

## Protection of the Most Holy Mother Of God

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**VOL. 2 No. 35 May 15, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Pascha-Sunday of the Paralytic**

### Today's Liturgical Propers

**Tone 3 Troparion** (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world// great mercy.

**Tone 3 Kontakion** (Pentecostarion)

By Your divine intercession, O Lord, as You raised up the Paralytic of old, so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts; so that being saved I may sing to You:/ "Glory to Your power, O compassionate Christ!"

**Tone 8 Kontakion** (Pascha)

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal, You destroyed the power of death. In victory You arose, O Christ God, proclaiming: "Rejoice!" to the Myrrhbearing Women, granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

**Tone 1 Prokeimenon** (Pentecostarion)

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us /as we have set our hope on You! (Ps. 32:22)

V. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)

V. For You have said: Mercy will be established forever; Your truth will be prepared in the heavens. (Ps. 88:3)

**Gospel** John 5:1-15

(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

"Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice, your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!

With Himself He has raised all the dead."

Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!

The glory of the Lord has shone on you.

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!

in the Resurrection of your Son!

## Communion Hymn

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality!

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

### This Week's Schedule

Sun	May 15	9:30 AM- Divine Liturgy	Sunday of the Paralytic <i>Acts 9:32-42 John 5:1-15</i>
Mon	May 16	9:00 AM- Divine Liturgy* 6:30 PM: Moleben to the Mother of God for the Peace and Stability of Ukraine **	The Holy Venerable Theodosius, Abbot of the Caves Monastery in Kyiv and founder of Monasticism in Ukraine <i>Acts 10:1-16 John 6:56-69</i> *repose of the soul of Michael Moritz (40 <sup>th</sup> day) ** St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church 1826 Kenmore Avenue Bethlehem (Sponsored by the Brotherhood of Ukrainian Clergy)
Tues	May 17		The Holy Virgin-Martyress Pelagia of Tarsus <i>Acts 10:21-33 John 7:1-13</i>
Wed	May 18	9:00 AM -Divine Liturgy	MID-PENTECOST - The Holy Great Martyress Irene of Thessalonica <i>Acts 14:6-18 John 7:14-30</i>
Thurs	May 19		The Holy Righteous Job the Long-Suffering <i>Acts 10:34-43 John 8:12-20</i>
Fri	May 20		The Apparition of the Precious Cross over Jerusalem (351 AD) <i>Acts 10:44-11:10 John 8:21-30</i>
Sat	May 21	5:00 Vespers	The Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian <i>Acts 12:1-11 John 8:31-42</i>
Sun	May 22	9:30 AM- Divine Liturgy	FIFTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA - SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN - Translation of the Relics of St. Nicholas from Myra to Bari ("Warm Nicholas") <i>Acts 11:19-26,29-30 John 4:5-42</i>

