

PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER VIRGIN MARY
(Pokrov)

April 30, 2003

5 2nd Street
Herminie, PA 15637
<http://pokrov.iksnazul.com/>

Cantor
Joseph Luzanski

Liturgical Schedule

Divine Liturgy

Sunday: 8:30 am
Holyday: 9:00 am

Confessions

One half hour before
the divine liturgy or by
appointment

Served By

Father Vasyl Yakubych
Cell: 412-627-1678
E-mail: yakubichvasill2020@gmail.com

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!
Feltamadt Krisztus! Valoban Feltamadt!
Христосъ воскресъ! – Воистинѣ воскресъ!,
Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!
Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!
Christos vstal z mŕtvych! Vpravde vstal z mŕtvych!
Christus resurrexit! Vere resurrexit!

Because of my health issues I will be cantoring
from the pews in the church. Eventually I
would like to set up a station in the back with a
music stand.

Meanwhile I will I'll be sitting with my wife (to
her great delight).

When I get tired I am going to sit. So I may not be
standing or sitting at the appropriate times. Don't
follow my example.

SAINT STEPHEN'S IS SELLING A 50/50
TICKET FOR \$10. YOUR CUT IS \$1200.
SEE FATHER VASYL FOR DETAILS.

Sunday of the Healing of the Paralytic

Feastal Tone

Menologion

James is styled "the Greater" to distinguish him from the
Apostle James "the Less", who was probably shorter of
stature. We know nothing of St. James's early life. He was
the brother of John, the beloved disciple, and probably the
elder of the two.

It is probable, according to Acts 4:13, that John (and
consequently his brother James) had not received the
technical training of the rabbinical schools; in this sense
they were unlearned and without any official position
among the Jews. But, according to the social rank of their
parents, they must have been men of ordinary education, in
the common walks of Jewish life. They had frequent
opportunity of coming in contact with Greek life and
language, which were already widely spread along the
shores of the Galilean Sea.

Fasts & Feasts

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| April 30 | Fourth Sunday of Pascha (Healing of the Paralytic) |
| May 3 | Mid-Pentecost, Feast of SS Cyril & Methodius |
| May 7 | Fifth Sunday of Pascha (Samaritan Women at the Well) |
| May 14 | Sixth Sunday of Pascha (Ma+n Born Blind) |
| May 18 | Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ |
| May 21 | Seventh Sunday of Pascha (Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council) |
| May 27 | Fifth All-Souls Saturday |
| May 28 | Pentecost - Descent of the Holy Spirit |
| May 29 | Pentecost Monday: Feast of the Holy Trinity, Memorial Day (USA) |
| June 4 | All Saints Sunday |
| June 5-29 | The Apostles' Fast (The fast begins with the vespers on Sunday evening and concludes on June 29th) |
| June 24 | Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John |
| June 29 | The Holy Glorious and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter & Paul |

In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, (9.32-35) we have a story of St. Peter performing a miracle that is remarkably similar to the healing Jesus performs in our Gospel (John 5.1-15). The men have a similar illness. Peter's words are very similar to Christ's: "Get up and make your bed."

It is very clear that St. Peter, in his ministry in the early Church, is following very much in the footsteps of his Lord. Christ had told his followers earlier: "Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these." (John 14.12) Then Jesus sent the Spirit, who proceeds from the Father, at the Feast of Pentecost. From there, Peter and the other disciples became Christ's witnesses throughout the world.

Part of the witness of Christ is prayer for the healing of the sick. Anointing of the sick is part of the ministry of a priest, and has been part of my ministry from the beginning. And while I've seen some healing that I attribute to divine intervention, I sometimes wonder why we don't often see the great miracles and marvels we read about in the Acts of the Apostles. As faithful Catholic Christians we, of course, believe both in the effectiveness of prayer and in the miraculous activity of God in our world. So why don't we see more of it?

We've all heard or read stories of healings and miracles. They inspire us with faith. They encourage us to persevere. So why doesn't Christ always heal a person when they ask for it, or when the Church prays for them, or when a priest anoints them?

The short answer – and the honest answer is – we don't know. We are not given insider information into the mysteries of the purposes of God. But we do know that ministry

to the sick is part of what it means to be doing the work of God; it is part of our ministry in his name. It is one of those "greater things" that Jesus tells his followers they will do. In our community, and in the community around us, there are many, many people who are suffering from illness of body, mind, or spirit. In fact, none of us get through life without some kind of bodily suffering and illness. Most of us struggle in our minds and emotions at one time or another as well.

MID-PENTECOST

On most feasts of our Church year we display an icon which depicts the event commemorated and explains its theological meaning. This is not the case on the Feast of Mid-Pentecost which is observed this week. This feast is observed on the 25th day of our 50 day Paschal season: the actual mid-point of this observance. It serves to turn our minds towards the climax of these fifty days, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. As the high point of the Lord's presence in our midst was His death and resurrection, its climax was the event which brought us to share in His resurrection life: the coming of the Spirit upon mankind in the Church.

The icon of this feast depicts the Gospel scene of the adult Christ teaching in the temple during the Jewish festival. Often, however, the icon venerated on Mid-Pentecost depicts the twelve year old Jesus "in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions" (Lk 2:46), indicating that at all times and in every way Christ is the Source of wisdom, the Illuminator of our souls.

We have no documented witness to the origins of this feast, but it was widely known by the fifth century.