



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

Sunday of the Paralytic + May 11, 2025 + Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Cyril & Methodius + Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!



## Hymns for Today's Service

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.

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!"

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.

### Please Sing Along!

Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies along with the choir throughout the Divine Liturgy is encouraged!

## Epistle Reading - 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 Reading - 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

**DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS:** A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting. If you have questions please let us know!

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.



## This Week's Schedule

### Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

#### **THIS WEEKEND - The Paralytic**

Saturday, May 10th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, May 11th - Mothers Day

Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

*Coffee Hour, Church School*

#### **THIS WEEK**

Wed @ 11 PM - 1 PM Church Open for Prayer

Wed @ 6 PM Akathist to St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre

(NOTICE above time changes)

**Bible Study is on Spring Break**

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#### **NEXT WEEKEND - Samaritan Woman**

Saturday, May 17th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, May 18th

Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM  
*Coffee Hour, Church School, Parish Council Meeting*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### & Upcoming Parish Events

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#### +++ Weekly / Monthly +++

**Bible Study** Thursdays at 11 AM. Everyone is welcome. We are reading through the Acts of the Apostles with discussions. **Bible Study is currently on break.**

**ORTHODOXY 101** Saturdays @ 3:30 PM: Orthodoxy 101 is for visitors, inquirers, catechumens or anyone interested in learning more about the foundations of our faith. 1 hour followed by Great Vespers. **Orthodoxy 101 is currently on break.**

**Parish Potlucks** are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is April 27th.

**Friends of the Poor** is usually the second Saturday of each month. **Next Friends of the Poor is May 10th**

**Holy Trinity Parish Council** is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, May 18th @ 11:30 AM.

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** Because our next scheduled Parish Council Meeting falls on Mother's Day we will delay our meeting one week until May 18th @ 11:30 AM.

**FERN KNOLL BURIAL PARK:** Due to the bridge collapsing at the entrance of Fern Knoll Burial Park anyone wishing to make a donation in memory of a loved one(s) who are buried at Fern Knoll Burial Park Dallas, PA can do so by: (1) Go to Gofundme fundraiser by Paul Kaminski: Aid Needed to Restore Fern Knoll Burial Park Bridge or (2) Check payable to: Fern Knoll Burial Park and mail to Paul Kaminski 44 Jeanette Street, Mocanaqua, PA 18655. Any donation will be greatly appreciated to restore the bridge/entrance to the Burial Park.

**COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE:** If anyone still has items they'd like to donate, donations are still being accepted on behalf of with the Ukrainian Relief group for as long as needed. Right now the Ukrainian Relief organization is looking for hygiene products, bars of soap, shampoo, shaving cream, toothpaste, toothbrushes, diapers for infants through adults, towels, bed sheets, blankets, wheelchairs, canes, crutches, and walkers. Of course,

clothing and other items are also always needed. **See Paula Holoviak if you have any questions.**

### **PAVILLION CLEANUP & ELECTION DAY FOOD**

**SALE:** Spring is here and summer not far behind. There are a number of activities happening this month that we could use your help with. Sign up sheets are in the vestibule. Please support where you can, especially on May 12th.

- **May 12 @ 4PM (Tomorrow)** – Clean and organize in and around the pavilion for rental season (our first rental is 24 May) and Election Day Food Sale on the 20th. Help at all levels will be appreciated. Detail will include dusting, organizing supplies, power washing and moving equipment into storage areas.
- **May 19 @ 2PM** – Prep for Election Day Food Sale
- **May 20 @ 9AM to 5PM** – Election Day Food Sale

**The Blessing of Homes** continues AFTER PASCHA for those who have rescheduled or by appointment. Check in with Fr. Innocent as to when there is availability for your visit.

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## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**May Birthdays:** Alexandria Rubino (5/7), Gabriel Brisk (5/10), Jeremy Haugh (5/18), Paul Meck (5/18), Becky Leonori (5/20), Zach Harvey (5/24), Jack Willis (5/24), Elaine Benczkowski (5/26), Eva King (5/30), Martha Tumavitch (5/30) **Anniversaries:** Matthew & Aimee Austin (5/15)

**This week:** *Anniversaries:* Matthew & Aimee Austin (5/15)

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## **Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers**

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### **The Sunday of the Paralytic**

*By Archimandrite Tikhon (Shevkunov)*

Today is a feast day for all of us paralytics. Today, brothers and sisters, we to a certain degree are meeting our name-day, our feast day. Who among us can boast that he is strong, courageous, bearing all the misfortunes of this age, fulfilling all of Christ's commandments? Deliver us, O Lord, if such a person stands in our midst -- one cannot imagine a worse righteous or strong man! The Apostle Paul

says: Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong (2 Cor 12:10). But the Apostle did not deprive himself of one thing: strong faith and undoubting hope in the Savior. "The power of God is made perfect in weakness!"

