

Adult Bible Study - Monday, May 20th @ 7:00 pm. Come join us and learn about the richness of our faith through scripture. Bring your bibles, we will be using the Orthodox Study Bible. For more information call the office at: (773) 334-4515 and speak to Father John.

Spiritual Book Club – Will not be meeting today.

For our church festival this July, St. Andrew's PARISHIONERS BOUTIQUE needs your help. Look around your house and in your closets. If you find anything that you can donate, please bring them to the church office. Check the pamphlet inside the Sunday Bulletin for more information or call Semi Karnezos at (773) 654-3450.



Tuesday, June 18 - Dinner Night Out. Valley Lo Sports Club, Glenview. 6pm Fellowship, 7pm Dinner
What a great way to wind down from a busy winter and spring... dinner out with our Philoptochos members, welcoming friends, spouses, and guests. Pricing is \$40 per person, and includes appetizers, choice of entree (chicken piccata or roast pork loin), salad, dessert. Cash bar. Join us on the patio, and then dinner indoors. To reserve your seat, please contact Vickie or Terri.

Saturday, November 16, 2019. Children's Medical Fund Luncheon - Chicago Marriott Downtown Reception 11am, Luncheon 12, noon

Yes, we are looking at November... However, this specific fundraiser/luncheon is integral in Philoptochos' mission of helping those most in need. This fund has sought to provide medical assistance to critically ill Greek, Greek American and Orthodox children, whose families are unable to afford appropriate and necessary medical treatment. The Fund also provides grants for innovative research programs to pediatric hospitals throughout the United States and to organizations with special programs that care for children with critical and life threatening illnesses. It's a big deal, and ask our membership to be supportive of this event. Reservations are now being taken. In order to reserve our table (or tables), we need your commitment. Please make your \$125 check payable to SAWPS. The sooner we have your payment, the sooner we can reserve our table(s). There will be over 800 in attendance. Come be part of the excitement, knowing that you are supporting children in need.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Tuesday, May 21st, 2019

Saints Constantine & Helen

Orthros at 9:00 a.m. Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Saint Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church

"Proclaiming Orthodoxy Since 1926"

5649 North Sheridan Road • Chicago, IL 60660

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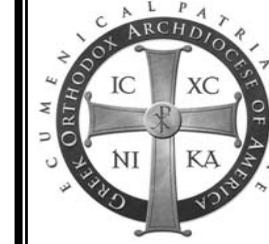
E-mail: info@standreworthodox.org

Website: StAndrewOrthodox.org

Fr. John N. Kalomas – Proistamenos

Fr. Athanasios Minetos - Associate Priest

Fr. John Kutulas – In Loving Memory



SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019 (Sunday of the Paralytic)

STEWARDSHIP QUOTE – *There Are Two Types Of Paralysis, The Physical And The Spiritual. The Physical Is Not Having The Ability To Be Able To Do Something That We Wish To Do. The Spiritual Is The Choice We Make In Not Doing Something Both Negative And Positive. Let Not The Spiritual Affect Our Positive Choice Because Of Negative Feelings.*

MEMORIAL

Modestos Zografopoulos - 40 days

Helen Paris Christ - 1 year

Marie Paris Klink - 25 years

Sophia Anton - 28 years

Angelo Anton - 32 years

TRISAGION

Adamantios & Viktoria

May Their Memory Be Eternal!!!

Coffee Hour is being sponsored by the Julian-Paris Family in loving memory of the Paris Sisters and by The Zografopoulos Family in loving memory of Modestos.

40 DAY BLESSING

Ioannis Norvel Melidis

We invite the entire Parish Family to join in prayer as the servant of God, Ioannis Norvel along with his parents, Theresa and Savas Melidis, present him to God within the church following the fortieth day of his birth. We offer congratulations and prayers that God continue to bless them with health and happiness.

Sunday Of the Paralytic

Today is called the Sunday of the Paralytic in the Orthodox liturgical calendar. It is so called because of the Gospel appointed to be read today, John 5:1, which recounts the healing by our Lord Jesus Christ of a paralytic at the Sheep Pool, called Bethesda. (You have probably heard of a very famous hospital in Maryland, near Washington D.C., called “Bethesda” – and, if you didn’t know before, now you know that it’s called that because of the Gospel association of Bethesda with healing.) In 1988, Gerondissa and my late wife and two of our children were in Jerusalem and stood right at the side of the ruins of the Pool of Bethesda. It is located in a Muslim quarter of Jerusalem, just behind the beautiful crusader church of St. Anna, which stands next to the site of the house in which the parents of the Theotokos lived, and where the Virgin Mary was also born.

There is a back story here. As you know, in the first century the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and so, until the 19th century, there was no visible, above-ground evidence for this pool. As a result, skeptical biblical scholars decided that both the place and the and the story in the Gospel were fiction; this Gospel, they maintained (without any actual evidence, I may say) was actually written long after St. John’s death and by someone who wasn’t familiar with the layout and geography of Jerusalem in the time of Christ.

