

Christ is Risen!
Χριστός Воскресе!
Χριστός ἀνέστη!

St. Mary ~ Holy Protection
Byzantine Catholic Church
4480 Route 981 Latrobe, PA 15650

Indeed He is Risen!
Воистину Воскресе!
Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!

Administrator: Fr. Paul-Alexander Shutt, OSB
Confession Schedule: *Saturday* 16:00 – 16:30,
Parish email: st.marytrauger@gmail.com

Parish Office: 724-423-3 673 **Hall:** 724-423-8838
Sunday 9:00 – 9:30, or by appointment
Website: www.stmarybyzantinecatholic.org

3 MAY 2020 / 7528
SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC



Epistle: Acts 9:32 – 42

GOSPEL: John 5:1 – 15

04 / 26 / 2020
COLLECTION

Adults: \$480

Children: \$4

Flowers: \$10

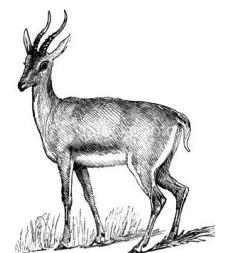
Candles: \$15

Holy Week: \$40

PASCHA: \$250

TOTAL: \$799

Tabitha, Which Means Dorcas **PROVIDENCE IN NAMING.** **CHRYSOSTOM:** It was not without purpose that the writer informed us of the woman's name, but to show that her character matched her name—she was active and wakeful as a gazelle. For many names are bestowed by providence, as we have often said to you. "She was full," it says, "of good works." Not only of alms but also "of good works," both in general and of this good work in particular, "which Dorcas made while she was with them." What humility! Unlike us, all of them were together, and she worked and made clothes. **HOMILIES ON THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 21.**



Pascha and the Sacrament of Baptism: During the paschal season, the Mystery of Baptism is offered us as a subject for meditation. The services of Great and Holy Saturday are a baptismal liturgy, at which the catechumens in the early centuries received initiation and illumination through Baptism, Chrismation, and the Eucharist. In this way they entered the Church and became members of its body. During the forty days of Pascha, baptism will be the subject of reflection for the entire church. (1) At **Pascha**, the passage from death to life, the Mystery of Baptism is renewed each year for all the faithful. (2) On **Thomas Sunday**, together with the incredulous apostle, we touch with our finger the life-giving side of the Savior, out of which flow water and blood, the source of Baptism and Eucharist. (3) The **Myrrh-bearing women** at the tomb remind us that the baptized, having been immersed three times in the water, relive the three days of Christ in the tomb. To die with Christ in order to be born with Him, this is the mystery of both Pascha and Baptism. (4) The **Paralytic** near the pool is waiting for the water to save him, just as many today expect immediate, automatic salvation from the sacrament, often more out of superstition than faith. It is Christ Himself Who grants healing and Who, by His presence, transforms the water into the gift of the Holy Spirit.

THE INCARNATE GOD *The Feasts of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary*

THE PENTECOSTARION: Simply put the *Pentecostarion* is the chief book of hymns for the paschal season – the 40 days b/w Pascha and the Ascension. It takes its name for *Pentecost*, which is the Greek word for the Feast of Weeks – an ancient Jewish holiday still celebrated in Judaism as *Shavuot*. The Feast of Weeks commemorates the anniversary of the day on which God gave the Law – Torah to the people of Israel at Mt. Sinai. Just as the date of *Shavuot* is linked to that of Passover, the day of Pentecost is linked to that of the Christian Passover – Pascha. It was on the day of Pentecost, 50 days after our Lord's Resurrection, that the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and all those with them in the Upper Room. The days of the *Pentecostarion* are meant to be filled w/ feasting and rejoicing, but we must not forget that it is also time to prepare for another great feast: Pentecost. The season of the Pentecostarion can be divided into two halves, with the **Feast of Mid-Pentecost** acting as a watershed between the celebration of Pascha and the preparation for Pentecost. From Pascha to Mid-Pentecost there is a greater emphasis on the Resurrection, while from Mid-Pentecost the emphasis shifts to the coming feast and the waters of baptism (The Pool of Bethesda, the Well of the Samaritan Woman, the Pool of Siloam). The 40 day paschal season, therefore, is both backward looking and forward looking: we celebrate and rejoice in our Lord's Resurrection, and we prepare for the great feast of the Holy Spirit descending upon us, filling and fulfilling the Church of Christ. The risen Christ will return to His Father in heaven and the Holy Spirit will come down to us on earth. This descent of the Holy Spirit and His indwelling within us is one of the principal themes of the baptismal theology of the Eastern Churches. Every year, the Church reminds us of our own baptism (however, long ago it may have occurred) and the incredible calling to be vessels of the Holy Spirit. The Church asks if we are living up to our sacred calling to be disciples of Christ and members of His Church.

