

Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church
971 St. Clair Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905
Rev. Presbyter Dragan Vukovic
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The Sunday of the Paralytic
(05.26.2024.)

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!

During this time following Pascha and until the Feast of Ascension, God's Holy Church continues to celebrate Jesus Christ's Resurrection with great joy. The present Gospel continues with a theme of joy and resurrection.

The paralytic in the present Gospel suffered for thirty-eight years. The long duration of the man's suffering and his eventual healing by Jesus Christ is a basis for always maintaining hope in life.

The Lord Jesus Christ can make a difference in the lives of individuals who have suffered for a long time. The Lord Jesus Christ is the hope for a cure for what may never seem to be cured.

People passing by the man that lay afflicted for thirty-eight years may have concluded he would never walk. The Lord Jesus Christ entered the man's life and gave him new life. The Lord Jesus told the man to take up his bed and walk.

Occasionally news stories will appear about individuals that have been in a coma for many years. The news stories tell of no hope for the person awakening and then one day suddenly the person awakens.

Hope in Jesus Christ is always well placed. Many years ago I interviewed a man in his late twenties or early thirties when I worked for the Parole Board. The man attempted suicide as a teenager following his arrest for a crime.

The person I interviewed had been in a coma from the time of his suicide attempt as a teenager until his late twenties or early thirties. He suddenly awakened. There is always value in maintaining hope in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ's Resurrection verifies Jesus' power over death. Jesus' Resurrection establishes hope in the most difficult of situations. Jesus Christ offers life in all circumstances. Jesus Christ offers eternal life for believers.

Jesus told the paralytic to sin no more after he was healed. The committing of sins can have a paralyzing effect on a person. Jesus' forgiveness of sins frees the person of the paralysis.

Paralysis can take different forms. Sins will inhibit spiritual growth. A person who sins can have his or her abilities to function greatly curtailed. Relationships are inhibited by sins.

Jesus Christ offers the path to healing. Jesus Christ provides the hope for healing. Jesus' Resurrection is the certainty that healing is possible. The Church proclaims the present Gospel for believers to remain firm in hope.

Take time during this period of Resurrection joy in the Church to be thankful for the Lord God. Be thankful for the hope that the Resurrected Christ provides. Be grateful there is a way out of long-term suffering.

Even in situations of terminal illness, Jesus is the certainty for eternal life for believers. Jesus destroyed the limits of death by rising from the tomb. Jesus' Resurrection is cause for constant gratitude.

Jesus' love shown by His willingness to go to the Cross merits believers always giving thanks. Any person suffering can always look to the Resurrected Christ with confidence and hope.

The Church proclaims the Gospel of the healing of the paralytic to dispel the darkness that comes from suffering and hopelessness. Healing offers light to overcome darkness in human suffering.

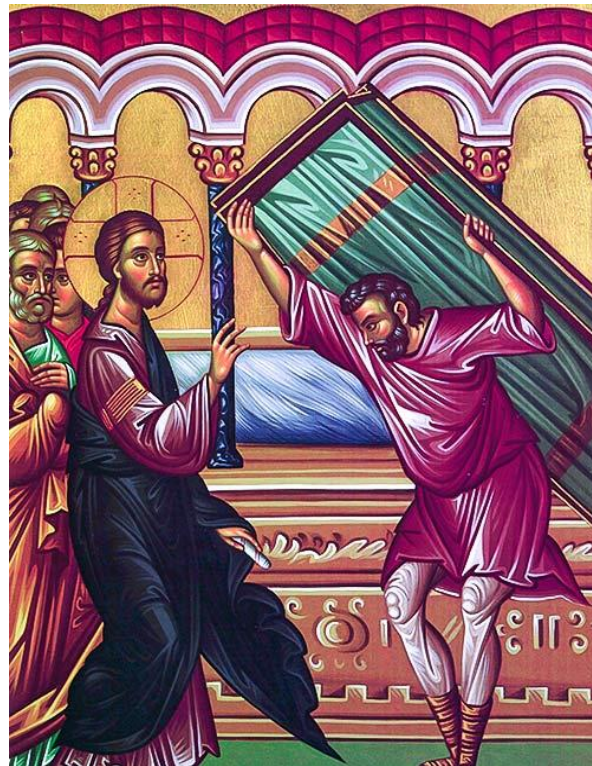
Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. Jesus Christ is the joy of the world. Jesus Christ is the love for all in the world. God's Holy Church stands against the currents of hopelessness and despair.

