

St. George Orthodox Church
2 Nottingham Terrace - Buffalo, NY 14216
(716) 875-4222

www.stgeorgebuffalo.com

NO. 508 MAY 7, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ MAY 7, 2023 NO. 508

## THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Published weekly in the interest of the parishioners and friends of Saint George Orthodox Church, Buffalo, NY a parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey and The Orthodox Church in America

### ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

2 Nottingham Terrace Buffalo, NY 14216 V. Rev. Jason Vansuch, Parish Priest

2 Nottingham Terrace 716-875-4222 Buffalo, NY 14216

Cell Phone: 609-851-3811 Email: <u>jvansuch@hotmail.com</u>

Archpriest Andreja Damjanovski, Attached Rev. Peter Irfan, Attached Mat. Katia Vansuch, Choir Director

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). Monastic Martyr Pachomius (Mt. Athos—1730). The "ZHIROVITSKAYA" Icon of the Mother of God (1470).

**EPISTLE:** Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom **GOSPEL**:

Acts 9:32-43 John 5:1-15 Galatians 1:11-19 (St. Alexis) John 10:1-9

CHRIST IS RISEN!

INDEED HE IS RISEN!

### \*\*FLOWERS FOR THIS WEEK\*\*

In front of the Icon of Our Lord, In front of the Icon of The Theotokos, and on the Center Icon Table are donated by St. George Orthodox Church!

Altar Vigil Candles are offered by Anthony DelNuovo in Loving Memory of Thy Departed Servants of his family. May their memory be eternal.

#### TODAY'S WEEKLY MESSENGER IS SPONSORED BY:

St. George Orthodox Church

## WELCOME TO ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

We welcome all of you to the Divine Liturgy this morning, especially those who are visiting with us here at St. George Orthodox Church. Everyone is invited to the Parish Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy for Christian Fellowship. It is our prayer that your experience this morning was spiritually uplifting and you will return very soon to pray with our parish family. In the Orthodox Church, we do not practice open Communion. However we do invite everyone to come and participate in the Divine Liturgy. Hence only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through prayer and fasting may receive Holy Communion. May the Lord bless you with many years of good health and happiness.

## **HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY**

## **Troparion for Resurrection, Tone 3**

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

## **Troparion for St. Alexis Toth, Tone 4**

O righteous Father A<u>lex</u>is, our heavenly intercessor and <u>teacher</u>, divine adornment of the <u>Church</u> of Christ, entreat the <u>Mas</u>ter of All to strengthen the Orthodox Faith in A<u>mer</u>ica, to grant <u>peace</u> to the world// and to our souls great <u>mer</u>cy!

## **Kontakion for The Sunday of Paralytic - Tone 3**

By Thy di<u>vine</u> inter<u>ces</u>sion, O Lord, as Thou didst raise up the Para<u>lytic</u> of old, so raise <u>up</u> my soul, paralyzed by <u>sins</u> and <u>thought</u>less acts; so that being saved I may <u>sing</u> to Thee:// "Glory to Thy <u>pow</u>er, O com<u>pas</u>sionate Christ!"

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

## Kontakion for St. Alexis Toth - Tone 5

Let <u>us</u>, the faithful, praise the Priest A<u>lex</u>is, a bright beacon of Orthodoxy in A<u>mer</u>ica, a <u>mod</u>el of patience and hu<u>mil</u>ity, a <u>wor</u>thy shepherd of the <u>flock</u> of Christ! He called back sheep who had been <u>led</u> astray and <u>brought</u> them by his <u>preaching</u>// to the <u>Heavenly King</u>dom.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## **Kontakion for Feast of Holy Pascha**

Thou didst descend <u>in</u>to the <u>tomb</u>, O Im<u>mor</u>tal, Thou didst de<u>stroy</u> the <u>power</u> of death. In victory <u>Thou</u> didst a<u>rise</u>, O <u>Christ</u> God, proclaiming, "Rejoice!" <u>to</u> the Myrrhbearing <u>Wo</u>men,// granting peace to <u>Thine</u> A<u>pos</u>tles, and bestowing Resurrection on the <u>fall</u>en.

## The Prokeimenon (Tone 1)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee! V. Rejoice in the Lord, O your righteous! Praise befits the just!

## The Second Prokeimenon (Tone 7)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him.

## **Alleluia Verses**

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth will I proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.

For Thou hast said: "Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens."

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.

## The Hymn to The Theotokos

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace: "Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice, thy 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 thee. Exult now, and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of thy Son!

## **The Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

### EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

## In Those Days:

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them.

Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter and she sat up.

Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

### **Brethren:**

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

## GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

### Let us Attend!

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches.

In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the movement of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him,

"Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him

who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."

He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up you bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you. "The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

### At That Time:

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

# ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH (Buffalo, NY) PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRIES

To the Glory of God, every year our beloved parish family answers The Call of Our Lord of ministering to those in need by fulfilling The Gospel of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ with participating in 5 on-going Parish Outreach Ministries within the local Buffalo Area on an on-going basis and especially during the Nativity Season.

Every year, we look forward to another wonderful blessed Nativity Season of bringing the joy, the love, and the peace of The Nativity of Our Lord to everyone especially through the following the outreach ministries:

**Hearts for The Homeless** – which is a mobile soup kitchen/thrift shop that feeds the poor and chronic homeless on the street. Characterized by a profound spiritual motivation. The program offers nourishing food, as well as clothing, pertinent information regarding area services, companionship and hope for the future.

