



Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Church
(St. Mary's)
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Sunday & Holy Days Divine Liturgies:
as scheduled in the Bulletin

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

JULY 12, 2020

Saturday July 11 6th Sunday after Pentecost

4:30PM – Confession. 5:00PM – Divine Liturgy For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners
& in particular for the health and blessings of William Bergkamp from Ann Woroniak

Saturday July 18 7th Sunday after Pentecost

4:30PM – Confession. 5:00PM – Divine Liturgy For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners
& in particular for the health and blessings of newborn Joseph George Miller
from Ann Woroniak

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The Paralysis of Sin

A Reflection for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Gospel Reading Matthew (9:1-8)

The ability to walk has been a major concern of people of all ages throughout the history of humanity. Just think of how many people, perhaps even you or a relative or friend, have undergone knee or hip replacement surgery to assist in mobility and ease the pain of an arthritic condition. On television, we see advertisements to assist those who became amputees during the hostilities of war. The airwaves also constantly bombard us with a constant stream of commercials for arthritis medications and various types of walkers.

When Jesus walked the earth, being paralyzed was very debilitating to an individual. An afflicted individual could not earn a livelihood, was dependent on others for every need and had to endure a life of hardship and dependency. All four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John recount the miracle of Jesus healing a paralytic in their Gospel accounts, which clearly indicates the concern for those who suffered from the inability to walk.

And the Church Fathers in designating Gospel readings for the Sundays throughout the year, have chosen the healing of a paralytic on the Second Sunday of the Great Fast (Mark 2:1-12), the Fourth Paschal Sunday, the Sunday of the Paralytic (John 5:1-15), and today, the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Matthew 9:1-8). The Lucan account of the healing of the paralytic is read on the Saturday of the 18th week after Pentecost (Luke 5:17-26).

In today's Gospel, the paralytic is brought to Jesus by others. Listen to these words, "When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Courage, child, your sins are forgiven.'" (Mt. 9:2). Jesus noticed the faith of the people who literally carried the paralytic to Him, but instead of saying "get up and walk" He tells him, "your sins are forgiven."

The poor man is suffering from paralysis, yet Jesus emphasizes the greater suffering one endures from sin. This is the lesson Jesus is teaching us—that through Him, our sins can be forgiven. He says so explicitly, "But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic, 'Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home.'" (Mt. 9:6).

In a sense, sin causes each of us to become a paralytic. It disrupts our relationship with our Creator as we turn away from Him and His laws. Paralyzed by sin, we cannot journey with God in this life until our ability to walk with God is restored by the forgiveness of our sins.

Avail yourself often of the Mystery of Penance, so that by the forgiveness of Jesus Christ, through the power given to His priests, you may walk with Jesus Christ on your journey to eternal life.

There is one other aspect in today's Gospel that deserves a brief comment. Jesus is healing a paralyzed man. Yet the Pharisees, those knowledgeable in the Jewish religious law, in their hearts are criticizing Him. Jesus is doing good and His actions are criticized by others.

How often in our lives do we act with good intentions, only to be criticized and misunderstood by others? It happens to all of us. We think we are doing good and someone comes along only to give us flack for our actions—whether in the workplace, at school, in our homes, and yes, even in our parishes.

During such times, we may experience hurt, disappointment, discouragement, even an attitude of giving up, saying to ourselves, "What's the use?"

However, at such times, be encouraged by today's Gospel, remembering that even Jesus as He was doing good was criticized and misunderstood by others. And following the example of Jesus, continue to do good as you overcome the paralysis of sin and continue to walk with God throughout your life.

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Announcements

●**Welcome Back to our church!** Please share this news with your family and friends! We have resumed our Sunday Liturgy on Saturdays with the indoor service. Please keep in mind that social distancing applies. The faithful must wear a mask during the celebration of Liturgy, except for the brief moment while receiving Holy Communion. Sit in designated pews and respect social distance between others of 6 feet or more unless you are one family unit. Sanitize your hands as you arrive for the service. No handshakes, hugs, kissing of icons, etc. Stay home if you are sick or not feeling well. The obligation to attend Sunday Liturgy remains lifted until further notice, especially if you are part of a vulnerable population and/or have an underlying health condition. While these protocols are intrusive, they are necessary as they allow us to celebrate the Sacraments in person while doing our part to help stop the spread of coronavirus. May the Lord keep us protected and healthy and, well prepared for the gift of eternal life!

