



Mother of God from Vyshhorod

From the concert I Ukrainiann Home "Dnipro", April 29, 2017 Concert was indeed very nice. Thanks to all participants and organizers. Mnohaya Lita!

A new way of serving Liturgy. Mary Ann DuBois is in Florida right now and she answered Liturgy on skype. That is the way how we can communicate with those who are homebound.

It is May, the month of Theotokos and we started with rosary at St. John Maron on Wherle Drive, May 1, 2017. There were good number of those who attended. (see photo below)

Christ is Risen!



SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



**N<sup>o</sup>** ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГТРИЇ  
**19** UNDER THE PROTECTION OF MOTHER OF GOD



**CHURCH BULLETIN**  
May 7 Травня – 2017  
**ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК**

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**Жінки, що приходять помагати в кухні кожної П'ятниці. Сердечна усім подяка! Фартушки подарувала Пані Анна Мельник, яка недавно приїхала з України. Thank you, ladies, for coming to the Church kitchen every Friday. God Bless You! Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! \* Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!**

## CHURCH BULLETIN

May 7 Травня 2017  
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



Saint Nicholas Church  
Церква Св. Миколая  
(Під Опікою П.Д.М.)

## ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM +Sophia Dusaniwsky (Family)  
+Софія Дусанівська (Родина)

### May 7 S. of Paralytic – Н. Розслабленого

10:00 AM +Catherine & Michael Chort (Mary Ann)

+Катерина і Михайло Хорт (Донька)

12:00 AM For Parishioners – За Парохіян - ENG.

Monday, May 8 Травня, Понеділок

8:00 AM +The Lucas, Verostko & Chort  
Families (Mary Ann Chort)

Tuesday, May 9 Травня, Вівторок

9:00 AM +Катерина Лехновська (Irene Murray)

Wednesday, May 10 Травня, Середа

9:00 AM +Катерина Сташків  
(D. D. Baranuckij)

9:45 AM Молебень до Пречистої Діви Марії  
Moleben to B.V.M.

Thursday, May 11 Травня, Четвер

10:00 AM В наміренні Маркіяна Стасюка  
з нагоди 90-ліття (родина )

МНОГАЯ ЛІТА! MANY HAPPY YEARS!

Friday, May 12 Травня, П'ятниця

11:15 AM +Betty Wujcik  
(Maria Grega-Malaniak)

12:00 PM Молебень до Пречистої Діви Марії  
Moleben to B.V.M.

Saturday, May 13 Травня, Субота

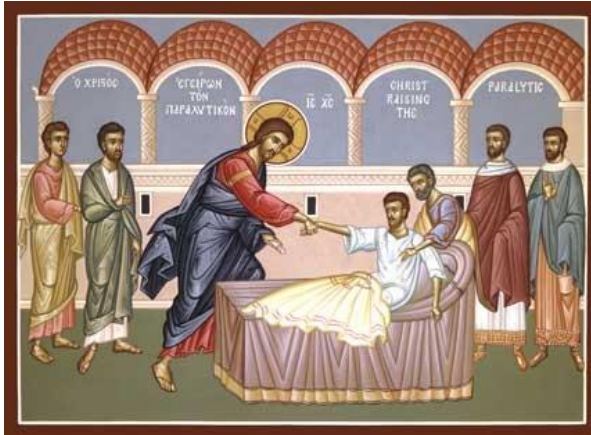
4:30 PM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

### May 14 S. Samaritan W. – Н. Самарянки

## ДЕНЬ МАТЕРІ – MOTHER'S DAY

10:00 AM For all Mothers – За всіх Мамів

12:00 AM +Halyna Stasiuk – 1 year anniv. - ENG.  
(Family)



Вічне Світло в честь П. Д. М. горить  
За +Софію Дусанівську  
Пожертва: Родина Дусанівський

Eternal Light burns for  
the intention of Eliana Iwanyczko.  
Praying for her health.  
Requ. by: Luba Szyszkowski & Mary Muhs

У неділю, 21 травня, буде  
Торжественне Святе Причастя. Тільки  
одна Св. Літургія о 10 годині.  
Маємо 7 першопричасників.  
Сердечно дякуємо Елейн Новадлей,  
що кожного року приготує дітям до  
Торжественного Св. Причастя.

