



# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

OUR SUNDAY BULLETIN  
Sunday April 25, 2010  
Sunday of the Paralytic



Protection of the Virgin Mary

8600 Grand Blvd.  
Merrillville, IN 46410  
(219) 947-4748 (Church)  
(219) 730-4698 (Hall Rental)

Great Vespers  
Saturday - 4 PM  
Feast Days - 7 PM  
Divine Liturgy  
Sunday - 9:45 AM  
Feast Days - 9 AM  
Sunday Adult class 9Am  
Children's classes after liturgy

Fr. Peter Bodnar, Rector

Fr. Christopher Sarafin

All services in English

A parish of the  
Orthodox Church in America

[PtvM.com](http://PtvM.com)



Today's commemorated feasts and saints...  
4th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 3.  
Paralytic. Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark (1st c.). Ven. Sylvester, Abbot of Obnora (1379). St. Vasile of Poiana Marului (Romania).

**Tone 3 Troparion** (*Resurrection*)  
Let the heavens rejoice!  
Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.  
He has trampled down death by death.  
He has become the first born of the dead.  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to the world//  
great mercy.

**Tone 3 Kontakion** (*from the Pentecostarion*)  
By Your divine intercession, O Lord,  
as You raised up the Paralytic of old,  
so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and  
thoughtless acts;  
so that being saved I may sing to You://  
“Glory to Your power, O compassionate Christ!”

**Tone 8 Kontakion** (*Pascha*)  
You descended into the tomb, O Immortal,  
You destroyed the power of death.  
In victory You arose, O Christ God,  
proclaiming: “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing  
Women,//  
granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing  
resurrection on the fallen.

**Tone 1 Prokeimenon**  
Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have  
set our hope on You!  
(Ps 32/33:22)  
*v: Rejoice in the Lord, O your righteous! Praise  
befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1)*

## Readings for Sunday April 25 2010

### Acts 9:32-42 (Epistle)

32Now 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.33There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed.34And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately.35So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.36At 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.37But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room.38And 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.39Then 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.40But 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 she sat up.41Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive.42And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

### 1 Peter 5:6-146

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,7casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.8Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.9Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.10But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.11To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.12By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.13She who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you; and so does Mark my son.14Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

### John 5:1-15 (Gospel)

1After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.2Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches.3In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water.4For 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. 5Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years.6When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"7The 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."8Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."9And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.10The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."11He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'"12Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'"13But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.14Afterward 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."15The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

## **Commemorated on April 25**

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 Kontakion for this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha asks Christ to raise up our souls, "paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts."

**Also Commemorated on April 25 The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark**, also known as John Mark (Acts 12:12), was one of the Seventy Apostles, and was also a nephew of St Barnabas (June 11). He was born at Jerusalem. The house of his mother Mary adjoined the Garden of Gethsemane. As Church Tradition relates, on the night that Christ was betrayed he followed after Him, wrapped only in a linen cloth. He was seized by soldiers, and fled away naked, leaving the cloth behind (Mark 14:51-52). After the Ascension of the Lord, the house of his mother Mary became a place where Christians gathered, and a place of lodging for some of the Apostles (Acts 12:12).

St Mark was a very close companion of the Apostles Peter and Paul (June 29) and Barnabas. St Mark was at Seleucia with Paul and Barnabas, and from there he set off to the island of Cyprus, and he traversed the whole of it from east to west. In the city of Paphos, St Mark witnessed the blinding of the sorcerer Elymas by St Paul (Acts 13:6-12).

After working with the Apostle Paul, St Mark returned to Jerusalem, and then went to Rome with the Apostle Peter. From there, he set out for Egypt, where he established a local Church.

St Mark met St Paul in Antioch. From there he went with St Barnabas to Cyprus, and then he went to Egypt again, where he and St Peter founded many churches. Then he went to Babylon. From this city the Apostle Peter sent an Epistle to the Christians of Asia Minor, in which he calls St Mark his son (1 Pet 5:13).

When the Apostle Paul came to Rome in chains, St Mark was at Ephesus, where St Timothy (January 4) was bishop. St Mark went with him to Rome. There he also wrote his holy Gospel (ca. 62-63).

