

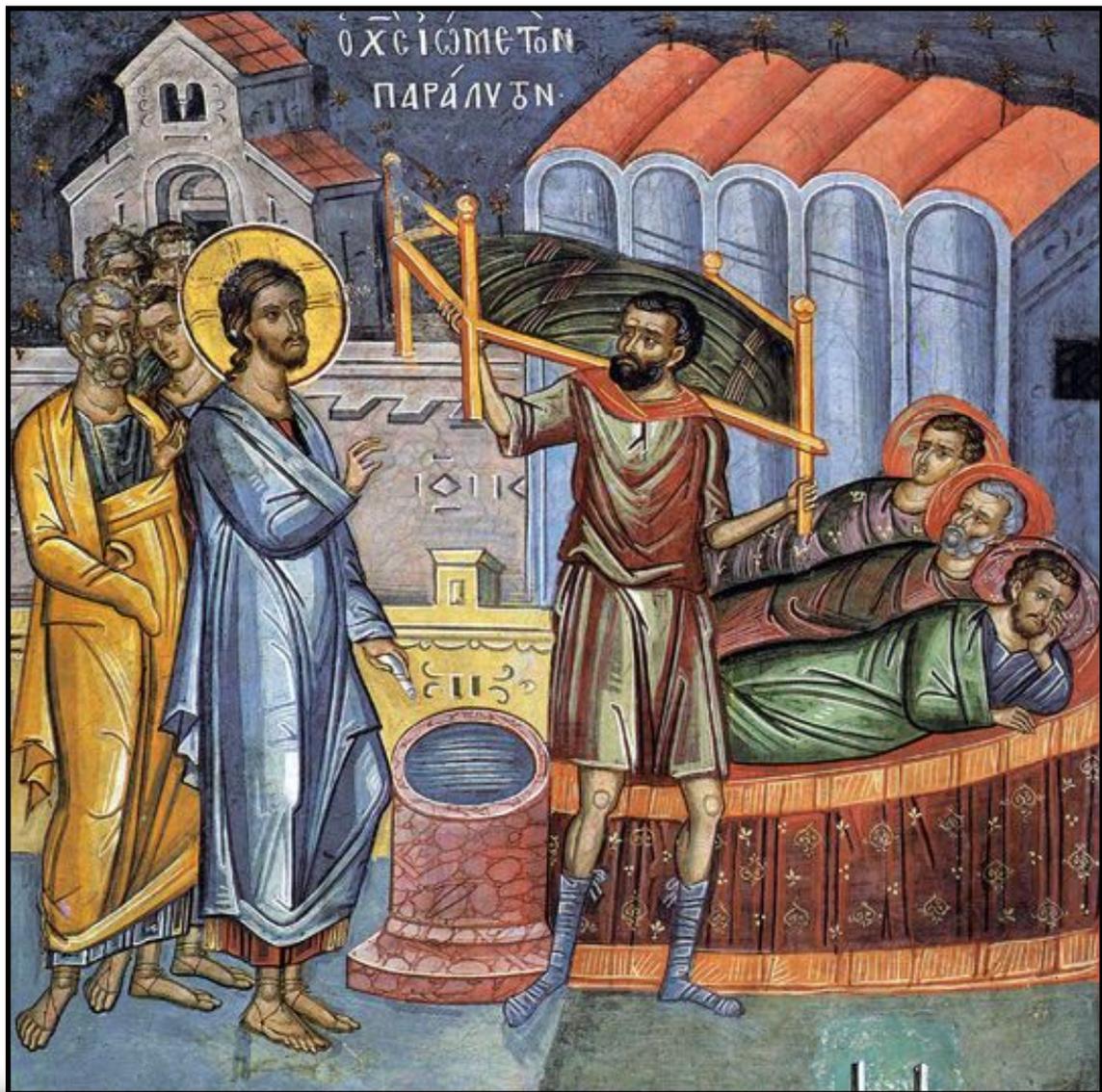
# ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish Of The New England Diocese ✦ Orthodox Church In America

**May 7 2017**

**4th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 3. Repose of St. Alexis Toth, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in America (1909).**

Paralytic. Commemoration of the Appearance of the Sign of the Precious Cross over Jerusalem in 351 AD. Martyr Acacius the Centurion at Byzantium (303). Repose of Ven. Nilus, Abbot of Sora (1508). St. John of Zaden in Georgia, and 12 disciples: Ss. Shio, David, Anthony, Thaddæus, Stephen, Isidore, Michael, Pyrrhus, Zeno, Jesse, Joseph, and Abibus (6th c.). Ven. Nilus the Myrrhgusher of Lavra (Mt. Athos—1651). Monk Martyr Pachomius (Mt. Athos—1730). The “ZHIROVITSKAYA” Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos (1470).



## Divine Services

Wednesday, May 10th .....Daily Vespers.....6:30 p.m.

*(followed by Study Group)*

Saturday, May 13th .. .....Great Vespers.....6:00 p.m.

*(followed by Confessions)*

Sunday, May 14th ..Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.....10:00 a.m.

