



Welcome!

Whether you are searching for a new church home or just visiting, we are glad you're with us today. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr Thomas, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the offering basket as your offering today. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

Schedule This Week

Sunday, May 15
10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
Tuesday, May 17
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
Wednesday, May 18: Midfeast of Pentecost
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Thursday, May 19
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
Saturday, May 21
5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil
Sunday, May 22
10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

To our Visitors: Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*

Sunday of the Paralytic

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org
May 15, 2022

Announcements

➤ Thank you to all who sponsored all the gift bags for new moms and babies through our new ministry to help women in crisis pregnancies. Those gift bags are due today. Your donations will help clients of the Women's Choice Network of Pittsburgh. God bless you for your generosity and love! Please see Matushka Joni Soroka or Mary Hoffman with questions.

➤ Next Sunday will be our last Church School class for the school year. We will honor our students and teachers near the end of the service. Thank you to everyone who was so diligent throughout the year. We will publish the names of our teachers next week.

➤ The Parish Council members for 2022 are:
Rector – Fr Thomas Soroka
President – Melissa Graff
Vice President – Olga Noskov
Secretary – Deborah Burgess
Treasurer – John Kowalcheck
Financial Secretary – Kristie Mertz
Doug Dean
Deacon Luke Loboda
Deacon John Skowron

The Parish Council is the executive body that assists the Parish Priest in administration of the Parish and normally meets under his presidency. The Parish Council is comprised of the Parish Priest, *ex officio*, and members elected by the Parish Assembly and any *ex officio* and appointed members as may be provided for by Diocesan or Parish Bylaws. The Parish Council seeks to foster the spiritual and material welfare of the Parish. (OCA Statute XII,8a)

Prayers

➤ Ill and infirm: *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka
➤ Vigil Lights From Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell for the newly departed servant, Jan Pravlochak and for Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From Charles A. Wasilko for the departed servants, mother, Mary and grandmothers, Susan & Katherine. From Doris Wasilko for the departed servant, uncle, Joe Dichko; for the health of the Wasilko family. From Marsha Wasilko for the departed servants, mother, Mary; grandmothers, Susan Wasilko & Katherine Dyczko, and uncle, Joseph Dichko. From Richard & Sonia Blaha for the departed servants, mothers, Dorothy & Betty, grandmothers, Helen, Mary, Victoria & Marie, godmother, Wilma. From Lindy Hamilton for the health of Elaine Hamilton and Victoria Scott. From Mat. Joni Soroka for our departed mothers and grandmothers; for the health of my uncle, George Corey. From John & Olga for the health of Galina Vilcova and Dana Emma Kowalcheck & child to be born. From Kristie Mertz for the health of Bill, Janice, Caleb, and Miranda. From John Mahalchak for the health of friends & family, Cheryl, John, Gregory, Cindy, Daniel, Mary, Kayla Elizabeth. From Tatyana Sechler for the departed servants, Diana, Polina, Slava, Galina, Luba, Bruce, Marina, Lida; for the health of Daniel, Tatyana, Veronika, Tomas, Cristofer, Nina, and Valera.

Thank You

➤ to our May donors: Fr Thomas and Matushka Joni Soroka (Incense \$10) for the health and salvation of daughter, Jacqueline, on the occasion of her birthday.

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: The Road to Emmaus
Questions to ask/review:

- Where were the men going? Why?
- Who was the stranger?
- What did the stranger discuss with them?
- The scriptures do not specifically report how the stranger proved Jesus was the Messiah by explaining the Old Testament. What may he have said and taught them?
- When did they know that He was Jesus?
- What are some times when you did not realize Jesus is "with you"?
- Imagine the excitement and bewilderment of this time when the disciples first learned that Christ was risen. What may they have been thinking and feeling?

Suggested activities at home:

- Read the scripture before bed: Luke 23:13-39.
- Go on a hike with your child.
- While outside, look at the budding spring around you and recall the rebirth of Pascha.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to see you with us all the time. Amen.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, May 15

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Pentecostarion)

By Thy divine intercession, O Lord,

as Thou didst raise up the Paralytic of old,

so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and

thoughtless acts;

so that being saved I may sing to Thee://

“Glory to Thy power, O compassionate Christ!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 8 Kontakion (Pascha)

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal,

Thou didst destroy the power of death.

In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God,

proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing

Women,//

granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing

Resurrection on the fallen.

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (Pentecostarion)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have

set our hope on Thee! (Ps. 32:22)

Epistle of the Sunday (Acts 9:32-42)

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And

Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.” Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

Gospel of the Sunday (John 5:1-15)

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight

years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?”

The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”

Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.”

He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’ ”

Then they asked him, “Who is the Man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’” But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”

The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

“Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: ‘Rejoice, your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! With Himself He has raised all the dead.’”
Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now, and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

Communion Hymn of the Sunday

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

On this Sunday the most wonderful healing of the paralytic by the Sheep's Pool, who for 38 years languished in severe illness is glorified. According to the explanation of the Synaxarion, this miracle is celebrated on this Sunday because Christ did it during the Jewish Pentecost. In the healing of the paralytic the Holy Church sees the paradigm of the renewal of life of all humanity through the resurrection of Christ. "Christ", she sings in the hymns of this day, "the first-born of creation, and the Creator of all things that have come into being, is risen from the dead as the first-fruits of them that slept. He renewed in Himself the corrupted nature of our race." "On this day is death despoiled and Hades brought to naught. And the race of men is vested in incorruption. We therefore cry to Thee with thanksgiving: glory, O Christ, to Thy arising". Together with this the Holy Church, reminding us about the paralysis of our souls through sin, calls each of us to appeal: "O Most Gracious One, heal my soul which has been ailing for many years, as Thou healed the paralytic before, that I may follow Thy way, which Thou hast shown to those who love Thee"; "As Thou raised up the paralytic, O Christ, so also make whole my soul which is paralyzed by transgressions, and help me to walk in Thine upright ways". As the miracle remembered now was accomplished by the Savior at the Sheep's Pool, in which for the healing of sufferings, "an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons and troubled the water" in some troparia of the canon he is glorified as the Holy Archistrategus Michael. Praising him as the "chief of angels", "leader" of the "highest ministers", the Holy Church hymns him as the "guide for the erring" and, in view of our spiritual paralysis, prayerfully appeals to him: "pray for our enlightenment", "pacify our life, which is ever troubled by the assaults of the serpent and by the circumstances of an ever unstable life", "with us pray for the deliverance of our sins and correction of our way of life", and "the enjoyment of eternal blessings".