From The Ambon

St Michael Orthodox Church

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May 3rd, 2026 4th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 3. Paralytic.

Ven. Theodosius, Abbot of the Kiev Caves Monastery and Founder of Cœnobitic Monasticism in Russia (1074). Martyrs Timothy the Reader and his wife Maura of Antinoë in Egypt (ca. 286). St. Peter the Wonderworker, Bishop of Argolis (10th c.). "Svena" Icon of the Mother of God (1288). Holy Great Martyr Xenia of Kalamata (291).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for May

Birthdays: Uriel Vo (5/30); Daniel Jones (5/30)
Nameday: Helen Wytovich (5/21); Emily Krenitsky (5/30)
Baptism: Uriel Vo (5/4); Fr Michael and Matushka Emilia Shepherd (5/8); Maximus Shepherd (5/16); Rodion Shepherd (5/18)
Anniversary: Fr Michael Shepherd - 8th Priest Ordination (5/26/18)
Travelers:
Prosphora Schedule: PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE HELP! We need families to start baking prosphora at home. Please sign up. *The Church has a prosphora kit if you would like to borrow it. THE CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP. THIS IS AN OFFERING FOR THE PEOPLE BY THE PEOPLE. Thank you to Maria and Vitaly for the offering this morning.*

May 10
May 17

Counting: HELP! Please sign up and count our donations. Please stay and help.

May 10
May 17

PLEASE SING ALONG! *Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies throughout the services is encouraged!*
Coffee Hour/Agape Meal: *Please stay and join us for a cup of coffee so we may break bread with each other. This will allow us to get to know each other and see how we can help each other.*

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 themselves by prayer, fasting, and a recent (monthly) confession. If you have questions please ask Fr Michael! Visitors, if you did not introduce yourself to Fr Michael at Vespers, please refrain from Holy Communion.*

Service Schedule

SAT, May 9th: 5:00 PM Great Vespers
SUN, May 10th: 9:10 AM - Hours and Liturgy
5th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 4.
Samaritan Woman.

SAT, May 16th: 5:00 PM Great Vespers
SUN, May 17th: 9:10 AM - Hours & DL
6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 5.
Blind Man.

Parish Prayer List

NEWLY DEPARTED:

DEPARTED: *Michael* Marko (4/16);*Mary* Marko (4/18); *John* Marko (4/19); *Sonia* Schuster (4/24); *Elim* Hart (4/26); *Evelyn* Flynn (5/5); *Jean* Staviski Mori (5/6); *Volodymyr* Danylets (5/9); *Marie* Raskausakas (5/12); *Paul* Bezuhly (5/15); *Harry* Krevko (5/16); *Alexander* Pritchyk (5/18); *Walter* Pregmon (5/19); *Dennis* Pregmon (5/25); Rose Macheska (5/26)

Please remember in your prayers LIVING:
Ill-afflicted *Archpriest(s) John Nightingale,* & *Theodore* Orzolek

All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends: *Edward* Sevensky, *Margaret* Pregmon, *Daniel* Jones, *Michae*l Sokol, *Michael* Krenitsky, *Bernie* Elko, *Nadia* Macheska, *The child of God Abigail, Helen* Wytovich, *Marie* Pasternak, *Eli & Paula* Stavisky, *Marie* Pozella

Servants of God: *Mark* Bezhuly, *David & Kathy* Barsigian, *Alexa* Barsigian & *Bobby* Wolfel, *Patricia* Jones, *Anne* Buday, *Emily* Krenitsky, *Gregory* Krenitsky, *Barbara* Sevensky, *Beverly* Elko, *Nicole* Earl, *Anna* Tyrpak, *Sandy & Danny* Pregmon, *Walter & Marie* Pritchyk, *Michael & Euphemia* Keklak, *Justin & Elisabeth* Kane, *Maria & Vitaliy* Rakovsky, *Ekaterina & Anna*, *George, Natasha, Rosa, & Lucia* Coyoy, *Mat. Emilia, Reader Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina* Shepherd, *Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas* Hart, *Tammy* Wytovich, *Paulette* Ezbiansky, *Uriel* Vo *& Maura* Elko, *Mary* Krevko, *Elisabeth, Jacob, & Juliette* Halford, *Tammy, Justin, Niko, & Katya* Williams, *Paul* Dunay, *Anastasia, Sophia, & Luke, Darlene* Shaffer, *Sophia, & Anastasia* Polzella, *David* Jadick, *Sandra* Condone, *Timothy* & *Holly* Granville, *Maxim* Granville, *Christopher* Yeisley, and *Gabrie*l, Mother *Katherine*, *Diane, Mitch, Christina, & James*

Catechumens: *Marley, Tulia, & Magnolia* Connolly, *Neva* Yeisely, *Zachary* Nikl,

Seekers: *Vincent* Bonello, *Rebecca* Burns, *Ken* Nikl

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

How Much is my tithe

Weekly	2%	4%	5%	10%
$200	$4	$8	$10	$20
$500	$10	$20	$25	$50
$750	$15	$30	$37	$75
$1000	$20	$40	$50	$100
$1500	$30	$60	$75	$150

WEEKLY GIVING UPDATE: We thank you for your continued giving in gratitude for all that our loving God does for each of us, for His Holy Church, **and** all the blessings we receive through her.

