

Today's Scripture Readings

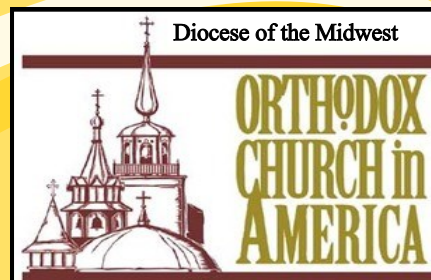
Epistle: Acts 9:32-42

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

Gospel: John 5:1-15

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!



Ss Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

2238 E. 32nd St
Lorain, OH 44055

www.OrthodoxLorain.org

Archpriest Joseph McCartney, Rector

440-668-2209 (cell)

FrJosephMcCartney@gmail.com

Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

May 26, 2024



4th Sunday of PASCHA

Sunday of the Paralytic

*St. Augustine of Canterbury,
Evangelizer of England (ca. 605)*

Divine Liturgy

Readings

(Readings on Back)

- ◆ Acts 9:32-42
- ◆ John 5:1-15

This Week's Schedule

Saturday, June 1

6:00pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, June 2

9:00am - 3rd & 6th Hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy

Prayer in Church is important. The best feelings and thoughts come while we are in Church, However the enemy also attacks us more violently while we are in Church, but with the sign of the Cross and the Jesus Prayer, you drive him away.



~ St. Barsanuphius of Optina

Announcements:

Panikhida

Today's Panikhida is being said for the young men of our parish, who died during WW2:

Andrew Mihalsky
Andrew Yavornitzky
Frank John Woloszanski
Steve (Tomich) Thomas
William Pashkewich

And also for Riasaphor-monk Vladimir "Wally" Poszywak

Thank You

Thank you to Marge Pysarchyk for her investigative work in clarifying the names of the fallen soldiers listed above. The monument outside of the church only has first initials with last names (some of which she found were misspelled). This abbreviated first name is problematic because the Church remembers the departed by baptismal (first name) only.

Parish Resource Directory

There is a draft of the parish directory in the back of church. Please check to see if your information is correct. If something needs to be changed or added, please make note of the correction in clear print. Initial when approved.

Outing

To see "Ruth" at the Ohio Star Theater, Aug. 28th. See flyer on church bulletin board, or see Donna for more details.

On the Third Sunday of Pascha

Deep joy and heartfelt jubilation fill us as we read about Christ's miracles in the Gospel. These readings convey His infinite power, providential care, and ultimate love for all men. But they also teach us important life lessons. The fourth Sunday of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Paralytic. The day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing a man who had been ill for a long time.

For thirty-eight years, he had been lying at Sheep's pool with the other invalids. Three words in the Gospel described their condition: blind, lame and paralyzed. But do not all of these descriptions equally apply to us? Are we not blind because we cannot see? Are we not deaf because we cannot hear His word? Are we not paralyzed, because we have no energy to live? The invalids were hoping for a splash. They waited for someone to come and put them in the pool. They were all in the expectation of some external event that would change their lives.

In our lives on this earth, the lobby of Heaven, are we not like these invalids at the pool? Are we not waiting like them for an Angel of God to perform a miracle that will make us see, hear and live?

Miracles do happen. Some people come out of the baptismal font renewed and reborn. They partake of the Sacraments of God and rise to a new life; they glow with His grace as if they have emerged from the healing waters of the Bethesda pool. Yet that does not happen to everyone, but only to those few who receive a touch of God's grace. We do not know how they are selected. But the rest of us continue to wait for their turn at the pool, blind, deaf and paralysed. God came to the paralysed man, learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, and asked him, "Do you want to get well?" With these words, He sends us a clear message. We should all

ask ourselves that same question, and we should all be able to answer: "Yes, I do wish to be cured. I do want this miracle to happen."

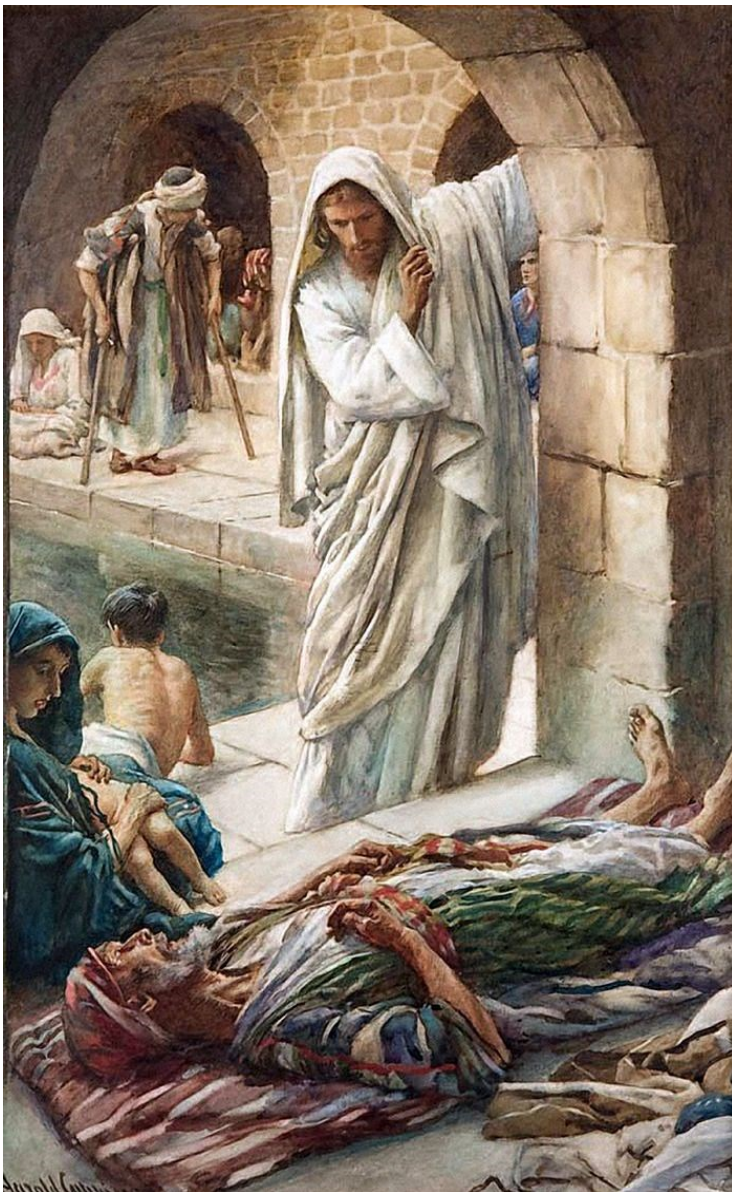
But are we ready for it? Are we all prepared to seek it out and embrace it? The blessed Augustine knew how deep he was in sin and how despicable his condition was. Still, he said to the Lord: "Please make me pure, but do it later." We pray; we strive to live by the Gospel and aim for everlasting life, but do not we respond to Him in the same manner: "Grant me this O Lord, but first give me time to do my will and sin as I please, without reminding me about Your cross and Your Resurrection...?"