From Rome St Mark traveled to Egypt. In Alexandria he started a Christian school, which later produced such famous Fathers and teachers of the Church as Clement of Alexandria, St Dionysius of Alexandria (October 5), St Gregory Thaumaturgos (November 5), and others. Zealous for Church services, St Mark composed a Liturgy for the Christians of Alexandria.

St Mark preached the Gospel in the inner regions of Africa, and he was in Libya at Nektopolis.

During these journeys, St Mark was inspired by the Holy Spirit to go again to Alexandria and confront the pagans. There he visited the home of Ananias, and healed his crippled hand. The dignitary happily took him in, listened to his words, and received Baptism.

Following the example of Ananias, many of the inhabitants of that part of the city where he lived were also baptized. This roused the enmity of the pagans, and they wanted to kill St Mark. Having learned of this, St Mark made Ananias a bishop, and the three Christians Malchos, Sabinos, and Kerdinos were ordained presbyters to provide the church with leadership after his death.

The pagans seized St Mark when he was serving the Liturgy. They beat him, dragged him through the streets and threw him in prison. There St Mark was granted a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who strengthened him before his sufferings. On the following day, the angry crowd again dragged the saint through the streets to the courtroom, but along the way St Mark died saying, "Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit."

The pagans wanted to burn the saint's body, but when they lit the fire, everything grew dark, thunder crashed, and there was an earthquake. The pagans fled in terror, and Christians took up the body of St Mark and buried it in a stone crypt. This was on April 4, 63. The Church celebrates his memory on April 25.

In the year 310, a church was built over the relics of St Mark. In 820, when the Moslem Arabs had established their rule in Egypt and oppressed the Christian Church, the relics of St Mark were transferred to Venice and placed in the church named for him.

In the ancient iconographic tradition, which adopted symbols for the holy Evangelists borrowed from the vision of St John the Theologian (Rev 4:7) and the prophecy of Ezekiel (Ez. 1:10), the holy Evangelist Mark is represented by a lion, symbolizing the might and royal dignity of Christ (Rev 5:5).

St Mark wrote his Gospel for Gentile Christians, emphasizing the words and deeds of the Savior which reveal His divine Power. Many aspects of his account can be explained by his closeness to St Peter. The ancient writers say that the Gospel of Mark is a concise record of St Peter's preaching.

One of the central theological themes in the Gospel of St Mark is the power of God achieving what is humanly impossible. The Apostles performed remarkable miracles with Christ (Mark 16:20) and the Holy Spirit (Mark 13:11) working through them. His disciples were told to go into the world and preach the Gospel to all creatures (Mark 13:10, 16:15), and that is what they did.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY...April 25 2010..

**SUNDAY** 25 9am Adult class, 9:45 3rd Hr 10:00 Divine Liturgy  
Church School , Sodality Mtg

**TUESDAY** 27 6pm Prayer service then afterwards  
Parish Council Mtg

**SATURDAY** 1 4pm Great Vespers

How can I increase my faith, learn more about Christ  
and help others?

- A pick up a book at our church bookstore
- B pick up a pamphlet at our church book store
- C pick up a CD at our church book store
- D all of the above



### ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SCRIP



**THANK YOU ALL FOR USING THE SCRIP PROGRAM**

SCRIP ON AVERAGE DONATES APPROXIMATELY \$10,000.00 PER YEAR TO THE CHURCH

MANY HAVE SAID THE AMOUNT COULD DOUBLE OR EVEN TRIPLE WITH INCREASED PARTICIPATION

**SADLY VISA CARDS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE THRU THE SCRIP PROGRAM**

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**LET'S ALL TRY TO MAXIMIZE THIS PROGRAM BY BUYING SCRIP FOR ITEMS WE WOULD**

**HAVE PURCHASED ANYWAY**

**IT HELPS YOUR CHURCH AND**

**IT DOES NOT COST OUR PERSONAL BUDGETS A DIME EXTRA**



## Saturday June 5th 2010

**TODAY TODAY TODAY**



OUR GOLF COMMITTEE WILL HAVE A BRIEF MEETING AFTER COFFEE HOUR TODAY

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AGAIN THIS YEAR.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