How can the world, which does not believe in God and preaches the illusory omnipotence of mankind, understand this?

Paralytic brothers and sisters! Let us rejoice that we at least understand ourselves as we are! The Lord came into the world to save paralytic sinners, and us among them. The strong crucified Jesus Christ, and the Lord allowed them this terrible, mindless power to crucify God. When we become proud and sure of ourselves, then we repeat this terrible crime of the God-killers: the crucifixion of the Savior.

Let us recognize ourselves for who we are in fact. The Apostle James writes: For what is your life? It is a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away (James 4:14). No matter how strongly our pride rebels against this, let us look dispassionately at the universe: the myriads of planets, the thousands of generations, endlessly following one another, the billions of people who are erased from the memory of their descendants and their neighbors.

I had a friend to whom I owe very much, and my faith in the first place. He died twelve years ago, and I thought that I would never forget him, that I would always remember him, and certainly at the Liturgy. And I suddenly realized with horror that one Liturgy had gone by, and another, and I did not remember him, one of the dearest people to me. And my spiritual paralysis, my ingratitude to a man who did so much for me, became terrible to me. Do we every day remember with the necessary zeal our parents -- both alive and departed? Do we every day remember our own salvation -- the most important thing for which we live?

Yet something within us tells us unmistakably that man is something more than vapor. Our life, yes, is transient and withering, like the grass under the hot summer sun. Recall in the Psalter: as the flower of the field, so hath he blossomed forth (Ps. 103:15). But the soul -- a unique human personality created by God -- its story in time and eternity is altogether different. If the soul is united with its Creator and God, then it becomes the most beautiful, the most precious of everything that is on earth. In the memory of

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**PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Homebound** - Evelyn, Vladimir, Jeri, Marsha, David, Paul, Archpriest Theodore, Mat. Elizabeth, Mary, Patricia, Barbara, Jeri, Joan, Irene, Alice **Sick & Suffering** - Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Elizabeth Hutz, Mary Hutz, David Lezinsky, Bob Lutzick, Leann, Gregory Krevko, Tom Vaskalis, Tom O'Brian, David, Delores Tressa, Sylvia Dreater, Patricia Sohoski, Natalie Gripp **Departed:**

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God, in God such a soul receives not simply life, but life “more abundantly,” as the Apostle Paul writes. He can not with human words express in any other way the mystery revealed to him of the future age. And the same Apostle writes: Eye hath no seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him (1 Cor 2:9).

In the lives of each one of us there will still be moments of weakness and failures, of what we call paralysis. They can last for many years, just as with the paralytic at the Sheep pool, of which the Gospel speaks. This paralytic lay for many years awaiting healing. But he believed that a messenger of God would come and heal him.

Let us not recognize ourselves as strong, because our strength is Christ alone. Let us never recognize ourselves as indestructible and not prone to sin, because we are fallen people. And let us strive not to lose faith in Christ, because the Lord Jesus Christ is eternally powerful and has the power to save us not only from temporal passions and misfortunes. The Lord, “trampling down death by death,” can give eternal life to us, who one day will be in the grave, and will free us from this eternal and final paralysis.

Let us not think highly of ourselves, let us not be surprised by our infirmities, let us not, because of them, fall into despair and despondency. Let us sincerely, with all our strength, strive towards correction, struggling against the evil and sin living within us. Let us firmly believe that our Lord Jesus Christ will help us in this. He loves us, because we are His children. We, who recognize ourselves as paralytics and asking help from our Heavenly Father, will not be left behind, for He gives us His invincible power. Only by this are we strong – just as only by this were the Apostles, Confessors, Venerable Ones, and Martyrs strong.

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## The Treasury

*“.. but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. + Jesus Christ*

**Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305**  
**Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840**  
**Last Week's Collection (5/4/24) : \$2,371**

# Happy Mother's Day

*In honor of all the*

*Mothers,*

Grandmothers, God mothers, Aunts and hard working women of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Geraniums are given to each one of you!

**May God Grant you Many Years!**  
**ALL WOMEN please pick your flower up on the way out of church!**