**Readers:** 05/15 Dennis Ritter; 05/22 Nik Fartuch; 05/29 Robert Noecker; 06/06

Richard Bodnar

## Announcements

- **PRAY FOR UKRAINE!** - Clearly Ukraine is in need of our prayers. The Brotherhood of Ukrainian Clergy in the Lehigh Valley will be sponsoring weekly Moleben services for the peace and well-being of Ukraine. **The next Moleben service will be this Monday; May 16 at 6:30 PM at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church 1826 Kenmore Avenue Bethlehem (Sponsored by the Brotherhood of Ukrainian Clergy. We urge everyone to attend and PRAY FOR UKRAINE!**
- **NO KNEELING:** - Please take note, during the Paschal Season, there is no kneeling during liturgical services. For that matter, there is, in fact, no kneeling even for private prayer! We stand in the glorious light of our Savior's Resurrection. Kneeling will begin again with Vespers on Pentecost Sunday.
- **ANNUAL GENERAL PARISH MEETING- TODAY IMMEDIATELY AT THE END OF DIVINE LITURGY. We must ALL take part in this meeting at least once a year. There are many decisions that cannot be made by the pastor and Parish Board alone. According to the By-Laws, they can only be made by a general meeting of the Parish. WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION, these decisions cannot be made. There are two very important issues on the agenda this year: 1) Ratification of a new set of By-Laws; and 2) Purchase of a new furnace for the church.**
- **Refugees from Ukraine:** Recently, in his trip to Poland, President Biden made a statement that the United States is ready to accept 100,000 refugees from Ukraine. We now have received information on the process. Anyone who might be willing to provide temporary shelter for any Ukrainian individual or families that might need a home. ***If you are interested or know someone who is, please sign-up on the bulletin at the office***
- **Fall Ukrainian Language Classes** - These classes will be starting here at our parish soon. The classes will be open to all ages. ***If anyone is interested, please sign-up on the bulletin board at the office.*** Mr. Ihor Mirchuk will be the instructor. The list to sign up is on the office door.
- **Medical and other supplies needed for Ukraine - We wish to thank EVERYONE who has contributed to this effort whether the donations have been items from the list or financial donations. They are all very much needed. This past week, we shipped an very large shipment to Ukraine because of your help. Please keep it coming!!! The people of Ukraine are relying on us*****In addition, we need volunteers to help collect and organize these donations. To volunteer, please see Susan Cooke or Tania Smirnova or Barbara Hutzalyuk***
- **Administrative Assistance Needed:** Volunteers are needed to help with the extra office work that we have encountered as a result of the war in Ukraine. We are looking for a

number of people who could commit to one or two sessions a week, either a morning or afternoon session. Duties would include answering phone calls, taking donations, etc. Please see Vera Muzychka to sign up.

- **Special Thanks** - We wish to thank all the men who helped in last Sunday's Mother's Day Paschal Brunch. It was a great success and are ladies appreciated your hard work very much!
- **Please pray for the sick and infirm of our Church:** Metropolitan Antony; Fr. Yakiw Norton, Fr. Oleh Hucut, Fr. Vasyi Dovgan, Tanya Antoniewicz, Richard Antoniuk, Bohdan Baranczyk, John Chorney, Gloria Dunski, Joan Hepner, Peter Holowiak Eva Lazor, Mary Maksymiak, Daniel Milinichuk, Michael Onushko, Rosalie Onushko Mary Ellen Mackiewicz, William Radio, Kathryn Solan, Elsie Moroz, Myroslav Kmet, Andriy Kmet, Dan Gulack. Rodney Townes, Karina Strashinsky; Katherine Cox; Gordon

### **Translation of the relics of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker from Myra to Bari Commemorated on May 9/22**

In the eleventh century the Byzantine Empire was going through some terrible times. The Turks put an end to its influence in Asia Minor, tdestroying cities and villages. They murdered the inhabitants, and they accompanied their cruel outrage with the desecration of churches, holy relics, icons and books. The Muslims also attempted to destroy the relics of Saint Nicholas, deeply venerated by the whole Christian world.

In the year 792 the caliph Aaron Al'-Rashid sent Khumeid at the head of a fleet to pillage the island of Rhodes. Having lain waste this island, Khumeid set off to Myra in Lycia with the intent to rob the tomb of Saint Nicholas. But instead he robbed another tomb standing alongside the crypt of the saint. Just as they succeeded in committing this sacrilege, a terrible storm lifted upon the sea and almost all the ships were shattered into pieces.

The desecration of holy things shocked not only Eastern, but also Western Christians. Christians in Italy were particularly apprehensive for the relics of Saint Nicholas, and among them were many Greeks. The inhabitants of the city of Bari, located on the shores of the Adriatic Sea, decided to save the relics of Saint Nicholas.

In the year 1087 merchants from Bari and Venice went to Antioch to trade. Both these and others also proposed to take up the relics of Saint Nicholas and transport them to Italy on the return trip. In this plan the men of Bari commissioned the Venetians to land them at Myra. At first two men were sent in, who in returning reported that in the city all was quiet. In the church where the glorified relics rested, they encountered only four monks. Immediately forty-seven men, having armed themselves, set out for the church of Saint Nicholas. The guards, suspecting nothing, showed them the raised platform, beneath which the tomb of the

saint was concealed, and where they anointed foreigners with myrrh from the relics of the saint.

