

# HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2022**

## **SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN**

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

**Sunday, May 8:** 11am, Divine Liturgy for all Mothers, Living and Deceased

**Monday, May 9:** 9am, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> hour ~ 4:30pm Confessions, 5:30pm Vespers

**Friday, May 13:** 9am, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> hour ~ 5pm Confessions, 6pm Divine Liturgy for deceased Kenton Kurth

**Saturday, May 14:** 9am Divine Liturgy for Ruth Cavanaugh by Theresa Carr

**Sunday, May 15:** 11am Divine Liturgy for Joseph Bacasa by Theresa Carr

Confessions are available before Saturday Divine Liturgy.

All divine liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out the liturgy request form in the back of church and leave it in the sacristy.

### FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FATHER ROBERT KARL

We are saddened to announce that the reverend Fr. Robert Karl (“Fr. Bob”) fell asleep in the Lord.

His services will be Monday, May 9, 7:00 p.m. (Parastas) and Tuesday, May 10, 10:00 a.m. (Funeral Divine Liturgy) at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall. Both will be live streamed from: [www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com](http://www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com)

In blessed repose grant O Lord eternal rest to your departed servant the priest Robert and remember him forever!

### RESURRECTIONAL GREETING DURING PASCHALTIDE....

For our Christian greeting throughout this glorious paschal holiday season, we proclaim the reality of Jesus’ rising from the dead as we triumphantly declare that “**Christ is risen!**” (“**Christos voskrese!**”). In responding, we affirm our profound belief in the undeniable fact of His bodily resurrection as we exclaim “**Indeed He is risen!**” (“**Voistinu voskrese!**”) These seasonal greetings are also used during mirovanije, the festive sacramental anointing with holy oil.

### AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY.....

Through the redemptive acts of Jesus, we are destined for an eternal NEW LIFE to which we, as baptized Christians, already are given some exposure here on earth. The cures recounted in today’s readings give us some perception of this New Life in Christ. However, this new life is epitomized by the sacramental Mysteries of the Church, which give us a participatory foretaste of eternal life with the risen Savior.

### SINCERE THANKS ~

We wish to thank you all for your prayerful celebration and support during this Paschal season. Those who helped decorate and serve during liturgies, and those who provided generously both financially and spiritually, have all contributed to a beautiful and holy time in our parish. In a special way I would like to thank you for your prayers and patience regarding my illness during Holy Week and the Sunday of Pascha. Though I am saddened I could not join you in prayer as we intended, I rejoice in the promise of praying together moving forward. Peace to you all in this blessed time. ~ Fr. Michael Kunitz

### ACTS 9:32-42 -

As Peter was passing through every region, he went down to the holy ones living in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been confined to bed for eight years, for he was paralyzed. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed." He got up at once. And all the inhabitants of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated means Dorcas). She was completely occupied with good deeds and almsgiving. Now during those days she fell sick and died, so after washing her, they laid [her] out in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay."

So Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs where all the widows came to him weeping and showing him the tunics and cloaks that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed. Then he turned to her body and said, "Tabitha, rise up." She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. He gave her his hand and raised her up, and when he had called the holy ones and the widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many came to believe in the Lord.

~~~~~ The Holy Evangelist Luke, in today's lesson from *The Acts of the Holy Apostles*, tells us how the Holy Apostle Peter was going about the early Christian communities preaching the Good News (the Gospel) and healing *in the name of Jesus*. At Lydda, the paralytic Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, was cured miraculously in the name of Jesus Christ, and the inhabitants of Lydda and Sharon thus were converted to the risen Lord. Then in Joppa, a dead woman named Tabitha, renowned for constantly performing charitable deeds, was brought back to life by Peter as he prayed in Jesus' name. The Lord Jesus, by His new passover and radiant resurrection, was the Healer Who cured humanity, which was paralyzed by sin. All creation was regenerated, and now through these redemptive acts, we all have access to a New Life. The two miracles portrayed here show the fact that these two individuals became participants in the NEW LIFE of the risen Lord by the invocation of the name of Jesus, the Author and sustaining Force of that eternal "New Life."

### GOSPEL JOHN 5:1-15 -

After this, there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem at the Sheep [Gate] a pool called in Hebrew Bethesda, with five porticoes. In these lay a large number of ill, blind, lame, and crippled. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.

When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be well?"

The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me."

Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your mat, and walk." Immediately the man became well, took up his mat, and walked.

Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to carry your mat." He answered them, "The man who made me well told me, 'Take up your mat and walk.' They asked him, 'Who is the man who told you, 'Take it up and walk?'" The man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away, since there was a crowd there.

After this Jesus found him in the temple area and said to him, "Look, you are well; do not sin any more, so that nothing worse may happen to you." The man went and told the Jews that Jesus was the one who had made him well.