APR Income: $10,002.60

Words of Wisdom
From the Saints & Teachers

Today Readings

Epistle: Acts 9:32-42 (§23)
Gospel: John 5:1-15 (§14)

EPISTLE

Reader: The Prokimenon in the First Tone: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee.
Choir: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee.
Reader: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise is meet for the upright.
Choir: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee.
Reader: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us
Choir: According as we have hoped in Thee.
Reader: The Reading is from the Acts of the Holy Apostles.

Acts 9:32-42 (§23): In those days, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda. * And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. * And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately. * And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord. * Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. * And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. * And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. * Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. * But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. * And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. * And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Reader: The Alleluia in the 5th Tone. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Reader: Of Thy mercies, O Lord, will I sing forever, unto generation and generation.
Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Reader: For Thou hast said: Mercy shall be built up forever.
Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 5:1-15 (§14): At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. * Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. * In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. * For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. * And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. * When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? * The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. * Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. * And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. * The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed. * He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk. * Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? * And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. * Afterwards Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. * The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.

Announcements - Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events Church Attendance

Silent Prayers and Confession: Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:30PM or you can make an appt for confession.

Catechumen/Inquirers/Continuing ED Class: Last night we started! Every other Saturday after Vespers. Catechumens - If you will not be there please let Fr Michael know.

Parish Council Meeting/Annual Meeting: Today! The next one is May 17th. ***ALL ARE INVITED***.
Diocesan Council Meeting May 14th.

Remember that at the Great Entrance after each petition the priest will say "may the Lord God remember thee in His Kingdom……," the people should respond with "Amen." And at the end of the petitions, the priest will raise the chalice and say "You and all Orthodox Christians, may the Lord God remember thee in His Kingdom…… the people respond with "And to thy Holy Priesthood (Episcopacy), may the Lord God remember thee in His Kingdom always now and ever unto ages of ages." This is dialogue, a prayer if you will, between the concelebrant and the people.

Choir practice: Saturday's @ 4pm prior to vespers. If you would like to sing in the choir please make every effort to be at the practice.

WISH LIST! Please consider purchasing from our wish list as this will reduce our cost of expenses and will allow us to increase and focus our giving in other vital areas needed. Currently we are looking for small wooden boxes that we can dedicate at reliquaries. https://www.myregistry.com/giftlist/stmichaelsorthodoxchurcholdforgewishlist

St. Michael's Greeters Ministry *"I was a stranger, and you welcomed me."* Matthew 25:35 Our objective is to welcome visitors to the Parish, help them "feel at home" during the worship service, provide them with information about Orthodoxy and the Parish, invite them to Parish activities, introduce them to people of like interests, invite them back, follow-up to thank them for visiting us, and identifying whether we can help them in the future. Most people leave a church once they enter because no one greeted them. Please sign up to greet people.

STOMC Mens Group! New details coming!

Please sign up for coffee hour! There are sign up sheets downstairs by the offering basket. Also, please donate at coffee hour. Donate what you would spend on a cup of coffee. This is to replenish our plastic wear and supplies for coffee hour.

SPONSORS - An appeal for sponsors for our relics. We need wooden boxes donated, reliquaries purchased and donations to pay for the cost to put the icon of the saint in the lid of the box. We are estimating $300 to complete one reliquary/box. If you would like to sponsor your saint and we have that relic; please let us know.

You are all invited to Holy Trinity, Wilkes-Barre for the Feast of St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre this week. All clergy are welcome to serve or sing in the choir if you like. We will wear white. We did not plan a meal for after Liturgy, but perhaps we could celebrate the feast by enjoying breakfast together at a local diner.
Great Vespers - Wednesday, May 6th @ 6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy - Thursday, May 7th @ 9 AM

PROSPHORA - I am requesting the families who bake prosphora to come speak to me at coffee hour. I would like to get a rotation between the families and assign Sundays.

KIDS CORNER!

Hey everyone! Rodion Here! Today we celebrate the paralytic at the pool where Jesus tells him to "Rise, take up your bed and walk". This is a reminder that we should pray daily and work on our relationship with Jesus. Just like working out, which I love to do, if we do not pray daily our spiritual life becomes stagnant. And just like working out, if I do not work out daily I will not get stronger, faster, or better. So,"Rise, take up your bed and walk" pray often and workout with Jesus. Have a blessed day!

Sunday of the Paralytic

Many miracles in the Old Testament involve water. To name but a few, the water of the Nile turned to blood after Moses lifted his rod and struck the water before Pharaoh and His servants (Exodus 7:20). Not only was the Nile turned to blood, but also "their rivers, their canals, their ponds, and all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and there shall be blood throughout the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone" (Exodus 7:19).

