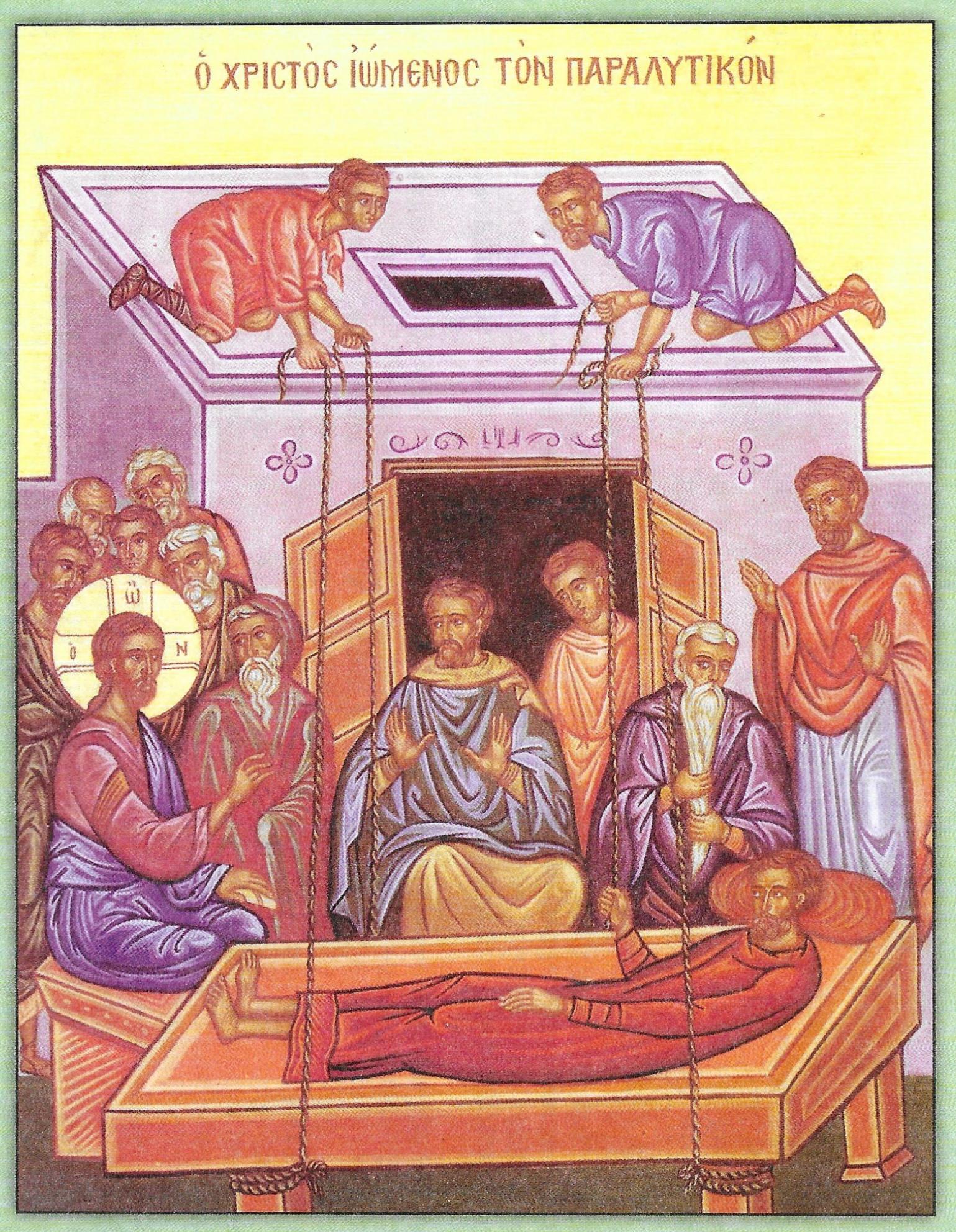
# SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS



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 forgiver-healer, 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 Uhlon Avenue Post office-Box 126

Bridgeport, Pennsylvania 19405

"Glory to Jesus Christwww.sspeterpaulukrchurch.us" "Slava Isusu Khristoo!"

Feb. 27-28, 2021 The great Fast

THIS WEEKEND we will livestream the Holy Liturgy on Saturday, the 27th, at 6 pm. This service will be celebrated in English with hymns in Ukrainian for the convenience of all our faithful. Please tell all your friends and relatives, both near and far, about this wonderful chance to pray and sing with us during this Holy Season of the Great Fast, as we prepare for the great fast of Easter.

NEXT WEEKEND THE LIVESTREAM Divine Liturgy will be sung on Sunday, March 7 at 9 am. This service will be sung in ukrainian with parts in English on the YouTube platform. Please alert all your relatives and neighbors about this service, especially the elderly, ailing, and homebound friends and neighbors.

OUR VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL is still taking new students for the spring semester on the GoogleMeet platform. We have classes from PreSchool to HighSchool, including First Communion. To sign up your child, simply fill out the registration form on the parish website and submit. We will contact you and direct you to the proper classroom.

OFFICIAL TAX FORMS OF YOUR 2020 church donations can be now obtained from the parish office. Simply give Father a note in this regard and he will prepare a form for you by the following week.

DURING THE GREAT FAST (Lent) it is our holy tradition to pray for the deceased in our families. This year we will celebrate this requiem service (PANACHYDA) Saturday morningsat 8 am with both the Holy Litur=gy and following Panachyda. Simply give Father a list of your dear deceased and Father will include them by name every Saturday morning. To date, the Pawluk, Krokhtyak, and Khromyak Families have submitted lists of their familial deceased, when we begin next Saturday, the 6th of March at 8 am.

WE ARE SO VERY GRATEFUL TO all the good folks who support our vibrant parish with gifts and donations. We thank all the people who bring their envelopes to church and all those who mail their gifts to the parish. It is your generosity and Christian love that keeps our parish solvent and solid, alive and well during these difficult times. May our Lord Jesus grant you good health and peace in 2021.

#### DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, Feb. 27, 6 pm Sunday, Feb. 28, 9 am

+Anna, Joseph Wrobleski (D. Dolgash) +Agnes, Mike, Donna, Robert (Maruszczak F.)

Saturday, March 6, 8 am Saturday, March 6, 6 pm Sunday, March 7, 9 am

Liturgy and Panachyda +George, Anna Ferenz (The Dudas family) +Luba Stanko (The Somits Family)

#### TODAY'S TROPAR:

Angelic Powers were on Your Sepulchre and the guards became dead-like, as Mary stood by the tomb seeking Your Most Pure Body. You captured hell yet were not detain ed by it. You are the Giver of life and have met the Virgin, O Lord, risen from the dead, glory be to You. GLORY TO THE FATHER AND ...

#### TODAY'S KONTAK:

Now the time for action has come, as the judgment draws near. Let us arise in fasting and bring the tears of sorrow with our alms, as we cry out: "We have sinned more than there are grains of sand on the seashore. O Lord, forgive us our sins so that we may receive the imperishable crowns.amen"

TODAY'S PROKIMEN: You O lord, protect and keep us today and forever.