

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, 971 St. Clair Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905

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SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021

4th Sunday of Pascha – Sunday of the Paralytic

Epistle: Acts 9, 32-42 Gospel: Mark 5, 1-15

HRISTOS VOSKRESE! – CHRIST IS RISEN!

VAISTINU VOSKRESE! – INDEED HE IS RISEN!

John 5:1-15

After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed. He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk. Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole. (KJV)

Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Hristos a inviat! Adevarat a inviat!

The Lord Jesus Christ healed the paralytic. The Holy Gospel's account of this healing is proclaimed in God's Holy Church every year following Pascha. Great joy emanates from this healing.

Paschal joy continues in God's Holy Church at this time. The joy emanating from Pascha cannot be subdued. Paschal joy is unique and crosses time and earthly boundaries.

Jesus Christ's Resurrection is the source and reason for Paschal joy. Jesus Christ's Resurrection created lasting beneficial change. God's Holy Church continues to spread this joy accompanied by the message of the healed paralytic.

The paralytic suffered for thirty-eight years with his infirmity. Jesus Christ changed the man's life completely. Jesus gave the man full mobility. The man was to sin no more.

Contemporary believers benefit from this Gospel message. The Lord Jesus Christ offers healing and mobility for believers willing to listen and adhere to Jesus Christ's ways.

Internal examination of the condition of the soul reflects the personal willingness to embrace Jesus Christ and welcome Jesus' healing. Hearts and minds open to Jesus Christ acknowledge His presence and healing power.

The Holy Gospel is authoritative and has withstood criticism through the centuries. God's Holy Church protects and proclaims written and oral accounts of healing taking place directly attributable to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The lives of the saints and martyrs through the centuries testify to healings having taken place. Sites in God's Holy Church around the world bear witness to remarkable healings.

St. John's Gospel dispels the notion that suffering will never end. St. John's Gospel offers hope to the sick and the suffering. The Lord Jesus Christ brightens the future for every person dealing with debilitating conditions.

Jesus Christ's healing power reaches to the depths of the soul and transforms the believer. The paralytic in the current Gospel experienced new found movement and freedom due to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Individuals need not be limited in movement when Jesus Christ offers a freedom that is immeasurable. Jesus frees the mind, the heart and soul from a paralysis that is not visible to the eye.

Sin and stress can paralyze a person and limit movement, thinking and behavior. Jesus Christ offers the opportunity for sin to be forgiven, for repentance to take place, and for new found freedom to become possible.

Love of God and gratitude toward God make a difference. Interest in God makes a difference. Strong faith and hope foster healing. The paralytic never gave up hope.

Thirty-eight years of suffering did not eradicate the paralytic's hope. The paralytic remained at the pool and was mindful that healing took place there. Present day sufferers do well to look to Jesus Christ with hope.

God's Holy Church is where sufferers will find healing through Jesus Christ. Century after century believers have turned to Jesus Christ in the Church and have experienced healing.

Not everyone has their healing proclaimed in the Holy Gospel. Not every person has a dramatic physical healing. Jesus Christ always makes a profound and lasting difference in the lives of the faithful.

Jesus Christ makes freedom and healing possible. Believers turning to Jesus in faith come to know first-hand Jesus' healing power. Repenting of sin changes the direction of a person's life.

Pascha changed the direction of believers in the world. God's Holy Church offers the teachings and message of Jesus Christ's Resurrection. Jesus' Resurrection destroyed the ultimate paralysis created by death.

Jesus Christ offers eternal life. Jesus Christ makes joy, peace and freedom everlasting. The barriers that limit life are eradicated by the Risen Christ. Always choose life in the Resurrected Christ and experience life everlasting!

The Sunday of the Paralytic. Holy Apostle Simon Zealotes; Venerable Isadora of Tabenna.
May 10/23, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

Services this Week

Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Enlighteners of the Slavs (May 24th) - 8:00 AM - Divine Liturgy
Fifth Sunday of Pascha - Sunday of the Samaritan Woman (May 30th) - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

ANNIVERSARY/SLAVA CELEBRATION - TODAY, MAY 23rd!!!

We will be celebrating our 115th Anniversary of The Transfer of the Relics of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, in a slightly different way this year, but we will be celebrating! Today, Father Dragan Vukovic will celebrate Divine Liturgy beginning at 10:00 AM which will include the blessing of the Slavski Kolac followed by dinner. Weather permitting, we can all gather outside beneath a tent to safely celebrate together. Our honored Kumovi will be Brandon, Melena, Brayden and Marcus Simms.

We will also be honoring our recent graduates Benjamin Vuckovich, Sarah Freidhoff, Peter Malich and Carly Zahurak as our guests. Dinner tickets are on sale at \$15.00 for adults, and Sunday School students are free. Tickets are available by calling 255-6747. We are looking forward to seeing you and your family in church on May 23rd.

Donations Sunday May 16, 2021

Offering - \$893.00 Candles - \$27.00

Donations

Pascha Donation from Radojka & Vanco Nikolic - \$200

Large Candles

In Memory of Julie Lambrinos from Kumovi Dan & Dyne Tomak
Blessings for 45 Years of Marriage and Peter's 75th Birthday From Pete and Josie Todorich

Change in church time - Beginning Sunday, June 6, 2021. Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:00 AM and continue to Sunday, September 5, 2021.

Donations are being accepted for the purchase of flowers to fill the flowerpots placed near the marquis, and at the entrances to the church. Please see Pat Niel with your contribution

MEMORIAL SERVICES 2021

Memorial services at the Church cemeteries will be held as follows:

BENSHOF HILL CEMETERY - Saturday, June 5, 2021 - 9:30 AM (Begin at Bottom)

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY - Saturday, June 5, 2021 - Beginning at 2:00 PM

OLD ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY - Saturday, June 19, 2021 - 9:30 AM

ST. PETKA CEMETERY - Saturday, June 19, 2021 - 10:30 AM - (Begin at Bottom)



June 4-5, 2021

To be held at Peoples Natural Gas Park in Downtown Johnstown

We will be participating this year for the first time!

The help and effort put forth by all of our hard-working parishioners helped make our first "Taste of Serbia" a HUGE success!!! I am reaching out again for your help.

Event hours are tentatively set for:

FRIDAY, June 4 – 3:30PM TO 10PM

SATURDAY, June 5 - 11:30AM TO 11PM

(We will only run from 11:30 to 5:00 PM on Saturday....or until we run out of food)

We will operate in 3 hour shifts – Friday, 3:30 - 6:30 & 6:30 to 9:30

And Saturday – 11:30 – 2:00 and 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Of course we will need help setting up and cleaning up.

Space will be limited so please see Suzette Gardenhour to sign up for a time slot as to not be overbooked with workers at a specific time.

EVERYONE'S EFFORT AND TIME IS ALWAYS GREATLY APPRECIATED...AND WE ALWAYS HAVE A GREAT TIME!!