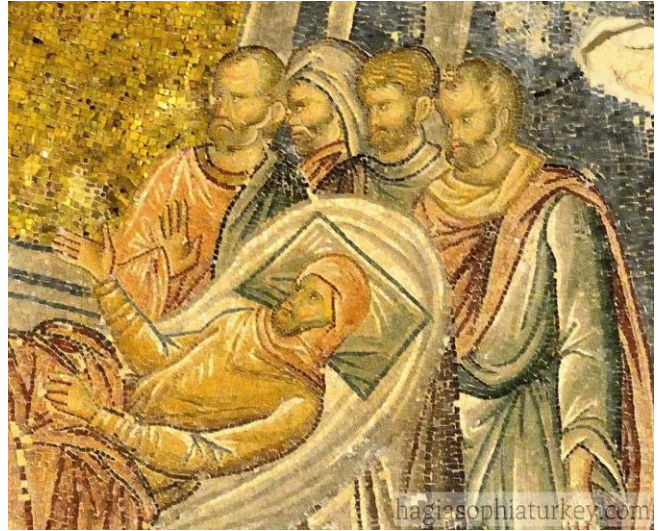




The Gospel of the Paralytic According to Mark 2:1-12

*“...And **they** came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when **they** could not get near him because of the crowd, **they** removed the roof above him; and when **they** had made an opening, **they** let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw **their** faith, he said to the paralytic, “My son, your sins are forgiven.”*



Whose faith is this? The faith that triggers in God the forgiveness of sins. The paralytic does not confess and we don't know if he did repent. We don't know because the gospel does not tell us that but rather sheds light mainly on the four men: **they** brought him to Jesus, **they** could not get near Him, **they** removed the roof, **they** made an opening, **they** let down the pallet. It is their faith that Jesus sees. In the crowded house full of people, it is their faith that appeals to God. It appeals to Him because what Jesus was preaching to them He sees manifested: “I was sick and you comforted me” (Mt 25:36).

We saw before the faith in the gospel that asks for the healing of others. This faith brings about the forgiveness of sins of the one whom we love together as a community, as a church. “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven” (Jn 20:23). It takes a different form and action here. It is not only a matter of the spirit but a sign, a visible sign of the love incarnate.

The love of the four, the gathering that loves the one who is paralyzed in his sins brings about his forgiveness. It prepares his heart to see and receive the resurrection of Christ. This is great hope for the gathering of people, for the whole community that dares to believe together.

Their love recognizes the One who forgives, knows where God lives and they are not polite when approaching Him, bypassing everybody else. They are intrusive when praying to God, because they know it is not for them that they pray. They are unconventional, they lack politeness and they

leave behind a mess, a house without a roof. They know within their heart what the scribes do not. They have love for the one who sinned. This love is stronger than the rebuke of those who condemn. This is the other great hope from today's gospel. The faith of the community who cares for the sinner prevails against the voices who condemn.

We heard before, "our fathers have told us", and we have even seen that healing happening when one prays for the brother or sister who is ill. Today's gospel is the great hope we receive from this lent as a community. As the gathering of the saints. That the love of the saints incarnate brings about forgiveness of one's sins. The unconventional love that does not wait in line brings about the restoration of one's soul. Even when we don't know if the soul repented or not.

It happened on Wednesday morning when we received the visit of an old brother. He came from the hospital in pain with no place to go. He had had three different medical interventions. Nobody could understand how they could discharge him from the hospital. He could hardly walk and he was afraid that he would fall on the street. "Where will you stay tonight?" we asked. "I have a friend, but he does not want me there. He does not like me. I'll probably be out in a few days." We have known him for a few years and we were always touched by the goodness of his heart. On Wednesday, Joanna knew that as well when she brought him inside the mission after breakfast was over. When he was young he used to play the guitar in subway stations. Now his hands were wounded and swollen. The addictions had no mercy on him. He asked us to bury his friend last year. We buried the last mission person a year ago during bright week. A sad and complex story where addictions paralyse one's soul.

