

*“Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!”*

**EPISTLE 1 PETER 5:6-14**

BRETHREN, humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you. Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you. Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour. Resist him, first in your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish and strengthen you. To him be the dominion for ever and ever. Amen. By Silvanos, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God; stand fast in it. She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings; and so does my son Mark. Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you that are in Christ.

**TODAY'S READER: MANOLI ANAGNOSTIADES**

**GOSPEL 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 Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place.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.

**WELCOME!**

We are blessed today to have **Rev. Fr. Chris Margaritis** celebrating the Divine Services with us. Father is Presiding Priest at the Greek Orthodox Church of Greater Omaha, NE. May the Lord God remember his Priesthood in His Kingdom!

**PRAYER LIST:** Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaos, Katherine Panagakos, Priscilla Preuss, George Virvan, Sylvia Basdekas, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Stephanie Skanderis, Michael Giatzis, Catherine Duble, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, Theodosia Karmiris, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Maj. Sydney Pennix, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, and 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios



Thirty-eight years. He sat virtually motionless for nearly four decades. People passed him without notice. There were none to help him into the healing waters. His body expressed what had happened to his soul long ago — it had become numb, paralyzed, lifeless. In one moment of personal encounter that would all change. The question was a quiet one but boomed and echoed down through the hallways of history to this very day: **“Do you want to be healed?”** Did Jesus *really* have to ask that question? Wasn't it clear enough that the man wanted relief after some 40 years of paralysis? Was it necessary for Jesus to inquire about something that the man had dreamed of passionately for so long? Yes it was. Christ's question was designed to teach that while the grace of healing comes from God's mercy and compassion, **the paralytic had a decision to make.** He had to express his willingness to be made whole. He needed to reveal what was in his heart of hearts—a burning desire to walk, to move, to be a human person once again. Jesus' question went to the heart of the nature of illness: **it is an expression of the brokenness that originates in sin.** So Jesus was really asking: “Are you willing to turn away from sin? Are you ready to receive God's mercy by centering your life around *me* and not your own ego? Jesus asks us as well. Want to get rid of some problem, burden, brokenness in your life? Want to have God lift your soul from discouragement? Does your soul want to walk and move again in the peace and joy that comes from life in God? Then walk away from sin. Change sinful passions into positive forces. For unless you deal directly with sin in your life — you will sit “motionless” for the rest of your days. Christ offers an alternative. **Choose it!**

**40 DAY BLESSING**

A 40 Day Blessing will be given today to **Nicholas**, son of Efthimios and Katarina Charuhas. May God grant him many years!

**THE FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28**

**Orthros 8:30 a.m.**

**Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.**

After the Saviour had miraculously healed the paralytic, the Jews, especially the Pharisees and Scribes, were moved with envy and persecuted Him, and sought to slay Him, using the excuse that He did not keep the Sabbath, since He worked miracles on that day. Jesus then departed to Galilee. About the middle of the Feast of Tabernacles, He went up again to the Temple and



taught. The Jews, marvelling at the wisdom of His words, said, "How knoweth this man 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. Therefore, since the things spoken by Christ in the middle of the Feast of Tabernacles are related to the Sunday of the Paralytic and since we have already reached the midpoint of the fifty days between Pascha and Pentecost, the Church has appointed this present feast as a bond between the two great feasts, thereby uniting, as it were, the two into one, and partaking of the grace of them both. Therefore the feast is called Mid-Pentecost, and the Gospel Reading, "At Mid-feast"--though it refers to the Feast of Tabernacles--is used.

**Χριστος Ανεστη! Αληθως Ανεσ-**

**MEMORIALS**

A Memorial Services will be offered for **Peter Connell (40 Days)** requested by his sons William and John; for **Konstantina Tsantira (2 Years)** requested by her nephew George Karellas; for **Georgia Angelis (5 Years)** requested by her daughter Patricia and grandchildren Dale, Daniel, and Christopher; and for **Norma Savopoulos (6 Years)** requested by her godchild Dina Karellas. May their memory be eternal!

### PASTORAL VISITATIONS

Please inform the Church Office 301-469-7990 (ext 300) of any loved ones who are hospitalized or "shut-ins," so they may be visited and receive the grace of Holy Communion.

### PARISH ACTIVITIES

**ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL** The annual St. George Spring Festival is **THIS COMING WEEKEND** (April 30, May 1 and May 2). Volunteers are needed for set-up, Wednesday, April 28 at 3 p.m. and Thursday, April 29 all day. The skewering party is on Wednesday, April 28 at 4 p.m. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP COMPLETE PREPARATIONS AND TO WORK THE FESTIVAL!!**. Please contact Catherine Sarlis in the Church Office (301-469-7990).

