

## 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 (Exod 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" (Exod 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 Rephidim, 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).

*Text and Image from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/05/26>*



## ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the  
Antiochian Archdiocese

*His Eminence Metropolitan SABA*



*His Grace Bishop THOMAS*



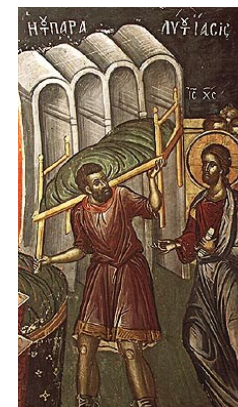
*Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor*

215-954-9286



*Father James Thayer*

215-692-0890



May 11, 2025  
SUNDAY OF THE  
PARALYTIC

**CHRIST IS  
RISEN!**

**Tone 3**

**Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:12-35**

**Epistle: Acts 9:32-42**

**Gospel: St. John 5:1-15**

**CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH  
BY DEATH, AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE.**

**RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 3 - Let the heavens rejoice  
and let the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with  
his own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become  
the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths  
of hades, granting to the world the great mercy!**

### TODAY:

- ◆ *Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission 9am*
- ◆ *Orthros, 8:15 am*
- ◆ *Divine Liturgy 9:30 am*
- ◆ *Mother's Day Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:15 a.m.*
- ◆ *Choir Rehearsal, 12:45 p.m.*

1970 Clearview Road, Souderton, PA 18964

[www.st-philip.net](http://www.st-philip.net) (215) 721-4947

**Emails:** [office@st-philip.net](mailto:office@st-philip.net) [nbushelli@gmail.com](mailto:nbushelli@gmail.com) [frjamesthayer@gmail.com](mailto:frjamesthayer@gmail.com)

**Office Hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. If you or anyone you know is in the hospital or homebound and would like a visit, please call the church office.

## Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

	This Week:	Next Week (May 18):
COFFEE HOUR	Men of St. Philip—Mother's Day	Teens
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabriela P. & Macrina L.	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala
ALTAR CANDLES:	Bushelli—Fr. Noah's Birthday	Chebeleu—brother Matthew
USHERS:	Dan M. & Chris H.	Todd Moody & Tom A.
CLEANING TEAM:	Teens	Nick T., Gabi T., David & Darby S.
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Kendra, Mark, & Morgan	Eric M. & Zach W.

**\* IT IS TIME TO RETURN OUR FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE OFFERINGS.** Thank you for remembering the needs of others.

### This Week:

- Monday, May 11:** - - -
- Tuesday, May 12:** Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1:00 p.m.  
Sermon on the Mount Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
- Wed, May 13:** **MID-PENTECOST**  
**Divine Liturgy, 7:00 a.m.**  
Little COMPLINE & Patristic Reading, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 15:** - - -
- Friday, May 16:** Confessions, 6:00 p.m.  
Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 17:** Men's Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.  
St. Justin Academy Fundraiser, 10:00 a.m.  
Catechumen Class, 4:30 p.m.  
Great **VESPERS, 6:00 p.m.**  
Confession, 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 18:** **SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN ORTHROS, 8:15 a.m.**  
*Mission Chapel Liturgy, 9:00 a.m.*  
**Divine LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.**  
Sunday School & Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** Vespers (5/3): 114 - Liturgy (5/4): 291 - Mission Chapel: 51  
**OFFERINGS 5/4:** Candles, \$342.91. Collections, \$141. Book Shelf Ministry, \$135. Building Fund, \$350. Cemetery Fund, \$48.51. Mission Chapel, \$150. Food for Hungry, \$35. Needy Fund, \$1075 Pastoral Discretion, \$97.52 Teen Fund, \$72.03. Stewardship, \$2,682.08. Total received: \$5,129.05

**THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

## **SPECIAL APPEAL**

Our parish is in need of donations of Olive Oil to keep our lamps burning bright. Please place your Olive Oil offering beneath the St. Nicholas icon on the iconostasis. Thank you!

### Mark Your Calendar:

**Holy Ascension**  
Hierarchical Liturgy w/ Bishop  
Thomas & Priestly Ordination:  
Dn. Luke  
*Wednesday, May 28*  
Festal Vespers, 5:00 pm  
Festal Orthros, 6:00 pm  
Hierarchical Liturgy, 7:00 pm  
Festal Reception, 9:00 pm

**Daily Liturgies for Fr. Luke's Training**  
*May 30 - June 29*

**Pentecost**  
*Sunday, June 8*

**Sts. Peter & Paul**  
*Saturday, June 29*

**2024 Parish Life Conference**  
*June 25-28, 2025*

**VCS 2024**  
*July 28-Aug 1*

**MAY OUTREACH COLLECTION:**  
**Skin Care Products**

### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria and all the holy land	+Coca-Lucia
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	+Nicholas
	+Mary
	+Haritos
	+Pani Susan
N.I. Veronika, Anna, Lucretia, David, Mariam	(May Parish Diptychs)
Archpriest Joel	+Paul
Dn Michael	+Bahia
Nun Sergeia	+Kh. Jane
John	+LuAnn
Doris	+Lida
James	+Donna
Steven	+Helen
Paraskevi	
Elizabeth	
Michaela	
Elias	
Mary	
Maria	
Constantinos	
Mary	
Helen	
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, Michael, Xenia, & all Missionaries	
Dn Nathan, John, Samuel & all seminarians	
Those searching for spouses	
Engaged Couples	
Families trying to conceive	
Expectant mothers	
New mothers and their babies	
Those searching for jobs and housing	
Those in mourning	
The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity	
	<u>Catechumens</u>
	Ryan
	Michael
	Kassandra
	Rose
	Jasper
	Catherine
	Matthew
	Matthew
	Mary
	Martin
	Meghan-Photini
	John
	Steven
	Robert
	Liara
	Asher
	Sarah
	Andrew
	Carolyn
	Martin
	James
	Anthony

The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26)