- Each Month we collect a different canned good/non-perishable food item along with hygiene products and drop them off at the Hearts for The Homeless Distribution Center

**Buffalo City Mission** – exists to meet the spiritual and practical needs of the poor through the demonstration of the love and preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in providing love, care, shelter, food, and other means necessary to those in need.

 Each Month we collect hygiene products, clothing for men, women, and children and drop them off at the Buffalo City Mission Distribution Center

**HomeSpace** — is a local community organization ministering to local teens and pre-teen moms which provides comprehensive care to 14-21 yr old moms (providing those essential items necessary for caring for their children: diapers, wipes, baby food, clothing (infants through 7/8 years old). Homespace Corporation supports at-risk young women to achieve independence two generations at a time.

- Each Month we collect hygiene products, clothing for young women and children along with those essential items necessary for caring for their children: diapers, wipes, baby food, clothing (infants through 7/8 years old) and drop them off at the HomeSpace Distribution Center

**Mats for Mission/Resurrection Life Food Pantry** – A Local Organization assisting with providing rest mats made out of plastic bags for the less fortunate as well as providing food and other means necessary to those in need.

- Each Month we collect plastic bags as well as canned goods and non-perishable food items and drop them off at the Resurrection Life Food Pantry Distribution Center.
- Beginning in January 2023, our church school children will be volunteering here on a regular basis assisting with collecting and sorting out Food Bags for those in need.

**Baker Victory** – A Local Organization dedicated to fostering the highest possible quality of life and personal achievement by partnering with children, adults, their families and the WNY community through a diverse array of social, health and human services.

 Twice a year we collect gifts and other essential items necessary for the children and drop them off at the Baker Victory Distribution Center.

\*\*We also support Compass Care Pro-Life Agency on a regular basis!

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND GUIDE YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PRAYERS!



## Remember our Loved Ones during Our Daily Prayers

'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

{Matt. 25:40}

As we say our daily prayers, let us also take time out to remember our loved ones who are homebound, who are in hospitals and who are in nursing homes. Let us remember them that GOD will continue to watch over them and protect them. Also, during the Year, let us take to either send them a card, give them a call, or visit them to let them know how much we love them, how much we remember them, and how much we pray for them.

Please refer to the of our Parish Shut-Ins below.

If anyone has any questions or would like to add someone to our List of Parish Shut-Ins, please see or contact Fr. Jason. May God continue to bless you and guide you!

## ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PARISH SHUT-INS (2022)

Mr. Anthony Dipiano
305 North Street
Apt. 77
Buffalo, N
Reader Victor Shanchuk
McAuley Residence
1503 Military Rd.
Buffalo, NY 14217
716.881.3096

Nicholas Wityk 65 South Main Street South Oakfield NY

Andrew Wityk Ellicott Center 200 Seventh Street Buffalo, NY 14201

Mr. Albert Fadell

317.376.2562

Mrs. Luba Japadjief Elderwood Nursing Home 104 Old Niagara Rd. Lockport, NY 14221 (Room 47A)

\*\* NEW COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE FOR 2023 IN THE PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL!

BE SURE TO SIGN UP TO HOST A COFFEE HOUR! PLEASE JOIN US EVERY

SUNDAY IN THE PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY

FOR SOME CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER!\*\*

\*\*PLEASE REFER TO THE WEEKLY EMAILS AND PARISH WEBSITE
FOR CHANGES TO THE CALENDAR!\*\*

## THE SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

# **SUNDAY MAY 7, 2023 YOUTH SUNDAY**SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC/ FEAST OF ST. ALEXIS OF WILKES-BARRE

Matins Service – 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Coffee Hour Fellowship in The Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy

Q&A with Fr. Jay in Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy

TUESDAY MAY 9, 2023
EVE OF THE MID-FEAST OF PENTECOST

Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY MAY 10, 2023
THE MID-FEAST OF PENTECOST

Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM

**SATURDAY MAY 13, 2023** 

Great Vespers - 4:00 PM

SUNDAY MAY 14, 2023
SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN
MOTHER'S DAY

Matins Service – **8:45 AM** Divine Liturgy – **9:30 AM** 

Church School Class in Parish Fellowship Hall Mother's Day Luncheon in The Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy



# \*\*A REMINDER FOR HOSTING COFFEE HOUR DURING GREAT LENT \*\*

If anyone has any questions about fasting or restrictions when hosting coffee hour, please see Fr. Jason and he will help you and guide you!

When hosting coffee hour, please check the refrigerators in the Parish Fellowship Hall the week before we are histing to see what supplies we will/may need.

We will also be using real coffee cups for coffee hour. If anyone needs assistance with cleaning them or using the dishwasher following Coffee Hour, please see or contact Mat. Katia.

If there is no host for coffee hour, then we will not have coffee hour on that particular Sunday.

If anyone would like to host coffee hour or has any questions regarding one's preparations for Coffee Hour, please see or contact Mat. Fran (610.698.1666/frances.vansuch@yahoo.com)

May all of us have a Blessed, Peaceful, Holy and Prayerful Great Lenten Journey!



# FIND YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME In The Orthodox Christian Church

SATURDAY Great Vespers 4:00 PM SUNDAY Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM (Sept-May) 9:30 AM (May-September)

~ All are Welcome ~

Do we have questions about our life, its meaning, purpose, destiny?

Are we desiring to know Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God?

Are we seeking forgiveness, healing, and wholeness?

Do we wonder where to go to find answers?

We can find the answers to these questions and so many other questions in The Holy Orthodox Church through Her Sacred Tradition,

Holy Scriptures, Her Teachings and Dogmas.

