



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

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Confessions:

During & after Vespers, before Divine Liturgy, or by Appointment

Christ is Risen! Χριστός ἐβόηκε! Χριστός ἀνέστη! Hristos a înviat! Al-Masīh qām!

ქრისტე აღდგა! Cristos ha Resucitado!

Upcoming Services

Sunday, May 3

(Sunday of the Holy Paralytic)

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

Thursday, May 7

(St Alexis Toth)

8:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

9 am Divine Liturgy

Saturday, May 9

5:30 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, May 10

(Sunday of the Samaritan Woman)

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, May 3

Sunday of the Paralytic (Tone 3)

Acts 9:32-42

John 5:1-15

Sunday of the Paralytic

Many miracles in the Old Testament involve water. To name but a few, the water of the Nile turned to blood after Moses lifted his rod and struck the water before Pharaoh and His servants (Exodus 7:20). Not only was the Nile turned to blood, but also "their rivers, their canals, their ponds, and all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and there shall be blood throughout the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone" (Exodus 7:19).

In chapter 14 of Exodus, Moses divided the waters of the Red Sea, and the Hebrews passed over as if on dry land. When they were safely across, the waters came together, and their Egyptian pursuers were drowned.

On their forty year journey to the Promised Land, the Hebrews camped at Rephidem, but there was no water for them to drink. The

Many Years!

5/5: Michael Tscheekhar (Birthday)

5/7: Mike Miller (Name's Day)

people murmured against Moses, asking him why he had led them out of Egypt. God told Moses to strike the rock at Horeb. Then water came out of it so that everyone could drink (Exodus 17:6).

In Judges 6:36-40 we read about Gideon and the dew on the fleece. When Gideon squeezed the fleece, there was enough to fill a bowl with water.

On the Fourth Sunday of Pascha, the Church remembers the man who lay paralyzed at the Sheep Pool in Jerusalem for thirty-eight years, waiting for someone to put him into the pool.

The first person to enter the pool after an Angel troubled the water would be healed of his infirmities, but someone always entered the pool before him. Seeing the man, the Lord felt compassion for him and healed him.

The Lord healed the paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and He remained there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Theologian, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

Like some Old Testament miracles, many of Christ's miracles also involved water, and they prefigure the Church's Baptism, which cleanses us of every sin. In the Sheep Pool, once a year, only one person was healed, but Christ saves endless multitudes by divine Baptism. Sometimes, as in the case of Saint Vladimir (July 15), Baptism can also heal our bodily infirmities.

In the Canon for the Paralytic, the Angel who stirred the water in the Sheep Pool is identified as the Archangel Michael. Some of the Troparia call him "Leader of the Angels," and "Supreme Commander" (Ode 1).

In Ode 3 we ask him to "protect us from falling into the passions of life." In Ode 6, we ask Saint Michael to guide us on the paths of life."

In Ode 8, we ask him to pray with all the Bodiless Hosts, that we may be granted deliverance from our offenses, correction of our life, and the enjoyment of eternal blessings.

As we remember the paralytic, let us ask Christ to "raise up our souls, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts" (Kontakion of the paralytic).

Please pray for...

Archpriest Matthew; Archpriest Lawrence Farley; Joe (Sunday's brother); Thomas; Helen; Marija (cancer); Maria; the nun Paraskeva and her mother Radojka; Ginny; the newborn Sieglinda (for health); Derek (Nektarios) for employment/housing assistance; Miles (Larissa's grandson); Zoi and Valeri (Oxana's parents); Natalia (Nina Slater's sister); Maria Carmen (Joseph Nuno's mother); Carol (Edie's mother); the child Rastko; Vasilije; Sophia; Steve; Alexis; Angelina; Helen (cancer); the child Uriah; Anna (sick); Alexis; Shawn; Claude; Olga (recovery from surgery); Kyle; Virginia (cancer); Lana; Ben, Maggie, Ada, and Stevie; Alexandra (health)...

...Emma Saperstein and the child to be born of her, and Scott; Leanna Marchell and the child to be born of her, Brandon, Elizabeth, and Margaret; Luisa and the child to be born of her (Fetzko's friend); Angelina and the children to be born of her (Brown's friend)...