At this time the monks told them about an appearance of Saint Nicholas that evening to a certain Elder. In this vision Saint Nicholas ordered the careful preservation of his relics. This account encouraged the barons, they interpreted this vision as a certain decree from the saint. In order to facilitate their activity, they revealed their intent to the monks and offered them money 300 gold coins. The guards refused the money and wanted to warn the inhabitants about the misfortune threatening them. But the newcomers bound them and put their own guards at the doorway.

They took apart the church platform above the tomb with the relics. In this effort the youth Matthew was excessive in his zeal, wanting to find the relics of Saint Nicholas as quickly as possible. In his impatience he broke the cover and the barons saw that the sarcophagus was filled with fragrant holy myrrh. The compatriots of the barons, the priests Luppus and Drogus, offered a litany, after which the break made by Matthew began to flow with myrrh from the saint's sarcophagus. This occurred on April 20, 1087.

Seeing the absence of a container chest, the priest Drogus wrapped the relics in the cloth, and in the company of the barons he carried them to the ship. The monks, having been set free, alerted the city with the sad news about the abduction of the relics of the Wonderworker Nicholas by foreigners. A crowd of people gathered at the shore, but it was too late.

On May 8 the ships arrived in Bari, and soon the joyous news made the rounds of all the city. On the following day, May 9, 1087, they solemnly transported the relics of Saint Nicholas into the church of Saint Stephen, not far from the sea. The solemn bearing of the relics was accompanied by numerous healings of the sick, which inspired still greater reverence for God's saint. A year afterwards, a church was built in the name of Saint Nicholas and consecrated by Pope Urban II.

This event, connected with the transfer of the relics of Saint Nicholas, evoked a particular veneration for the Wonderworker Nicholas and was marked by the establishment of a special Feast day on May 9. At first the Feast day of the Transfer of the Relics of Saint Nicholas was observed only by the people of the city of Bari. It was not adopted in the other lands of the Christian East and West despite the fact that the transfer of the relics was widely known. This circumstance is explained by the custom in the Middle Ages of venerating primarily the relics of local saints. Moreover, the Greek Church did not establish the celebration of this remembrance, since they regarded the loss of the relics of Saint Nicholas as a sad event and even a theft. However, the Ukrainian Church did adopt the celebration of the feast and placed it on the calendar on the basis of the strong veneration by the Ukrainian people of the great saint of God. The Feast became well established among Ukrainians and was celebrated as a sort of "lesser" feast of St. Nicholas, the "greater" feast, of course, being in December. Ukrainians refer to this feasts as "Teplyy Mykola," or "Warm Nicholas," since it occurs in the

warmth of Spring. The relics of St. Nicolas are still in the church at Bari, Italy to this day and are still gushing myrrh. Many pilgrims continually arrive to pray there and while the church is a Roman Catholic church, there is an Orthodox chapel contained within for the pilgrims who come from Orthodox countries. This feast stresses the fact that both the Eastern and the Western Churches know of this great Wonderworker, and all the ends of the earth know his miracle-working.

### **Midfeast of Pentecost Commemorated on May 18**

This week we celebrate a special feast of the Church year called Mid-Pentecost. It is the midpoint of the fifty days between the Feasts of Pascha and Pentecost, and as such, it is one of the "movable" feasts having different date every year depending upon Pascha. However, it always falls on a Wednesday. This year it is commemorated on May 18. Saint John tells us (John 7:14) that "in the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the Temple, and taught." The Feast in question is the Feast of Tabernacles (celebrated in September), not Pentecost.

The Church has appointed John 7:14-30 to be read for the Midfeast, thereby linking Pascha and Pentecost. In Chapter 8 of Saint John's Gospel, the Lord came to the Temple again and taught the people who came to Him. After leaving the Temple, he encounters the man born blind. We will hear about him on the Sunday of the Blind Man.

The Troparion of the Midfeast ("In the middle of the Feast, O Savior, fill my thirsting soul with the waters of godliness, as Thou didst cry to all: If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink [John 7:37]. O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to Thee!") hints at the encounter of Christ and the Samaritan Woman in just a few days.

In some places (mostly monasteries), the Lesser Blessing of Water and the Blessing of Fields takes place. The icon associated with this feast portrays Christ as a 12 year old child teaching the learned men in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52).