On Wednesday our friend confessed he was lost and he felt completely abandoned and he was afraid that he would lose his soul, that he would die alone. He started to cry instantaneously. I saw him in different situations before but never crying. He is a strong guy who experienced and saw much, but on Wednesday all the goodness of his heart poured over. With all the illness he was carrying to the point of collapsing on the street, one could recognize that he came to church looking for forgiveness. He stayed for 15 minutes, most of the time crying and being comforted by the community. He left unsecure with the promise that he would come back to confess more. In the past, I used to hope people would return. The experience at the mission taught me that if they do come back it will be much later and with a different mind and heart disposition. It's not that they do not want to, they do, but somebody or something stops them from being where they want to be. I was wrong this time, he visited us again on Friday at the end of the day. We were gathered for the gospel. He walked with the same difficulty, he came for the same cup of coffee, however, now he was smiling making sure we heard that he was thankful to the church for the coffee, for hospitality. He was thankful to the church that was open so he could receive a sign that the forgiveness was real.

- Mission church collections of 1 Sunday March 13 2022: donations \$500, Candle box \$25
- The community is thankful to Miroslava and Eliana for keeping vigil on Friday night so we don't pray alone for the forgiveness of sins.
- We pray that Frank will recover quickly from his illness. We are thankful for all the work he did at the Lourmel house last week.
- We welcome back father and part of the community from the refuge from the monthly retreat. If you want to know how it feels to come back to the city, please talk to Fr Nicolaie if you are interested in joining them next time.
- Last week we had food at the mission thanks to the volunteers and Hanan, who cooked all day on Wednesday. Her soup will be well remembered. Thank you to Betsy for the work with the young people and for the lenten lasagna .
- Thank you also to Jose for helping on Fridays and for his love of scripture that he shows to us

March 21-27

Tuesday	8:30 am	Morning Prayer	Wednesday	8:30 am 12:30 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours Vespers/Dinner Presanctified Liturgy
Thursday	8:30 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours Jesus Prayer	Friday	7:00 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm 6:30pm	Orthros Noon Hours Jesus Prayer Vesperal Divine Liturgy followed by Silent Meal & vigil for peace in Ukraine
Saturday	9:00 am	Morning Prayer	Sunday	6:00 am 7:00 am 8:30 am	Jesus Prayer Orthros Divine Liturgy & Procession



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We are an apostolate of the ecumenical patriarchate "Mother Church of Christ's poor" under the Omophorion of Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

St. Silouan Chapel, March 13, 2022

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Readings on Friday:

Isaiah 7:1-14 - *Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

At the time when the prophecy was spoken, Jerusalem was surrounded by the multitude of the armies of Syria and Ephraim that entrenched all around the city walls. The kings of Syria and Israel lead the armies. The prophet tells the king Ahaz that because they devised evil against him they will not prevail and that in 65 years Israel will belong to Samaria. However, the king does not want to ask for a sign when a sign is given to him. The sign is one of redemption, the path of forgiveness that we know now. The sign is manifested within the purity of heart and integrity of faith who does not condemn and desires to open up to life, even when the armies of war take the life of innocents. The king is concerned with his own war and not with the life that God prepares ahead of him. This will bring more destruction of old structures, the prophet says, including the one of Jerusalem against which there was now a plot. The only path that takes us through death is the one of resurrection. This is the path that we pray for and desire. Let us pray that we will receive the sign God gives us.

Proverbs 6:20-7:1- *My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching... For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life, to preserve you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adventuress. Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes; for a harlot may be hired for a loaf of bread, but an adulteress stalks a man's very life.*

So we know heaven is indescribably beautiful. ...But in order to fit in heaven, our whole being - body, soul and spirit - must be prepared during this life" (The bible and the holy fathers p. 774).

On Friday we decided to read in the chapel and reflect on the proverbs because we thought they were practical. The reading made me remember and share with everybody what Laura had just told me just a few hours before. There was no preparation, she was having her tea and she was smiling with all her face. She told me why, she said: "When I want to be left alone, not to be bothered by anybody, I dress really nice and put on a nice robe. You know why? Because everybody is afraid of a beautiful woman. Then they leave me alone, I can go to the park and nobody bothers me. I can have peace, because everybody is afraid of a beautiful woman."

It is true that the beauty leaves us unguarded, but at the mission Laura teaches us how to relate with this beauty without guilt. There is poverty with the poor and suffering but there is also

richness of spirit and beauty in the poor which prepares us for heaven. So, if by any chance we make it, prepare yourself by approaching the beauty of the poor here and now so we will not be scared and confused and turn back running in the opposite direction. There will be no place to go because hell would have been already conquered.

