

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023 SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, April 30: 10:20am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy
for Lynne Walicki on her birthday

Please note: Weekday confessions will be available, but the evening Campus Ministry

Divine Liturgy will be unavailable until the Fall Semester.

No services or Confession during the week, as Fr. Michael and family will be out of town.

Saturday, May 6: Due to the Pittsburgh Marathon on Sunday, we will be celebrating the weekend's

Divine Liturgy on Saturday ~ 4:30pm Great Vespers, 5:30pm Divine Liturgy
for Martin Golob Jr. and his birthday, by Janine Kunitz

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

Don't Forget! We will switch to our summer schedule after Pentecost. Stay tuned for more details.

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.

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.

**Please pray for the causes of our four Sainly Bishops and ask them to intercede for your specific intentions:** O Almighty God, our Lord, we bless You, we praise You, and we thank you for all the graces which You, in Your infinite mercy have bestowed upon us. We are especially grateful for giving us four saintly and heroic Bishops: Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, Bishop Paul P. Gojdich OBSM, Bishop Basil Hopko, and Bishop Alexander Chira, who, by their courage, charity, and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. By their great sufferings, humiliating imprisonment, and violent death they gave living witness to their Catholic faith and glorified Your exalted name. Therefore, O Gracious Lord, glorify them in return by Your divine power and inscribe their names in the book of Your Saints. For you are holy, our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever, Amen. With Ecclesiastical Approbation Acknowledgment of answered prayers: Postulator’s office, 54 Riverview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15214, U.S.A. **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