The Orthodox Church is the original Christian Church, the Church founded by the Lord Jesus Christ and described in the pages of the New Testament. Her history can be traced in unbroken continuity all the way back to Christ and His Twelve Apostles, empowered and sent forth on the day of Holy Pentecost. Incredible as it seems, for over twenty centuries she has continued in her undiminished and unaltered faith and practice. Today her apostolic doctrine, worship, and structure remain intact. The Orthodox Church maintains that the Church is the living Body of Jesus Christ. Many of us are surprised to learn that for the first 1000 years of Christian history there was just one Church.

Where is "The Church" to be found and experienced today? Come Taste and See How Good The Lord is every Sunday by joining us for The Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM.

What is Orthodox Christianity all about? How does it differ from other Christian confessions? This section will attempt to answer these questions and many more.

For a visual introduction to the Orthodox Church, please view the video link below:

 $\frac{\text{http://www.youtube.com/v/Gj4pUphDitA\&color1=0xb1b1b1\&color2=0xcfcfcf\&feature=player} \ \ e \ \ mbedded\&fs=1"$ 

For a brief introduction and in depth study to The Orthodox Faith and to find answers to: 'What we Believe?", "Who we Are?", and "How we Live?', please view the PDF link below:

http://orthodoxdelmarva.org/files/studies/InquirersClassV1final.pdf

or you may visit the OCA website by clicking the link below: http://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith

or you can begin a Journey Through Orthodoxy by clicking the link below: http://journeytoorthodoxy.com

To learn more ways that we can teach our children about the Orthodox Faith, The OCA has provided a wonderful website for us to use that provides great resources such as (handouts, texts, articles, stories, and much more)! To see this great website, please view the PDF link below: http://dce.oca.org/page/resources/

If you have any questions or would like to know more about The Orthodox Faith or needs and help or assistance, please contact our parish priest: V Rev. Jason Vansuch (jvansuch@hotmail.com) or 716.875.4222 and he will be able guide you.

# Come and See how we are all called to be Stewards of The Church!

- Stewardship is our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.
- Stewardship is caring for the needs of others.
- Stewardship is offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.
- Stewardship is what a person does after saying "I Believe . . . ", as proof of that belief.
- Stewardship is learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

If you would like to make a donation to our parish, please feel free to use the QR Code or link to our parish website donation page below. Thank you for your continued support and generosity for our parish in bringing The Love and Faith of Our Lord Jesus Christ to all! May God continue to bless and guide you and keep all of you in His loving care today and always!





https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted button id=E5X6YTVC9DF3W

### ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Please remember in prayer Thy Servants of God...

## FOR THE HEALTH OF THY SERVANTS:

### **HIERARCHS**

**Metropolitan TIKHON Archbishop MICHAEL** Archbishop BENJAMIN Archbishop ALEJO Archbishop NATHANIEL Archbishop DANIEL

### **CLERGY**

Archpriest Herman, Matushka Cynthia and George, Elizabeth

Archpriest Leonid Archpriest David

**Archpriest Alexey** and his family Archpriest Vladimir and Matushka Jeanne

Archpriest Timmothy/Mat. Michelle Archpriest John and Presbytera Nancy

Archpriest Ken and Matushka Natalie Archpriest Robert

Archpriest Andreja, Popadija Anica and Family

**Archpriest Timmothy** Priest Peter and Mat. Mary Dn. Sean and Mat. Heather Archpriest John (Onofrey)

### **MATUSHKI**

Mat. Katia Mat. Paraskeva Mat. Joanna Popadia Vicki Christine Mat. Patricia Mat. Gloria Popadija Sara Mat. Gayle Mat. Natasha

Catherine Ivan/Marina/Inna Bonnie/Silviu Coard Karen Aliscia Walter/Paul Edwina, Irene Luba Jim, Darren, Marsha

Iman.Serena/Asma, Sarah, Lillian, Olga Reader Victor Nicholas, Andrew, Theresa

June Jennifer Xenia, Justin, Danielle Albert Frank Marilvn Amanda, Chase, Ronald, Candice **Boris** Oscar Larry Joseph Frank Billy Clvde Amy Victor Catherine Susan Svetlana Juliana **Evelyn** Robert Paul Brian

Jeanne Angela, Jason, Michelle Linda Justin John, Helen Joseph, John, Margaret, Thomas, Victoria, Tyler Ashlev Steven Barbara

Lia/Isaiah Lee, Bridget Matthew William

Melody Kelly, Robert, Boris, Zaeb, Tirza, Sabas Sada, Charles, Thlisinitsa, Gemmal,

Geesa, and Patric

Olga and Eugene **Jeremy Stewart** Susan Mary John Susan Justin Louis Alex John, Kevin, Sean Aldona, Melinda Anthony Yuri/Elena Lee, Benjamin, Harry Patrick **James** Jaime/Sammy, Juliana Roscoe Rosemary Anthony Aspasia/Stavros, Harry Charles, Seraphim Emma/Alexander Pam and Valerie

Elias, John, Joseph, Nadim, Theresa, Thomas Amelia, Emily

Vadym Irvna Yuriv Anastasia

Mary, Hal, Autumn, Ariana, and Amber, Judithann Anita, James, Jeffry, Dominic,

Douglas, Rachel, Dennis, Edith

Brian John, Roberta, Barbara John, Michael John Ron, Illiana, Jillian, Joel George Costa Jonathan, Kevin, Lary, Carly, Sherry, Mary Jo, Clara, Karl, Dragica, Mary Stephen, Larry, Olga, Olga, Sally, Deborah, David

