

**St. Mary's Orthodox Church**  
**217 First Street – Coaldale Pa 18218-1602**  
**Phone.....570-645-2772**  
**OUR WEBSITE...www.stmarysnativity.org**

**Rector: V. Rev. James Weremedic**  
Retired Attached: V. Rev Paul Ropitsky

**Sunday, May 15, 2022**  
Choir Director: Wash King

**SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC**

<i>Christ is Risen!</i>	<i>Indeed, He is Risen!</i>
<i>Christos Voskrese!</i>	<i>Voistinu Voskrese!</i>
<i>Christos Anesti!</i>	<i>Alithos Anesti!</i>
<i>El Messieh Kahm!</i>	<i>Hakken Kahm!</i>
<i>Cristos a Inviat!</i>	<i>Adevarat a Inviat!</i>

***Services:***

Sunday, May 15      9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Parastas  
Parastas: In memory of Michael Harb offered by John & Jeanne Cannon  
In memory of Jennie Harb offered by John & Jeanne Cannon  
In memory of William Faenza offered by Barbara Faenza & Family  
In memory of Justin King offered by David & Chrissy King & Family  
In memory of John Bench, Jr. offered by Gloria Bench & Family  
In memory of John King, Sr. offered by Stanley & Kathleen Filanowski

Saturday, May 21      4:00 PM – Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, May 22      9:00 AM – Holy Chrismation, Thomas Paul Shanosky, Jr.  
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

***We WELCOME all our visitors today! We want to let you know that we are so glad you came to pray with us. Please come again; join us after the Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall for Coffee Hour.***

***If you do not have a home church, we invite you to become a part of our Church Family.***

**Please Note: Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.**

**Prayer List:**

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Andrew Balliet, Michael Birocik, Clark Andrew Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Karen Harkins, Nancy King, Russell King, Michael Kulick, John & Olga Kushnir, MaryAnn & Paul Macenka, Mary Maholick, Anna Marie Mantey, Mildred O'Shura, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidorik, Mary Simone, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Nancy Vanno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Marie Yurchak.

If anyone is in need of a priest, please call Father James Weremedic at 570-645-2772. Visitation of the Sick and Infirm: If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Fr. James at the Rectory. Emergency Calls: Please call the Rectory (570-645-2772) anytime (day or night) in an emergency.

#### Candles (May 15)

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the Health of **Nancy King** offered by Russell & Geri King  
Altar Candles... In memory of **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak  
Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Mother, Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak  
Vigil Crosses... For the Health of **Russell King** offered by wife, Geri King  
7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the health of **Julia Forte** offered by Russell & Geri King  
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Rose (Winsko) Maliniak** offered by Friends

#### May Birthdays:

2- Lynn Sharpe, 17- Russell King, 17- Julia Forte, 21- Lindsey Ruch,  
31- Marie Skripnek **Please note:** *If you do not see your name on the birthday list, please let Gloria Bench know, and she will gladly add your birthday to the list.*

#### Financials 5/8/22:

Operating Acct: Candles 54 - Altar Candles 20 - Offerings 336 - Non-Envelope 150  
Holy Days 55 Total \$615.00. Cemetery 15  
Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Thank you!

#### Fellowship Hour Hosts

	May 22	No 'coffee hour'	
May 15	No 'coffee hour'	May 29	Lena Marie Berezniak

There is a sign-up sheet for **Coffee Hour** in the vestibule if you would like to host.

Today – Chinese Auction -- Sunday – May 15, 2022

Browsing 1:00 – 2:30 PM – Auction at 2:30 PM

Kitchen will be open

#### **Come and Support this Fundraiser for the Church**

Please use Amazon Smile when ordering from Amazon.

If you have any Redner receipts, please call or get them to Helen King

Please use your Boyer's card when shopping at Boyers; if you need one call Helen King

## SICKNESS COMES IN MANY FORMS

**T**he **SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC** seems almost out of place in the Paschal cycle of services. This day is dedicated to commemorating a miracle which, historically and chronologically, took place quite early in Christ's ministry. At first glance, it appears to have no correlation with the joyful theme of the Resurrection, which we continue to celebrate. Careful study, however, shows that a subtle, but wonderful connection can be made between this miraculous event and our Saviour's rising from the dead.