Prayer request:

For those who are sick:

Alex;Hawa Bibi's sister Fathima; Frank; Chris; Evlokia; Mikayla and her brother Luca; Karunawathi, Gloria, Vijekumari, Ronda, and Regina; Delia; Valerie; Tom; Traian; Peter; Marco; Kim (knee surgery); Tihomir; Kate; Payton Clark (back surgery); Sana, and her family in Egypt. Isaiah; Mary; Sydney; Peter Christine; Stephanie; Iulia; Jason; Sophia; Alexander; Charles; Tom; Paul; Phillip Hadler and his wife Juliet; Cristeena; Ann brown's daughter; Silvia, Jincy; Shiron Crisreen; Allain;Levalin and the family;Seena Colin and her husband; Waheeda and children; Faizah; Shirin and her family; Eva; Frank, Cristina; Daniela, Jerry; Delia ; Ragaie; Victoria; Mike.Farida; Roselyne and family ; Ana, Cornelia; Leon to Jerry; Nikitha, Ocean;Gloria, Anne, Marina, Marie, Edemene; Joanna and family GN; Rejoice;Romana, Coline, Michael, Peter, Henry, George, Kelly;Tom; Marina;Sandra and her son Chris;Kumari;Susan;child James; Aaron; Sylvia;Fr Jonathan;Tharshini and her two children; Ann Tyron and her family; Sandra Gomaz's children; Sameen; Sophia;Amy;Swetha and children ;Charitha; Jitesh's parents ;Demene;Carol; Gloria; Hawa Bibi; Vimaladevi; Lynn; Michelle;Emanuel(Mani);Stefanie;Geoff;Joey;Evangelia;Sophia;Melanie; Césare;Tanya;Piper;Darius; Zamalk; Nelly; Nahla; Mira; Sandral ;Brenda;Anna Avairo's daughter Vol Gomaz; Levlin's two children Sri' ; Helen; Paul; Wafaa

Please pray for health and salvation:

Community in Goma and the children in their care: Neema; Rosine; Justine; Miriam; Chance; Jemyma; Patricia; Alliance; Nice; Dorcas; Justine; Agnes; Muhindo Dorcas.

George, Connie, Nick, Fennie, Theodore, Chris, Nick , Toula, Steven, Nicole, Tony, Sam, Sophia.; Prayer for Mary Mcgee.She lost her grandmother.; Fr. Michael and Pani Karen; Anthony and the family.He lost his brother in Trinidad.He is hoping to make a visit to Trinidad; Ramanand and his families in Gayana, USA and here in Canada (Ramanand lost three of his family members including one of his brothers, suddenly within two months); Paola; Elizabeth; Matthi; Dave and his family; Jai's family; Anne Tyran; Joseph to find housing; Lito; Mauro, Prayers for Ted's family (incarcerated son to be free)

Dameal asking prayers for his future wife Fathima to be free from addictions

Liz Gibicar asking prayers for her mother; Tejasree and her mother; Prashastha; Maria and Dingo; Crisent; Helen; Greta; Elizabeth; Dean; John; Liz; Crisent; Ann Brown; Elizabeth; Sifie; Allen; Leon;Ricky and his family from back home for the hope of reuniting; Aaron, Anastas, Olivia, Gelly, Frank, Eva, George, Rebecca, Andreas, Cathyann, Reigan, Stephanie, Peter, Christine; Christian family from Bangladesh, Sandra, Peter, Angel, Bless, Grace, Swetha family; Atlaw single mom at shelter, Vernevil family; the family of Kenide; Saathiya; Sena; Vinothiny Yvienne; Abdul; Sakanthalathevy; Jumke; Naimi; Anish; Joshua DanielJMaria Lolita Soliman Torres, Jonathan , Richard, Richard, Mary , Elizabeth, Michael, Bill, Robert, Alan, Joanne

Please pray for the deceased:

Dillon; Elena; Pani Mary; Rejoice`s mother ;Edmund; Pani Eleanor; Fr John; Alexandru; Constantin; Robert; fr Aurel; Georgi; Rada; Petre; Stela; William; Samuel; Debie; John; Amy, Willie; Dave`s wife; Ana; Shirin `s cousin in Jordan; Father Lawrence; Dave; Anne Tyran`s father; Edith, Sr. Mary Magdalene, Joice, BettyAnn, James, Pauanasuy Kamthasang, Maria (Covid), Andrei, Agostina, Carminda, Vimaladevi's sister; Sri's mother, Carol's Mother and 23 year old nephew passed away in Haiti. Demene`s mother; Dalalzaki.