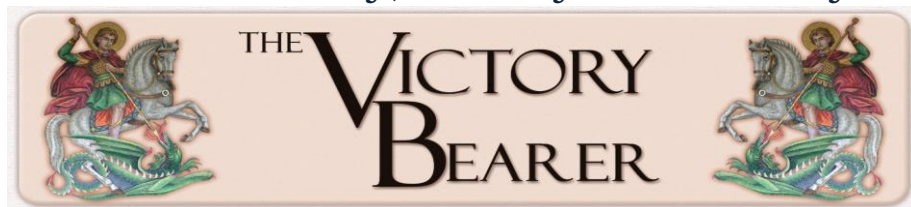


April 30, 2023
Fourth Paschal Sunday, Sunday of the Paralytic Man



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

*Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!
Хрісто́сь воскресе! Воистину воскресе!*

Proprs for this Sunday: pp. 181 - 183

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., APRIL 30 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY of the PARALYTIC MAN DIVINE LITURGY Health of Marian O'brien, offered by Fr. Elias O'brien, O. Carm
SUN., MAY 7 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY of the SAMARITAN WOMAN, DIVINE LITURGY + Dr. Dan Duker, offered by Prudy Peya

Get up and walk

Jesus reveals Himself as the Merciful Savior who frees the man from his lifelong ailment. We share in the joy of this at our baptism when the same Savior washes us free from sin and makes us whole through His grace. Thus His life-giving death and glorious resurrection free us from the crippling effects of sin and recreate us in the image and likeness of God.

Do you want to be healed? Say yes to Christ and then follow Him. Respond to His gifts of forgiveness and grace by choosing to follow Him each and every day.

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!
Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

Happy Birthday Greetings:

April: 30: Rob Dzumba

Wedding Anniversaries:

April 20: Fr. Geoff & Erin Mackey, Ed & Isabel Maruhnich

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

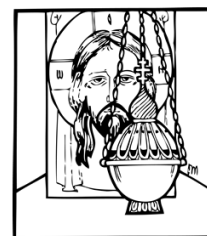
Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

Epistle Readers – April 30: Louisa Hersh – May 7: JoAnn Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – April: 30: J. Yuroskey – May 7: F. Hersh

If you would like to be a Troica Holder, please see one of them following Liturgy.
We could always use the help!



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

April 30 – May 6, 2023

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ John & Mary Salamon

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Mary Salamon

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to spiritually walk with God?
2. How can we help heal others who are spiritual paralytics?
3. What does it mean to be in “want” or need?
4. What does it mean to be in spiritual poverty?

It's St. George Flea Market Time!

Our Flea Market and Bake Sale will return this summer here at St. George Church, **tentative dates: June 23 - 24**. Consider donating items you no longer need to our Flea Market, no clothing please. Items can be brought to the Center every Saturday from 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. or any time you are here. Ask family and friends to consider donating items to our Flea Market. Your help with this event will be greatly appreciated. We always have a great time. *Thank you!*

Free Lecture on the Byzantine Liturgy in Constantinople

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh announces its 23rd annual Ss. Cyril & Methodius Lecture on **May 10 at 7:00 PM**. This year's lecturer is **Fr. John F. Baldovin, S.J.** and is titled **"Making the City a Church: Liturgical Processions in Constantinople from the Sixth to Tenth Centuries."** The Lecture this year will be livestreamed online at youtube.com/c/ByzantineCatholicSeminary. Fr. Baldovin is Professor of Historical and Liturgical Theology at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. He is a member of the USA-East province of the Society of Jesus and received his PhD from Yale. He is a past president of the North American Academy of Liturgy and is the author of numerous publications.



Fun, food, and fellowship were had by all who attended the St. George bowling night on Thursday, April 27 at Sheffield Lanes in Aliquippa. Thank you to all who attended! Next bowling night, coming soon!

Fellowship Coffee and Doughnuts Today Following Liturgy

Parishioners, visitors, and friends, we are thankful that you have come to worship with us today and pray that your participation in our Divine Liturgy will be enriching to you. Following every Sunday Divine Liturgy, Fellowship Coffee and doughnuts are served. Please stay and join us!



Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

Psalm 133:1

A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, (9.32-35) we have a story of St. Peter performing a miracle that is remarkably similar to the healing Jesus performs in our Gospel (John 5.1-15). The men have a similar illness. Peter's words are very similar to Christ's: *"Get up and make your bed."*

It is very clear that St. Peter, in his ministry in the early Church, is following very much in the footsteps of his Lord. Christ had told his followers earlier: *"Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these."* (John 14.12) Then Jesus sent the Spirit, who proceeds from the Father, at the Feast of Pentecost. From there, Peter and the other disciples became Christ's witnesses throughout the world.

Part of the witness of Christ is prayer for the healing of the sick. Anointing of the sick is part of the ministry of a priest, and has been part of my ministry from the beginning. And while I've seen some healing that I attribute to divine intervention, I sometimes wonder why we don't often see the great miracles and marvels we read about in the Acts of the Apostles. As faithful Catholic Christians we, of course, believe both in the effectiveness of prayer *and* in the miraculous activity of God in our world. So why don't we see more of it?

We've all heard or read stories of healings and miracles. They inspire us with faith. They encourage us to persevere. So why doesn't Christ always heal a person when they ask for it, or when the Church prays for them, or when a priest anoints them?