Christ confronts us with the same question: "Do you want to get well? Do you want life?" If we answer with an honest yes, He will not have us wait for the water to swirl or His power to descend. He will tell us immediately: "Get up and walk!"

Get up and walk! Get up with faith and confidence; do not wait to be lifted! My grace will show you where to go! When we pray, we often know that we can begin to act on our prayers. Still, we do nothing, expecting God to do it for us. But God gives us the strength to live. He died for our sake, but He cannot live our lives for us.

So let us all remember the narration about the Paralytic and apply it to ourselves. Let us pray that God will give us His grace and strength, but remember to take responsibility for our lives and choices. Let us dedicate our lives to Him, remembering the words of the Apostle: "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

- Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Surozh (+2003)



St. Augustine of Canterbury

St Augustine was from Italy, and a disciple of St Felix, Bishop of Messina. St Gregory Dialogus (who's Pre-Sanctified Liturgy we use) chose him to lead a mission of forty monks to evangelize the people of Britain. They arrived in Kent in 597.

King Ethelbert, whose Frankish wife Bertha was a Christian, welcomed them. They were allowed to base their mission at the ancient church of St Martin, which was restored for their use. This church had been built during the Roman occupation of Britain, and the queen often went there to pray. At first, the king was reluctant to give up his pagan beliefs, but he promised not to harm them, and to supply them with whatever they needed. He also promised that he would not prevent them from preaching Christianity. St Augustine later converted the king to Christianity, along with thousands of his subjects. The holy right-believing King Ethelbert is commemorated on February 25.

Bede says that St Augustine was consecrated as Archbishop of Britain by Archbishop Etherius. Returning to Britain, he threw himself into the work of evangelizing the country with renewed zeal. St Augustine built Christ Church, predecessor of the present cathedral at Canterbury, and also founded the monastery of Ss Peter and Paul east of the city.

The saint was instrumental in founding the dioceses of Rochester and London. In 604 he consecrated St Justus and St Mellitus as bishops. St Augustine also helped the king draft the earliest Anglo-Saxon laws, and founded a school in Canterbury.

St Augustine was not completely successful in all his efforts, however. He was not able to achieve unity with the already existing Christian communities who followed Celtic practices. He met with some of their bishops to urge them to abandon their Celtic traditions and to accept the Roman practices. He invited them to cooperate with him in evangelizing the country, but they refused to give up their ancient traditions. Before meeting with St Augustine in 603, the Celtic bishops asked a holy hermit whether or not to accept Augustine as their leader. The hermit replied, "If he rises to greet you, then accept him. If he remains seated, then he is arrogant and unfit to be your leader, and you should reject him." Unfortunately, St Augustine did not rise to greet them. Perhaps St Augustine was, to some degree, a bit tactless

Prayers Appreciated for:

Living:

Archbishop Nathaniel
Subdeacon Theophan
Samuel
Christine
Dan, Marianne,
Mat. Krystyna
Mat. Kathy

Departed:

Bishop MATTHIAS
(former Bishop of the Diocese
of the Midwest)

Tall Candles

We are still awaiting the
shipment of the tall center
candles.

WEEKDAY READINGS

Monday, May 27

St. Therapon, Bishop of Sardis
Acts 10:1-16
John 6:56-69

Tuesday, May 28

St Germanus, Bishop of Paris (576)
Acts 10:21-33
John 7:1-13

Wed, May 29

St. Theodosia of Tyre
Acts 14:6-18
John 7:14-30

Thurs, May 30

*St Isaac, Founder of Dalmátos
Monastery*
Acts 10:34-43
John 8:12-20

Friday, May 31

St. Apollonios of the Thebaid
Acts 10:44-11:10
John 8:21-30

Saturday, June 1

St. Justin the Philosopher
Acts 12:1-11
John 8:31-42

and too insistent on conformity to Roman customs. On the other hand, Celtic resentment against Roman authority also contributed to the stormy relationship.

Known in his lifetime as a wonderworker, St Augustine fell asleep in the Lord on May 26, 604. He was laid to rest at the entrance of the unfinished church of Ss Peter and Paul. When the church was dedicated in 613, his holy relics were placed inside. An epitaph was composed for his tomb. In part, it reads: "Here lies the Lord Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, sent here by blessed Gregory, bishop of the city of Rome, who with the help of God, and aided by miracles, guided King Ethelbert and his people from the worship of idols to the Faith of Christ."