Rdr Nicholas, Judithann, Michael, Mary, Cate, Michael, Gary, Damian, Olga,

Alexandra, Barbara, Damian

**Kyriaki and Konstantinos** (Pete Thanos parents) **Amy**(friend of Molly Burke)

Children of God -Keely, Isla, Talia, Lane, Liam Alyssa Marie and the child to be born of her

### Diocese of NY&NJ Prayer List

**Archpriest Samuel** 

Mitred Archpriest Joseph Lickwar Mitred Archpriest Daniel and Mat. Myra

**Archpriest George Archpriest Paul Archpriest Jonathan Archpriest Paul** 

**Those Serving in The Armed Forces** 

Catechumens

Kenneth, Nadine, Jason, Robert, Andrew, Justin, Shawn, William and Darlene

Austin, Chris, John, Daniel, Gjorgie, Thomas

For All of our Parishioners and their families, the communicants of this holy house, those who pray here, our loved ones and their families and for those who are praying with us today and all of those whom we have in our hearts and minds

For All of our parishioners who are in hospitals, nursing home, and those who are homebound.

For All of the ill-afflicted of our parishes and families especially those affected with the Coronavirus and other ailments and for their continued full recovery and good health

For All of our doctors, nurses, physicians, and medical professionals

For our Nation that The Lord our God will continue to bless us and guide and teach us to love another, pray for one another and forgive one another.

For All of those who are travelling and for their safe journey and return to their homes

## FOR THY DEPARTED SERVANTS OF GOD:

For all of those who tragically lost their lives to the Coronavirus and other ailments All of the clergy and parishioners of This Holy House who have departed this life, who now lie asleep in the Lord

**Metropolitan HERMAN** 

**Metropolitan THEODOSIUS Ever-Memorable Archpriest Bernard Ever-Memorable Archpriest Eugene Ever-Memorable Archpriest George Ever-Memorable Priest John Ever-Memorable Archpriest George** Matushka Dorothy **Ever-Memorable Archpriest Rastko** Khouria Grace

Ever-Memorable Dn. Mark

Priest Leonid Gregory, Priest Peter, Archpriest Kirill, Dn. Michael, John Robert, Sister Thomas, Frank, Jenny, Charles, Florence, Michael Stevens, William, George, Marion

**Ever-Memorable Pdn Gregory** 

**Ever-Memorable Sbdn Gregory** 

Martha, Akhtar, Barkat, Rehmat

**Newly-Departed Servants of God** Sultana (Grandmother of Mira) Catherine **G-Day** (mother of Zenash) **Vasili** 

\*If anyone would like to have their loved ones added to the prayer list for remembrance during the Divine Liturgy and Divine Services, please see or contact Fr. Jason.

### ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH BOOKSTORE

As you are in the Parish Fellowship Hall for coffee hour, don't forget to check out our newly-formed Bookstore. We have some new items that just arrived. These items include: Icon ornaments, jewelry, Icons, prayer books, prayers ropes, and much more. If you need a Gift, come check out the Bookstore...you may find something you like!! We are now also offering Gift Certificates for our Bookstore. Please speak with Dave or Andrea for more details/information!! We thank David and Andrea Chmiel who are managing of our Bookstore for us. If you have any questions or if you would like to order something that you do not see, please see or contact David or Andrea Chmiel and they will be able to assist you. You may also email them at: bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com. May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you.

Also in the Parish Fellowship Hall, we have the Giving Tree! If anyone would like to sign up for Readers, Bulletin, Collection, Communion Cloth, Home Blessing, please see or contact Fr. Jason!



### A SINCERE AND HEARTFELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION FOR THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS TO THE PARISH FROM OUR PARISH GIVING TREE

Please be sure to check out "The Giving Tree" in the Parish Fellowship Hall as well as on our parish website (www.stgeorgebuffalo.com) to see how we may be able to donate towards the needs of our parish through our continued support and stewardship for our beloved parish.

Some of the items on the leaves are as follows:

Candles 7-Day Vigil Candles Flowers for Feast Days Charcoal Altar Wine Cups for Zapifka

Paper Towels Toilet Paper Donation for Office Supplies (Paper, Copier) Monthly Donation for Health Kits for Mats for Mission Monthly Donation for Chowder Sale

If anyone has any questions, please see or contact Fr. Jason or Barbara. Thank you for your continued prayerful support and stewardship. May God continue to bless and guide all of you, your families and our entire Parish family and keep all of us in His Loving Care!

### DAILY FAMILY PRAYER RULE WE CAN PRAY TOGETHER AT HOME WITH OUR FAMILIES

A Prayer Rule must be done in front of the icons and the Gospel in our Icon Corners with a lit candle.. It is important to remember that we must make time for God, for the "Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force" (Matt. 11:12). The best time to pray is in the morning or in the evening when we as a family can come together in prayer. Also, when using a Rule of Prayer, we must be flexible and do what we can and do it attentively and consistently. Our goal is to maintain the connection with God and cultivate a real relationship with Him.

With that in mind, please fine below The Rule of Prayer offered by our Diocese for us to use at home especially during this most difficult time when we are not able to be in church together as a parish family.

https://www.nynjoca.org/files/2020/praying-at-home/A-FAMILY-PRAYER-RULE.pdf

May God bless you and keep you always in His Loving Care!