The short answer - and the honest answer is - we don't know. We are not given insider information into the mysteries of the purposes of God. But we do know that ministry to the sick is part of what it means to be doing the work of God; it is part of our ministry in his name. It is one of those "greater things" that Jesus tells his followers they will do. In our community, and in the community around us, there are many, many people who are suffering from illness of body, mind, or spirit. In fact, *none* of us get through life without some kind of bodily suffering and illness. Most of us struggle in our minds and emotions at one time or another as well.

As a priest, it is part of my calling to pray for you, to anoint you when you are sick. Please let me know when you are in need of healing prayer! (My number is on the back of the bulletin). But as your pastor, I also want to remind you that ministry to the sick is the vocation of *all* the faithful. Praying for our brothers and sisters who are suffering is part of our sharing their sufferings. Let us, as a parish, always keep each other in prayer. And let us especially pray for the sick and suffering.

St. Paul tells us: *"Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication."* (Eph. 6.18). Thanks be to God for placing us all in this parish family, a community that can pray for each other and lift each other up to the throne of God's mercy!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Geoff

The Fourth Sunday of the Resurrectional Season

Each of the Sundays of the paschal period emphasizes some aspect of Jesus' marvelous new passover and His holy resurrection. The human race lived paralyzed in the darkness of sin until Jesus' true Pasch—that is His passover—took all people from the darkness of sin into the light of Life. By His radiant resurrection, He granted a **New Life** to all, for He restored all creation.

As Jesus healed the paralytic, He can give us a “new life” through the **holy mysteries** (sacraments) of the Church. On this fourth Paschal Sunday, our Byzantine Catholic Church accentuates the fact that through the services of the Church, and especially at the **Divine Liturgy**, we also encounter the Lord as the paralytic man did at the miraculous Bethesda Sheep Pool. We are able to meet Him at each Divine Liturgy for this same purpose: restoration to a “New Life.”

In the **Mystery of the Anointing of the Sick**, we pray for the physical well-being of the body. This sacrament is a medicine for the soul; for when the body is ill, the soul finds it more difficult to love God and to accept His holy will.

The Mystery of the Divine Eucharist is the sacrament of God's love, and it heals us spiritually by permitting the most intimate participation with God Himself which is available to mere humans on earth. The real Body and precious Blood become part of us—strengthening, fortifying, and curing our weak souls.

The Mystery of Reconciliation gives us God's peace, for in confession we reestablish our fractured relationship with God, and through sorrow and contrition for past sins, Jesus cures our sick and paralyzed souls.

Therefore, through Jesus' glorious resurrection, a **New Life** is given to each of us when we receive these sacred Mysteries of the Church—the holy sacraments—and therein truly encounter this healing power which is bestowed by the risen and triumphant Christ.

Today's Gospel is a call to action: We are all made in God's image and as such, we are bound to each other and responsible for each other; we are called to love our neighbors as God loves us and as we love ourselves. As followers of Jesus Christ, this is our mission.



Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! ~ Христосъ воскрес! Воистину воскрес!

Saint Athanasius, On the Incarnation

“Let them know that the Lord came not to make a display, but to heal and teach those who were suffering. For the way for one aiming at display would be, just to appear, and to dazzle the beholders; but for one seeking to heal and teach the way is, not simply to sojourn here, but to give himself to the aid of those in want...”

In both the Epistle and Gospel proclaimed in the Church today we hear of healings. And lest we be “dazzled” by these healings it is important to remember their true meaning and purpose. For Christ's miracles were meant for one purpose, to bring those who were “dazzled” by them to faith in him and trust in his word. Yes, these miraculous healings did take place, but they were not simply a bodily healing.

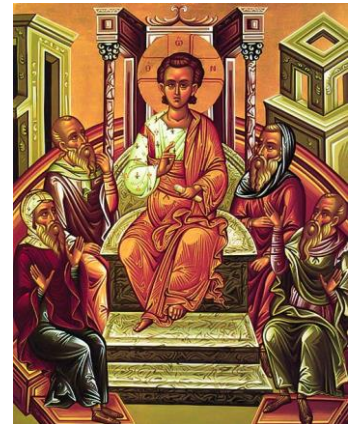
More importantly, Jesus' healings were an opportunity for the one healed to walk once again with God. “Go,” Jesus tells the former paralytic, “and sin no more.”

This ministry of spiritual healing is extended to us also who have been baptized into Christ. Let us, therefore, following Saint Athanasius' admonition, seek not simply to impress people with exterior show but begin to live the life of Christ, giving ourselves “to the aid of those in want.”

Mid-Pentecost

Mid-Pentecost celebrates the midpoint between the feasts of Pascha and Pentecost. Specifically, it falls on the 25th day of Pascha, this year May 3.

The theme of the feast is Christ as Teacher, based upon the words of the Gospel of the day (John 7:14-30): “Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught... Jesus answered them and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”



In the middle of the feast, quench the thirst of my soul with streams of devotion. For you, O Savior, have exclaimed to all: Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. O Christ our God, Fountain of Life, Glory to You!

Troparion of the Feast

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Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238



Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik **Facilities Supervisor:** John Poiarkoff

Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies, or by appointment

Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the pastor

Holy Mystery of Anointing Contact the pastor prior to surgery or in the event of illness

Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

Pirohi Sales 2nd Friday of each month

St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club Everyone welcome to participate

Opportunities for StewardshipChurch and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month.

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! Христос Воскресе! Воистину Воскресе!