Просимо взяти участь у молебнях в  
Середу і П'ятницю.

Molebens to BVM are Wednesday and  
Friday. Please take part.

Ukrainian Treasures & More



Judie Hawryluk

79 Southridge Dr  
West Seneca NY 14224

716-674-5185

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photos on facebook.com

jahawryluk@gmail.com

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St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church



Buszka Funeral Home

Director Peter D. Stachowski

2005 Clinton Street at S. Ogden, Buffalo New York 14206  
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Сердечна подяка усім спонзорам!



DNIPRO

ДНІПРО

Ukrainian Cultural Center

562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204 856-4476

[www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com](http://www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com)

Kitchen open Friday 5-9 pm  
Live Music first Friday every month  
Book your private party now

### Ad in the bulletin

If you want to advertise  
Your business in the bulletin  
Business card - \$100 for a year.

Бізнесова картка  
\$100.00 дол. – 52 рази до року.

Wilhelmina E. Klimeczko  
Janine R. Klimeczko  
Michael A. Klimeczko  
Licensed Directors

Pietszak

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Orlowski-Pietszak Funeral Home

www.Pietszak.com 897-2400

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thoughtful Personalized Service

806 Clinton St. 2400 William St.  
Buffalo Cheektowaga

Thanks are extended to all Sponsors!

Become a member of Ukrainian FCU and save money with lower rates on loans, make money with higher interest on your savings, and save time with our convenient online services!

**PERSONAL & BUSINESS FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
SAVINGS & CHECKING ACCOUNTS | SHARE CERTIFICATES | MONEY MARKET | IRA | LOANS | MORTGAGES | VISA CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS | MONEYGRAM | INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC WIRE TRANSFERS | ONLINE SERVICES | [NOTARY PUBLIC | TRANSLATIONS | SCHOLARSHIPS]  
**ПЕРСОНАЛЬНІ ТА БІЗНЕСОВІ ФІНАНСОВІ ПОСЛУГИ**  
ОЩАДНІ ТА ЧЕКОВІ РАХУНКИ | СЕРТИФІКАТИ | М.М. | ПЕНСІЙНІ РАХУНКИ | ПОЗИКИ | КРЕДИТИ НА НЕРУХОМІСТЬ | ПЛАТІЖНІ КАРТКИ VISA | MONEYGRAM | ГРОШОВІ ПЕРЕКАЗИ | ЕЛЕКТРОННІ ПОСЛУГИ [ПОСЛУГИ НОТАРІУСА | ПЕРЕКЛАДИ | СТИПЕНДІЇ]

<p><b>Buffalo Branch</b> Ukrainian Home Dnipro 562 Genesee Street Buffalo NY 14204 (716) 847-6655 <a href="http://www.rufcu.org">www.rufcu.org</a></p>	<p><b>Amherst Branch</b> Ellicott Creek Plaza 2882 Niagara Falls Blvd Amherst NY 14228 (716) 799-8385 <a href="http://www.rufcu.org">www.rufcu.org</a></p>
<p><b>Business Hours</b> Closed <b>Wednesdays</b>, Зачинені по середах Mon., Tuesday, Thursday   9:30 am - 5 pm   Пон., вівторок, четвер Friday / П'ятниця   9:30 am - 7 pm   Saturday / Субота   9 am - 1 pm  </p>	<p><b>Business Hours</b> Closed <b>Mondays</b>, Зачинені по понеділках Tuesday - Thursday   9:30 am - 5 pm   3 вівторка по четвер Friday / П'ятниця   9:30 am - 6 pm   Saturday / Субота   9 am - 1 pm  </p>

Membership subject to eligibility. Federally insured by NCUA.

Щоб довідатися більше інформації про це що діється в громаді, Просимо відвідати веб-сторінку.  
<http://www.ukrainiansofbuffalo.com>  
Is the the web-page to find More information and events In our Ukrainian Community.

**EURO DELI AND GIFTS**  
[www.eurodelisausage.com](http://www.eurodelisausage.com)



**LUNCHES & SANDWICHES SERVED DAILY**

For All of Your Old World Favorite Products, Just Around The Corner. Stop In & Take a Look.