But then, however, archaeologists discovered the ruins under much rubble of a holding tank that exactly corresponds to the Pool of Bethesda in St. John’s account! Further digging confirmed this. Of course this didn’t stop the skeptics, who have continued to maintain their impious and even unscientific views of Scripture in general. But the ruins of the pool are there: and it has been verified by scientists to be the real McCoy; you can go there and pray and read the account of the healing of the paralytic on the spot where it happened! It’s also called the Sheep Pool, by the way, because this was the place where sheep that were to be sacrificed in the nearby Temple were washed and inspected to be sure that they were without blemish. There were also five porches or porticos around the pool, and in the shelter of these marble porches great numbers of the sick and diseased gathered, waiting for what was called “the troubling of the water.” What was this about, this “troubling of the water”? According to Jewish belief, once a year an angel would descend and stir up the waters, and the first person to get into the water when the angel did this, would be healed.

According to the Orthodox patristic tradition, there is more to this story. Our Holy Fathers teach us that when Adam was

expelled from Eden he took with him two seeds from the Tree of Life. One of these seeds he planted in what was much later to become a suburb of Jerusalem. This seed grew into the tree that became the wood of the Cross, and this spot is marked today by an Orthodox monastery dedicated to the Holy Cross. The other seed, however, was dropped accidentally by Adam, and the waters of a spring immediately came to the surface and hid it; in time this became what we call the Pool of Bethesda, or the Sheep Pool. And thus, each year, on the anniversary of Adam’s having dropped this seed there, an angel from heaven descended and stirred the water into a whirlpool, seeking the seed. But of course the action of a holy angel is filled with grace – grace so strong that it could heal someone of even a dire or terminal illness.

This is the “back story” to this Gospel account. (Of course modern bible scholars discount all of this because they discount anything that is miraculous.) And this “back story” has taken up most of my sermon this morning. But there is one other thing I need to point out before concluding, and that is this: **THE LORD’S HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC REMINDS US MOST FORCEFULLY THAT ALL OF US, TO ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER, AND IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, ARE ALSO “PARALYZED” – NOT NECESSARILY PHYSICALLY, BUT SPIRITUALLY, AND SOMETIMES ALSO INTELLECTUALLY AND MENTALLY.**

Let me explain. People who are not open to knowledge and learning and new ideas are intellectually paralyzed and, I’m afraid, this describes the majority of people in our society and culture today, including many of those who attend our very left-leaning and agnostic colleges and universities and are considered “educated”. These are people who have turned their backs on Christ, who is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life,” and they have closed their minds to the miraculous and the Church which was established upon the faith of St. Peter and the other Apostles. And then there are those who are mental paralyzed – those suffering from mental illnesses and from advanced forms of dementia.

And finally, there are those who are us, we are spiritually paralyzed – and that describes the majority of us, we who make little or no effort to appeal to the Lord for healing of our spiritual illnesses and ailments. We who make little or no attempt to cooperate with the powerful grace and energy that God sends to us every day and which we turn away from; we who confess our sins and then turn right around and do them all over again, demonstrating our complete lack of repentance

and determination to change. **WE SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN, OR DON’T BELIEVE, THAT THE LORD IS SOVEREIGN OVER ANY AND ALL DIFFICULTIES AND ILLNESSES. AND THIS GOSPEL ACCOUNT SHOWS THAT HE IS ALSO SOVEREIGN OVER SINS.**

Remember, in this particular healing, Christ says that the man’s paralysis is the result of his sins and that if he continues to sin, an even worse malady will come upon him. Now, not all physical illness is the result of sin, but this Gospel lets us know that some illness is! However, brothers and sisters, we can know for sure that all spiritual illness is the result of sin. Sins that we repeatedly commit; sins with which we do even struggle; sins that we do not seek the Lord’s strength to deal with; sins that we justify to ourselves and others – all of these plant a seed of spiritual disease that grows and increases all through our lives, becoming stronger and stronger, greater and greater in their size and ability to corrupt us...unless, that is, we finally humble down and seek the Lord’s healing.

Of course, we can receive healing and grace and strength through the traditional channels of grace, which are the sacraments or Holy Mysteries of the Church – in particular worthily-received Holy Communion and sincere and frequent Confession. But we must never overlook the fact that our Lord can and often acts directly on the human soul. This direct contact between the Lord Jesus Christ and a troubled soul is often overlooked, underestimated, or ignored. But this contact, this healing, comes specifically through an active and mature prayer life and through a broken heart, a heart that realizes, finally, that it can do nothing for itself without Christ, as the Psalm says, “a broken and a contrite heart, God will not despise.”

Amen. Christ is risen!

Taken from PRAVMIR.COM Orthodox Christianity and the World

EPISTLE READING

Acts 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

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.