20 years. All of my friends knew (and often joked) about my interest. Many said extreme measures, even deep into pain, in order to be found by what it seeks. Nature, is not satisfied with the pleasures sought by the passions. It will go to the deserts, forests, holes and prayed. St. Brendan crossed the Atlantic with his monastic companions in a boat made of animal hides. Countless thousands of monastics wandered into and turned the corner, buying the field, selling everything you have, picking up the coin, making that phone call, saying “yes” and “yes” and “yes.”

Holy Actions:
- Missions Team The Team will continue to collect food pantry items for Edinboro University Food pantry. See Anna R. or Debbie K. for more details.
- Also, there are OCMC summer mission trips scholarships available for anyone interested. Keep in hall for more information on trips or see www.ocmc.org
- Outreach Team plans to have a booth at 2nd Saturday in Meadville in the next few months, volunteers are needed, see Isaac Bicko for more information.

Holy Services:
- Today — Blessing of the Parish Cemetery following Divine Liturgy — CGS Atrium will be open for little ones today.
- Many years to Fr. David Smoley celebrating his 55th Anniversary to the Holy Priesthood TODAY. May the Lord grant him many more years of service!!

Reading for Today
- Is 36:5-11 O Lord, when I was brought forth in my mother’s womb, You were my song; I praised You and was glad.
- Acts 17:17-19 Paul exclaimed, “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city, a devout man, according to the Judaism taught by my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and the Prophets, having hope that I could somehow find out the truth about the way of God.
- Acts 18:21-28 Paul replied, “Then took they him the same night, and bound, and delivered him into the hands of Titius Justus, a faithful soldier, who with great readiness received that day and night a constant insurrection of the Jews of Asia against him, and their city, and his own countrymen. And they were about to bring him on the next day to Achaia, when we prayed God, who gave us help against them that were coming against us. And when there arose a great commotion, the officers held out to have carried Paul away, but they feared the multitude, lest they should have been stoned. And having made known to them the things which concern Jesus, he fled from Ephesus into Asia, and was present at the city of the great七月s, where he abode several days.

Upcoming Events
- Mid-Feast Prayers with -- Film Showing of Case for Christ with discussion — Wed. May 22nd 6pm
- Holy Ascension of the Lord — June 6th
- Patronal Fest Day and Parish Picnic Saturday June 29th 10:30am

UPCOMING
- Heirloom Garden Plants will be available Next week. (Please make a donation for the plants, donations will go to the Edinboro food bank.
- Mother — Baby Shower for Kyra and Anna (And...) Saturday, May 25th at 3pm — Hosted by the Ladies Altar Society — Bring a nourishing gluten-free dish to share. Kyra is registered at Amazon and Target.
- Panahidka/Luncheon for Vern Baldwin — Sunday May 26th Baked Chicken provided please bring a potluck dish to share.
- Chicken Barbeque — with Halupki July 14th 12-3pm

The Paralytic Christ Is Risen!

4th Sunday of Pascha — Tone 3

Please Include These Our Brothers and Sisters in Your Daily Prayers:

Tone 3
- Tropanion (Resurrection)
- Let the heavens rejoice!
- Let the earth be glad!
- For the Lord has shown strength by 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 Thy divine intercession, O Lord, as Thou didst raise up the Paralytic of old, so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts; so that being saved I may sing to Thee://
“Glory to Thy power, O compassionate Christ!”

Tone 8 Kontakion (Pascha)
Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, Thou didst destroy the power of death. In victory Thou didst arise, O Christ God, proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women, granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the Fallen.

Tone 1 Prokeimenon
Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee! (Ps 33:32/33:2)
v: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befitteth the just! (Ps 33:1/32:22)

Tone 5 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
v: I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth will I proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. (Ps 88/89:1)
v: For Thou hast said: “Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens.” (Ps 88/89:2)

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 is shone on thee. Exult now, and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of thy Son!

Holy Scripture:
Acts 9:32-42 (Epistle)
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, imploping 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 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.

John 5:1-15 (Gospel)
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 moving 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 that 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.” 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 your 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. Afterwards Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made whole. 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.

Holy Words:

This pattern runs throughout the Scriptures. A holy hide-and-seek, the pattern is not accidental nor unintentional. It is rooted in the very nature of things in the Christian life. Christianity whose God is not hidden is not Christianity at all. But why is this so?
In a previous article, I wrote:
Our faith is about learning to live in the revealing of things that were hidden. True Christianity should never be obvious. It is, indeed, the struggle to live out what is not obvious. The Christian life is rightly meant to be an apocalypse.

God is not obvious. That which is obvious is an object. Objects are inert, static and passive. The tree in my front yard is objectively there (or so it seems). When I get up in the morning and take the dog outside, I expect the tree to be there. If it is autumn, I might study its leaves for their wonderful color change (it’s a Gingko). But generally, I can ignore the tree – or not. That’s what objects are good for. They ask nothing of us.

The freedom belongs entirely to us, not to them. This is the function of an idol – to make a god into an object. He/she/it must be there. The idol captures the divine, objectifies it and renders it inert and passive.

But we were created to ask, seek and knock. That mode of existence requires us to engage in a little googling. We no longer forage or hunt. We travel to the supermarket. We shop.

But we were created to ask, seek and knock.

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That mode of existence puts us in the place where we become truly human. The Fathers wrote about this under the heading of eros, desire. Our culture has changed the meaning of eros into erotic, in which we learn to consume through our passions. This is a distortion of true eros.

Christ uses the imagery of seeking or true desire (eros) in a number of His parables: The Merchant in Search of Fine Pearls; The Woman with the Lost Coin; The Good Shepherd and the Lost Sheep; The Father in the Prodigal Son; The Treasure Buried in a Field.

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