

If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain.. '1 Corint. 15:14



ST. NICHOLAS

Serbian Orthodox Church

971 St. Clair Road, Johnstown, PA 15905 ■ 814-255-1853; Parish Priest : *Rev. Dragan Zaric*



Fifth Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Kontakion :

The Samaritan Woman,
having come to the
well in faith, beheld
You, the Water of Wis-
dom from which she
drank plentifully and
inherited the Heavenly
Kingdom as one who is
blessed forever.

Weekly Bulletin - Sunday May 14, 2017

Sunday, May 1/14, 2017. 5th Sunday of Pascha-of the Samaritan Woman
Holy Prophet Jeremiah

- **Liturgical Readings:** *Gospel St. John (5, 1-15).*
Epistle: Acts. (9, 32-42).

- *Today Parastos*

- **Donations reserved May 7, 2017:**

Offering \$1140.00 Candles \$50.00 Hall Rental \$125.00

Donations to the Building Fund

In memory of Alex S. Majher for \$50 from Mr & Mrs Jamie Muir
And Mr & Mrs Ryan Perry and families. Also \$100 from David and
Bonnie Majher & family. Also \$50 from Mary Finley & Virginia Gerdy
In memory of Dorothy Smrzlich for \$20 from Joyce & Terry Phillips
Mothers Day remembrance for Katie Grisin & Margaret Gardenhour
for \$50 from Suzette & Richard Gardenhour

Donation to the Beautification Fund in honor of Richard Gardenhour's 70th
birthday from Natalie & John Ofsanko

Large Candle donations in memory of Donna Trbovich Wharton, Benjamin
Kaseler, Nancy Adams , Mildred Krzanowsky and Nikola, Milka & Nick Jr Todorich

- Tickets/donations for the 111th Anniversary Banquet on Sunday, May 21st can be
purchased in the Candle Room. Cost \$15 per person. Sunday School children are
free.



Happy Mother's Day! Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, godmothers and spiritual mothers out there! Most of all, let's praise our great and holy mother, **the Theotokos**, who in Christ is truly our mother and the Mother of the Church!

+Introduction-The fifth Sunday of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman. The day commemorates the encounter of Christ with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. The biblical story of this event and the dialog between Christ and the woman is found in the Gospel of Saint John 4:5-42.

Kontakion (Fourth Tone): The Samaritan Woman, having come to the well in faith, beheld You, the Water of Wisdom from which she drank plentifully and inherited the Heavenly Kingdom as one who is blessed forever.

The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman -John 4:5-42

Then cometh He to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with His journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (For His disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto Him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast Thou that living water? Art Thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. The woman saith unto Him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when He is come, He will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am He. And upon this came His disciples, and marvelled that He talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her? The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? Then they went out of the city, and came unto Him. In the mean while His disciples prayed Him, saying, Master, eat. But He said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought Him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours. And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. So when the Samaritans were come unto Him, they besought Him that He would tarry with them: and He abode there two days. And many more believed because of his own word; And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world. (KJV)

Epistle

(Fifth Sunday of Pascha)

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: How great are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading from

The Acts of the Saintly & Pure Apostles (11:19-30)

Priest: Let us attend.

The Healing of Aeneas

³² Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aene'as, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. ³⁴ And Peter said to him, "Aene'as, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. ³⁵ And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Peter in Lydda and Joppa

³⁶ Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas.^[a] She was full of good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹ So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. ⁴² And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Sunday School teacher Mr. Carlos Garcia -May 14, 2017

How should I live my life?

Today is the fifth Sunday after Easter, called the Sunday of the Samaritan woman. In this gospel, our Lord has traveled to a city in Samaria, an area that was the northern kingdom of Israel. The Jewish people had a strong dislike towards the Samaritans for after the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed by the Assyrians in 722 BC, the Jewish people that had remained behind in the area of Samaria intermarried with settlers from Mesopotamia and Syria. It was

close to noon when a Samaritan woman came to the well for water at a time after all the Jewish people had taken their share of the water for the day. This well had existed since the time of Jacob, father of Joseph. Our Lord says, *"Give me a drink."* And she replies "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" "Jesus answered and said to her, *"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."* *"...but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst."* After further instruction from our Lord, the Samaritan woman says, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things." "Jesus said to her, *"I who speak to you am He."*

Our Lord teaches that He is the One, Who gives true life, Who gives living water, and Who "gives the well of the Holy Spirit for eternal life." Our Lord also told the Samaritan woman, that the Father is seeking worshippers who will worship Him in spirit and truth. In the history of the Serbian Orthodox Church, we find true individuals who have lived their lives teaching their people that despite the hardships and sufferings of life, there is true life, living water, and eternal life in Christ. One of those individuals is St. Basil of Ostrog.

St. Basil, Bishop of Zahumlje, was born on December 28, 1610 in the land of Herzegovina, and lived for sixty years until April 29, 1671. He is honored on May 12 using the Gregorian calendar. As a child, he was known to be "gentle and meek" and he had a great love of Divine Liturgy and the teachings of the Holy Fathers. He was tonsured a monk, ordained deacon, and then ordained a priest. He was sent to serve in Montenegro at a time when the Serbian people were under the rule of the Turks and under proselytizing by the Latin faith. St. Basil was sent from Cetinje to Tvrdoch, where he lived at the Monastery of the Dormition of the Theotokos. "Like St. Sava before him, he traveled to all parts of the diocese to strengthen the faithful," which spurred "a great biblical, spiritual, and liturgical renewal movement" with participation in the liturgical and ascetical life of the Church. "He was often seen going from house to house in Hercegovina preaching the Gospel of Christ to the Serbs." Frequently, a rise in spiritual life is frequently met with a rise of attacks from the evil one and such was the case with St. Basil, as he became a "political and religious enemy to the authorities," which caused his life to be in danger. Despite these threats to his life and despite his residence and monastery being destroyed, he served as Bishop with the episcopal seat transferred to the Monastery of Ostrog. He served without fear or discouragement and the people looked to him for strength and courage. The Bishop spent "...nights and days in prayer, fasting, and vigil..." and "went from house to house, as always, preaching the Word of God, healing the sick, setting free the spiritually captive, and fortifying the Orthodox in true worship and correct belief in Lord Jesus Christ. After his passing, many visitors have traveled to venerate his relics and many miracles have been attributed to St. Basil. He is still known as "a true Archpastor, miracle-worker, and defender of the faith in Christ the Lord."

Again we ask, "How shall I live my life?" The answer is to live like the saints before us for they have known that true life comes from our Lord Jesus Christ. Despite their own sufferings and persecutions, they held on to the truth of our Lord Jesus Christ. So hold fast to the truth in Christ despite the hardships, sufferings, or persecutions of this life, and live your life as a servant of our Lord Jesus Christ drinking the living water that He provides to His sheep. Seek the grace of the Holy Spirit and the true life in Christ just like St. Sava and St. Basil.

Christ is Risen; Truly He is Risen!



The Transfer of the Relics of St. Nicholas the Won- derworker

Dear Parishioners:

*It is with great pleasure that we extend to you and your family a cordial invitation to attend our 111th Anniversary Banquet of The Transfer of the Relics of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, which will be held this year on **Sunday, May 21, 2017**. Father Dragan Zaric will celebrate Divine Liturgy beginning at 10:00 AM and will be followed by the blessing of the Slavski Kolac and the banquet in the church hall. **Everyone is Welcome!***

