

Sunday of the Paralytic

Sunday, May 10, 2020

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



SYNAXARION: The Sunday of the Paralytic; Simon the Zealot & Apostle; Laurence of Egypt; Isidora of Egypt

Apolytikion: Christ is risen from the dead by death trampling down upon death and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

Resurrectional Apolytikion: Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great mercy.

Apolytikion of St. John: The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you O Forerunner the witness of the Lord is sufficient. You have proved to be truly more venerable than the prophets. Since you were granted to baptize in the river, the One Whom they proclaimed. Therefore, you strove for truth, proclaiming with joy the Good News, even to those in Hades: that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sins of the world, and grants to us His great mercy.

Kontakion of Pascha: Even though You descended into the grave You destroyed the Power of Hades and You rose as a Victor, O Christ our God, saying to the myrrh bearing women: Rejoice! And to Your Apostles granting peace and to the fallen, You also grant Resurrection.

Megalinarion: The angel cried to her who is full of grace: Rejoice Holy Virgin and again I say rejoice, for your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day. With one voice, O Virgin, we the believers call you blest. O rejoice, You the Lord's gate; city animate, rejoice. Lady, rejoice, for today the light of the resurrection from the dead of the Son whom You have borne, has shone on us.

Readings for Sunday of the Paralytic

Epistle Reading is from Acts of the Apostles 9:32-42

In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Gospel Reading is from John 5:1-15

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.' "They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: George and Toulou Tsaros, Fr. Pat Legato, Nellie Pringle, Robert Calbi, Yolanda Webb, Angela Bougas, Tony Ekonomou, Ron, Jason Vickers, Rex Garrison, Tina Chakonas, Ann Demas, Alex Martinez, Adriana Martinez, Aaron Martinez, Christina Noel Kouzes Houck, Evangeline Xeroteris, Nichole Ross, Daniel Ross, Daniella Ross, Ashley Henderson, Natalie Henderson, Chris, Debbie, James, Avery, Lily, Jacob, Jesse, Ann, Rosario, Antonia Caffentzis, Alissa, John, Angela, Joey, Christine Scourtes, Steven, Matthew & Family, Phyllis, John Zelatis, Reagan, Peter Zaharis, Alexandra Ferrarolis, Leon & Despina Botham, Cindy Xenick, Mary Ellen Evdemon, Marie Sofia Panagopoulou, Maria Hursey, Chris Vamvakias, Effie Sorolis, John Myer, Mike Trimis, Robert and Alice Stoccardo, John Alexander, Michael Romero, George Hambos, Dean Kondilis and Family, Bill and Nancy Manikas, Patricia Costello, Anastasia Smyrnakis, Ekaterina & Anna Shushaalykova, Dora Koudouna, Ana Mourer, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Anne Sakellaris, Denise Badrane, Sia Blankenship, Don Payne, Zhana Temelkova, Stanislava Terzieva, James, Jude and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

Upcoming Services & Announcements

Sunday, May 10	Sunday of the Paralytic (via livestream) Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, May 11	Monday Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m. via zoom
Tuesday, May 12	Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. via zoom
Wednesday, May 13	Mid-Pentecost (via livestream) Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Paraklesis Service 6:00 p.m.
Friday, May 15	St. Pachomios (via livestream) (Ordination anniversary of Fr. Stavros) Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 16	Community Outreach
Sunday, May 17	Sunday of the Samartian Woman (via livestream) Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Men's Group 5:00 p.m. via zoom

Congratulations to our Graduates! If you have a student who is graduating, please email all information to the church office by Friday, May 15 so we can include graduates in the June/July issue of *The Messenger*! **Please provide:** Name and Picture of the graduate, the institution graduating from, any degree, in the case of a college graduate, and what college the person plans to attend, in the case of the high school graduate.

LITURGICAL NOTES

Paraklesis Service of Supplication to be celebrated every Wednesday until the end of the Coronavirus Crisis—There is a service called the Paraklesis Service of Supplication the Virgin Mary which is celebrated during the first 14 days of August, and also in times of sorrow, distress and necessity. During this time of crisis, where people are sick and people are anxious, where life is more in isolation and our community is dispersed, we will offer this service every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., praying for our community by name, until this crisis is over. On the first Wednesday after we are ALL able to return to church, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Unction on that Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 10 - Sunday of the Paralytic The healing of the paralytic who was afflicted for many years. This event bears witness to Christ's authority over the human body: He who can overcome death in His own body has power over all human flesh.

