

## EPISTLE Acts of the Apostles 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.

**TODAY'S READER: MICHAEL KITSOULIS**

## 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.

## BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

The study of the Gospel of St. John resumes Thursday, May 19 at 10:30 a.m. and at 7:30 p.m.

**PRAYER LIST:** Sandi Treer, Constantina Speris, Spiro Gianniotis, Ralph Vallone, Christopher Bacas, Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, George Virvan, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Alexis Ross, Joseph Papadakis, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Stephanie Skanderis, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, Milton Kayafas, Mary Agis, Maureen Shriver, Tiffany Keiker, Mary O'Hara, William Coulopoulos, Matina Mantis, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios, Private Louis Tiches, EG Robert Stock, and Lance Corporal Brett Hughes, and Lt. Cmdr. Michael Starsiak



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 **Yianni**, son of Yianni Tousimis and Elaine Sayson.. May God grant him many years!

## THE FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 18**

**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.



## MEMORIALS

A Memorial Services will be offered for **Peter Gourdouros** who resposed on May 4, requested by his daughter Dede Johns and her family; for **Christos Giatras (40 Days)**, requested by his daughter Helen (Nick) Margas and grandsons Theo and Christos; for **Catherine Ahiouris Duble (1 Year)** requested by her family; and for **Penelope Adamantiades (25 Years)** requested by her son Achilles Adamantiades, daughter Maria Papalopoulou and grandchildren Misha and Penelope. May their memories be eternal!



Please remember in your fervent prayers the Coptic Orthodox Christians in Egypt who are undergoing severe persecution and death at the hands of radical Islamists. May the Lord God save, defend and protect our fellow believers from all harm. *“Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered, let those who hate Him flee from before His face!”* (From the Canon of Pascha)

**POST-FESTIVAL:** Please stop by the table in the Grand Hall after Liturgy for post-festival goodies for your Graduation, Father's Day, Memorial Day or Any Day Parties! We have kourambietes and melomacaroni! In addition, we have the following unbaked items: baklava, galaktobouriko, pastistio, moussaka, tiropita, and spanakopita. Save yourself time and help Saint George too!

#### 50 PLUS CLUB

OUR ANNUAL POT LUCK PARTY DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO MAY 18 at 11:30am. As always, please bring a special dish for all to share and enjoy. Achilles Papaefthimiou will entertain us with his lively music. There will be usual singing and dancing. All are welcome.

#### SUMMER ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

The Holy Metropolis of New Jersey will sponsor the 2011 CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD at the Linwood MacDonald YMCA Camp and Conference Center in Branchville, New Jersey. The three sessions are July 10-16 (JOY session); July 17-23 (GOYA session #1); and July 24-30 (GOYA session #2). For more information and to obtain a registration packet, contact the Metropolis Youth Office at 908-301-0500, or go online to [www.nj.goarch.org](http://www.nj.goarch.org)

#### AHEPA SUNDAY

Today is National AHEPA Day throughout the Greek Archdiocese. AHEPA will assist in providing refreshments for today's fellowship after Divine Liturgy. Let us remember all the good works for which AHEPA is responsible, particularly the provision of scholarships for young people.

In response to continued inquiries regarding church financials, the Church is publishing weekly and year-to-date operating income and expenses in the Sunday bulletin. God bless you and thank you for your support.

#### May 4 through May 10, 2011

Income \$110,450.45\*

Expenses \$ 44,896.44\*\*

#### January 1 through May 10, 2011

Income \$495,475.98\*

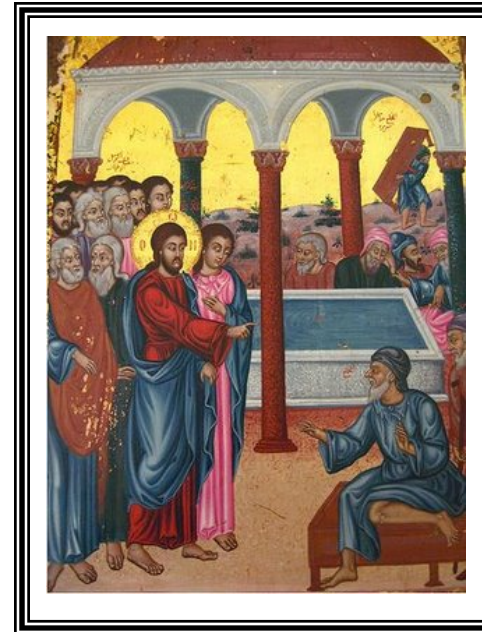
Expenses \$441,791.64\*\*

\*- Includes any income from Stewardship, Candles, Trays, General Donations, Facility Rentals, Spring Festival, and Harbor School Rent.

\*\*- Includes expenses incurred (funds disbursed) for Administrative items, Candles, Facility Rentals, Spring Festival, Archdiocese Stewardship, For those Who Serve, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment, Liturgical, Maintenance, Mortgage Interest, Program Expenses, Taxes & Insurance, and Utilities.

## THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC ST. PACHOMIUS THE GREAT MARTYR

May 15, 2011



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."

### DIVINE SERVICES

Wednesday, May 18: FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST, Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 21: FEAST OF STS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN, Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy (CHALLENGE LITURGY) 9:30 a.m.

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