraine Faithful of Ethiopia & Eritrea Pr. Andrew, family, & parishioners Kh. Joyce George Maria Patrick Doris John James Victoria Steve Lasha Otari Tatiana Linda Zerfenesh John Angeliki Chelsea-Nina Zotikos Salome Michael Xenia Rdr. Luke Katherine Christine Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, & all Missionaries Nathan & family, John, & all seminarians New & Expectant Mothers & their children 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	Newly Departed Shota Marina Tesfeja Edward Aleksander Maryam Maria (May Parish Dptychs) +Paul +Bahia +Kh. Jane +LuAnn +Lida +Donna <u>Catechumens</u> Andrew Lucretia Ryan Michael Daniel Kassandra Christian David, Darby, & Easton Rose Jasper Bryson

**MAY OUTREACH
COLLECTION:
Skin Care Products**

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