*Many Varieties of:*  
Bologna • Salami • Fresh Polish Sausage • Head Cheese • Garlic Sausage • Smoked Fish  
European Beer • Kefir/Butter • Condiments • Pierogi (Homemade) - *Many Varieties*  
Smoked Sausages • Bacon (Bozek) • Canadian Bacon • Blood Kishka (Homemade)  
Polish Hams • Caviar • Kvas Drink • Cheese • European Chocolates • Pickles/Tomatoes

4166 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, NY (In Airport Plaza) 630-0130  
2321 Millersport Hwy. Amherst (Getzville Plaza) 688-1495

Are you listening to "Good Samaritan"  
Ukr. Radio Program on WJL 1440 AM  
Every Sunday at 2:00 PM?  
Thank you for your donations!  
We welcome your comments.

\*\*\*

Чи ви слухаєте нашу радіо передачу  
«Милосердний Самар'янин»  
Неділя, 2 год. на WJL 1440 AM?  
Сердечно дякуємо за пожертви!

Please include our Church  
in your charitable donations!

\*\*\*

Просимо підтримувати Рідну Церкву  
талантами, часом і жертвами.

**Cell Phones - Мобільні Телєфони:**  
Please turn off or silence your cell phone  
before entering the church. Thank you!

\*\*\*

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні  
телєфони підчас Святої Літургії.

**DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS**

- Special Appeal**  
IMO Mychajlo Staszkiw  
Staszkiw Family - \$200.00  
Halyna Biloholowskyj - \$20.00  
Dolores Baranyckyj - \$25.00  
Julia Blendonohy - \$20.00  
Nadia Marc - \$50.00  
Elaine Nowadly - \$20.00  
Rose Serediuk - \$20.00  
Roman & Lyuba Khoma - \$20.00  
Halyna Pryshlak - \$20.00  
Georgina Oros - \$20.00  
Mykola & Tanya Paslawsky - \$30.00  
Olena May - \$25.00  
Kalyna Sofia - \$10.00
- IMO William Fred Marc  
Michael & Orysia Dail - \$50.00  
Sophia Rajca - \$25.00
- IMO Mary & Theodor Nalywajko  
Donna Thorne & Anna Kroczyński - \$300.00
- Endowment Fund**  
IMO of Mychajlo Staszkiw  
Andrij & Maria Petryshyn - \$50.00  
Michael & Maria Petryshyn - \$50.00

**Please note:**  
If you have any old photos connected  
with the history of St. Nicholas Church,  
please loan us, so we can scan them for  
our Anniversary! Thank You!

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**Увага! Увага!**  
Якщо маєте старі знімки пов'язані з  
Церквою Св. Миколая, просимо  
пожичити. Дякуємо!

**SOLEMN COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**MAY 21<sup>TH</sup> – LITURGY 10:00AM**  
Sunday, May 21<sup>th</sup> is Solemn Communion  
Sunday in our Parish. There will be only  
one Liturgy that Sunday, at 10:00AM.  
There will be NO Liturgy at 12:00PM

**Многая Літа!  
Many Happy Years!**  
Birthday wishes to the following parish-  
ioners who celebrate a birthday in May

- Chris Konowka 3
- Orysia Dail 5
- Jaroslav Sedlarczuk 5
- Nina Palmeri 6
- Luba Joven 6
- Markian Stasiuk 11
- Emil Marc 17
- Mary Hanuszczak 19
- Vera Marc 21
- Marianne Katherine Chort 21
- Ann Marie Serediuk 25
- Orest Voychak 23
- Marie Leschuk Glenn 30

**And Our Children**  
Robert Hunter Arthurs 5  
Marta Nazarevych 24  
Adrianna Scheidle 29

If we have forgotten your name and  
birthday for the month of May, please fill  
in your name and birthday on the  
birthday list at the back of the church.  
This birthday list is still a work in  
progress.

