

May 7, 2023
Fifth Paschal Sunday, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

*Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!
Христосъ воскресе! Воистину воскресе!*

Propers for this Sunday: pp. 186 - 188

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., MAY 7 **SUNDAY of the SAMARITAN WOMAN,**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Dr. Dan Duker, offered by Prudy Peya

(At St. Mary: Thurs. May 11, 6:00 PM, Divine Liturgy for Ss. Cyril & Methodius)

SUN., MAY 14 **SUNDAY of the MAN BORN BLIND, Mother's Day**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ For our deceased Mothers, Grandmothers, and Godmothers
God's Blessings for our Mothers, Grandmothers, and Godmothers

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

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Happy Birthday Greetings:

May 10: Marian Yurosky, May 11: Mary Ann Jugan

Wedding Anniversaries:

May 12: John & Sandra Poiarkoff

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon

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

Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

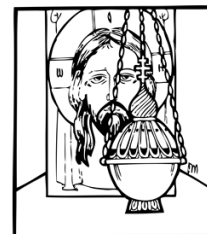
Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

Epistle Readers – May 7: JoAnn Hersh – May 14: Dan Pinchot

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – May 7: F. Hersh – May 14: R. Mudron

**If you would like to be a Troica Holder, please see one of them following Liturgy.
We could always use the help!**



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

May 7 – May 13, 2023

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Stephen Hodovanich

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Daughter, Joanne Futato

THE PASCHAL PERIOD'S FIFTH SUNDAY

The theme for The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman is the living water about which Jesus spoke in today's holy gospel. Through the Mystery of Baptism, this "living water" comes to us as we are initiated into the Christian community—Christ's Church. In this way, we vicariously participate in His passion, death, and resurrection through which He renewed all creation, giving it a rebirth. In the act of baptism, we are cleansed and then reborn to a "New Life" in the risen Jesus. We "pass-over" from being slaves of sin and evil to being children of God and heirs to His heavenly Kingdom. As we sing in the Divine Liturgy during the resurrectional period, we who are baptized have "put on Christ" as we are initiated into His Church. We have been purified by His "living waters"; and because of this, at every Divine Liturgy we are able to encounter Him just as the Samaritan woman met Him at Jacob's Well. We can drink from the very Source of immortality! And once we eat the Bread of Life and drink the Blood of the true Paschal Lamb, we need never hunger or thirst again. Our souls will be nourished by Jesus, our triumphant and glorified !

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

The Samaritan woman goes off, leaving her water pot behind. She goes to her fellow countrymen: ‘Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?’ Faith in Christ has not only begun to shine in her soul, but she now takes upon herself a certain ministry, an apostleship. This apostleship is fruitful, because the Samaritans leave the city and come out to witness. Witness is quite different from preaching. The preacher says: ‘Believe this’ or ‘Do this’. The witness says: ‘This is what happened to me’. There is much greater efficacy, much greater persuasive power, in bearing witness than in preaching. We are not all called to preach, but each person can, in his own sphere, bear simple and humble witness to the graces that have been granted to him.

—from *The Year of Grace of the Lord* by a Monk of the Eastern Church

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Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!
Хрісѹсѹ воскрѣсе! Воистину воскресе!

A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Following Jesus can sometimes be surprising. Sure, we have come to expect certain things: we have a predictable liturgical calendar; we know week to week what to expect when we come to the Sunday Liturgy; we have certain traditions in our homes, especially regarding high holy days. Our "religion," we might say, is pretty predictable.

But what all of our traditions, liturgies, and structures point to and participate in is actually something living, growing, moving. Our faith is not static. And we see this everywhere when we read the words of the Scriptures. It seems that every time Jesus meets a new person, that person's life is turned upside down. Even his disciples, who followed him and lived with him for three years were constantly perplexed by his teaching and often misunderstood what he was getting at.

For St. Photini, the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well (John 4), her meeting with Jesus certainly turned her life upside down. The cycles of dysfunction and sin that she had been trapped in were broken. She goes from being a shamed outsider to her community, to being the one who evangelizes them, proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah. Eventually the Church would come to recognize her as someone "Equal to the Apostles." Through her witness of what the Lord had done for her, "many Samaritans from that town believed in him." These folks then asked Jesus to stay in their town teaching and many *more* came to believe in him.

