

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA
SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC**

MAY 7, 2023



**ST. NICHOLAS
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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CLERGY

His All Holiness, JOHN X
Patriarch of Antioch and all the East

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY
Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

Very Reverend Michael Nasser
Parish Priest

V. Rev. Elias Mitchell
Rev. Theodore Sirotko
Rev. Mykel Giannakakos
Rev. Archdeacon David Khorey

Rev. Deacon Justin Adolphson
Rev. Deacon Clement Nicoloff
Rev. Deacon John Kaufman
Subdeacon Nicholas Rock



WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book and taking a visitor's packet both located on the table in the Narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you, so feel free to join us for refreshments & fellowship in the Cultural Center.

We believe **Holy Communion** to be a sign that in Christ we have all things in common, share an identical faith, and are united fully to the Orthodox Church. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith is encouraged to speak with one of our clergy. Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, & regular confession are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

WHO WE ARE

St. Nicholas Church is a worshipping community, living and sharing the Faith Christ gave to the Apostles.

Our parish exists to seek and share Christ's love so that all will find eternal life in Him.

We would love to share more about our Orthodox Faith with you. Our website and our bookstore are great resources to assist you in learning more about us and what we believe! Also, feel free to make an appointment with our pastor.

We trust that you will experience Christ's presence as you worship with us today.



WELCOME

Welcome Fr. John Dixon, pastor of Holy Spirit Orthodox Church in Huntington, WV. Fr. John is the father of Christianna (Jaredt) Hultink. Thank you for serving today's Liturgy.

HYMNS AND READINGS OF THE DAY

HYMNS

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 3)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. NICHOLAS (TONE 4)

Thy work of justice did show thee to thy congregation a canon of faith, the likeness of humility, a teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore, by humility thou didst achieve exaltation, and by meekness richness. Intercede, therefore, with Christ to save our soul.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA (TONE 8)

O Christ our God, though Thou didst descent into the grave, yet didst Thou overthrow the power of Hades and rise as an Immortal Conqueror. Thou didst greet with joy the myrrhbearing women, and to Thine Apostles hast sent Thy peace, and to the fallen, O Lord, didst bring resurrection.

EPISTLE

*O chant unto our God, chant ye.
Clap your hands, all ye nations.*

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles 9:32-42

In those days, as Peter went throughout all regions, he came down also to the saints who dwelt at Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who was bedridden for eight years and paralyzed. And Peter said to him: "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; arise and make your bed." And immediately he arose. And all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned back to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha (which means Gazelle). She was full of good works and of charitable deeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they placed her in an upper chamber. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him: "Come to us without delay!" So Peter arose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him into the upper chamber. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and other garments which Tabitha 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, arise!" And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and raised her up. Then he called the saints and widows and presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. 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 38 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 befalls you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus Who had healed him.

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

In memory of Edward, Josephine, Dennis, Stephen, and Gary Geha, offered by Rick and Suzi Merpi and family. May their memory be Eternal!

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Parker David on his graduation from Michigan State University, offered by Joe, Carol, Josie, and Cameron. May God continue to bless his future endeavors and grant him many years.

For the Health and Blessings of Mindy Abraham on her birthday, offered with love by Philip, Lea, Allie Adele, Christopher and Joshua. May God continue to bless her with good health and happiness in her journey through life.

For the Health and Blessings of Allison Cefaratti, on the occasion of her birthday, with love from her family. May God's grace, peace, and wisdom be with Allison forever.

For the Health and Blessings of George Randy Heibel on his birthday and Gabriel Heibel as he settles into Worcester, Massachusetts.

For the Health and Blessings of Emma Rolon-Rosado, Chrisa Alberts, Annie Kurian, Annette Saseen on their birthdays, offered by Barbara Thomas. May God grant them many years.

For the Faith, Health, and Safety of Ricky, Julia, Aubrey, Michael, Mallory, Oscar, Spencer, Kaitlin, Lou, Evelyn, Ryan, Eddie, Declan, Luke, Alberta, Eloise, offered by their parents and grandparents, Rick and Suzi Merpi.

