

:: On the Healing of the Paralytic (Mark 2) ::
Blessed Theophylact of Ochrid

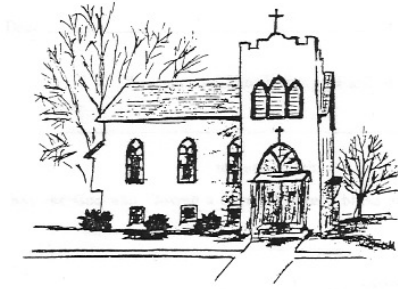
“The Lord does the same with our spiritual sicknesses. He not only delivers us from our sins, but fills us with strength to do His commandments. Therefore, I too, who am a paralytic can be healed. For Christ at this very moment is in Capernaum, which interpreted, is ‘the house of comfort and consolation,’ which is the Church. For the house of the Comforter is the Church. I, too, am a paralytic, for the powers of my soul are inert and will not move to do good. But if I am carried by the four Evangelists and brought to the Lord, then I will hear Him call me, “Child,” (for by doing His commandments I become a son of God) and my sins will be forgiven me.

“But how can I be brought to Jesus? If they make an opening in the roof. And what is the roof? It is my mind, which over-arches all that is within me. It is a roof made of many earthen and clay tiles, signifying earthly affairs. But if all these things are pulled away, and the strength of the mind within us is opened up and freed of the weight of earthly things, then I will be lowered, that is, I will be humbled.



For I ought not to rise up in pridefulness that I have been unburdened of earthly things; but instead, after I have been unburdened of earthly things, I ought to be lowered, that is, humbled. Then I will be healed and I will take up my bed, which is my body, and employ it to do the commandments. For I should not only be raised up from sin and understand that I sin; I should also take up my bed, that is, get my body up and set it to do good. Then we shall also be able to see with spiritual eyes, so that all our thoughts within us can say, ‘We never saw it on this fashion,’ which means, ‘We never understood until now that we were paralytics and have now been healed.’ **Only he who has been cleansed of sins sees things as they truly are.**”

Any announcements for the Sunday bulletin? Please submit by Wednesday each week to Fr. Andrew, by email or phone. If you are not on the church's email list and would like to be, please let Fr. Andrew know.



**St. George Orthodox Church
of Spring Valley**

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March 8, 2015 – Second Sunday of Lent

St. Gregory Palamas

Matins (Morning Prayer), 9:00 AM :: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM

Today's Holy Bread and Coffee Hour: Bill and Mary Miller

Epistle: Mary Majerus

Sermonette for Ladies' Month: Dottie Malooley

Collection: Mary Miller and Lynette Forsa

Next Sunday's Holy Bread and Coffee Hour: Ron and Dottie Malooley

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 6): When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of St. Gregory Palamas (Tone 8): O Star of Orthodoxy, support of the Church and its teacher, O comeliness of ascetics, and incontestable champion of those who speak in theology, Gregory the wonder-worker, the pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, implore thou constantly for the salvation of our souls.

Troparion of St. George the Great Martyr (Tone 4): Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and succour of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for kings, O great among martyrs, the victory-clad George: Intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

St. George is a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
The Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH
The Right Reverend Bishop ANTHONY, Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest
www.antiochian.org

Kontakion for Lent (Tone 8): To thee, the Champion Leader, I thy servant ascribe thank-offerings of victory: for thou hast delivered me from terrors, O Theotokos; but as thou hast that power which is invincible, from all dangers set me free that I may cry out unto thee: ‘Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom!’

The Epistle and Gospel Readings for the Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

O Lord, Thou wilt preserve us and keep us from this generation.
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (1:10-2:3)

“In the beginning, Thou, O Lord, didst found the earth, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands; they will perish, but Thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years will never end.”

But to what angel has He ever said, “Sit at My right hand, until I make Thy enemies a stool for thy feet”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore, we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message, declared by angels, was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard Him.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (2:1-12)

At that time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the Word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now, some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your pallet and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” – He said to the paralytic – “I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.” And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all. So that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at St. George, see our website, www.stgeorgeorthodox.org or take a print-out from the table downstairs.

Upcoming Events and Services:

- **Today:** Children’s Sunday School, immediately after communion. *The children will make crosses today to carry in next week’s Holy Cross procession.*
- **Today:** Ladies meeting, after coffee hour. See Dottie or Dee for details.
- **Monday, March 9:** Great Compline, 6pm
- **Wednesday, March 11:** Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm
- **Friday, March 13:** Third Akathist to the Theotokos, 6pm
- **Saturday, March 14:** Father Andrew will lead all-day youth retreat in NW Indiana. NO VESPERS at St. George this evening.
- **Next Sunday, March 15: Holy Cross.** Matins at 9am, Liturgy at 10am, Cross procession at the end of the Liturgy.
- **Also next Sunday:** March parish council meeting after Liturgy and coffee hour.

We offer our sincerest condolences to the Kaleel family upon the passing of our dear friend Marion Kaleel. Marion passed away peacefully this past Thursday evening, in the presence of her loving and praying family. May her memory be eternal and may God grant her peace and rest with all the saints.

Great news from our cleaning company, Service Master. Mike, who cleans our church, was nominated for and won employee of the year for the entire Great Lakes region. Congratulations, Mikel!

Do you have questions about how to use your smartphone? There are actually many Christian and Orthodox apps and programs you can download and use: daily prayers, saints, Bible readings, and more. Nicole Wiltse has graciously offered to lead a class for us, free of charge, on the evening of Friday, March 27. We will have our Lenten Akathist service at 6pm, followed by the class downstairs. Please see Nicole or Father Andrew to register.

February Finances

Income: \$4978.00

Expenses: \$7016.18

Ending Balance: \$13,011.12

Please feel free to speak with our treasurer Anyisia Medavar if you have any questions.