Wednesday, May 13 – Feast of Mid-Pentecost The icon depicts Christ the teacher, foreshadows the teaching to the Samaritan Woman, celebrated the following Sunday, and it is the feast day of teachers. About the middle of the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus went up again to the Temple and taught. The Jews, marveling at the wisdom of His words, said, "How does this man know letters having never learned?" But Christ first reproached their unbelief and lawlessness, then proved to them by the Law that they sought to slay Him unjustly, supposedly as a despiser of the Law, since He had healed the paralytic on the Sabbath. This feast is held midway between Pascha and Pentecost.

Friday, May 15 - Feast of St. Pachomios—Fr. Stavros' Anniversary of Ordination - Fr. Stavros was ordained to the Holy Priesthood of the Greek Orthodox Church on May 15, 1998. This will mark his 22nd anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. Every year, Fr. Stavros marks this anniversary by celebrating Divine Liturgy in thanksgiving for the gift of priestly ministry.

Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project

May 10-16

Lead Thou me to the rock that is higher than I. Psalm 61:2

We are a society that likes to climb. We see an opportunity to achieve or conquer and we go for it. Many times, we get to what we think is the top, only to find there are higher rocks to climb. This can leave us almost perpetually unsatisfied as well as exhausted. When we put our trust in the Lord, we focus on the "rock" of our salvation, which is higher than the rock of career or social achievement. Because many of us have had to cut back on work, or approach work differently, or are merely trying to hold on to our jobs, this is not a month of career achievement. Because we are isolated, there is no social movement either. The rock of salvation is still there to be scaled. This is a great time, without the usual distractions, to climb higher on God's rock. This verse also asks God to lead us to Him, rather than leading us to secular achievement. And in the area of secular achievement, even there, it asks God for Him to use us for His purposes in all that we do, rather than just our own purposes.

Announcing the Parish Assistance Program (PAP)

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is excited to share that, beginning May 1st, we will be offering a Parish Assistance Program, PAP, with BayCare Behavioral Health. The PAP program will provide our parishioners access to free and confidential counseling services - offering additional support when life's challenges become overwhelming. The PAP utilizes a network of faith-based providers and are sensitive to the values and beliefs of those they serve and provide compassionate care to children, adults, parents, and seniors. Parishioners can contact BayCare to request up to three free and confidential counseling sessions from a licensed mental health professional. The BayCare helpline, 800-878-5470, is answered 24/7 by mental health professionals. Many BayCare therapists are also offering telephonic and virtual counseling sessions to help parishioners maintain their emotional wellbeing during these trying times.

Through BayCare Behavioral Health, your parish has access to help for those suffering from the emotional turmoil that results from the challenges of everyday life. These challenges span a lifetime.

BayCare Behavioral Health understands the importance of compassionate care. Our network providers are sensitive to the values and beliefs of those they serve.

Help is available for life issues including:

- Stress
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Family discord
- Marital problems
- Substance abuse issues
- Behavioral issues

Services offered:

- Toll-free confidential helpline available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year
- Problem identification
- Assessment
- Referral to face-to-face counseling
- Referral to community resources



For more information: (800) 878-5470

BayCareBehavioralHealth.org

BC1602865-0416 BC BH 3425

Catechism Lesson For Adults and Teenagers

Sunday, May 10

Sunday of the Paralytic

Read Gospel Passage, John 5: 1-15

Discussion questions:

1. How do you think the man in this story who had been disabled for 38 years felt?
 - a. Helpless and dependent
 - b. Bitter and angry
 - c. Discouraged and depressed
 - d. Resigned to his condition
2. How do you think the man felt when Jesus asked him, “Do you want to get well?”
 - a. Insulted
 - b. Cared for
 - c. Challenged
 - d. Mocked
 - e. Hopeful
 - f. Cynical
3. How can you relate to this story in terms of your life?
 - a. I feel like I’ve been stuck where I’m at for 38 years!
 - b. Someone else always seems to “get in“ ahead of me
 - c. I feel powerless to change things
 - d. I’m really not sure why I’m doing what I’m doing
4. What is the closest Jesus has come to saying to you, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk”?
 - a. When I decided to turn my life over to Him
 - b. When I experienced His healing
 - c. When I had a self-pity problem
 - d. When I was overly dependent on others
 - e. When I lost my will to get better
 - f. It hasn’t really happened to me
 - g. Other _____
5. If Jesus were to drop in on you today, what would He ask you?
 - a. “Do you want to get well?”
 - b. “What are you doing with your life?”
 - c. “Are you satisfied with your life?”
 - d. “Are you looking for the real thing?”
 - e. “When will you quit complaining and be content?”
6. When you go through something that leaves you feeling like a cripple, what have you found helpful?
 - a. Time alone with God
 - b. Talking things over with a friend.
 - c. Listening to music
 - d. Getting a good night’s sleep
 - e. Forgetting the past and getting on with life
 - f. Other _____
7. What ailments—physical, spiritual or otherwise—do you need Jesus to treat in your life?