

May 2, 2021

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, Fifth Sunday of Pascha



## SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!*

Proprs for this Sunday: pp. 186 - 188

### Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., MAY 2  
8:30 A.M.

SUNDAY of the SAMARITAN WOMAN  
DIVINE LITURGY

+ Gordan Jn Baptist, requested by Barbara Reda & Jerry

SUN., MAY 9  
8:30 A.M.

SUNDAY of the MAN BORN BLIND, Mother's Day  
DIVINE LITURGY, Mother's Day Breakfast

+ For our deceased Mothers, Grandmothers, and Godmothers

### Mother's Day Breakfast Next Week



Next Sunday, May 9, following the 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy, the Men's Club will be serving a Mother's Day Breakfast. We will come together as a Church family in honor of all mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, spiritual mothers, and all who portray a motherly role. **Everyone is invited.** There is a sign-up sheet as you enter the Church. A preparation morning will be held on Saturday, May 8. Please see Ed Maruhnich if you can help. *Thank you!*

Christ is Risen! ~ Indeed He is Risen!

### Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

May 3: Michaline Nelson

### Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

May 6: Ed & Isabel Maruhnich

### Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

**HOME** – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

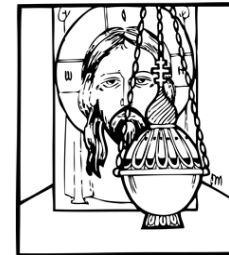
**Hunter's Care Home** (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

**Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Josephine Maruhnich

Epistle Readers – May 2: JoAnn Hersh – May 9: Louisa Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – May 2: R. Dzumba – May 9: R. Mudron



#### THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

May 2 - 8, 2021

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*  
+ Parents of John Salamon  
*(In loving memory)*

Offered By:  
Mary Salamon

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Хрїстоць воскресє! Воистину воскресє!

Χριστός ανέστη! Ἀληθῶς ανέστη!

al-Masīḥ qām! Ḥaqqan qām!

¡Cristo ha resucitado! ¡En Verdad ha resucitado!

Foltamadt Krisztus! Valoban Foltamadt!

Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!

## May Reflection

### Appreciating the Holy Eucharist Through Iconography

By Amanda Singel



Icons instruct the faithful and help us appreciate the Eucharist by depicting how Jesus transforms everything into something greater. A simple example, the icon of the Wedding of Cana, Jesus' first public miracle. The icon shows water simply being transformed into wine. But we can draw a deeper conclusion: Jesus takes something simple, water, and transforms it into something more, wine, which can be transformed into something even greater, Eucharist.<sup>i</sup>

The icon of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes is rich with Eucharistic references and it helps us appreciate John's Gospel (Chapter 6) because John uses this event for his most important teachings on Eucharist.<sup>ii</sup> After preaching near the sea of Galilee, the crowd is hungry and Jesus invites everyone to eat and have fellowship with Him. Already this moment foreshadows the Mystical Supper. Next, Jesus explains how *He* is the bread from heaven, "*Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.*" (John 6:32) Not only does Jesus demonstrate that the bread is a person, he also shows how this gift is in the present, not the past and it promises eternal life, Jesus said to them, "*I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.*" (John 6:32-33)



<sup>i</sup> Inexhaustible Delights\*. God With Us Publications, 2003. See page 121.

<sup>ii</sup> The Holy Gospel: A Byzantine Perspective\* by John S. Custer. God With Us Publications, 2004. See pages 298-299.



(\*These books are available in our Library. We have other new titles too!)

### It's St. George Flea Market Time!

Our Flea Market, Haluski and Bake Sale will return this summer here at St. George Church, tentative dates: June 26 - 27. We are in need of new donations. Consider donating items you no longer need to our Flea Market, no clothing please. Items can be brought to the Center every Saturday from 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. or any time you are here. Ask family and friends to consider donating items to our Flea Market. Your help with this event will be greatly appreciated. *Thank you!*



### A Note from Father Geoff

Christ is risen!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, we remember an interaction our Lord had with a person who had three strikes against her in the society of her day: she was a woman, she was a despised Samaritan, and she was publicly shamed for her sinfulness. The conversation they had is well-known. Jesus asked her for water from the well, but then said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

You see, the woman (who came later to be known as Saint Photini) had encountered the Lord, but she didn't understand who he was; she didn't know the great "gift of God." What is this "gift" that Jesus spoke of? I believe that the gift he is referring to is his very *presence* with her. In God's providence, he saw to it that they would be able to be there, at noon, at Jacob's Well, so that he could introduce himself to her as Messiah and Lord.

What a gift! And when it finally hits her - when she *finally* understands who it is who is speaking to her - she "left her water jar and went back to the city" and told everyone about Jesus!