**Sunday of the Samaritan Woman** (*Hours Begin at 9:40 a.m.*)

### Today's Readings

Epistle: Acts 9:32-42

Gospel: John 5:1-5

### Next Week's Readings

Epistle: Acts 11:19-26, 29-30

Gospel: John 4:5-42

### For Next Week, May 14

Hours and Thanksgiving Prayers .....Barbara Parhizgar

Epistle: .....Irene Vassos

Coffee Hour .....Fadia Makdisi

**For the health and well-being** of Archpriest Joseph and Matushka Julia, Abdullah, David, Tony, Stanislav, Leonard, Timothy, Helen, Fenaeda, Raya, Irina, Katia, Dennis, Svetlana, Konstantin, Vladislav, Galina, Nancy, Maria, Al, Mercy, and Michael.

### May Birthdays

Tony Makdisi (01), Galina Zeygerman (02), Emilie Goudey (08) Vladimir Yefremov (09) **Anniversary:** Alla and Real Gadoury (23)

### Announcements

**Many years to Emilie Goudey** who celebrates her birthday tomorrow!

**May Charities Collection** is going to St. Tikhon's Seminary. Remember, the support of our seminaries is vital. Without our monetary support, we would have no priests. Seminarians make a huge commitment and sacrifice to give up what they are doing and go to seminary. They need support. Please donate generously this month to support our seminarians. Thank you!

**Study Group** will be held this week after Daily Vespers on Wednesday.

**Catechism Sessions** will be held today during coffee hour at the church. Today we will conclude our presentation regarding the Proskomedie or Prothesis—the service of Preparation before the Divine Liturgy. Today, Fr. Joseph will demonstrate with bread what takes place during the prothesis. Please come over to the church to see with your eyes what our Orthodoxy spirituality and practice is all about.

### **Upcoming Events**

**Church Grounds Beautification Date** set for Saturday, May 13th at 9am. This is just a week from now. Please come and help beautify our church grounds for the summer. Thank you!

**Vespertal Liturgy of the Ascension of our Lord** is coming up on the evening of May 24th at 6:30pm. The service will be followed by a non-fasting pot-luck dinner. This is a major feast of the Church when we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ to the right hand of God the Father. In this great act—Jesus Christ who is both fully human and fully divine—brings our flesh, our humanity, everything it means to be human except for sin, and rests it at the right hand of God the Father with himself. In one sense, we now, as human beings (by virtue of the fact that Jesus Christ is also a human being and our Lord and God) have complete access to God. Christ has bridged and healed the gap, the chasm, the abyss caused by our sin with himself—with his body. And guess what? We are now members of that same body too! Yes, we live here on earth, yet as members of Christ's body, reside in heaven.

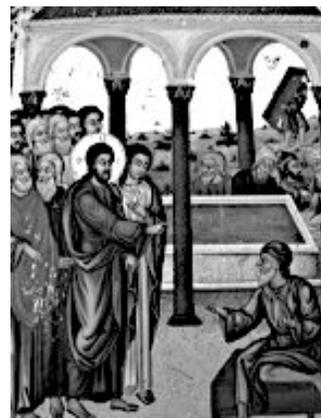
**Pilgrimage to New Skete on Saturday, June 3rd.** New Skete Monastery is holding an open house on Saturday, June 3rd. We are looking into rent a bus to go to New Skete—planned to depart around noon and return at 7pm. It is very important for us to get an accurate head count of who is interested in going, so we can decide if will rent a bus or not. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Please sign-up if you would like to go. Since we will be at the monastery that evening, we will not hold Great Vespers at St. Nicholas.

Pascha and Holy Week .....	\$1,574
4/23 Sunday's Collection .....	\$1,319
Budget 2017 .....	\$96,142
Progress Towards Budget.....	\$26,495

## A WORD FOR THE DAY

### Jesus Heals the Paralytic by the Pool

Great is the profit of divine Scriptures, and all sufficient is the aid which comes from them...for the divine oracles are a treasury of all manner of medicines. Whether it be needful to quench pride, to lull passions to sleep, to tread under foot the love of money, to despise pain, to inspire confidence, to gain patience—in the Scriptures we may find abundant resource. For what man of those who struggle with long poverty or who are nailed by a grievous disease will not, when he reads the passage before us, receive much comfort? Since this man had been a paralytic for thirty-eight years, and he saw others delivered each year, and himself bound by his disease, not even so did he fall back to despair, though in truth not merely despondency for the past, but also hopelessness for the future was sufficient to overstrain him...Yes, Lord, he says, but I have no man...to put me in the pool. What can be more potable than these words?...Do you see a heart crushed through long sickness? Do you see all violence subdued?...He did not curse his day...but replied gently... Yes, Lord; yet he did not know who it was who asked him.



#### *St. John Chrysostom*

The gift of God in Christ that we receive at Pascha challenges all our usual, worldly expectations; if Christ conquered death, it is, as we continually sing, by his death that he does this.

The only proper response we can make to this is that demanded of the paralytic today: “Sin no more.” Or, as Paul says, if we are now to live in and with Christ, we must die to the old man, to this world, to all its pleasures and pride (cf. Rom. 6). We must take seriously the baptismal dimensions of our life: considering ourselves dead to sin and alive in Christ Jesus, so that we no longer live, but Christ lives in us.

If we no longer live by and for this world, but rather in and through Christ, then we become, as St. Athanasius put it, the witnesses or testimony of Christ’s resurrection (On the Incarnation, 27-32). Let us pray that we have the strength for this, so that we can indeed bear witness to the resurrection that we celebrate.

#### *Fr. John Behr*