Think deeply about today's Gospel and the healing power of the Resurrected Christ. Examine the heart, mind and soul and make sure Jesus' Resurrection is firmly centered in the heart, mind and soul. Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

**The Sunday of the Paralytic. Holy Martyr Glyceria, May 13/26, 2024.
Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania Father Rodney Torbic**

Sunday Of The Paralytic

The fourth Sunday of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Paralytic. The day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing a man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. The biblical story of the event is found in the Gospel of John 5:1-15.



Close to the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem, there was a pool, which was called the Sheep's Pool. It had 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 person 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, "Will you 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 your 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.

Icon of the Sunday of the Paralytic

The icon of the Sunday of the Paralytic depicts the biblical story of the Christ healing the paralytic. Our Lord, accompanied by His disciples, is shown blessing the paralytic. The man has risen and taken up his bed as commanded by Christ. The paralytic is bowing toward the Lord in reverence and in gratitude for the great miracle that has been done. In the background of the icon is the pool where the infirmed came for healing.

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Sunday of the Paralytic

The Sunday of the Paralytic is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. On this Sunday and throughout the Paschal period until the Apodosis or leave-taking of Pascha, the day before the Feast of the Ascension, the services begin with the chanting of the troparion of Pascha, "Christ is risen..."

Scripture readings for the feast are the following: At the Divine Liturgy: [Acts 9:32-42](#) and [John 5:1-15](#).

Kontakion (Third Tone):

I am grievously paralyzed in a multitude of sins and wrongful deeds. As You raised up the paralytic of old, also raise up my soul by Your divine guidance, that I may cry out, "Glory to Your Power O Compassionate Christ."

Services this Week

- ***5th Sunday of Pacha – Samaritan Woman
(05.30.2024.)***
 - ***Holy Martyr Glyceria***
 - Divine Liturgy starts at 09:30 AM***

Donations May 19, 2024

Offering - \$ 1,680.00 Candles - \$52.00

Easter Donation

Kolo Srpska Sestra- \$500

Anniversary Donations

Kolo Srpska Sestra - \$1,000

Adam Lichvar - \$750

Anonymous - \$500

Kum Sylvester Gjurich - \$500

St. Nicholas Choir - \$200

St. Nicholas Men's Club - \$200

Steve Purich - \$100

Lazo Gjurich - \$100

Danica Wess - \$100

Eli Cvijanovich - \$100 To the Building Fund in Memory of

Friends; Dr. Robert Mrkich and Dr. Roger Morrell

Pete & Joanne Todorich - \$75 - IMO Nickola, Milka & Nick Jr. Todorich

Gojko, Rose & Kristina Marinkovich - \$75

Joe Bartis - \$50 - IMO Connie Bartis

Delores Gartrell - \$50

Joe Lia - \$40

Dan & Diane Tomak - \$30

Tom & Carole McAllister - \$25

Mary Kelly - \$25

Richard & Suzette Gardenhour - \$20 - IMO Parents

Michael & Susan Moncilovich - \$20 - IMO George & Amelia Moncilovich

Dan Gjurich - \$15

Patricia Niel - \$10

Large Candles

For Health of Olga Lucas from Sharon & Jim Urban

(2) IMO Devich & Lovrich Families from Tom & Carole McAllister

IMO Christine Bulich, Louis & Mary Daley from Olga Bulich

IMO Charles Bulich from Olga Bulich

IMO of Bartis & Pavich Families from Joe Bartis

**Please see Suzette Gardenhour for the sign-up sheet to work for the
upcoming Polka-Fest May 31st to June 2nd.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't forget!!!

**Beginning next Sunday June 2nd Divine Liturgy begins at
9:30 AM**

Polka-Fest – Friday May 31st to Sunday, June 2nd

MEMORIAL SERVICES IN 2024

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

BENSHOF HILL CEMETERY on Saturday, June 8, 2024 – 9:30 AM (Begin at Top)

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY on Saturday, June 8, 2024 – Beginning at 1:00 PM

OLD ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY on Saturday, June 15, 2024 – 9:30 AM

ST. PETKA CEMETERY Saturday, June 15, 2024 – 10:30 AM – (Begin at Top)

Band of Brothers – July 11-13th and 17 – 20th



SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH 2024

Johnstown Slavic Festival – September 20-21st