**GREEK SCHOOL FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS** The Greek School for Preschoolers open registration will be held **TODAY** and Sunday May 9th at 12 noon in the Grand Hall. Registration in-person only. First come, first serve. Please come with your registration form and deposit. For more information or to sign-up for open house the week of April 12, please contact Christina Stayeas (christinastayeas@yahoo.com or Vasilias Contos contos-george@hotmail.com)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** **TODAY**, the First Grade recites Lord's Prayer. Sunday School registration for 2010-2011 is in progress: Please register today after the Divine Liturgy. Sunday School **DATES TO REMEMBER**: May 2: No Classes / Festival; Sunday, May 9: Mothers Day; Sunday, May 16: Last day of Sunday School Awards Ceremony/Picnic; June 6 Graduation Sunday and Sunday School Teacher Appreciation

### **GRADUATION PROGRAM INFORMATION**

Is needed for the 2010 Graduation Program. High School graduates please send your name, school from which you are graduating, school you will attend and your major. Post Graduate students send your name, school graduating from, degree, and future plans. EMAIL THIS MATERIAL ASAP TO ATHENA KRANIAS: [akranias@hotmail.com](mailto:akranias@hotmail.com)

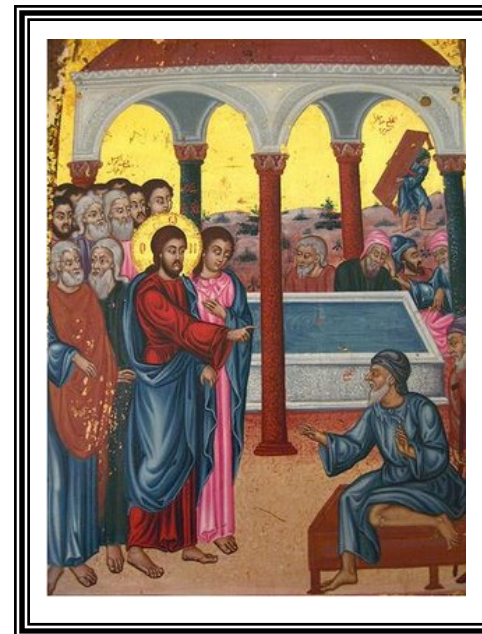
**FIFTY PLUS** Please volunteer to help in Yiayia's Attic for the St. George's spring festival April 30 through May 2. May 12 meeting at 11:30am will be the clubs' annual spring pot luck lunch. Call Maria Kopsidas (301-493-5789) to let her know the days you will be able to help at Yiayia's Attic and also if you plan to attend the May 12 meeting.

**If you have not yet pledged for 2010, please do so. Stewards are required to send a new pledge card in each year. If you have not sent in your pledge card for 2010, we ask that you do so. Many thanks!**

## **ST. GEORGE BULLETIN**

### **SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC**

**APRIL 25, 2010**



The story of the raising of the Paralytic is amazing: It shows the greatness of God's power; and that the Lord turned his attention to the sick man; and the vivifying waters of the pool; and the sick man himself, who had been sick for thirty-eight years without losing hope of recovery; and that he, surrounded by people, had no one who would help him. Today, too, there is a "pool" in which people are healed and even resurrected. In this pool people are healed, above all, from spiritual illnesses and resurrected from the death of the soul. This pool is called the Church; and the healing water in it is called the grace of God. Those who desire to obtain healing of the soul must look for this, must ask for this, heeding the voice of the Church. And how important it is to have someone who can lead the sick soul to this pool. Risen Jesus, raise our souls!

### **KONTAKION FOR THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC**

I am grievously paralyzed in a multitude of sins and wrongful deeds. As You raised up the paralytic of old, also raise up my soul by Your divine guidance, that I may cry out, "Glory to Your Power O Compassionate Christ."



### **THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE**

7701 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda,  
Maryland 20817  
Office 301-469-7990 + Fax 301-469-5945

[www.stgeorge.org](http://www.stgeorge.org)  
Proistamenos:

Rev. Fr. Dimitrios J. Antokas  
Email: [FrAntokas@stgeorge.org](mailto:FrAntokas@stgeorge.org)

Rev. Fr. George Khitiri  
Email: [FrGeorge@stgeorge.org](mailto:FrGeorge@stgeorge.org)

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Despotides,  
Emeritus