## An Invitation to Support the Stewards of the OCA!

The Orthodox Church in America (OCA) set the direction for expanding our apostolic work in North America at the 18<sup>th</sup> All-American Council. The foundation for this work is Jesus Christ, Whom we encounter in our spiritual lives, stewardship, evangelism and outreach, and relations with others as we engage the world. Being a steward of the OCA goes beyond the financial gifts which support the work of our church. Being a steward is about caring for and knowing the history of the mission of the Orthodox Church here in North America and finding your place in that history. Having received this great gift of our Orthodox Faith, we bear the responsibility to continue the legacy of Saint Herman and Saint Tikhon; Saint Innocent and Saint Alexis and all the other saints known and unknown who have worked to build up and expand Christ's Church here in North America. Please consider being a part of that mission today by giving to the Stewards of the OCA. For more information, please visit The OCA Website: <a href="https://oca.org/become-a-steward">https://oca.org/become-a-steward</a>

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## An Invitation to Support the Ministry of the DDB! In order to fund necessary ministries and fulfill the work of the Church in the Diocese of New

York and New Jersey, **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** generously contribute financial support. To learn more about the DDB, please go to the following link: <a href="http://vimeo.com/71021182">http://vimeo.com/71021182</a> and watch a 60 second video inviting you to join the ever-growing list of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey who joyfully support the on-going work of our diocese. Their support allows us to provide assistance to new mission parishes, scholarships to seminarians, support the departments of The Diocese, and much-needed encouragement to older struggling parishes. How about you? Our parish is a member of the DDB. If anyone would like to join, please see Fr. Jason as well as take a pamphlet from the table in the back of the church. May God continue to bless and guide you for your continued support. The Diocese of New York and New Jersey has two monthly newsletters: "First Fruits" and "Beyond the Plateau." The goal, as expressed by Archbishop Michael, is to increase communication and grow the communal spirit of diocesan fellowship in the building-up and strengthening of our parish communities. To learn more about these monthly diocesan publications, please refer to the diocesan website: http://www.nynjoca.org/newsletters.html.

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### "Lessons in Our Faith" Video presented by His Eminence Archbishop MICHAEL

His Eminence Archbishop Michael presents a series of talks on matters of faith, belief, and the teachings of the Church. These instructional videos are concise and "to the point," offering Orthodox Christians much-needed information, helpful advice for their spiritual journey, and assistance in answering questions that may come from non-Orthodox friends or acquaintances. The goal is that we might better know and better live our faith. These instructional videos can be found at the Diocesan Website: <a href="http://www.nynjoca.org">http://www.nynjoca.org</a>! For those who do not have internet, please see the handouts from each lesson which are located on the table in the back of the church. There are 14 videos! Be sure to check them out!

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### WEEKLY VIDEO SERMONS GIVEN BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL

These sermons offered to us by The Diocese via video can be found on the Diocesan Website: <a href="http://www.nynjoca.org">http://www.nynjoca.org</a>!

There are videos for each week beginning with The Feast of Feasts – Holy Pascha! Be sure to check them out!

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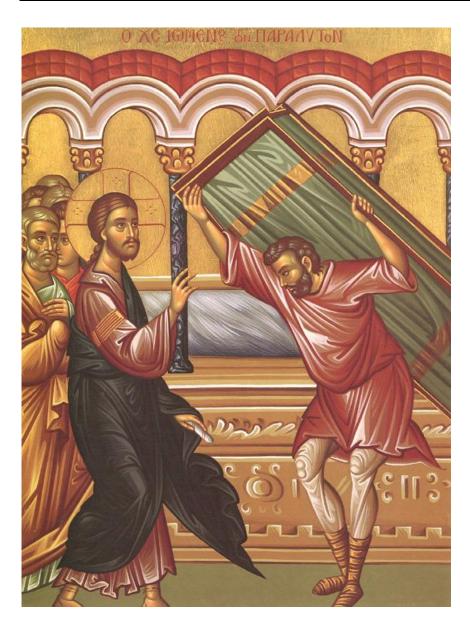
### MONTHLY HEALING PRAYER SERVICE

**Supplicatory Canon to St. Nektarios** 

**MONDAY MAY 22, 2023 – 6:00 PM** 



## ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH EDUCATION CENTER AN ORTHODOX COMMENTARY ON THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC



THE 4th SUNDAY OF HOLY PASCHA: THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC According to today's Gospel, four friends brought a paralytic to Jesus Christ for healing. When they saw the packed house they didn't give up in despair. Instead, they went up on the roof, they removed the panels and lowered the paralytic down. Can you imagine the amazement of the crowd in the house seeing the man coming down from the roof? Can you imagine the amazement of Our Lord Jesus Christ seeing the man coming down from the roof and four heads peaking through the roof? The result of this experience was the healing of the paralytic of his physical and spiritual infirmities.

First, we see here a graphic example of faith. We see how faith will literally raise the roof to be in the presence of God in Jesus Christ. The men were not turned back by the jammed doorway. Why? Because of faith. Faith never gives up. Faith perseveres. Faith is inventive. Faith is fertile. Faith is full of ideas. Faith laughs at barriers. If the road is closed one way, faith looks another way.

Second, what we see is that these men made it clear that Christianity is not just a stab in the dark. Christianity is not just trying to be a nice person. True Christianity is a determined and directed effort to establish contact with a person, Jesus Christ. When a person says that "he is not in Church but his heart is with you," he is kidding himself. If his heart is there, his body will be there also. Faith always finds a way to be with Christ

## **SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC**

On this day the Church remembers the man who lay by the Sheep's Pool in Jerusalem for thirty-eight years, waiting for someone to put him into the pool. The first one to enter the pool after an angel troubled the water would be healed of his infirmities, but someone always entered the pool before him. Seeing the man, the Lord felt compassion for him and healed him.

