

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**EXCITING NEWS:** We are offering IN PERSON SUNDAY SCHOOL for our Toddler 2's - 6th Grade. These classes will be conducted right AFTER Holy Communion, every Sunday, for the remainder of the School Year!! Of course we understand that you may not be ready to return to church quite yet. For that reason we will continue to send out our VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL lessons every week.

We will not have classes for our 7th - High School students, but we do expect them to attend church in person or virtually, complete the weekly lesson on the Gospel Reading provided by Fr. Stavros, and attend GOYA meetings.

## CALENDAR FOR APRIL:

**April 4th:** 3rd Sunday of Lent - The Holy Cross

**April 11th:** 4th Sunday of Lent - St. John of the Ladder

**April 18th:** 5th Sunday of Lent - St. Mary of Egypt

**April 25th:** Palm Sunday



# St. John's Greek Orthodox



# SUNDAY SCHOOL

# SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

“And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’”

MARK 2:5

The fourth Sunday of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Paralytic. So many people came to hear Jesus speak that there was not any room for anyone else to even come through the door! While we are listening to Jesus speak, all of a sudden, someone starts digging a hole in the roof (point up, and perhaps explain that their roofs were made out of dirt and such back then)! Four men appeared and they were carrying another man. He was lying on a mat. They lowered him through the hole. This man is a paralytic! His friends wanted to get to Jesus because they had faith, they believed, that Jesus would be fully able to heal him! Since they could not get through the door, they worked together to lower him through the roof! What do you think Jesus said after this happened?

After seeing the paralytic’s faith, Jesus said to him, “Son, your sins are forgiven.’ Jesus did not choose to heal the man’s body first; He chose to heal his heart. Having Jesus’ forgiveness and cleansing from sins was a much greater gift to this man than having Jesus heal his body. But when Jesus said this, some men got upset. They believed Jesus was just an ordinary man; they did not believe He had the power to forgive sins, so they saw Him as a liar. In their hearts, they thought, “Who can forgive sins but God alone?’

We know that Jesus is God. He does have authority to forgive sins! Jesus then said to the paralytic, “Get up, pick up your mat, and go home.’ The man who was a paralytic got up, picked up his mat, and walked home!

Everyone glorified God for this miracle, for they had never seen anything like it. What they didn’t realize, was that Jesus forgiving this man’s sins was even more amazing than allowing him to walk. Let’s glorify God now together because we know how amazing it is that God can forgive us of all of our sins and make our hearts clean.

Draw the paralytic on the board and cut it out. Attach strings or sticks to carry him.