## Mother's Day Breakfast Sunday, May 14, 2017



The St. Nicholas Parish Catechists would like to invite all parishioners and their families to attend our Annual Mother's Day Breakfast following the 10 and 12 Liturgies. Eggs, pancakes, sausage, hash browns, fruit, desserts, and beverages will be served for a minimal

suggested donation of \$10 per person.

Proceeds will benefit the St. Nicholas Parish Religious Education Program.

We hope to see you there!

Сніданок з нагоди Дня Матері буде у неділю, 14 Травня по Святих Літургіях. Приготовляють катехитки. Дохід призначений для потреб релігійного навчання. Просимо взяти участь.

## 2017 Stamford Bishop's Appeal

Time to start thinking about the 2017 Stamford Bishop's Appeal. The 2017 Bishop's Appeal Begins May 1<sup>st</sup>. Letters with donation cards will be sent out soon. Remember the goal of our parish, designated by the Stamford Eparchy, is \$7, 500.00. Please be generous with your donations and help us reach our goal.



2017 LUC dues of \$7.00 are now payable to Ihor Pereyma. Dues can be sent to 38 Lester St. Buffalo, NY 14210.

## For Your Information

Our year long 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will begin on the weekend of October 27, 2019 with a Liturgy on Sunday, October 29, 2019, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone on October 26, 1919 and end on November 22, 2020 with a Pontifical Liturgy and Banquet commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church celebrated on November 25, 1920. We are still looking for people who are interested in helping with this celebration.



Our next meeting is Sunday, June 12th after the 10:00 Liturgy.

### 49-ий Відділ СУА

щиро запрошує Вас на смачний обід який відбудеться по Службі Божій в церковній залі св. Миколая, 308 Філмор вул. в неділю, 7-ого травня 2017 р. Просимо \$10.00 даток за обід. Прошу прийти і провести приємно час.



UNWLA Branch 49 is inviting you to dinner on Sunday, May 7, 2017 to be held at St. Nicholas Ukr. Catholic Church 308 Fillmore Ave., after 10 am liturgy. Tickets are \$10.00. Please come and spend some time with your friends.



Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory for ever!

Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава на Віки!

- KITCHEN is now open. Thank you!
- Thank you for your patronage. Thanks are extended to all volunteers!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy in Church Hall, so please join us downstairs. Thank you!

Until we meet next Sunday...

## TOP'S GIFT CARDS:

Please help us raise money for our Church by purchasing Top's Gift Cards from us. If you buy in Tops anyway, why not help. You do not lose or gain anything by doing this, but our Church will benefit greatly. We receive back 5% of your spending. To take advantage of this program, see Mary Bodnar or call 655-3810, or call the rectory. Thank you and God Bless!



Please note: You can purchase gasoline with this card at Tops Gasoline Station.

\*\*\*

У нас успішно продаються Карточки з крамниці "Топс". Купуючи їх ви помагаєте церкві. Для Вас не робить різниці чи ви платили грішми чи карточкою, але церква дістане від „Топс” 5%. На \$1,000 церква одержить \$50. Що б закупити слід звертатися до п. Марії Боднар, або до канцелярії. Дякуємо!

CHURCH BULLETIN is published weekly. Deadline for information is Friday Evening.  
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК видається тижнево. Інформації подавати до П'ятниці вечора.

**SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА  
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ**

(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ  
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРИЇ)

Parish E-Mail: [stnbuffalo@gmail.com](mailto:stnbuffalo@gmail.com)

Web Page: <http://www.stnbuffalo.com>

Dioc. Web: <http://www.stamforddio.org>

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

**Rectory: (716) 852-7566**

**Fax: 855-1319 ~ Kitchen: 852-1908**

**Confession:** Before Liturgies

**Сповідь:** Перед Св. Літургіями

**Baptism:** By appointment

**Хрещення:** За домовленням

**Marriage:** Contact 6 months in advance

**Вінчання:** Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

**Religion classes – Релігійна Програма**  
Saturday - Субота

**Ministry to the sick – Опіка над хворима**  
Family members should call the Rectory  
Родина повинна повідомити священика

**IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME**  
**В разі потреби завжди можна закликати**

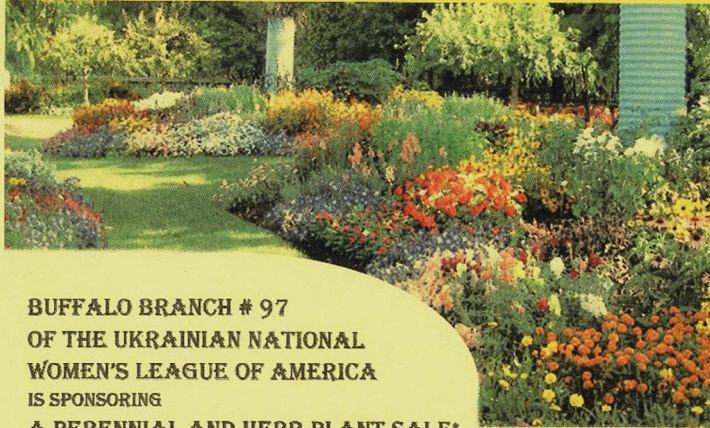
V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor

Rev. Robert Moreno, visiting priest

**Please call if you are hospitalized,  
homebound and need a priest.**  
**Просимо закликати якщо ви у ліжниці  
або приковані до ліжка!**

## Союз Українок #97 – З Нашого Городу до Вашого!

### PLANT SALE - FROM OUR GARDEN TO YOURS



BUFFALO BRANCH # 97  
OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL  
WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA  
IS SPONSORING  
A PERENNIAL AND HERB PLANT SALE!

IT WILL TAKE PLACE AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC  
CHURCH  
3275 ELMWOOD AVENUE  
KENMORE, NY 14217

ON SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017 FROM 10:00 - 2:00 PM.

COME AND SPRUCE UP YOUR GARDENS WITH A BEAUTIFUL COLLECTION OF VARIOUS  
HOME GROWN PLANTS!

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:  
DR. PRAWAK (716) 633-5141

### З радія "Милосердний Самарянин"

У четверту неділю після Пасхи Церква згадує чудесне зцілення розслабленого Господом Ісусом Христом в другий рік Його євангельської проповіді.

Ісус зцілює паралізованого чоловіка, який довго чекав, щоб хтось допоміг йому дістатися до води в чудодійній купелі Витесда (Йо 5, 1-15). Серед сили «недужих, сліпих, кривих, усохлих», про які оповідає Євангеліє, що вони перебували при купелі, очікуючи зцілення, Христос звертає свою увагу на розслабленого, що тридцять вісім років страждав у своїй недузі. Не маючи нікого, хто б міг спустити його у купіль по зрушенні води, він проте не тратить надії. Цю надію винагороджує Ісус, не запитуючи в розслабленого навіть про віру, без якої не чинив чуда. Христос оздоровляє розслабленого в суботу,

чим виявляє, що милосердя не знає дня відпочинку.

Віднайшовши одужалого в храмі, Спаситель звертається до нього із закликом не грішити більше, що робить для нас наявною причину довголітніх страждань того чоловіка. Водночас Христос застерігає, наказуючи не грішити, щоб не сталось ще гірше, ніж те, що було.

Описуючи подію зцілення розслабленого, наша літургійна традиція вкладає в уста Христа та недужого діалог, в якому можемо побачити Бога близького і милосердного до свого творіння:

«При Овечій купелі лежала немічна людина і, бачивши тебе, Господи, кликала: Не маю чоловіка, що вкинув би мене в зрушені води! Бо коли я доходжу, то інший мене випереджує і стає здоровим, а я далі лежу немічний. І змилювався Спас та й каже до нього: Задля тебе я став людиною, заради тебе я воплотився, а ти кажеш: – Не маю чоловіка. Візьми твою постіль і ходи!»

Сьогодні Христос говорить до кожного з нас: Задля тебе я став людиною, заради тебе я воплотився, а ти кажеш: – не маю нікого, хто допоміг би мені, хто зрозумів би мене, не маю нікого, хто ви-

рішив би мої проблеми, хто би забрав від мене мій біль, не маю нікого... Заради тебе я витерпів страсті, смерть і погребення, а ти кажеш: – не можу більше нести свій хрест, не можу більше зносити труднощів життя, не можу більше так жити... Заради тебе я воскрес і дарував тобі вічність, а ти кажеш: — не маю часу, не маю можливостей, не маю бажання... Якщо, отже, ти залишаєшся у своїй недузі, перебуваючи розслабленим, що міг більше я для тебе зробити?