The fourth Sunday is dedicated to Christ's healing of the **paralytic** (*Jn 5*). The man is healed by Christ while waiting to be put down into the pool of water. Through baptism in the church we, too, are healed and saved by Christ for eternal life. Thus, in the church, we are told, together with the paralytic, to sin no more that nothing worse befall you" (*Jn 5:14*).

The Kontakion for this Fourth Sunday of Pascha asks Christ to raise up our souls, "paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts."

## **Commentary on The Sunday of The Paralytic**

On this Sunday the most wonderful healing of the paralytic by the Sheep's Pool, who for 38 years languished in severe illness is glorified. According to the explanation of the Synaxarion, this miracle is celebrated on this Sunday because Christ did it during the Jewish Pentecost. In the healing of the paralytic the Holy Church sees the paradigm of the renewal of life of all humanity through the resurrection of Christ. "Christ", she sings in the hymns of this day, "the first-born of creation, and the Creator of all things that have come into being, is risen from the dead as the first-fruits of them that slept. He renewed in Himself the corrupted nature of our race." "On this day is

death despoiled and Hades brought to naught. And the race of men is vested in incorruption. We therefore cry to Thee with thanksgiving: glory, O Christ, to Thy arising".

Together with this the Holy Church, reminding us about the paralysis of our souls through sin, calls each of us to appeal: "O Most Gracious One, heal my soul which has been ailing for many years, as Thou healed the paralytic before, that I may follow Thy way, which Thou hast shown to those who love Thee"; "As Thou raised up the paralytic, O Christ, so also make whole my soul which is paralyzed by transgressions, and help me to walk in Thine upright ways". As the miracle remembered now was accomplished by the Savior at the Sheep's Pool, in which for the healing of sufferings, "an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons and troubled the water" in some troparia of the canon he is glorified as the Holy Archistrategus Michael. Praising him as the "chief of angels", "leader" of the "highest ministers", the Holy Church hymns him as the "guide for the erring" and, in view of our spiritual paralysis, prayerfully appeals to him: "pray for our enlightenment", "pacify our life, which is ever troubled by the assaults of the serpent and by the circumstances of an ever unstable life", "with us pray for the deliverance of our sins and correction of our way of life", and "the enjoyment of eternal blessings".

## **The Feast of Mid-Pentecost**

On Wednesday May 13, we celebrate the midpoint of the fifty days between the Feasts of Pascha and Pentecost. St 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 St 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 the middle of this fourth week, the middle day between Easter and Pentecost is solemnly celebrated. It is called the feast of **Mid-Pentecost**, at which Christ, "in the middle of the feast" teaches men of his saving mission and offers to all "the waters of immortality" (*Jn 7:14*). Again we are reminded of the Master's presence and his saving promise: "If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink" (*Jn 7:37*). We think also once again of our death and resurrection with Christ in our baptism, and our reception of the Holy Spirit from him in our chrismation. We "look

back to one, and anticipate the other" as one of the hymns of the feast puts it. We know that we belong to that kingdom of the Risen Christ where "the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price" (*Rev* 22:17. Is 55:1).

In the middle of the feast, 0 Saviour, fill my thirsting soul with the waters of godliness, as Thou didst cry unto all: If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! 0 Christ God, Fountain of life, glory to Thee! (Troparion).

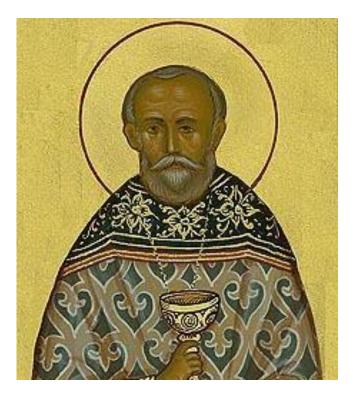
Christ God, the Creator and Master of all, cried to all in the midst of the feast of the law: Come and drink the water of immortality! We fall before Thee and faithfully cry: Grant us Thy bounties, for Thou art the Fountain of our life! (Kontakion)

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We are like stained-glass windows.

We sparkle and shine when the sun is out,
but when the darkness sets in,
our true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.

# Repose of Saint Alexis Toth, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in America



## Commemorated on May 7

Our holy Father Alexis, the defender of the Orthodox Faith and zealous worker in the Lord's vineyard, was born in Austro-Hungary on March 18, 1854 into a poor Carpatho-Russian family. Like many others in the Austro-Hungarian empire, the Toths were Eastern Rite Catholics. Alexis' father and brother were priests and his uncle was a bishop in the Uniate church. He received an excellent education and knew several languages (Carpatho-Russian, Hungarian, Russian, German, Latin, and a reading knowledge of Greek). He married Rosalie Mihalich, a priest's daughter, and was ordained on April 18, 1878 to serve as second priest in a Uniate parish. His wife died soon afterwards, followed by their only child—losses which the saint endured with the patience of Job.

In May, 1879, Father Alexis was appointed secretary to the Bishop of Presov and also Administrator of the Diocesan Administration. He was also entrusted with the directorship of an orphanage. At Presov Seminary, Father Toth taught Church History and Canon Law, which served him well in his later life in America. Saint Alexis did not serve long as a professor or an administrator, for the Lord had a different future planned for him. In October, 1889 he was appointed to serve as pastor of a Uniate parish in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Like another Abraham, he left his country and his relatives to fulfill the will of God (Gen 12:1).