In chapter 14 of Exodus, Moses divided the waters of the Red Sea, and the Hebrews passed over as if on dry land. When they were safely across, the waters came together, and their Egyptian pursuers were drowned.

On their forty year journey to the Promised Land, the Hebrews camped at Rephidem, but there was no water for them to drink. The people murmured against Moses, asking him why he had led them out of Egypt. God told Moses to strike the rock at Horeb. Then water came out of it so that everyone could drink (Exodus 17:6).

In Judges 6:36-40 we read about Gideon and the dew on the fleece. When Gideon squeezed the fleece, there was enough to fill a bowl with water.

On the Fourth Sunday of Pascha, the Church remembers the man who lay paralyzed at the Sheep Pool in Jerusalem for thirty-eight years, waiting for someone to put him into the pool. The first person to enter the pool after an Angel troubled the water would be healed of his infirmities, but someone always entered the pool before him. Seeing the man, the Lord felt compassion for him and healed him.

The Lord healed the paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and He remained there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Theologian, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

Like some Old Testament miracles, many of Christ's miracles also involved water, and they prefigure the Church's Baptism, which cleanses us of every sin. In the Sheep Pool, once a year, only one person was healed, but Christ saves endless multitudes by divine Baptism. Sometimes, as in the case of Saint Vladimir (July 15), Baptism can also heal our bodily infirmities.

In the Canon for the Paralytic, the Angel who stirred the water in the Sheep Pool is identified as the Archangel Michael. Some of the Troparia call him "Leader of the Angels," and "Supreme Commander" (Ode 1). In Ode 3 we ask him to "protect us from falling into the passions of life." In Ode 6, we ask Saint Michael to guide us on the paths of life." In Ode 8, we ask him to pray with all the Bodiless Hosts, that we may be granted deliverance from our offenses, correction of our life, and the enjoyment of eternal blessings.

As we remember the paralytic, let us ask Christ to "raise up our souls, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts" (Kontakion of the paralytic).

Acts 9:32 ***As Peter Went About*** **THE APOSTLES SOUGHT PETER FIRST AS THEIR LEADER.** ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM: Like a general [Peter] went around inspecting the ranks—which part was well-trained, which in good order and which needed his presence. See how on all occasions he goes about first. When an apostle had to be chosen, he was first; when the Jews had to be told that these were not drunk, he was first; when the lame man had to be healed, he was first; when the crowd had to be addressed, he was before the rest; when the rulers had to be addressed, he was the man; when Ananias had to be addressed, when healings were worked by the shadow, still it was he. And look, where there was danger, he was the man; where the situation is calm, all of them act in common. He did not seek a greater honor. When there was need to work miracles, he leaps forward, and here again he is the man to labor and toil. HOMILIES ON THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 21.

Acts 9:33 ***Bedridden for Eight Years*** **AENEAS AS A SYMBOL.** VEN BEDE: This Aeneas signifies the ailing human race, at first weakened by pleasure but healed by the work and words of the apostles. Since the world itself is raised up in four territories, and in this world the course of the year is divided into four seasons, anyone who embraces the unstable joys of the present is as though flattened upon his bed, devoid of energy for twice times four years. For the bed is that sluggishness in which the sick and weak soul takes its rest in the delights of the body, that is, and in all worldly pleasures. COMMENTARY ON THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 9.33. Martin, F., & Smith, E., eds. (2006). *Acts* (pp. 114–115). InterVarsity Press.

John 5:5 ***Ill for Thirty-eight Years*** **THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE PARALYTIC.** ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM: The perseverance of the paralytic was astonishing. He was thirty-eight years old, and each year he hoped to be freed from his disease. He lay there waiting, never giving up. If he had not persevered as much as he did, wouldn't his future prospects, let alone the past, have been enough to discourage him from staying around that place? Consider how alert the other sick people there would be, since no one knew for sure when the waters would be troubled. The lame and the limping could observe it, but how would a blind man? Maybe he learned it from the clamor that arose. Let us be ashamed then, beloved, let us be ashamed and groan over our excessive laziness. That man had been waiting thirty-eight years without obtaining what he desired, and he still did not withdraw. And he failed, not through any carelessness of his own but through being oppressed and suffering violence from others. And still he did not give up. We … might persist in prayer for something for ten days or so, and if we have not obtained it, we are too lazy afterwards to employ the same energy [as he did]. And yet, we will wait forever on our fellow human beings, fighting and enduring hardships, performing menial labor, all for the chance of something that in the end fails to meet our expectations. But when it comes to our Master, from whom we are sure to obtain a reward greater than our labors … we exercise no such diligence in waiting on him.… For even if we receive nothing from him, isn't the very fact that we are able to converse with him continually the cause of ten thousand blessings? HOMILIES ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 36.1–2. Elowsky, J. C., ed. (2006). *John 1–10* (p. 180). InterVarsity Press.