●**Our heartfelt condolences and prayers** are extended to Martha Stine and her family, whose father, Col. +Leon Byrd, passed away on Tuesday, July 7, 2020. The Funeral Liturgy will be held at our church on Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 11:00AM. With the COVID issues the service is reserved only for immediate family, there will be no wake or visitation of any type. May his soul rest in peace, Vichnaya Pamiat!

●**Church Donations** We sincerely thank our parishioners who mail their donations when they're unable to come to Divine Liturgy. If you are financially able, please continue to support our church. You may mail your donations to: PO Box 2735, Manassas, VA 20108. THANK YOU!

Collection July 4 - \$1,565 Sincere thanks for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!

Announcements from the Archeparchy

Announcement one: Honorary Consulate of Ukraine in Philadelphia will have a consul's day on Saturday, July 25, at Ukrainian Educational Center (700 North Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA) for anyone who would like to apply or renew Ukrainian international passports, notarize affidavits, receive documents proving citizenship of Ukraine, etc. Consuls of the General Consulate of Ukraine in New York will be present to meet everyone. Please make an appointment prior to the meeting by calling 267.738.5778.

Announcement two: You are asked to forward your parish collections for the flood victims in western Ukraine to the chancery as soon as possible. Below are YouTube links in both the Ukrainian and English language interviews with Bishop Andriy concerning the flood relief efforts. Please share, especially since some people may not be able to access the interviews on FaceBook.

YouTube Ukrainian: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFS0R-zDVFk>

YouTube English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7uFaKLopM8&t=51s>

Bishop Andriy has prepared a video describing the devastating late June floods that have resulted in widespread destruction, loss of homes, livelihood and life in western Ukraine. He describes the urgent need of basic necessities of food, water and shelter for thousands of people who are experiencing the pain and suffering of this hardship. He describes the generous response of the faithful in the parish collections, on the FaceBook website and mailed-in donations to the appeal initiated by the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia in response to the worldwide appeal of Patriarch Sviatoslav to assist the victims in the flooded areas. Bishop Andriy details how the funds are already being distributed and used in western Ukraine to provide much needed help to those affected by this natural disaster.

Below are the FaceBook links to both the Ukrainian language version and the English language version of the video:

English link: <https://www.facebook.com/archeparchyphilly/videos/280187936395802/>

Ukrainian link: <https://www.facebook.com/archeparchyphilly/videos/325267125153737/>

6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Troparion and Kontakion:

Troparion (5): Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, and born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Kontakion (5): You, my Savior, descended to Hades, and as the Almighty, You shattered its gates. With Yourself You, as Creator, raised the dead and shattered the sting of death, and delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Mankind. And so we cry out: Save us, O Lord.

Now and for ever and ever: Amen. Theotokion (5): Rejoice, O Impassable Door of the Lord! Rejoice, O Rampart and Protection of those who have recourse to you! Rejoice, O Tranquil Haven and Virgin, who gave birth in the flesh to your Maker and God! Fail not to intercede for those who sing and worship the Child you bore.

Prokimenon (5): You, O Lord, will guard us and will keep us from this generation, and for ever. **Verse:** Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer left a just man.

Prokimenon (5): You, O Lord, will guard us and will keep us from this generation, and for ever. **Epistle: Reading of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (Rom 12,6-14)**

Brethren: Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be sincere; hate what is evil; hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them. Alleluia Verses: Verse (5): Your mercies, O Lord, I will sing for ever; from generation to generation I will announce Your truth with my mouth.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse (5): For You have said: Mercy shall be built up for ever; in the heavens Your truth shall be prepared. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Gospel: (Mt 9,1-8) At that time, Jesus entered a boat, made the crossing, and came into his own town. And there people brought to him a paralytic lying on a stretcher. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Courage, child, your sins are forgiven." At that, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." Jesus knew what they were thinking, and said, "Why do you harbor evil thoughts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" - he then said to the paralytic, "Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He rose and went home. When the crowds saw this they were struck with awe and glorified God who had given such authority to human beings.

Communion Verse: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.