Upon his arrival in America, Father Alexis presented himself to the local Roman Catholic diocesan authority, Archbishop John Ireland, since there was no Uniate bishop in America at that time. Archbishop Ireland belonged to the party of American Catholics who favored the "Americanization" of all Roman Catholics. His vision for the future was founded on a common faith, customs, and the use of the English language for everything except liturgical celebrations. Naturally, ethnic parishes and non-Latin rite clergy did not fit into this vision. Thus, when Father Toth came to present his credentials, Archbishop Ireland greeted him with open hostility. He refused to recognize him as a legitimate Catholic priest or to grant permission for him to serve in his diocese.

As a historian and professor of Canon Law, Father Toth knew his rights under the terms of the Unia and would not accept Archbishop Ireland's unjust decisions. In October of 1890, there was a meeting of eight of the ten Uniate priests in America at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania under the chairmanship of Father Toth. By this time the American bishops had written to Rome demanding the recall to Europe of all Uniate priests in America, fearing that Uniate priests and parishes would hinder the assimilation of immigrants into American culture. Uniate bishops in Europe refused to listen to the priests' pleas for help.

Archbishop Ireland sent a letter to his parishes ordering their members not to attend Father Toth's parish nor to accept any priestly ministrations from him. Expecting imminent deportation, Father Toth explained the situation to his parishioners and suggested it might be best for him to leave and return to Europe.

"No," they said. "Let's go to the Russian bishop. Why should we always submit ourselves to foreigners?" It was decided to write to the Russian consul in San Francisco in order to ask for the name and address of the Russian bishop. Ivan Mlinar went to San Francisco to make initial contact with Bishop Vladimir; then in February, 1891 Father Toth and his church warden, Paul Podany, also made the journey. Subsequently, Bishop Vladimir came to Minneapolis and on March 25, 1891 received Father Toth and 361 parishioners into the Orthodox Church of their ancestors. The parishioners regarded this event as a new Triumph of Orthodoxy, crying out with joy: "Glory to God for His great mercy!" This initiative came from the people themselves, and was not the result of any coercion from outsiders. The Russian Orthodox Church was unaware of the existence of these Slavic Uniate immigrants to America, but responded positively to their petition to be reunited to the Orthodox Church.

The example of Saint Alexis and his parish in returning to Orthodoxy was an encouragement to hundreds of other Uniates. The evermemorable one was like a candle upon a candlestick giving light to others (Mt.5:15), and his flock may be likened to the leaven mixed with meal which leavened the whole (Mt.13:33). Through his fearless preaching he uprooted the tares which had sprung up in the wheat of true doctrine, and exposed the false teachings which had led his people astray. Although he did not hesitate to point out errors in the doctrines of other denominations, he was careful to warn his flock against intolerance. His writings and sermons are filled with admonitions to respect other people and to refrain from attacking their faith.

While it is true that he made some strong comments, especially in his private correspondence with the church administration, it must be remembered that this was done while defending the Orthodox Church and the American Mission from unfounded accusations by people who used much harsher language than Father Toth. His opponents may be characterized by intolerance, rude behaviour, unethical methods and threats against him and his parishioners. Yet, when Father Alexis was offended or deceived by other people he forgave them, and he would often ask his bishop to forgive his omissions and mistakes. In the midst of great hardships, this herald of godly theology and sound doctrine poured forth an inexhaustible stream of Orthodox writings for new

converts, and gave practical advice on how to live in an Orthodox manner. For example, his article "How We should Live in America" stresses the importance of education, cleanliness, sobriety, and the presence of children in church on Sundays and Holy Days.

Although the Minneapolis parish was received into the Orthodox Church in March, 1891, it was not until July, 1892 that the Holy Synod of Russia recognized and accepted the parish into the Diocese of Alaska and the Aleutians. This resolution reached America only in October, 1892. During that time there was a climate of religious and ethnic hostility against the new converts. Father Alexis was accused of selling out his own Carpatho-Russian people and his religion to the "Muscovites" for financial gain.

In reality he did not receive any financial support for a long time, for his parish was very poor. Until his priestly salary began to arrive from Russia, the righteous one was obliged to work in a bakery in order to support himself. Even though his funds were meager, he did not neglect to give alms to the poor and needy. He shared his money with other clergy worse off than himself, and contributed to the building of churches and to the education of seminarians in Minneapolis. He was not anxious about his life (Mt.6:25), what he would eat or drink or wear. Trusting in God to take care of him, Saint Alexis followed the admonition of Our Savior to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Mt.6:33). So he bore the tribulation, slander, and physical attacks with patience and spiritual joy, reminding us that "godliness is stronger than all" (Wisdom of Solomon 10:12).

Bishops Vladimir, Nicholas, Saint Tikhon, and Platon recognized the special gifts of Father Toth, so they often sent him forth to preach and teach wherever there were people of Slavic background. Even though he was aware of his shortcomings and inadequacies, yet he was obedient to the instructions of the bishops. He did not hesitate or make excuses, but went immediately to fulfill his mission. Saint Alexis visited many Uniate parishes, explaining the differences between Orthodoxy, Protestantism, Roman Catholicism and Uniatism, stressing that the true way to salvation is in Orthodoxy.

Like Josiah, "he behaved himself uprightly in the conversion of his people" (Sir 49:2). He was instrumental in the formation or return of seventeen parishes, planting a vineyard of Christ in America, and increasing its fruitful yield many times over. By 1909, the time of his blessed repose, many thousands of Carpatho-Russian and Galician Uniates had returned to Orthodoxy. This was a major event in the history of the North American Mission, which would continue to shape the future of Orthodoxy in this country for many generations to come. Any future growth or success may truly be regarded as the result of Father Toth's apostolic labors.