The power of Jesus to **HEAL** is intimately linked to His Resurrection. It proclaims to us that He Who can overcome death in His **OWN** body certainly has power over **ALL** human flesh. Simply put, our Lord can heal the paralytic because He Himself can rise from the dead.

Today's Gospel lesson is a touching story of a man waiting for 38 years for someone to help him into the healing waters of the pool of Bethesda. How heart-breaking are his words to Christ: "***I have no one to put me into the pool.***" With compassion for the lonely paralytic, Jesus commands the man to do something that he must have longed to do for nearly four decades: "***Rise, take up your bed and walk!***"

So caught up in the joy of this miracle, it is easy for us to overlook the stern admonition given to the paralytic by Christ after curing him: "***Sin no more, lest something worse happens to you.***" Sickness and affliction come in many forms. While physical pain and suffering seem to be the greatest obstacles to a happy life, we must remember that **SPIRITUAL ILLNESSES** have consequences that are much more severe. Remember how Christ once condemned those who have eyes "***but do not see***" and who have ears "***but do not hear.***" Fortunately, our Saviour is always there to provide relief from any "***sickness of the soul.***" Truly, He is the "**Physician**" of our bodies and souls.

## **Acts 9:32-42 (Epistle)**

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.

## **John 5:1-15 (Gospel)**

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.

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 3. Ven. Pachomius the Great, Founder of Coenobitic Monasticism (348 A.D.). Paralytic.** Saint Isaiah the Wonderworker, Bishop of Rostov (1090). The Holy Right-believing Tsarevich Dēmétrios of Uglich and Moscow (1591). Ven. Isaiah, Wonderworker of the Kiev Caves (1115). Ven. Pachomius—Abbot, and Silvanus, of Nerekhta (1384). Ven. Evfrosin (Euphrosynus) the Wonderworker, Abbot of Pskov, and his disciple, Ven. Serapion (Pskov—1481). St. Achilles, Bishop of Larissa (4th c.).

**Kontakion — Tone 3** - By Your divine intercession, O Lord, / as You raised up the paralytic of old, / so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts; / so that being saved I may sing to You: / "Glory to Your power, O compassionate Christ!"

## **Venerable Pachomius the Great, Founder of Coenobitic Monasticism**

**Troparion — Tone 8** - By a flood of tears, you made the desert fertile, / and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. / By the radiance of miracles, you illumined the whole universe! / Our Father Pachomius, pray to Christ God to save our souls!

**Kontakion — Tone 2** - After living the life of the angels in the body, / you were granted their glory, God-bearing Pachomius. / Now standing with them before the throne of God, / you pray that we all may be forgiven.

Saint Pachomius the Great was both a model of desert dwelling, and with Saints Anthony the Great (January 17), Macarius the Great (January 19), and Euthymius the Great (January 20), a founder of the cenobitic monastic life in Egypt.

Saint Pachomius was born in the third century in the Thebaid (Upper Egypt). His parents were pagans who gave him an excellent secular education. From his youth he had a good character, and he was prudent and sensible.

When Pachomius reached the age of twenty, he was called up to serve in the army of the emperor Constantine (apparently, in the year 315). They put the new conscripts in a city prison guarded by soldiers. The local Christians fed the soldiers and took care of them.

When the young man learned that these people acted this way because of their love for God, fulfilling His commandment to love their neighbor, this made a deep impression upon his pure soul. Pachomius vowed to become a Christian. Pachomius returned from the army after the victory, received holy Baptism, moved to the lonely settlement of Shenesit, and began to lead a strict ascetic life. Realizing the need for spiritual guidance, he turned to the desert-dweller Palamon. He was accepted by the Elder, and he began to follow the example of his instructor in monastic struggles.