Неділя Розслабленого виявляє нам гріх як причину страждань і Христа, як Джерело сили і оздоровлення. У зціленні розслабленого ми бачимо благовість про силу і славу Христа розп'ятого і воскреслого, Який освітив увесь світ світлом свого Воскресення, і Який для всіх нас – «Божа сила і Божа мудрість» (1 Кор 1, 23-24).

### From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

Christ is Risen – Indeed He is risen! The first two Sundays after Easter Sunday gave us the mystery of the Resurrection to contemplate, from various aspects. We saw the resurrection through the eyes of St. Thomas and the other disciples; we also saw the resurrection through the eyes of the myrrh-bearing women. Today is the Sunday of the Paralytic, commemorating a miracle which, historically, belongs to the earthly days of Christ's ministry. Jesus meets this paralytic man on the Sabbath day. In the Gospel reading, Saint John describes how a paralyzed man had been lying beside the pool of Bethesda waiting for the stirring of the waters by an angel so that he could be healed. His wait lasted not for an hour, or a few days, or even a few months, but thirty-eight years. As amazing as this man's patience and perseverance may have been, perhaps what stands out even more is the fact that no one – not a single person during the course of all these years showed him compassion or even helped him into the pool. This aspect of the story is often forgotten, but it is important for us because we must never ignore the fact that situations of great suffering exist in the world today. Countless people suffer every day from different afflictions and many have no one to care for them. So, for us, this Gospel message must be a call to action: We are all made in God's image and as such, are called to love our neighbors as ourselves. All of us, therefore, are responsible for one another. This is part of our mission as followers of Jesus.

But in caring for each other we must also be aware that a person's suffering may not be as outwardly obvious to us as the affliction of the paralytic. If we imagine ourselves out and about during a regular day, and we look at the people around us—we have no way of knowing how broken they are, how much pain and agony there is in their lives, or how many broken hopes, how much fear and rejection and contempt bring them down. But even if we can't see it, there is an illness inside of them—a spiritual struggle, which we all share in common: The same disease, which is sin. So, we can say then, that suffering is not only the outward physical, but also the inner, spiritual pain. Spiritual sickness is especially terrible because it harms our relationship with others and ultimately with God. There are those of us who are spiritually paralyzed – and that describes a majority of people, who make little or no effort to appeal to the Lord for healing of spiritual illnesses and ailments. Those who make little or no attempt to cooperate with the powerful

grace and energy that God sends to us every day and which some turn away from; those who confess our sins and then turn right around and do them all over again, demonstrating our complete lack of repentance and determination to change. If we are to answer this call to help others, we must do some housekeeping of our own. Before we are able to help others, we must first examine ourselves and see what sins are plaguing us. It takes great courage to look inside, because when we do, we find things that we do not like about ourselves or do not wish to accept. We might try to place blame on someone or something other than ourselves instead of taking responsibility for our sins. But the truth is that the cause is inside us and cannot be avoided. We must also realize that in fighting our spiritual battles, our sinful problems will not change overnight. Change takes a number of things: One is patience.

Consider the Paralytic, who after 38 years of suffering, could have complained when Christ arrived, asking him "What took you so long?" but he didn't. Instead of an angry, bitter response to the Lord's question: "Do you want to be healed?" The paralytic responded, calmly and patiently. He was struggling, but never gave up hope. And we cannot give up hope either. In our darkest moments, when things may seem hopeless, we must never forget that God is with us and that he loves us. The paralytic suffered in loneliness because he had no one to help him. He could not bring about healing through his own efforts. So, what did he do? He waited patiently for Christ. The second thing change requires is a little work on our part. When the Lord commanded the Paralytic to "Rise, be made whole, take up your mat and walk," he was giving the paralytic a command. Taking up one's mat and walking involves obedience and work; a command, which we all received at baptism when we received the Holy Spirit, enabling us with the ability to follow the commandments and to become pure. Taking up the mat is like taking up our cross; it is our mission, to follow Christ's example and how he lived. A mission that we must continue to say "yes" to throughout our lives despite our times of spiritual struggle. Lastly, it is necessary to trust in God by taking our free-will and submitting it to God by placing our hope in Him— then we can begin to see our sufferings turn to healing and we can also help others who suffer, by letting Christ work through us. It is only then, that we can look at one another with a true understanding and with proper attention, so that we can reach out to each other and truly love our neighbor as ourselves.

