

ST. PIUS X BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Joseph Rhoads

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, May 15: 9am Divine Liturgy for John Geary on the 5th anniversary of his passing,
by Mrs. Pat Geary

Tuesday, May 17: 11am, Akathist to Jesus Christ followed by Confessions (Election Day)

Wednesday, May 18: 11am Confessions followed by Noon Divine Liturgy ~ Intentions of the Parish

Saturday, May 21: 12 Noon Divine Liturgy ~ Deceased Elaine Golob, anniversary of death, by Janine Kunitz

Sunday, May 22: 9am Divine Liturgy ~ Deceased Mr. Francis and Mrs. Mary Panchura by
Andrea and Margaret Panchura

Confessions are available before all Divine Liturgies.

All divine liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out the liturgy request form in the back of church and leave it in the sacristy.

THE GLORIFIED CROSS DURING THE PASCHAL-RESURRECTIONAL SEASON..... Throughout this entire paschal period, the Byzantine Catholic Church *glorifies* the triumphant Cross of Jesus. Our Byzantine cross, which is a three-barred cross, equally emphasizes both the crucifixion and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, depending upon what side is viewed. During the course of the entire liturgical year, the Byzantine cross's normal position is the crucifixion scene, with the third bar slanted from left to right clockwise (*as the cross to the left indicates*). However, because through His new passover and His radiant resurrection, Christ made a mockery of the cross, crushed its power, and made it a new symbol of victory and of eternal life, during the festive and jubilant resurrectional season, we turn the cross around and emphasize its reverse side which displays what is known as the "glorified cross," with the third bar slanting from right to left counter-clockwise (*opposite*). Therefore through these two positions, the Byzantine cross will show the crucified Christ on one side, but Byzantine theology *never* stops with the crucifixion. It continues to stress the resurrection of the Lord. In which case, the reverse side of a Byzantine three-barred cross (*see the cross to the right*) will always be glorified—that is it either displays a very fancy geometric design; or has the resurrection icon affixed to it, showing the victorious, risen Jesus; or else it simply has inscribed on the main crossbar the words (*in Cyrillic script*) Спаси и Сохрани (*Save and Preserve*), indicating that through the true pasch and the holy resurrection, the precious cross of Jesus will *save* and *preserve* us. So until Holy Pentecost Sunday, all of our Byzantine crosses should be in reverse. The crosses that we wear as well as the crosses that stand free are thus turned around, being worn and seen in reverse throughout this radiant period.

DIVINE LITURGY TODAY..... At Jacob's Well, the Samaritan woman Photina asked Jesus for His LIVING WATER. This "water," which quenches the soul and conducts us to eternal Life, is precisely the grace that flows into our lives from the waters of baptism when we are brought into Christ's community of believers. Through these living waters we are reborn into Jesus, and then we receive the name first used at Antioch: we become Christians.

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 Savior!

1ST READING: Acts 11:19-26 & 29-30 (Section 28)

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that arose because of Stephen went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but Jews. There were some Cypriots and Cyrenians among them, however, who came to Antioch and began to speak to the Greeks as well, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The news about them reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas [to go] to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain faithful to the Lord in firmness of heart, for he was a good man, filled with the holy Spirit and faith. And a large number of people was added to the Lord. Then he went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a large number of people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians. So the disciples determined that, according to ability, each should send relief to the brothers who lived in Judea. This they did, sending it to the presbyters in care of Barnabas and Saul.

~~~~~This scriptural account from *The Acts of the Holy Apostles* relates how the young Church was growing despite the persecutions by the Romans and the Jews. The Holy Evangelist Luke tells us that at Antioch, Saul (who would later be called Paul) and Barnabas were baptizing not only Jews, but Greeks as well, initiating more and more people into the community of Christ's believers through the "living waters" of holy baptism. Large numbers of Jews and gentiles alike were thus introduced to the "New Life" offered by the risen Christ. It was here at Antioch for the first time that those who believed in the Lord Jesus and who had become His disciples were called by the name "**Christian.**" As modern-day followers of Christ, we must demonstrate by our lives that we have been **reborn** in the Lord Jesus through His LIVING WATER which was given to us at baptism when we were brought into the community of His believers and initiated into His holy Church. We must drink deeply of Jesus' living water—His grace—and thus demonstrate by our lives that we are indeed worthy to be called by His name and that we are truly His followers—that we are Christians!

**GOSPEL: John 4:5-42 (Section 12)**

So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." [The woman] said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the well is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband." Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.' For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true."

The woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Anointed; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you."

At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you talking with her?" The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?" They went out of the town and came to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'In four months\* the harvest will be here'? I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving his payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work."

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I have done." When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

~~~~~The Holy Evangelist John recounts for us how Jesus passed through Samaria and came to the town of Sychar near the historic well that the old-testament patriarch Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Tired from this journey, Jesus stopped around noon at Jacob's Well, about twenty miles north of Jerusalem. While He rested there, a Samaritan woman named Photina came to draw water, and Jesus began a conversation with her. This Samaritan woman was in a sad spiritual state, and Jesus offered her salvation. He told her about His LIVING WATER which, unlike the well's water, would never make a person thirsty again. Our Lord explained to her that He is the Fountain of Living Water, flowing from the very throne of God. The woman was confused spiritually and did not comprehend this water as being the grace that Christ bestows in offering us salvation. Because of His redemptive acts, Jesus has given us access to this living water and the capability of drinking from it. Through the sacramental mysteries of His Church, we become the recipients of His grace. And by this grace, we are initiated here on earth into the beginning of the "New Life" provided for us by Jesus, the victorious Savior, Who has assured us of being participants in the fullness of this Life for all eternity

WEEKLY OFFERING:

April 24: \$838, 32 people

May 1: \$280, 38 people

May 8: \$946, 26 people

PERSONALS - Please pray for the intentions of those listed in our Prayer Request Book. Also, if there is anyone you would like specifically, please phone the rectory - 412 881-8344

SHUT INS - Please remember our shut-ins, Gerry Shallenberger, Paul Dolgos, and Mary Jane Muchicka.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS - Please remember to keep in your prayers the **people in the Ukraine**, that their situation may be resolved peacefully, also: Norma Langol, Mark Zerilla, Blake Chisholm, Betty Morris, Tom Kinney, and Monsignor Duker. If you wish to write to Monsignor, his address is 111 Perrymond Rd, Bldg 1, Pittsburgh PA 15237

IT TAKES A VILLAGE - This week we would like to thank Tom Kalka and the Perogi team for a successful season.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION – Normally, the Sunday Liturgy schedule switch happens after Pentecost. Please consider and be prepared to discuss the possibility of having a Saturday evening vigil Liturgy instead of a Sunday 11am Liturgy. No decision has been made, and all insights are welcome.

ADULT EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITY – Saturday, May 21, 1pm, Holy Spirit Parish Hall. Join us for a discussion of the Divine Office and how we can pray the Hours in our daily lives.

PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS

Saints Cyril and Methodius, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen.
St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

RUMMAGE SALE - Please Note – Items are being accepted for our Fall Rummage Sale. Please donate clean, usable items. Children's clothing is especially needed.

PARISH ANNIVERSARY – Don't forget! Holy Spirit Parish will be celebrating its 115th anniversary on Pentecost Sunday, June 5th. Please contact Fr. Michael if you're interested in helping, and stay tuned for more information. There is an RSVP form on the website, or you can contact Fr. Michael for Pani Janine.