Once, after ten years of asceticism, Saint Pachomius made his way through the desert, and halted at the ruins of the former village of Tabennisi. Here he heard a Voice ordering him to start a monastery at this place. Pachomius told the Elder Palamon of this, and they both regarded the words as a command from God. They went to Tabennisi and built a small monastic cell. The holy Elder Palamon blessed the foundations of the monastery and predicted its future glory. But soon Palamon departed to the Lord. An angel of God then appeared to Saint Pachomius in the form of a schemamonk and gave him a Rule of monastic life. Soon his older brother John came and settled there with him.

Saint Pachomius endured many temptations and assaults from the Enemy of the race of man, but he resisted all temptations by his prayer and endurance.

Gradually, followers began to gather around Saint Pachomius. Their teacher impressed everyone by his love for work, which enabled him to accomplish all kinds of monastic tasks. He cultivated a garden, he conversed with those seeking guidance, and he tended to the sick.

Saint Pachomius introduced a monastic Rule of cenobitic life, giving everyone the same food and attire. The monks of the monastery fulfilled the obediences assigned them for the common good of the monastery. Among the various obediences was copying books. The monks were not allowed to possess their own money nor to accept anything from their relatives. Saint Pachomius considered that an obedience fulfilled with zeal was greater than fasting or prayer. He also demanded from the monks an exact observance of the monastic Rule, and he chastized slackers.

His sister Maria came to see Saint Pachomius, but the strict ascetic refused to see her. Through the gate keeper, he blessed her to enter upon the path of monastic life, promising his help with this. Maria wept, but did as her brother had ordered. The Tabennisi monks built her a hut on the opposite side of the River Nile. Nuns also began to gather around Maria. Soon a women's monastery was formed with a strict monastic Rule provided by Saint Pachomius.

The number of monks at the monastery grew quickly, and it became necessary to build seven more monasteries in the vicinity. The number of monks reached 7,000, all under the guidance of Saint Pachomius, who visited all the monasteries and administered them. At the same time Saint Pachomius remained a deeply humble monk, who was always ready to comply with and accept the words of each brother.

Severe and strict towards himself, Saint Pachomius had great kindness and condescension toward the deficiencies of spiritually immature monks. One of the monks was eager for martyrdom, but Saint Pachomius turned him from this desire and instructed him to fulfill his monastic obedience, taming his pride, and training him in humility.

Once, a monk did not heed his advice and left the monastery. He was set upon by brigands, who threatened him with death and forced him to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Filled with despair, the monk returned to the monastery. Saint Pachomius ordered him to pray intensely night and day, keep a strict fast and live in complete solitude. The monk followed his advice, and this saved his soul from despair.

The saint taught his spiritual children to avoid judging others, and he himself feared to judge anyone even in thought.

Saint Pachomius cared for the sick monks with special love. He visited them, he cheered the disheartened, he urged them to be thankful to God, and put their hope in His holy will. He relaxed the fasting rule for the sick, if this would help them recover their health. Once, in the saint's absence, the cook did not prepare any cooked food for the monks, assuming that the brethren loved to fast. Instead of fulfilling his obedience, the cook plaited 500 mats, something which Saint Pachomius had not told him to do. In punishment for his disobedience, all the mats prepared by the cook were burned.

Saint Pachomius always taught the monks to rely only upon God's help and mercy. It happened that there was a shortage of grain at the monastery. The saint spent the whole night in prayer, and in the morning a large quantity of bread was sent to the monastery from the city, at no charge. The Lord granted Saint Pachomius the gift of wonderworking and healing the sick.

The Lord revealed to him the future of monasticism. The saint learned that future monks would not have such zeal in their struggles as the first generation had, and they would not have experienced guides. Prostrating himself upon the ground, Saint Pachomius wept bitterly, calling out to the Lord and imploring mercy for them. He heard a Voice answer, "Pachomius, be mindful of the mercy of God. The monks of the future shall receive a reward, since they too shall have occasion to suffer the life burdensome for the monk."

Toward the end of his life Saint Pachomius fell ill from a pestilence that afflicted the region. His closest disciple, Saint Theodore (May 17), tended to him with filial love. Saint Pachomius died around the year 348 at the age of fifty-three, and was buried on a hill near the monastery.