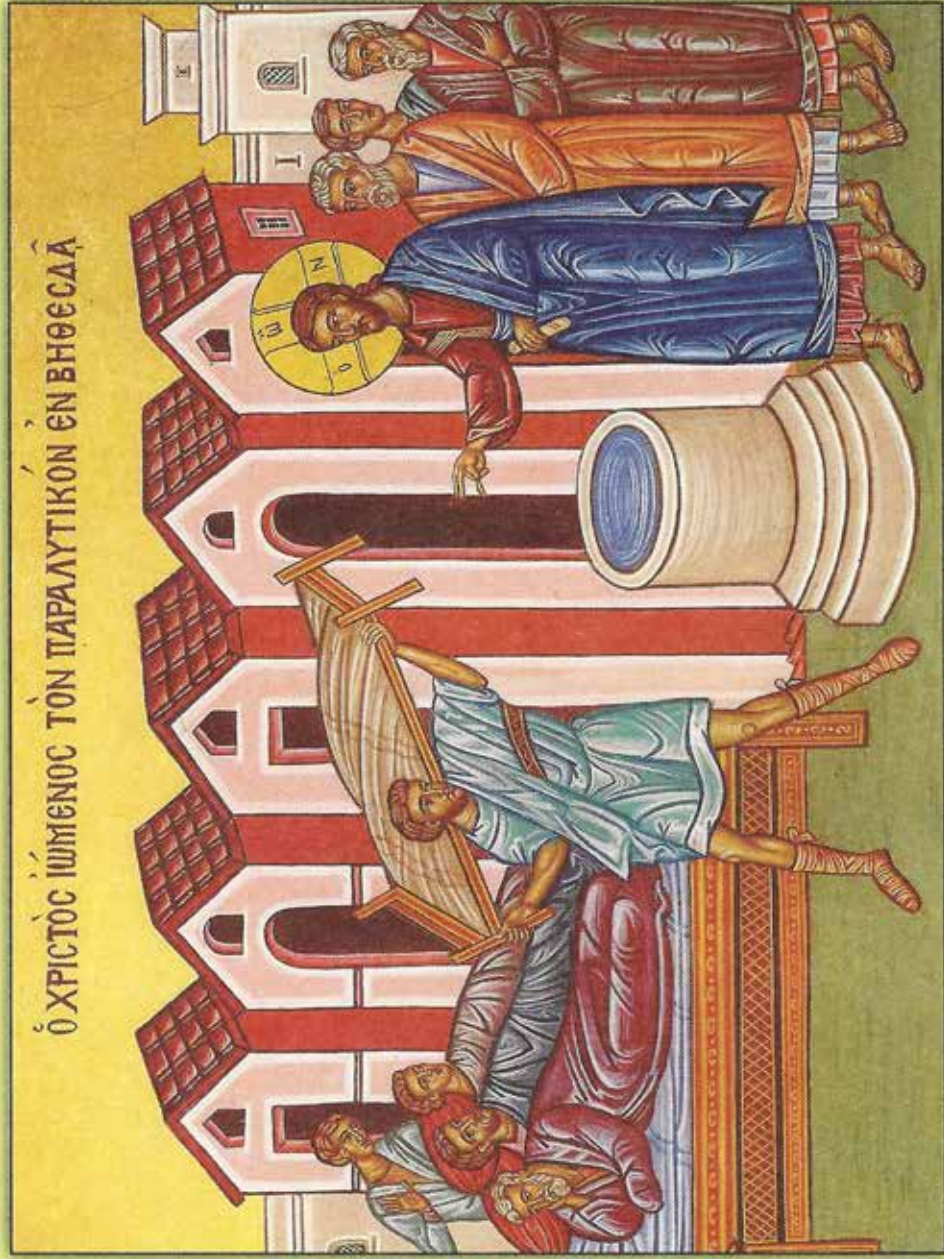


SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

Ὁ ΧΡΙΣΤὸς ἰω̅μενος τὸν παραλυτικὸν ἐν βῆθεσάϊ



Icon of Our Lord Healing the Paralytic

May 3, 2020: Sunday of the Paralytic

Epistle: Acts 9: 32-42

Gospel: Jn. 5: 1-15

Mon., May 4	9:00	God's Blessings on Dolly Daniels (Family)
Tues., May 5	9:00	+ Elinor Chowanec (Family)
Wed., May 6	9:00	+ Marie Spryn (Husband, John)
Thurs. May 7	9:00	+ Diann Yuhnick (Ray & Sandy Lill)
Fri., May 8	9:00	+ Joseph Muchisky (Family)
Sat., May 9	No Divine Liturgies Today	
Sun., May 10	9:00	For Our Parishioners

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

The third Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pascha is observed by the Eastern Church as the Sunday of the Paralytic. The day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing a man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. The biblical story of the event is found in the Gospel of John 5:1-15.