Who can tell of the saint's spiritual struggles? Who can speak of the prayers which his pious soul poured forth unto God? He did not make a public display of his piety, but prayed to God in secret with all modesty, with contrition and inward tears. God, Who sees everything done in secret, openly rewarded the saint (Mt.6:6). It is inconceivable that Saint Alexis could have accomplished his apostolic labors unless God had blessed and strengthened him for such work. Today the Church continues to reap the fruits of his teaching and preaching.

Father Toth's efforts did not go unrecognized in his own lifetime. He received a jeweled miter from the Holy Synod, as well as the Order of Saint Vladimir and the Order of Saint Anna from Czar Nicholas II for distinguished service and devotion to God and country. In 1907, he was considered as a candidate for the episcopal office. He declined this honor, however, humbly pointing out that this responsibility should be given to a younger, healthier man.

At the end of 1908, Saint Alexis' health began to decline due to a complication of illneses. He went to the seashore in southern New Jersey in an attempt to regain his health, but soon returned to Wilkes-Barre, where he was confined to bed for two months. The righteous one reposed on Friday, May 7, 1909 (April 24 on the Old Calendar), the feast of Saints Savva and Alexius the Hermit of the Kiev Caves. Saint Alexis' love and concern for his spiritual children did not cease with his death. Before closing the account of his life, it would be most appropriate to reveal but one example of his heavenly intercession:

In January, 1993 a certain man prayed to Saint Alexis to help him obtain information about his son from whom he had been separated for twenty-eight years. Placing his confidence in the saint's boldness before God, he awaited an answer to his prayer. The very next day the man's son telephoned him. It seems the young man was in church when he was suddenly filled with an overwhelming desire to contact his father. He had been taken to another state by his mother, and she changed his name when he was a child. This is why his father was unable to locate him. Having learned from his mother that his father was an Orthodox Christian, he was able with the help of an Orthodox priest to obtain his father's phone number in a distant city. As a result of that telephone call, the young man later visited his father, who rejoiced to see what sort of man his son had become. The father gave thanks to God and to Saint Alexis for reuniting him with his son.

Saint Alexis was a true man of God who guided many Carpatho-Russian and Galician immigrants through the dark confusion of religious challenges in the New World and back to the unity of the Orthodox Church through his grace-filled words and by his holy example. In his last will and testament Saint Alexis commended his soul to God's mercy, asking forgiveness from everyone and forgiving everybody. His holy relics now rest at Saint Tikhon Monastery in South Canaan, Pennsylvania where the faithful may come to venerate them and to entreat Saint Alexis' intercessions on their behalf.

Thought for the Day on The Sunday of The Paralytic:

### CHRIST -- THE PHYSICIAN OF OUR SOULS

From the Gospel of John 5:1-15 During a feast day, Jesus went to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem there was a pool called Bethesda. In those days, an angel went at certain times into the pool and stirred the water. Then whoever stepped in first was made well. Many sick persons went there who were blind, lame, or paralyzed. There was a man there who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been in that condition for a long time. He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The man

answered, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I try to come, someone always gets in before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, he walked and carried his bed. (At that time in history most beds were like a folding cot.) That day was the Sabbath, so the Jews said to the man, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." (People were not allowed to do any kind of work on the Sabbath.) He answered, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who said that to you?" But he did not know who it was, because Jesus had already left that place. Afterward Jesus found the man in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, or a worse thing might happen to you." The man left and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

build a successful family or circle of true friends. No one cried for him when he passed on, in fact, many were glad to see him leave this world.

= = Scriptural Readings for the Week = = =	
Monday Acts 10:1-16	John 6:56-59
Tuesday Acts 10:21-33	John 7:1-13
Wednesday Acts 14:6-18	John 7:14-30
Thursday Acts 10:34-	John 8:12-20
<b>Friday</b> Acts 10:44-11:10	John 8:21-30
Saturday Acts 12:1-11	John 8:31-42
Sunday Acts 11:19-26,29-30	{Sunday of Samaritan Woman} John 4:5-42

## **Finding Copper Pennies**

There was a small boy who when walking down the street one day found a bright copper penny. He was so excited that he found money and it didn't cost him anything. This experience led him to spend the rest of his days walking with his head down, eyes wide open, looking for wealth.

During his lifetime he found 1,296,000,000 pennies, 480 nickels, 1900 dimes, 16.000 quarters, 200 half dollars and thousands of crinkled dollar bills. He accumulated quite a bank account in his lifetime. He prided himself in the fact that he spent his life getting his fortune from nothing.

Yes, the boy now old man, spent his life collecting money for nothing. Except that in his lifetime he missed the breathless beauty of 31,369 sunsets, the colorful splendor of 157 rainbows, the fiery beauty of hundreds of maples nipped by autumn's frost. He never saw the thousands of white clouds drifting across blue skies, shifting into various wondrous formations. Birds flying, sun shining, and the smiles of a hundreds of thousands people that passed through his life. All of this is not a part of his memory. Nor did this man-boy have any time to

LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE. 1 Cor.16:14

YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. Matt. 22:37

YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. Matt. 22:39

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU. Matt. 5:44

LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND, LOVE DOES NOT ENVY, LOVE DOES NOT BOAST, LOVE IS NOT PROUD, LOVE IS NOT SELFISH, LOVE IS NOT PROVOKED. 1Cor. 13:4

LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, LOVE ALWAYS HAS FAITH, LOVE ALWAYS HAS HOPE, LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS. LOVE NEVER FAILS! 1Cor. 13:7,8



Week 5: Sunday, July 30 - Saturday, August 5 -- Teen Week 2

Week 6: Monday, Aug. 7 - Friday, Aug. 11 -- Family Week