This leads me to share with you some thoughts about a movie that I watched a few years ago in the theaters entitled God's Not Dead. It's a whole series of stories within stories of how people's lives intertwine with one another through what seems like divine intervention. But the main story line throughout the movie deals with a professor of philosophy who requires his students to sign an agreement stating that 'God is dead' and the courage of one student to take on the challenge of proving to his class and his professor that 'God's Not Dead'. People from all walks of life are intertwined within this story, from lawyers to media professionals to doctors to pastors and students. It involves people helping each other, people getting involved in the lives of others and the reality that even the small things we do can be profound examples of God's work not only in our lives, but in the lives of others. Ultimately, the story reminds us that God is very much alive, working in our lives in ways that we cannot even imagine, and the importance of sharing and spreading our faith with one another. Truthfully, if life were some finite existence and God did not exist, then what would be the value in living life as we know it. Through our faith, we are reassured that God is very much alive, and that we can share in His infinite existence if we choose to follow Him and believe. The movie was quite inspirational and moving, and it touched base on so many different avenues and facets of life - that every viewer cannot help but be impacted by its simple and profound belief that God Is Not Dead.

Today's Gospel closes with a warning: which Jesus expressed to the Paralytic after his healing, but also to all of us: Jesus says: "Sin no more, so that nothing worse happens to you." In other words, now you have been healed, be careful not to practice a sinful life, and do not repeat the offenses for which you have been forgiven, in order that nothing worse becomes of you. This is a warning to us: If we show no sign that we want to be healed; if we try to hide from our sins instead of facing them and taking responsibility for them... if we do not place our trust and hope in God and do not obey the command to rise and carry our cross, then we too will continue to lie in sickness, or fall into a worse spiritual sickness, which may make the Paralytic's 38 years seem like a drop in the bucket. So, what is the way out? What is our solution? A wise priest once wrote: 'The answer is given in today's Gospel. The way out is Christ, He who healed the paralytic. And we must be ready to receive him as did the paralytic. To trust God and let him work through us. Christ can heal physical illness and spiritual illness not only because He overcomes sin, but also because He can overcome the ultimate consequence of sin - death itself.' I find that as we journey through life, many people remain broken over past scars they have faced in their lives:

hardships, rejection, broken dreams, tragedy, and heartache. It is important for us to know that scars only tell us where we have been, but they do not dictate where we are going - that is what our faith is for - and Christ bore the ultimate scars for our salvation, so we have nothing to fear!

Truthfully, many Christians fail to do what Jesus did by the Pool of Bethesda; we fail to acknowledge the reality of people's hurts. But today's Gospel offers hope by showing us quite clearly that we do have someone - a Savior who loves us and can heal us with His grace. During today's service, the Church recalls three cases of divine healing: that of the Canaanite woman, the centurion's servant at Capernaum, and the paralytic at Bethesda. We enter into the spirit of the Church by praying especially, this Sunday, that our Lord will relieve the sick and minister to all those in need of healing. We especially pray for their strength and courage as they face the challenges ahead of them, and that the good Lord in His grace will grant them the peace they so earnestly seek. Christ came to earth with a mission: He came to bring salvation to the world. Sometimes, we lose sight of our own purpose here on earth, because unlike Christ, we are not born with an awareness of our mission. So, we live by the example and teaching of Jesus, and we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us in our daily actions. No matter how many years we are given in this lifetime here on Earth, we can all be certain of one very important and amazing detail: Jesus loves us with a love that we cannot even begin to comprehend. And this love of the Lord enables us to share his compassion and goodwill with one another. The Savior of the world is here, and He has come with the power and the glory of His Resurrection.

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