In memory of the newly departed Handmaiden of God, Betty Lou Storey, beloved Mother and Grandmother, offered by the Storey family. May her memory be Eternal!

In memory of Dorothy Mary Sirotko, offered by Fr. Ted and family. May her memory be Eternal!

In memory of Giulio, Beatrice, and Tony Merpi; Matry, Anne, Isabelle, and Helen Thomas; Mary, Leo, and Karen Henry; Bob Swanson, Ida Ruth and James Betts, offered by Rick, Suzi and family. May their memories be Eternal!

In memory of the falling asleep in the Lord of Elizabeth Thomas and Charles Riley, offered by Barbara Thomas. May their memories be Eternal!

In loving memory of the Servant of God, Rick Bojrab on the one year anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Rinvelt family and friends of St. Nicholas Grand Rapids. May his memory be Eternal!

SYNAXARION

(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)

On May 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Appearance of the Sign of the Precious Cross in the heavens above Jerusalem (351 AD); and Martyr Akakios the centurion at Byzantium.

On this day, the fourth Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the Paralytic and, as is right, we celebrate the miracle wrought for him.

Verses

The word of Christ was strength for the paralytic;
So that this word alone was the man's full healing.

Jesus healed the Paralytic at the Sheep's Pool, located near the Sheep's Gate of Jerusalem, where people sacrificed their beasts and washed their insides. The pool had five sides, with a porch and arch on each. A number of people, afflicted with various diseases, passed through them, waiting at the water for an angel to come down and stir it. Once it moved, whoever stepped into the water first was instantly healed. One poor man, whose story is recounted in today's Gospel lection in the Divine Liturgy, waited 38 years for someone to lower him into the water, because he was unable to move into the water himself. However, the Savior merely commanded the man to get up and walk, and he was healed.

In Thine infinite mercy, O Christ our God, have mercy on us.
Amen.

REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

*Names are added to the Prayer List for one week by offering Holy Oblation
or for up to 40 days in the case of an ongoing serious illness.*

LIVING

Metropolitan PAUL
Archbishop JOHN

Archpriest Michael Nasser
Priest Steven VanBronkhorst

For all the victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty
in Ukraine, Sudan and throughout the world.

For the homeless in Grand Rapids and those who serve them

And for those who will be living in the newly refurbished ICCF homes

Parker David	Mallory Merpi-Fuentes	Attallah Amash
Mindy Abraham	Oscar Merpi-Fuentes	Mary Ann Maloley
Allison Cefaratti	Spencer Merpi	Audrey Nicoloff
George Randy Heibel	Kaitlin Merpi	David Corey
Gabriel Heibel	Lou Merpi	Joe Corey
Emma Rolon-Rosado	Evelyn Merpi-Stewart	Dan Abraham
Chrisa Alberts	Ryan Merpi	Kevin Mitchell
Annie Kurian	Eddie Merpi	Michael Ellis
Annette Saseen	Declan Merpi-Stewart	Russ Adolphson
Ricky Merpi	Luke Merpi	Sandy Bourgyne
Julia Merpi	Alberta Merpi	Jaqueline Mitchell
Aubrey Merpi	Eloise Merpi	Susan Smoley
Michael Stewart		

DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

Betty Lou Storey

And all the newly departed victims of tragedy, violence,
and poverty in Ukraine, Sudan and throughout the world.

Dorothy Sirotko	Tony Merpi	Karen Henry
Edward Geha	Matry Thomas	Bob Swanson
Josephine Geha	Anne Thomas	Ida Ruth Betts
Dennis Geha	Isabelle Thomas	James Betts
Stephen Geha	Helen Thomas	Elizabeth Thomas
Gary Geha	Mary Henry	Charles Riley
Giulio Merpi	Leo Henry	Rick Bojrab
Beatrice Merpi		