One of the many fascinating and illuminating parts of this story is that the Samaritans were disliked, even hated, by the Jews of Jesus' day. It would not have been in *anyone's* mind that they would be among the first to embrace Jesus as Savior. Yet God's grace reached them. This is a theme that comes up over and over again in Scripture: those who are respectable, religious and "correct" often miss the activity of God, while God's grace and mercy goes out to the margins. For example, the Old Testament book of Jonah shows God's mercy to the wicked and sinful city of Nineveh. Or consider the Pharisees in the Gospels, who know the Law of God very well, but *entirely miss the point*, while tax collectors and sinners recognize their Savior and follow him.

Let ask the Lord, aided by the intercessions of St. Photini, to give us the grace to experience the "predictable" parts of our religious observance in such a way that we will have eyes of faith which will be open to the more surprising activities of the Holy Spirit. Maybe, if we're attentive in this way, we can see how God is "making all things new" in Jesus Christ, especially among those we may not expect!

Blessings,

Fr. Geoff

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

On this Sunday of the Samaritan Woman we are presented with the theme of the “*living water*”, which is a traditional theme in the Holy Scripture. In the Old Testament, God is believed to be the source of every life. In God we have an inexhaustible source of life, on which we can draw. This source of living waters appeared to us in the fullness of time in Jesus Christ, who said to the Samaritan woman: “*Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life*” (John 4: 13-14).



In the Old Testament the people used different rites of washing and purification with water. These external purifications with water made the person ritually clean, which means that they were able to participate in the official services in the Temple; they, however, did not have any effects upon the soul of the one offering. In the New Testament, the source of divine life that is given to us by Jesus is the Holy Spirit, who not only enables us to celebrate the liturgical services with a ritual purity but cleans us from inside, as Christ said: “*If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me! Let the man come and drink who believes in me; as scripture says: From His breast shall flow fountains of living water. He was speaking of the Spirit which those who believed in Him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not glorified*” (John 7: 37-39). This divine water of the Holy Spirit, this fountain of life, is what we call also the “GRACE”.

That is the new worship of which Our Lord spoke when He said to the Samaritan woman: “*the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship Him in spirit and truth*” (John 4:23-24).

This “new worship” is first of all the action of the new nature seeking, as the sparks fly upward, to return to the Divine and heavenly source from which it came. We, by baptism, were born from above, through water and the Spirit. In the second place, worship is the activity of a redeemed people. We worship the Lord who saved us. In the third place, our worship proceeds from the heart of the faithful. This is our Divine Worship.

In the middle of the feast, quench the thirst of my soul with streams of devotion. For you, O Savior, have exclaimed to all: Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. O Christ our God, Fountain of Life, Glory to You!

Troparion of the Feast

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! ~ Христосъ воскрес! Воистину воскрес!

Mother's Day Breakfast

Join us for a nice sit-down breakfast for Mother's Day following the Divine Liturgy next **Sunday, May 14**. Our hard-working cooks will prepare this delicious **homemade** breakfast in honor of our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and those who play a motherly role in our lives. Whether your mother is with you or not, join us in their honor. **Everyone is invited!**



It's St. George Flea Market Time!

Our Flea Market and Bake Sale will return this summer here at St. George Church, **June 23 - 24**. 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. We always have a great time. *Thank you!*



Pirohi Sale This Week

Our final pirohi sale before taking a summer break will be this coming **Friday, May 12**. Orders should be called in by **Thursday at noon at (724) 375-6652**. *Thank you!*



Don't forget fellowship over coffee and doughnuts in the Center following Liturgy today!

The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life. "Sunday is the day on which the paschal mystery is celebrated in light of the apostolic tradition and is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church."

TRUTH TO LIVE BY

"My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge." (Proverbs 5:1, 2 ESV)



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Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238



Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff

Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies, or by appointment

Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the pastor

Holy Mystery of Anointing Contact the pastor prior to surgery or in the event of illness

Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

Pirohi Sales 2nd Friday of each month

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

Opportunities for StewardshipChurch and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month.

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! Христос Воскресе! Воистину Воскресе!