

Message from Fr. Michael....

Dearly Beloved in the risen Lord:

Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen! Al Massih Kam! Christos Imvial! I greet you in the spirit of peace and love.

In the Holy Gospel reading of today, the Sunday of the Paralytic, we read the story about a man who was afflicted with the infirmity of paralysis. He was at the sheep's gate where there was a pool with five pillars holding up a dome like canopy. This was known as the sheep's pool. Underneath the canopy, there were many afflicted with various infirmities and conditions. The tradition and expectation was that whoever went into the water immediately after the movement of the water began, they would be healed of their affliction. Jesus saw that man who was paralyzed, who laid on his bed/pallet for a long time. This man had been afflicted with his condition for about 38 years. The Lord approached him and said "Willst thou be made whole?" The man cried to the Lord stating that he had no one to place him in the pool after the movement of the water began and that another would step down before him when the water began to move. The Lord healed the man and told him to walk and take up his bed and go home. Listening to this reading, we know the Living God through His Divine Light healed this man. This Divine "Lambada" (The Resurrection Light) comes to us and removes all darkness and heals us of all illness, disability, and frustration. The Lord, who took away all sin for our salvation enters our hearts with His unwaning radiance while removing all impurity!

How many times, in our lives, has the Lord been there for us, waiting for us, to heal us of not only our physical infirmity but also of our spiritual infirmity? The answer is that the Lord is always there for us but we are so preoccupied with our secular lives, our material lives, and our modern day self-centered lives, as you may have heard me say previously that that we do not see the Lord standing there next to us! He is whispering to us "Rise take up your pallet and go home!" However, we suffer from selective hearing, at times, hearing only what we think is important.

The Lord had said in another Gospel reading: "He who has ears let him hear!" To hear the `Divine, we must be actively seeking the Divine! Only then may we be healed through God's mercy and grace. If we allow evil or unholy things to preoccupy us, then we will miss the opportunity of our Lord's saving grace to heal us of sin and physical affliction. Call upon the Lord and you will be healed! Ignore the Lord and we would not be made "whole."

May the blessing of the Risen Christ be upon you!

Prayerfully with pastoral love,

+Fr. Michael

Saints and Feasts Commemorated

Pachomios the New Martyr of Patmos

Sunday of the Paralytic

Close to the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem, there was a pool, which was called the Sheep's Pool. It had round about it five porches, that is, five sets of pillars supporting a domed roof. Under this roof there lay very many sick people with various maladies, awaiting the moving of the water. The first to step in after the troubling of the water was healed immediately of whatever malady he had.



It was there that the paralytic of today's Gospel was lying, tormented by his infirmity of thirty-eight years. When Christ beheld him, He asked him, "Wilt thou be made whole?" And he answered with a quiet and meek voice, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool." The

Lord said unto him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." And straightaway the man was made whole and took up his bed. Walking in the presence of all, he departed rejoicing to his own house. According to the expounders of the Gospels, the Lord Jesus healed this paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and dwelt there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Evangelist, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

Commemoration of the Precious Cross that appeared in the sky over Jerusalem in 351 A.D.

On this day in the year 351, not long after Cyril had succeeded Maximus as Archbishop of Jerusalem, during the reign of Constantius, the son of Saint Constantine the Great, on the day of Pentecost, the sign of the Cross appeared over Jerusalem. Saint Cyril, in his letter to the Emperor Constantius, says, "At about the third hour of the day, an enormous Cross, formed of light, appeared in the heaven above holy Golgotha and reaching to the holy Mount of Olives, being seen not by one or two only, but manifest with perfect clarity to the whole multitude of the city; not, as one might suppose, rushing swiftly past in fancy, but seen openly above the earth many hours in plain sight, and overcoming the beams of the sun with its dazzling rays" (PG 33:1 16q).

FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS...that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Angelo Romas, Persa Nizamis, Mitry Ganim, Ted Simon, and Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon. Please notify Fr. Michael if you have anyone else who should be included for special prayers. May they be under the grace and tender watch of our Lord.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy today, we will have a 40 Day Memorial Service for Maria Lambrinos. May her memory be eternal! Our prayers and best wishes go out to her entire family.

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH WORKERS

Whether it be teaching our youth to Greek dance or conducting Sunday School or Greek lessons or working with our Youth of our Parish IN ANY CAPACITY, The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit have mandated that everyone working with the Youth must complete a background check and online Youth Safety training through Sterling. Please contact the Metropolis of Detroit and speak with the Metropolis Youth Director about details at (248) 823-2411. Please go on the YouthSafetyPlatform.goarch.org website and register.

Wisdom of the Fathers

In that case [Matt 9:2] there was remission of sins, (for He said, "Thy sins be forgiven thee,") but in this, warning and threats to strengthen the man for the future; "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto you."

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 37 on John 1, 4th Century

Whether you are an Orthodox Christian, or this is your first visit to an Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us. Although Holy Communion is reserved for baptized and chrismated (confirmed) Orthodox Christians, all are invited to receive the "ANTIDORON" (blessed bread) which is not a sacrament, but is a reminder of the "agape feast" that followed worship in the early Church. After the Divine Liturgy this morning, please join us in the Church Hall for fellowship and refreshments. We hope that you will return often to worship with us.