

April 26th, 2026
Sunday of the Paralytic

SUNDAY, 4/26 **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners
 10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

MONDAY, 4/27 **NO** Divine Liturgy

TUESDAY, 4/28 **NO** Divine Liturgy

WEDNESDAY, 4/29 **NO** Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY, 4/30 **NO** Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, 5/1 **7:30 am** Divine Liturgy for special intention
Night Time Prayers
9:00pm Confession
9:30pm Akaphist

SATURDAY, 5/2 **5:00 pm** Divine Liturgy for special intention

SUNDAY, 5/3 **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners
 10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

Announcements

1-Clergy conference

Fr. Volodymyr will be out of parish on clergy conference from **April 27th until April 30th** in Parma, OH. At that time there will be no services.

2 - Nighttime Prayers

Join us for Nighttime Prayers on May 1st, from 9:30 PM to Midnight, in our church. These prayers are a powerful offering to the Lord, as we set aside time normally reserved for rest to unite in sacrifice and devotion. Let us come together in prayer, seeking God's grace and blessings.

Reflection for the Sunday of the Paralytic

On the Sunday of the Paralytic, the Church places before us the Gospel of the man who had been ill for thirty-eight years and was lying near the pool of Bethesda. Around him were many sick, blind, lame, and paralyzed people, all waiting for the stirring of the water. Each one hoped to be healed. Each one carried a burden. Each one waited for mercy.

But among them, this man's suffering was especially painful. Not only was he physically paralyzed, but he was also alone. When Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be made well?" he answered, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up."

These words reveal a deep wound of the human heart: loneliness. The paralytic was surrounded by people, yet he felt abandoned. He was near the place of healing, yet unable to reach it. He had hope, but his hope had been weakened by many years of disappointment.

Many people today can understand this feeling. A person may be surrounded by family, friends, coworkers, or even a parish community, and still feel alone in their struggle. Someone

*Upcoming Events
in Parish & Eparchy*
May 1st – *First Friday*
May 14th – *Ascension*
May 24th – *Pentecost*

may come to church, pray, light candles, and still feel stuck in the same weakness, the same fear, the same sin, the same sadness, or the same spiritual paralysis.

But the good news of this Gospel is that Christ sees the one whom others overlook. Jesus comes directly to the paralytic. He does not wait for the man to reach the water. He does not ask why no one helped him sooner. He simply enters into his suffering and speaks a word of life: "Rise, take up your mat, and walk."

This command is more than physical healing. It is a call to new life. Christ does not only heal the body; He restores dignity, courage, and hope. The man who was carried by his illness is now commanded to carry his mat. The place of his suffering becomes the sign of his healing. This Gospel also reminds us that healing often begins with a question: "Do you want to be made well?" At first, this may seem strange. Of course the sick man wants to be healed. But Christ's question goes deeper. Do you want to leave behind the life of paralysis? Do you want to stop living only in disappointment? Do you want to trust that God can still change what has seemed impossible for many years?

Reflection for the First Friday in the Byzantine Spirit

On the First Friday, we turn our hearts to Christ, the Lover of mankind, who stretched out His arms upon the Cross and opened for us the fountain of mercy and life.

In the Byzantine tradition, we do not look at Christ's love only as an emotion, but as His saving self-gift. From His pierced side flowed blood and water: the mystery of the Church, the grace of the Holy Mysteries, and the healing of the whole human person. His love is not distant. It is offered to us in the Divine Liturgy, in Holy Communion, in Confession, in prayer, and in every moment when we return to Him with humility.

The Heart of Christ is the heart of the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost sheep, the Physician who heals the wounded soul, and the Bridegroom who calls His Church into communion with Himself. He does not abandon us in our sins or weakness. Rather, He descends into the depths of our brokenness to raise us into new life.

This First Friday invites us to repentance, thanksgiving, and renewed trust. We come before Christ not as strangers, but as His beloved children. We ask Him to purify our hearts, strengthen our faith, and teach us to love as He loves: with mercy, sacrifice, patience, and forgiveness.

May Christ our God, the Lover of mankind, open our hearts to His healing grace. May He make our homes places of prayer, our parish a living icon of His mercy, and our lives a hymn of thanksgiving to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Sunday collections for the weekend of 4/19/26, including envelope offerings - \$416, donations -\$166, candle -\$24, online - \$40
Weekly budget: \$1500, Income \$646

Protection of the Mother of God

Support Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church



Ukrainian Catholic Church
Byzantine Rite
2880 Highway 138 NE
Conyers, GA 30013

Father Volodymyr Petrytsya
Fr. Deacon Michael Guerrucci

Parish office phone 770-760-1111
Emergency phone 224-400-0558
Email: parish@mogchurch.com
Website: www.mogchurch.com

Confession before or after Divine Liturgy.

Confession is recommended as a regular monthly practice. The graces received from confession are an excellent way to help us become closer to Jesus.

***THE CHURCH WAS A MOTHER TO YOU IN LIFE, PROVIDING FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS;
PLEASE REMEMBE YOUR PARISH AND THE EPARCHY OF SAINT JOSAPHAT IN PARMA IN
YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.***