



Sunday Bulletin May 7, 2017 *Greek Orthodox Church of the* *Annunciation*

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Proistamenos

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### **Epistle Reading Acts of the Apostles 9:32-42**

IN THOSE DAYS, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

### **Gospel Reading John 5:1-15**

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.' "They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

Dearly Beloved in the Lord:

Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen! I greet you in peace and love.

In the Holy Gospel reading of today, the Sunday of the Paralytic, we read the story about a man who was afflicted with the infirmity of paralysis. He was at the sheep's gate where there was a pool with five pillars holding up a dome like canopy. This was known as the sheep's pool. Underneath the canopy, there were many afflicted with various maladies and conditions. The tradition and expectation was that whoever went into the water immediately after the movement of the water began, they would be healed of their affliction. Jesus saw that man who was paralyzed, who laid on his bed/pallet for a long time. This man had been afflicted with his condition for about 38 years. The Lord approached him and said "Willst thou be made whole?" The man cried to the Lord stating that he had no one to place him in the pool after the movement of the water began and that another would step down before him when the water began to move. The Lord healed the man and told him to walk and take up his bed and go home.

How many times, in our lives, has the Lord been there for us, waiting for us, to heal us of not only our physical infirmity but also of our spiritual infirmity? The answer is that the Lord is always there for us but we are so preoccupied with our secular lives, our material lives, and our modern day self-centered lives, as you may have heard me say previously that we do not see the Lord standing there next to us! He is whispering to us "Rise take up your pallet and go home!" However, we suffer from selective hearing, at times, hearing only what we think is important.

The Lord had said in another Gospel reading: "He who has ears let him hear!" To hear the `Divine, we must be actively seeking the Divine! Only then may we be healed through God's mercy and grace. If we allow evil or unholy things to preoccupy us, then we will miss the opportunity of our Lord's saving grace to heal us of sin and physical affliction. Call upon the Lord and you will be healed! Ignore the Lord and we would not be made "whole."

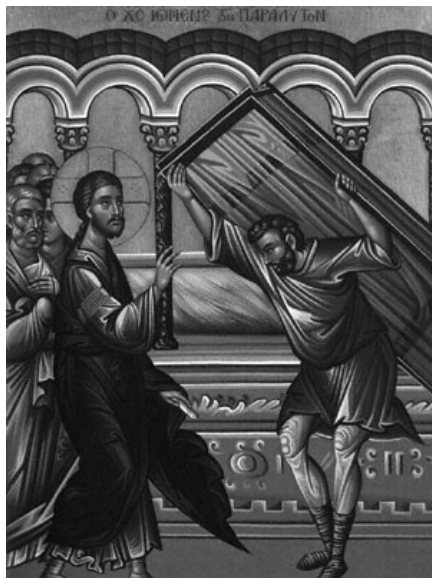
May the blessing of the Risen Christ be upon you!

Prayerfully with pastoral love,

+Fr. Michael

## Sunday of the Paralytic

Close to the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem, there was a pool, which was called the Sheep's Pool. It had round about it 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 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, "Wilt thou 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 thy 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.

May 7

## Commemoration of the Precious Cross that appeared in the sky over Jerusalem in 351 A.D.

On this day in the year 351, not long after Cyril had succeeded Maximus as Archbishop of Jerusalem, during the reign of Constantius, the son of Saint Constantine the Great, on the day of Pentecost, the sign of the Cross appeared over Jerusalem. Saint Cyril, in his letter to the Emperor Constantius, says, "At about the third hour of the day, an enormous Cross, formed of light, appeared in the heaven above holy Golgotha and reaching to the holy Mount of Olives, being seen not by one or two only, but manifest with perfect clarity to the whole multitude of the city; not, as one might suppose, rushing swiftly past in fancy, but seen openly above the earth many hours in plain sight, and overcoming the beams of the sun with its dazzling rays" (PG 33:1 16q).

FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS...that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Michalena (Skiadas) Sukenik, Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon, and Presbytera Magdalena Michalopulos. Please notify Fr. Michael if you have anyone else who should be included for special prayers. May they be under the grace and tender watch of our Lord.

Today at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will have a 40 Day Memorial Service for Jack (John) Quinnan, beloved husband of Janet Demtrak Quinnan, father to Patti, Peter, Jeff, Heather, and Jamie, and grandfather to Jon, Jason, Kari, Turner, Victoria, Ashley, Grace, Courtney, Matt, Cooper, Riley, and great grandson Jace. Jack was a very influential man in our community. May his memory be eternal! Our prayers and best wishes go out to the entire Quinnan family.

Whether you are an Orthodox Christian, or this is your first visit to an Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us. Although Holy Communion is reserved for baptized and chrismated (confirmed) Orthodox Christians, all are invited to receive the "ANTIDORON" (blessed bread) which is not a sacrament, but is a reminder of the "agape feast" that followed worship in the early Church. After the Divine Liturgy this morning, please join us in the Church Hall for fellowship and refreshments. We hope that you will return often to worship with us, to grow in Christ and in our Orthodox Faith. For any spiritual, religious, or sacramental matters, please contact Fr. Michael (607) 795-1474. For any building, facility or church property issues, please contact Parish Council President Steve Anastos, (607) 296-9799. Deadline for suggestions for the bulletin is 12:00 noon on Thursday.