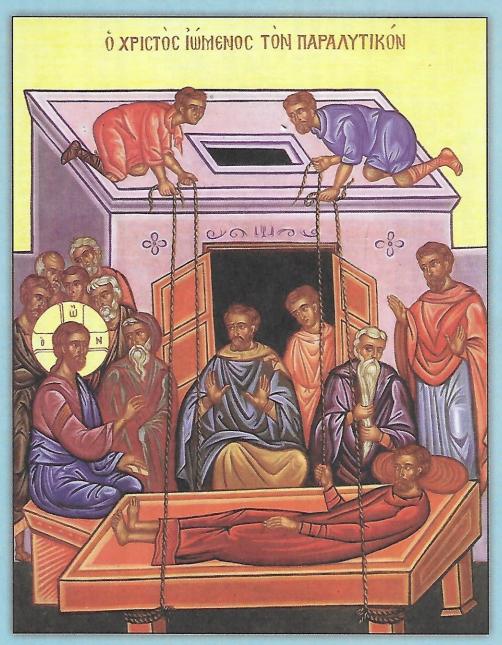
SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS



Icon of Healing the Paralytic

You are Forgiven and Healed

In Capernaum Jesus is surrounded by great numbers of people. As He preaches to the crowd, four friends of a paralyzed man lower him on his mat through the roof so that he can be close enough for Jesus to see him and cure him. Jesus responds to this act of faith, not by healing the man immediately, but by touching off the first of a series of controversial dialogues with the Scribes and Pharisees. When Jesus says, "Child, your sins are forgiven," He is as much as saying, "It is God whom you approach." In the Old Testament, only God is capable of forgiving sins; and it was expected that He would do so only at the end of time. It becomes clear why the Scribes murmur "he is blaspheming" and why Jesus brings it all out in the open. His claim to be able to forgive sins better reveals His identity as Son of God than do the miracles He performs.

Aware of the silent censure His forgiving word has caused in the crowd, Jesus proceeds to prove that "the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" by commanding the man to rise and walk in the sight of everyone. In concluding this miracle, Mark asks his readers to praise God for His presence in their midst as the forgiverhealer, just as the crowd did, even in the face of those who did not believe.

It is significant that Mark has chosen to present this miracle and teaching about Jesus' power to forgive sins so early in his Gospel drama. It shows that the need for the experience of God's forgiveness was as important to first-century Christians as it is today. Mark's readers praise God for saying clearly, and even today, "My sons, my daughters, I absolve you from your sins."



Saints Peter & Paul Arainian Catholic Church

Hurst Street at Union Avenue Post Office Box 126 Bridgeport, Pennsylvania 19405

"Glory to Jesus Christ!"

"Slava Isusu Khristu!"

March 17, 2019 2nd Sunday, Lent

OUR REGULAR ADULT SEMINAR will be conducted today, Sunday, at 10:15 am in the School Library on the topic of the last days of Jesus on earth, i.e. Holy Week. We invite all our adults, family and friends to be with us Sunday morning and learn about our Lord and how Christians commemorate Him during the Great Fast. There will be treats and prizes, sweets and a lot of joyful fellowship for you Sunday morning.

ON Friday Evening at 6 pm we will sing the lenten service of the Presanctified Gifts. This brief lenten liturgy is a Vesper service that includes Holy Communion, will be sung in Ukrainian and English, so that all our folks can participate. Come and pray with us Friday at 6 pm.

ON SATURDAY MORNING at 8 am we will sing our Divine Liturgy and then chant our requiem service (Panachyda) for our parish deceased. Please give Father a list of your familial deceased, so that we can include them in our Saturday morning prayer service.

SOME 2019 CHURCH CALENDARS AND 2019 CHURCH ENVELOPES still remain to be claimed in the church basement today. Please check out these items and take them home for yourself and all your family today.

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS are now in the spring semester, as they continue to learn about our LOrd and Savior Jesus. At the request of many parents, we are currently teaching our students the art of egg dyeing. (Pysanky), Ukrainian dance and singing. It would be negligent for parents to keep their children from Sunday School and miss out on this opportunity to learn these wonderful arts and crafts. Folks, bring the children to School on Sunday. They will thank you some day!

14, to greet the Lord Jesus, in prayer and song, as He entered the Holy City of Jerusalem. After the Sunday Liturgy we will all gather in our Church Hall to be entertained by our School Students on stage and to share a delicious breakfast with all your family and friends. All our parishioners are invited and expected to attend this parish feast.

WE ASK ALL OUR FOLKS to cut and bundle the willow branches and bring them to the rectory this week and next, so that we will have a goodly supply for blessing on Willow (Palm) Sunday. We need your help!

DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, 6 pm +Horace Hitchens (Borys and Neonela Pawluk)
Sunday, 9 am +Motria Dejneka (Daughters Irene and Sophie)
Thursday, 7 am +Stephen Shewchuk (The Hemerick Family)
Friday, 6 pm Health of Jim Deskiewicz (Parish School and Auxiliary)
Saturday, 8 am +Lubomyr TRyciecky (Wife Vera and Family)
Saturday, 6 pm +Strouse and Tarhovicky Family (Jack and Dottie)
Sunday, 9 am +Michael and Agnes (The Fonock-Maruszczak Family)

TODAY'S TROPAR: When You did descend unto death, O Life Immortal, You vanquished hell with the splendor of Your Divinity, and when You raised up the dead from the subterranean abodes, all the powers of heaven cried out: "O Lifegiver Christ, Our God, all glory and praise be unto You, amen".

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER...

TODAY'S KONTAK: Now the time for action has come, as the judgment draws near. Let us rise up in fasting, almsgiving and sorrow for all our sins, as we cry out: "We have sinned more than the grains of sand on the seashøre. O Creator of all, forgive our sins, so that we may receive our imperishable crowns."

TODAY'S PROKIMEN: You, O Lord, will protect and keep us from this day until the Last Day on earth.

on earth.