How often do we, in our own lives, encounter Christ but fail to recognize the encounter? He is coming to us, day after day, in many different ways. Certainly he comes to us in obvious ways: the Eucharist, the words of absolution, the words of Scripture. But he also comes to us in our neighbors, in the poor we find around us, in the needy, and even in our enemies. And each of these "visits" of the Lord is a possibility for a true encounter, a life-changing moment.

Ignatian spirituality gives us a valuable tool in the "examen." In it, daily we can stop, and take a few moments to think back over the various "encounters" of the day. And in doing so, we listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit to direct us, so that we understand where God has been visiting us. If we are vigilant and attentive, we will see that we, like St. Photini, are often visited by our Lord and God. And he wishes to give us a drink from his life-giving waters, that we may never thirst again!

Christ is risen!

*Fr. Geoff*

***Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!***  
***Христос Воскресе! Воскресе!***



Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Reflection

“If we are convinced and have come to experience that without Christ life lacks something, that something real - indeed, the most real thing of all – is missing, we must also be convinced that we do know Injustice to anyone if we present Christ to them and US grant them the opportunity of finding their truest and most authentic selves, the joy of finding life. Indeed, we must do this. It is our duty to offer everyone this possibility of attaining eternal life.”

Pope Benedict XVI

In today's epistle we hear of the early Evangelical work of the Church as the Gospel message spread beyond Jerusalem to the city of Antioch, the birthplace of the Melkite Church, and began to take root in the hearts of those who were not of the “chosen race.” This initial sharing of the Gospel with non-Jews would cause great concern among some in the Jerusalem Christian Community and eventually the Council of the Apostle would be called to consider how to deal with this situation. By placing this epistle within the context of the Gospel message, the church holds up Christ’s Ministry as the example to be followed. Just as Jesus brought salvation to the Samaritan woman, and through her to the whole Samaritan Village, so we cannot keep the Good News of Christ to ourselves and to our community alone. Today Christ calls each of us who have experienced the joy of the Gospel to share this gift with those whom we encounter. We have received our new life in Christ as a gift and therefore it is to be lived as a gift.

Challenge:

We are told in our society today to keep religion out of the public sphere. We are told that we should not talk about religion in Social settings, in school, or at work. We are told that we should not proselytize and make convert to Christianity. We are told to leave others alone to follow their own path. But, if we are truly convinced that Christ is “the way, the truth, and the life,” and this is true for all people, how can we possibly stay silent about something which impacts a person's salvation?

In what ways can we bring the message of Christ to others in a way that respects their freedom?



Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese Voistinu Voskrese!

Saint John Chrysostom on the Samaritan Woman

The woman straightway believed, showing herself much wiser than Nicodemus, and not only wiser, but manlier. For he when he heard ten thousand such things neither invited any others to this hearing, nor himself spoke forth openly; but she exhibited the actions of an Apostle, preaching the Gospel to all, and calling them to Jesus, and drawing a whole city forth to Him.

Nicodemus when he had heard said, “How can these things be?” And when Christ set before him a clear illustration, that of “the wind,” he did not even so receive the Word. But the woman not so; at first she doubted, but afterwards receiving the Word not by any regular demonstration, but in the form of an assertion, she straightway hastened to embrace it. For when Christ said, “It shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting Life,” immediately the woman said,

“Give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.” (John 4:15).

Living Water

Jesus calls the life-giving gift of the Spirit “living water” because mere man is parched to his very roots, rendered dry and barren of all virtue by the crimes of the devil. But now man runs back to his pristine beauty, and drinking in that which is life-giving, he is made beautiful with a variety of good things and, budding into a virtuous life, he sends out healthy shoots of love towards God.

(St. Cyril of Alexandria)

E	L	T	H	U	S	B	A	D	N
S	E	L	L	E	W	O	M	A	N
W	Y	L	E	B	L	E	T	H	E
A	E	C	W	O	I	I	J	P	T
T	E	A	H	C	R	N	Y	E	E
E	L	T	T	A	C	H	K	S	S
R	R	H	M	J	R	C	N	O	O
D	N	A	B	S	U	H	I	J	J
I	S	Y	C	B	S	A	R	A	O
D	E	T	K	C	U	B	D	C	B

SAMARITAN  
JOSEPH  
WATER  
BUCKET

SYCHAR  
WELL  
DRINK  
CATTLE

JACOB  
WOMAN  
JEW  
HUSBAND

# SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik**

**E.C.F. coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh**

**Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff**

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation ..... Before and after Liturgies

Holy Mysteries of Initiation ..... Contact the church office

Holy Mystery of Anointing ..... Ask prior to surgery or serious illness

Holy Mystery of Marriage ..... Contact the church office eight months prior to wedding

Religious Education Classes ..... September through May, following Sunday Divine Liturgy

St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club ..... Everyone welcome to participate



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*Do you partake of "living water" offered by Christ?  
Do you kindle the desire of others for this "living water"?*