Close to the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem, there was a pool, which was called the Sheep's Pool. It had five porches, that is, five sets of pillars supporting a domed roof. Under this roof there lay very many sick people with various maladies awaiting the moving of the water. The first person to step in after the troubling of the

water was healed immediately of whatever malady he had.

It was there that the paralytic of today's Gospel was lying, tormented by his infirmity of thirty-eight years. When Christ beheld him, He asked him, "Will you be made whole?" And he answered with a quiet and meek voice, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool." The Lord said unto him, "Rise, take up your bed, and walk." And straightaway the man was made whole and took up his bed. Walking in the presence of all, he departed rejoicing to his own house. According to the expounders of the Gospels, the Lord Jesus healed this paralytic

during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and dwelt there teaching and working

miracles. According to Saint John the Evangelist, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

YOU, GOD AND THE PANDEMIC

What are we to do when we can't understand God's plan? The answer is to focus on the next step — just the next step.

In the Gospel for Bright Tuesday, we encounter the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. It provides a lesson for us, one that is especially helpful in these times. The lesson is this: God works in a way that we cannot always see. Only later — when we look back — do we recognize what he has been doing.

Consider the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They could not understand the events of the crucifixion as anything but a tragedy. They didn't know what to make of it. They didn't even recognize Jesus when he was walking on the road beside them. Only later, after the “breaking of the bread” with Jesus, did they recognize him. Only then did Jesus's words make sense. They then said to one another, “Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us?” (Lk 24:31-2).

This happened to all the disciples. Think of Peter, who was completely befuddled when Jesus stooped to wash his feet. Jesus said to him, “What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later” (Jn 13:7).

In such cases throughout the Scripture, the same principle is at work: God's plan and presence is not always clear until later.

As for the disciples, so for us. For reasons that are too deep to fully understand, God's plan for our lives is not always clear.

This time of pandemic is such a moment. It is hard to see what God's plan is in the midst of these trials. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we may be discouraged and perplexed, we may be anxious and fearful, because we do not understand why he is allowing this. We do not see how a global pandemic could fit into the plans of a good and gracious Lord.

But one thing we do know: God is active in our lives, and he is even now walking next to us. We are not alone.

Of course, we're still left with question of what to do when we are unable to see the point of God's plan?

The answer is that we only need to focus on the next step — just the next step. And this kind of guidance, the step-by-step guidance, the Lord always provides. We can know the next step through our understanding of what is good, right and just, and what our Catholic faith has taught us about loving and serving others. We take the next step by keeping his commandments, and by acting faithfully to our commitments as Catholics. We gain light from prayer, from reading the Word of God, from the voices of others whom we love and trust, perhaps even through signs and wonders. Whatever tools he uses, the Lord will guide us, one step at a time.

We know that this step-by-step road will end well, because we follow the God of the Universe. He has things in hand. He knows what he is doing. And he is good. We know the depths of the Lord's love for us from what it cost him to save us. And so, counting on his goodness, we follow and obey, one step at a time.

So while we may see only one or two steps ahead, we will not be shaken. Let's keep our hearts full of courage, and let's not allow our stride to slacken. His presence may not be clearly visible in the news, in the halls of global power, in the hospitals, or even in our homes. But he is present. He is acting. He is working. He is calling. And we will follow.

Adapted From Knightline

THE LESSON OF THE COFFEE BEAN

A daughter complained to her father about how hard things were for her." As soon as I solve one problem," she said, "another one comes up. I'm tired of struggling."

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen where he filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In one he placed carrots, in the second, eggs,

and in the last, ground coffee beans. He let them sit and boil, without saying a word.

The daughter impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. After a while, he went over and turned off the burners. He fished out the carrots and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them a bowl. He poured the coffee into a bowl. Turning

to her he asked, “Darling, what do you see?” “Carrots, eggs, and coffee,” she replied.

He brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hardboiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. She smiled, as she tasted its rich flavor.

She asked, “What does it mean, Father?” He explained that each of them had faced the same adversity – boiling

water – but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting, but after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg was fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. By being in the boiling water, they changed the water.

He asked his daughter, “When adversity knocks on your door, which are you?”

