



Church website: [www.hrocby.org](http://www.hrocby.org)  
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*Holy Resurrection  
 Orthodox Church*

222 Mary Street, Rostraver Township, PA  
 (Serving the faithful of Belle Vernon and surrounding areas)

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**May 23, 2021**

**Sunday of the  
 Paralytic**

*Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Has Risen!*

<b>Services</b>	Sat., May 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Virgin Martyr Theodosia of Tyre</b>	
		Hours	<b>8:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>9 am</b>
		Great Vespers with Confession	<b>7 pm</b>
	Sun., May 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sunday of St. Photini, the Samaritan Woman</b>	
		Hours	<b>9:45 am</b>
		Divine Liturgy	<b>10 am</b>

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

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.

## **Gospel (*Resurrection*)**

*(John 5:1-15)*

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.

\*Take time to read the scriptures to prepare your heart and mind  
for Sunday’s Liturgy.

**Next Week -- Epistle:** Acts 11:19-26, 29-30

**Gospel Reading:** John 4:5-42

## **Announcements:**

**Please remember to extend your Paschal greetings to everyone!**

**Note from Parish Council:** A meeting was held this past Monday to discuss the Air Conditioning options. Good news! A vote was taken and had a unanimous decision to move forward regarding a new air conditioning unit.

The 2021 Graduation season is upon us. Please submit names of graduates to either Fr. Stephan or Mary Merella so the Parish can congratulate our graduates and wish them God's Blessings on their next venture!

### ***The Fourth Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Paralytic***

*By Very Rev. Fr. Lawrence Farley*

The story of the healing of the paralytic is one of the series of stories in John's Gospel that center on water. Pascha is the baptismal festival par excellence, and the Paschal season thus features these baptismal gospel stories.

In this story, a man long languishing in lameness waited by the pool of water near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem, beneath five porticoes, for it was thought that when an angel stirred the water, the first one into the pool would find healing from any affliction. His attention was all on that pool, so that when Jesus found him and asked him if he really wanted to be healed, all he could think to ask was that He might help him into the pool the next time the angel stirred the waters.

In John's Gospel, the water here is an image of the Law (given by angels, having five books to parallel the five porticoes). The man is an image of the Jews, depending on the Law for their salvation. Christ redirects the man's attention to Himself and His word. He tells the man he doesn't need the pool anymore. Let him arise, take up his pallet, and walk home. And the man does -- showing that healing and salvation come only from Christ. We also, whose souls are paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts, can find the same salvation. We also can sing to Him, "Glory to Your majesty, O bountiful Christ!"

### **Path to a New Normal:**

In March, Archbishop Melchizedek gave parishes the opportunity to reopen as each parish is able to with regards to the health of the parish while still adhering to State and local restrictions.

#### ***Continuing on the Path to a New Normal:***

- a. Parish Council agreed to remove the tape from one side of the pews. The other side will have the tape up so that people will have the option to maintain social distancing.
- b. Parish Council also agreed that coffee hour should be able to restart again on Sunday, May 30.
- c. The Synod is meeting this week and we should receive additional directions for getting back to normal.

### **NOTE REGARDING HROC FOOD PANTRY:**

Jack Lofink took the food from the Church pantry in the social hall to the food bank in Fayette City this week. There were a couple boxes that were left behind.

I received a call from a family in need this past Friday and delivered the last of the food. The family was so appreciative for the food and a couple gift cards. They are still in need of size 6 diapers and Pampers Sensitive wipes as well as hygiene products. Any help with these items is most appreciated. God Bless.

**From Fr. Stephan:**

Recently, parishioners, as well as friends, neighbors, and even strangers who recognize me as a member of the clergy express their concerns in regards to the civil/political unrest as well as the corona virus situation.

Now, more than ever, we need to come together as the “Body of Christ” and let the “Light of Christ” shine through us. I am going to ask that everyone in the parish add these special petitions to their daily prayers.

Again, we pray, O Lord, that You come to our aid now during the global spread of the Coronavirus and be with the families of those who are sick and who have died. May the sick regain their strength and health, and as they worry and grieve, defend them from further illness and despair. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Give wisdom and strength to our federal government, our state governments, together with the leaders of all nations, and give them foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they serve. Give them the added wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for and prevent future outbreaks. O Lord hear us and have mercy.

Again, we pray, O Lord, that You be with the doctors, nurses, researchers, and all medical professionals who seek to heal those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. We pray that You stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, we pray that You stay with us as we endure and mourn, prepare, and persist. O Lord hear us and have mercy.

**Petitions at the Augmented Litany in a Time of Civil Unrest**

Again we pray for this country and for all its cities, towns, and countrysides that are riven by strife; for all those who are victims of violence, of hatred and injustice, of disorder and unrest, and especially for those who have been killed, that they might find their repose in thee; for all who are beset by anger and fear; for those in civil authority and all who enforce the law; and for all the people of this land: for justice, godly liberty, mercy, a peaceful life, and remission of our sins. O Lord hear us and have mercy.

Again we pray that all people of this land, its rulers and authorities, its citizens and all who reside here, might be enlightened with the light of thy Gospel and thy commandments, unto peace and good order and love for one another, so that we might easily and safely pass from our temporary homeland here to, our true homeland with thee in heaven. O Lord hear us and have mercy.