



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman + May 18, 2025 + Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!



Hymns for Today's Service

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

In the middle of the feast, O Savior, fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety, as Thou didst cry to all: "If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!" O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to Thee!

The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith; she saw Thee, the Water of wisdom and drank abundantly. She inherited the Kingdom on high, and is ever glorified!

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all, cried to all in the midst of the feast of the Law: "Come and draw the water of immortality!" We fall before Thee and faithfully cry: "Grant us Thy mercies, for Thou art the Fountain of our life!"

Please Sing Along!

Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies along with the choir throughout the Divine Liturgy is encouraged!

Epistle Reading - Acts 11:19-26, 29-30

Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

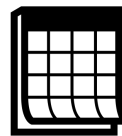
Gospel Reading - John 4:5-42

So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting. If you have questions please let us know!

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." The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such 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 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." And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ? Then they went out of the city and came to Him. In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to

reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."



This Week's Schedule

Doly TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

THIS WEEKEND - Samaritan Woman

Saturday, May 17th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, May 18th

Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
Coffee Hour, Church School, Parish Council Meeting

May 18 Parastas (Memorial) Following Divine Liturgy

In Memory of Stephen & Marilyn Havrilak

Offered by Sandra Havrilak

In Memory of Nicole Hapeman

Offered by Peter Goobic

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THIS WEEK

Wed @ 11 PM - 1 PM Church Open for Prayer

Wed @ 6 PM Akathist - Glory to God for All Things

(NOTICE above time changes)

Bible Study is on Spring Break

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NEXT WEEKEND - The Blind Man

Saturday, May 24th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, May 25th

Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
Coffee Hour, Church School

May 25th - Hospitality Committee Meeting

Christ is Risen! Next Sunday towards the close of Coffee Hour we will meet to discuss upcoming events and hospitality, including our upcoming Pentecost Feast. We

will discuss plans for reviving the Holy Trinity Appreciation Dinner, PLUS the need for more help among parish members to make these special community events a reality. Please stay to offer your input, ideas and help with this critical part of our parish life. It's fun and a great way to give back to the church! If you have any questions please see Deborah Mills or Fr. Innocent.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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+++ Weekly / Monthly +++

Bible Study Thursdays at 11 AM. Everyone is welcome. We are reading through the Acts of the Apostles with discussions. **Bible Study is currently on break.**

ORTHODOXY 101 Saturdays @ 3:30 PM: Orthodoxy 101 is for visitors, inquirers, catechumens or anyone interested in learning more about the foundations of our faith. 1 hour followed by Great Vespers. **Orthodoxy 101 is currently on break.**

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is **HOLY PENTECOST - JUNE 8th.**

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. **Next Friends of the Poor is June 14th**

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is **SUN, May 18th @ 11:30 AM.**

FERN KNOLL BURIAL PARK: Due to the bridge collapsing at the entrance of Fern Knoll Burial Park anyone wishing to make a donation in memory of a loved one(s) who are buried at Fern Knoll Burial Park Dallas, PA can do so by: (1) Go to Gofundme fundraiser by Paul Kaminski: Aid Needed to Restore Fern Knoll Burial Park Bridge or (2) Check payable to: Fern Knoll Burial Park and mail to Paul Kaminski 44 Jeanette Street, Mocanaqua, PA 18655. Any donation will be greatly appreciated to restore the bridge/entrance to the Burial Park.

COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE: If anyone still has items they'd like to donate, donations are still being accepted on behalf of with the Ukrainian Relief group for as long as needed. Right now the Ukrainian Relief organization is looking for hygiene products, bars of soap, shampoo, shaving cream, toothpaste, toothbrushes, diapers for infants through adults, towels, bed sheets, blankets, wheelchairs, canes, crutches, and walkers. Of course,

clothing and other items are also always needed. **See Paula Holoviak if you have any questions.**

ELECTION DAY FOOD SALE: Help and support our election day food sale. Sign up sheets are in the vestibule.