~~~~~ This fourth Sunday of the Holy Paschal Season is called The Sunday of the Paralytic Man, taking its designation from today's gospel account. The Holy Evangelist John recounts Jesus' cure of a paralyzed man in Jerusalem at the Sheep Pool, which was called Bethesda or *Bethzatha* in Hebrew. This pool was surrounded by five porticos, crowded with sick people. They came to the Sheep Pool because its waters were stirred occasionally by an angel. Then the first person into the water after the disturbance would be healed miraculously. The man cured by Jesus had suffered paralysis for thirty-eight years. Through this paschal gospel, the Church emphasizes the fact that every sinner can be healed *spiritually*, just as the paralytic was cured *physically*, if he turns with true faith and in sincere confidence to the risen Lord Jesus. Because He conquered death and the powers of evil by His cross, our Lord similarly can bestow His eternal NEW LIFE, achieved through His passover-resurrection event, upon each of us who turn to Him for salvation.

### 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.

**PRAYER REQUEST LINE** – Please send prayer requests to HolySpiritPrays@gmail.com

**PEROGI SALE** – Perogi are available in the hall after Liturgy until 2pm.

**FLEA MARKET** – Our next sale will be in the parish hall on Saturday, May 14 from 9am-12pm. Volunteers are welcome.

**ADULT EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITY** – Saturday, May 21, 1pm, Holy Spirit Parish Hall. Join us for a discussion of the Divine Office and how we can pray the Hours in our daily lives.

**PARISH ANNIVERSARY** – Don't forget! The parish will be celebrating its 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Pentecost Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Fr. Michael if you're interested in helping, and stay tuned for more information. There is an RSVP form on the website, or you can contact Fr. Michael for Pani Janine.

### **PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS**

*Saints Cyril and Methodius, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen.*  
*St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen*

### **MOUNT SAINT MACRINA HOUSE OF PRAYER**

510 West Main Street, P.O. Box 878, Uniontown, PA 15401 - Phone 724 - 438- 7149 email: hpmsm@verizon.net

Prayer requests or donations can be sent to this address.

**May 12, 6:30-8:30pm:** Thursday Evening Reflection In-House Program: “*Treasuring God’s Creation: Responses to Our Worldwide Challenge*” With Sr. Caryn Crook, OSF. Registration Due May 5. Offering \$30. Proof of full vaccination and masks are required.

**May 13-15, Friday 3pm – Sunday 4pm:** Weekend Icon Writing Workshop In-House Program: “*Archangel Michael or Archangel Gabriel*” With Marylyn Barone. Registration due May 6. Materials included. Offering \$230, commuters \$210. Limited to 15 persons. Proof of full vaccination and masks are required.

**BCA Annual Lecture to be presented on May 12:** Fr. Radu Bordeianu is on deck to present “*The Church as a Family*” for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lecture of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. The public is welcome to register for and attend this lecture on **Thursday, May 12, at 7pm at the St. John Cathedral in Munhall, PA.** The lecture will also be livestreamed via the Seminary website ([www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu)) and YouTube channel. St. John Chrysostom wrote that “the house is a little Church.” Indeed, Christian upbringing begins in the family, where the spouses are priests for each other, and they dedicate their children to God. Come and hear more about the diverse family which is the Church.