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE: HOW IS MY DAILY STRUGGLE?

1. Did I fail to love God... to pray? Have I doubted or denied my Faith? Was I careless in saying my prayers? Read books against the Catholic Faith?
2. Did I curse or swear? Did I use God's Name in vain: lightly... carelessly? Do I use profane language? Have I insulted a sacred person?
3. Have I missed the Divine Liturgy through my own fault? On Sundays? Holy Days? Was I late for the Divine Liturgy or did I leave early without a good reason? Allow my children to miss the Divine Liturgy? Was I easily distracted at the Divine
4. Did I honor and obey my parents? Others with lawful authority? Have I talked back? Failed to help at home? Neglected my children's religious education? Failed to take them to the Divine Liturgy? Failed to spend time with my family?

5. Was I angry... resentful... kept hatred in my heart? Did I fight... give bad example or scandal? Permitted or encouraged an abortion or mutilation to avoid children?
6. Was I immodest in dress or behavior? Did I read impure books or magazines? Am I guilty of fornication (pre-marital sex), adultery (sex with a married person) or birth control?
7. Did I steal? What or how much? Did I return it or make equal restitution? Did I waste time at work, in school, at home? Am I stingy? Do I gamble excessively? Neglect to pay my debts promptly? Have I supported my Church regularly?
8. Have I lied, gossiped? Talked about another behind his/her back? Do I always tell the truth? Am I sincere? Did I reveal secrets that should have been kept confidential? Am I critical, negative or uncharitable in my talk?
9. Have I consented to impure thoughts? Have I caused them by stares, bad reading, curiosity or impure conversations?
10. Is my heart greedy? Am I jealous of what another has? Am I envious of him/her because I don't have what they have? Is my heart set on earthly possessions or on the true treasures in Heaven?

SERVICES ONLINE

Thank you for your prayerful presence to all Parishioners who are able to join us at our services online. The responses to our streaming services have been positive and continue to grow each week. I continue to pray and offer services for you every day. Please remember, that while we cannot be filling our beautiful Church together, we can still worship together, by you joining our live-streaming services on Facebook or through a link on our website <https://stcyrils.com>.

weconnect.com on YouTube.

- To make your online worship experience an expression of our “Church of the Home,” please consider the following:
- Watch the services in a special place, such as in your icon corner or the prayer space of your home.
- Prepare yourself as if you were going to Church, perhaps even dressing as you usually do for a service at the Church.

- Turn off distractions such as other media and your phone.
- Most importantly, tune in spiritually as participants, not just observers. This is still your Church!

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH

These days are challenging for us all on many levels, including financially. A heartfelt “**THANK YOU**” goes out to all who have continued to make donations to our parish either by mail, or by dropping envelopes off over the past few weeks. Any small way you can contribute is very much

appreciated. With your sacrificial giving we will be able to pay our bills. If sending multiple donations, one check is fine, and a note indicating what the donation is for. If you prefer to drop them off, there is a mail box outside the Rectory office door. Thanks for your generosity!

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion means uniting one’s self in prayer with Christ’s sacrifice and worshipping Him in His Body and Blood. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend the Divine Liturgy. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would

make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily. When unable to receive Holy Communion, pray the following prayer:

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.”

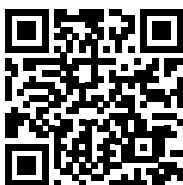
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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Healing the Heart

A monk, well known for his holiness, once went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He had the great fortune of visiting many of the places where Jesus lived and taught. One of his great privileges was to visit the Jordan River, where he immersed himself in the very water in which Jesus had been baptized. He was very eager to take some of this Jordan River water back to the monastery.

As he was journeying back to the monastery, however, he encountered a beggar. The beggar wanted nothing more than a sip of water. The monk refused the request, explaining that the only water he had left was very special water from the Jordan River, and it was not for drinking or sharing. The beggar persisted, and the monk grew angry and cursed the beggar. At that

moment the monk heard the words, "My son, you have washed your body in the Jordan River, but you have not washed your heart." With that, the beggar vanished from his sight.

In the Gospel reading today, we hear of Jesus' cure of a paralyzed man near the pool of Bethesda. It was believed that anyone who washed in that pool, during the stirring of the water, would be cured. How wonderful it would be, we might say to ourselves, to have such a pool of healing today. Let us remember that we do not need a pool or any other means of miracles when we have Christ Himself. Our Risen Lord, Who has power over death, certainly has dominion over illness and our bodies as well. Sometimes, however, He desires for us a healing of the heart, before a healing of the body.