adapted from «*Meditations for Pascha. Reflections on the Pentecostarion*» by Vassilios Papavassiliou



~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

- **MOTHER'S DAY** is **May 10th**. Spiritual Bouquet Cards are available in the Narthex, or you may mail or email the names of living and deceased mothers you would like to be prayed for at the Sunday Divine Liturgy.
- **NEW HOT AND COLD WATER LINES** to the hand washing sink in the hall kitchen had to be replaced this week.

- **THEOSIS INSERTS:** By sending the bulletin electronically, I am not able to include the weekly *Theosis* insert. It's a shame to have them go to waste. If you would like to receive them, let me know and I will mail you all that are in our current shipment of weekly bulletin covers. Eastern Christian Publications has announced that due to COVID-19 the *Theosis* insert will not be printed until things return to «normal».
- **SEMINARY COLLECTION:** The annual collection for our **Saints Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary** will be taken the weekend of **16 – 17 May**. Please be generous in your support of our men in priestly and diaconal formation, the future of our Church!
- **PURIFICATION OF THE HEART: The First Stage of the Spiritual Life** The purification of the heart is the essential starting point of the Christian life. How do we identify the presence of the passions in our own lives, and what are the means, the medicine, that the Church gives us to overcome them?

This live webinar will take place on the following dates: **May 6, 13 & 20 @ 8 - 9 pm EDT**. All courses are free of charge, but you must register at **EasternCatholic.org/Events**. Rev. Deacon Thomas Moses, the presenter for this series, serves as a deacon at Our Lady of the Cedars Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Manchester, NH, where he lives with his wife and daughter. He is a graduate of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary and now works as a full time high school theology teacher at Bishop Guertin High School and a per diem chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital, both in nearby Nashua, NH. Some of his written work can be found on Catholic Exchange.

- **20th ANNUAL SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS LECTURE** sponsored by the Byzantine Catholic Seminary to be delivered through Live Stream on **Thursday, May 7**. The Byzantine Christian tradition reads the Gospel of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian throughout the paschal season. This is no accident. The annual celebration of the Resurrection seems to have originated in the circles around John. Looking again at this gospel in the light of Pascha, Fr. John Behr of St. Vladimir Seminary, in a live-stream on the 7th of May, will consider what is meant by Christ's last word from the cross "It is finished" - and show how the mystery of the incarnation includes us today. The public is welcome to tune in to this lecture on **Thursday, May 7 at 7:00 PM** via the Seminary website at **www.bcs.edu**. The same website will also archive the recorded lecture for future access by the public.

Fr. John Behr is the former Dean of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, where he is currently the Director of the Master of Theology Program and the Father Georges Florovsky Distinguished Professor of Patristics. He has published numerous monographs with Oxford University Press and St. Vladimir's Seminary Press (S.V.S.P.), most recently a new critical edition and translation of Origen's On First Principles. He has also published various works aimed for more general audiences, such as his more poetic and meditative work entitled Becoming Human: Theological Anthropology in Word and Image (S.V.S.P., 2013).

- The **ORIENTALE LUMEN XXIV CONFERENCE** will be held as a "virtual" conference in **June 2020** on the theme of «**Liturgy and Icons: Worshiping through Images.**» Speakers will pre-record their lectures for viewing on YouTube in June, and a **2-hour live, interactive panel discussion will be held on Tuesday, June 23 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm**. Registration details for viewing the panel will be posted in the future.