



Weekly Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

A Community of the Orthodox Church in America

Witnessing to the Apostolic Faith in Lake County for over 45 Years

Father Andrew Clements, Pastor

Volume 36

2022

Number 20

Sunday	May 15	<i>4th Sunday of Pascha / Tone 3 / The Paralytic</i>
		9:00 am Church School
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour
Saturday	May 14	<i>SS Constance & Heken, Equal to the Apostles</i>
		5:30 pm Great Vespers
Sunday	May 15	<i>5th Sunday of Pascha / Tone 4 / The Samaritan Woman</i>
		Readings: Acts 11:19-26, 29-30 John 4:5-42
Last Day of Church School		9:00 am Church School
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / May 8

Attendance	155
Operating	\$2,320.00
OCA Assessments	8.00
Maintenance	50.00
Charities	45.00
Basket Blessings	568.00
Other	10.00

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, May 19 at 6:30 pm.

NEW ADDRESS

Joe & Pauline Demanski • 30630 Ridge Rd • Wickliffe, OH 44092 • 440-516-5222.

UGANDA FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, July 12.

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

Mark your calendars for July 25-29.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

Perry (Capitan), Julian, John Clements, Sarah Crivella, Joella (LuAnn D's dgtr), Tim Price, Francis James (Anna D's frnd), Paris Santone (Debbie C's nephew), Kristin & Cameron Robinson, Dave Renda, Ron Moore (Collins's dad), Colton (Maryann S's frnd, Joe Blackburn, Anna Como (Renda frnds), Nick Covelli, Mark Mazurik (Paul's son), suffering Christians in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Anniversaries: Calin & Nicoleta Lechintan (5/20), Joe & Pauline Demanski (5/210).

Birthdays: Corinne Schroeder (5/15), Anna Cuunningham (5/16), Mike Brzozowski (5/17), Nick Fross (5/18), Hope Klinar (5/20), Eric Ray (5/21).

Newborns: Brianna (Ray & Andrea), Brooks (Andrew & Abigail), Natalie (Mario & Beth).

Infant: Seraphina (Bobby & Juliana).

Expecting: Jeffrey & Michelle, Patrick & Katherine, Tyler & Alieya.

Newly Departed: Joseph Qinlivan (Lisa B's dad, 5 / 4), Archbishop Paul (4/24), Michael Galgoczy (4/15).

The Paralytic was like an unburied corpse. He saw You and shouted: "Have mercy on me, O Lord! My bed has become my grave. Why should I live? What use is the Sheep's Pool to me? I have no one to put me into the pool when the angel stirs up the water. I come to You, O Fountain of Healing. Raise me up, that with all I may cry out to You: Glory to You, Almighty Lord!"

— Vespers Hymn for the Paralytic —

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

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).