April 22, 2018
SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

Liturgical Schedule

Apr 21 (Sat)	**Divine Liturgy**	**5:00pm**
Apr 22 (Sun)	**Sunday of the Paralytic Man**	
	Divine Liturgy	**10:30am**
Apr 21 (Sat)	**Divine Liturgy**	**5:00pm**
Apr 22 (Sun)	**Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**	
	Divine Liturgy	**10:30am**

Parish Appreciation Brunch/Coffee Donut Social

The Parish Appreciation Brunch scheduled for Sunday, April 29 has been postponed temporarily. Keep checking the bulletin for the new date, which will be decided in the next couple of weeks. There will still be an opportunity to gather as a parish on April 29 as we celebrate our seminarians on their last day at St. Stephen. A Coffee/Donut Social will be held in the hall downstairs and will be a chance to thank Tom and Paul for their time and talents shared with our parish during the past seven months. Hope you can join us!

Get well cards may be sent to the Rectory and will be delivered to Fr. John as he continues his therapy.

Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.

James Abraham, Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, Rosella Busko, Marion Campbell, John Fekete, Carl Magdic, Fr. John Petro, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Rose Marie Rupnik, Joseph Rusinko, Sue Sabol, Ed Suzina, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Margaret Weber, John Voron Sr.

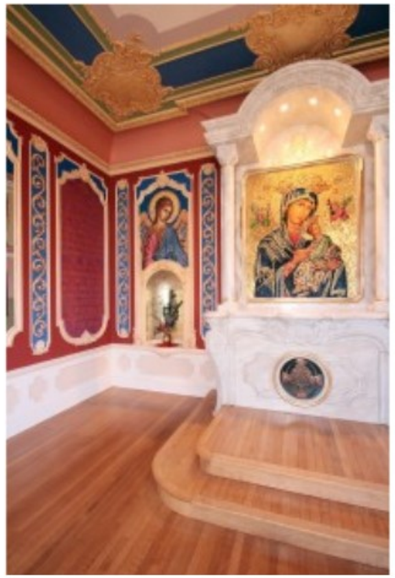
April 15, 2018
Our Tithe to our Parish—$3,748.00

The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of April 22 thru April 28 for the health and well-being of Fr. John.

We greet each other during the next forty days with our Paschal greeting:

Christ is Risen!	(English)	Indeed He is Risen!
Christos Voskrese!	(Slavonic)	Voistinnu Voskrese!
Christos Anesti!	(Greek)	Alithos Anesti!

PROGRAMS AT MOUNT MACRINA HOUSE OF PRAYER



All programs are held at the House of Prayer unless otherwise specified. Please call 724-438-7149 to register.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION
Becky Johnen

WORKING TOWARD A CALMER YOU"
Saturday, April 28, 2018, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Includes Lunch
Offering: $35. Registration Due: April 24

Managing stress is all about taking charge: of your thoughts, emotions, schedule and the way you deal with problems.

This presentation is designed to help you spot stressors and stay in control when the pressure builds by helping you understand what stress is, how to recognize when you are in "stress overload" mode, and how to unwind, relax and become a calmer you.

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

Out of love for us
Christ appeared upon the earth,
and the sick man took up his pallet and walked,
in spite of the wicked Scribes
who would not see the miracle worked by the Lord,
and in their malice
they envied Him who freed our souls from chains.

We all look … and sometimes we see …

Our eyes let us look … but it is the heart which allows us to see.

When Jesus walked this earth, he not only looked at the people around him … he also saw their deeper needs and longings … he saw from heart to heart.

When he encountered this paralyzed man in today's Gospel reading, he saw into his heart and asked the real question: *Do you want to be healed?* Many times we become comfortable in our illness and infirmity. We come to expect the pity and allow (even presume) others to care for us. In a rather perverse way, we give up our own responsibility and let others make the decisions for us.

Thus, the man had to answer for himself. No one could speak for him. He would now have to take responsibility for his own life; *Pick up your mat and walk. Do not sin any more so that nothing worse may happen to you.*

On the darker side … there is the cynicism of the Scribes in today's Gospel reading that blocks their vision … and so they cannot see goodness and love. And that same cynicism often afflicts us … so that we too are blinded.

But now, as we continue the celebration of the Paschal season, we celebrate the gift of life that is given to us … New Life in the Risen Lord.

"Through the Eyes of Child"
Seminarian Paul Varchola West

Although seminary formation is extremely demanding and does require me to spend a great deal of time away from my family, I am fortunate that families are welcomed and encouraged to attend the liturgical services held at the seminary. One of our new "family-time activities" since my entering seminary is attending Great Vespers on Saturday evenings prior to a communal meal held at the seminary. This has proven to become a greatly anticipated event for our four-year-old daughter and is a wonderful opportunity to gain some extra prayer time together as a family. Not only does this give me a precious extra hour with my children, it has granted me an opportunity to gain tremendous insight in regard to prayer by watching my children throughout these services.

As my eight month old son blossoms into a little boy and is becoming more and more aware that there is indeed a world around him in which he may fully participate, his interactions with the vespers service itself have been extremely enlightening. For a moment, I ask you to imagine that you know nothing of what an icon screen is. The concepts of bells, a kadilo, incense, candles, lights and singing have absolutely no meaning to you. These standard components of any liturgical service are not tangible or explicable in any concrete way, they are purely experience. This is the level at which my son is currently experiencing these concepts. There is no point of reference. He does not care about the quality of the singing. These objects are merely part of this "world" he happens to be in at that moment.

As we enter the dimly lit seminary chapel, the bells tolling and shaking the room. The golden icons are delicately shimmering in candle light, with the setting sun providing less and less illumination. As we take our place, my son will interact with those imaged in the icons before him. He will coo and giggle, conversing with the icon of St. Nicholas directly in front of him as if he is interacting with one of us. As the chapel is incensed, he becomes captivated by the jangling of the kadilo and enthralled by the incense rising from it, reaching out to touch the smoke as if he could easily contain it within his tiny fingers. His eyes wide with amazement, he is not in a church nor is he in this material world. He is not seeing "icons" and "smoke", nor is he hearing "bells", but rather, he is simply experiencing what these things create.

It seems as if he is completely removed from his reality of mashed sweet potatoes and being forced to play with his older sister's dolls and is transported to a place of awe and wonder in which he truly has no earthly cares. This is the transformative experience that prayer is supposed to have on each of us; however, is that always the case?

How often do we enter a church, bless ourselves, go to the same pew that our family has occupied for generations, sit down and look at our watch anticipating the end of the service because we have other things we need to get done such as deadlines for work or fixing that leak in the roof? I know I fall into this trap all the time! It seems to me, because we have assigned names and meanings to the various items I mentioned earlier, they tend to become material things and perhaps lose some of their transcendent qualities. Rather than allowing the liturgical items to bring us to a place outside of time, our logical brains keeps us firmly grounded in time, on earth and focused on the tangible nature of our reality.

As children of God, we must view these physical aspects of our liturgical life as simply that, children. We must try to remove ourselves from what these objects are and allow them to be pure experience. Allowing these things to be what they truly are - the shimmering comfort of the saints bringing us into the presence of God, the Almighty Father - will assist us in finding that place snuggled in our parents' arms that we grew out of so long ago. Approaching liturgy through the eyes of a child will grant us the much needed rest from our worldly lives that we all so desperately need. Entering into prayer with child-like innocence, feigning the physical nature of the world around us, will liberate us and bring us closer to being in the presence of our Heavenly Father.