- **May 19 @ 2PM** – Prep for Election Day Food Sale
- **May 20 @ 9AM to 5PM** – Election Day Food Sale

The Blessing of Homes continues **AFTER PASCHA** for those who have rescheduled or by appointment. Check in with Fr. Innocent as to when there is availability for your visit.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays: Alexandria Rubino (5/7), Gabriel Brisk (5/10), Jeremy Haugh (5/18), Paul Meck (5/18), Becky Leonori (5/20), Zach Harvey (5/24), Jack Willis (5/24), Elaine Benczkowski (5/26), Eva King (5/30), Martha Tumavitch (5/30) **Anniversaries:** Matthew & Aimee Austin (5/15)

This Week Birthdays: Jeremy Haugh (5/18), Paul Meck (5/18), Becky Leonori (5/20), Zach Harvey (5/24), Jack Willis (5/24)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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Homily on the Samaritan Woman

Met. Anthony Bloom

The Holy Gospel has not given us the name of the Samaritan woman. But the Tradition of the Church remembers, and calls her in Greek – Photini, in Russian – Svetlana, in the Celtic languages – Fiona, in Western languages – Claire. And all these names speak to us of one thing – of light.

Having met the Lord Jesus Christ she has become a light shining in the world, a light that enlightens those who meet her. Every Saint is offered us as an example; but we cannot always emulate the concrete ways in which a Saint lived, we cannot always repeat their way from earth to heaven. But we can learn from each of them two things. The one is that by the grace of God we can achieve what seems humanly impossible; that is, to become a person in

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Homebound – Evelyn, Vladimir, Jeri, Marsha, David, Paul, Archpriest Theodore, Mat. Elizabeth, Mary, Patricia, Barbara, Jeri, Joan, Irene, Alice **Sick & Suffering** – Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Elizabeth Hutz, Mary Hutz, David Lezinsky, Bob Lutzick, Leann, Gregory Krevko, Tom Vaskalis, Tom O'Brian, David, Delores Tressa, Sylvia Dreater, Patricia Sohoski, Natalie Gripp, Raven **Departed:**

the image and likeness of God, to be - in this world of darkness and tragedy which is in the power of lies - a word of truth, a sign of hope, the certainty that God can conquer if we only allow Him access to our souls. Because if the Kingdom of God is not established within us, if God is not enthroned in our minds and hearts, a fire that destroys everything unworthy of ourselves and of Him, we cannot spread God's light around.

And the second thing which the Saints can teach us is to understand the message which their names convey to us. And today's Samaritan woman speaks of light. Christ has said that He is the Light of the world, the light that enlightens all men; and we are called to give shelter within our souls, minds and hearts - indeed, within our whole self - to this light; so that the word spoken by Christ, "Let your light so shine before all men, that seeing your good deeds they may give glory to your Father who is in heaven", may be fulfilled and accomplished in and through us.

It is only through seeing our deeds, through seeing how we live that people can believe that the light is God's light; it is not in our words, unless they are words of truth and of power like those of the Apostles, or of Christ Himself indeed. And let us reflect, each of us, on the meaning of our name and on the way in which we can become what we are called.

The Samaritan woman came to the well without any spiritual purpose; she came, as she came daily, to fetch water - and she met Christ. Each of us may meet our God at any turn in our life, when we are about our most homely tasks, if our hearts are turned in the right direction, if we are prepared to receive a message, to listen; indeed - to ask questions! Because the Samaritan woman asked a question of Christ, and what she heard transcended her question in such a way that she recognised in Him a prophet, and later - the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

But the light must not be pushed under a bushel. Having discovered that the Light had come into the world, that the word of divine truth was resounding now amidst men, that God was among us, she left behind all concerns and ran to share the joy, the wonder of what she had discovered with others. She brought her fellow-citizens to Christ. She told them first why she believed; and when perhaps curiosity, or the convincing power of her words, and the change that had occurred in her brought them to Christ, they saw for themselves and said to her, It is no longer because of what you say that we believe - we have seen, we have heard.

And this is what the Samaritan woman teaches all of us: be open at every moment of life, while we are busy with the simplest things, to receive the divine word, to be illumined by the divine light, to be cleansed by His purity, to receive it in the depths of our souls, receive it with all our life, so that people seeing what we have become may believe that the light has come into the world.

Let us pray to the Samaritan woman to teach us, to guide us, to bring us to Christ in the way in which she came, and to serve Him in the way in which she served Him, being the salvation of all who were around her. And may the blessing of God be upon you, the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, now and forever and world without end! Amen.

A Healthy Understanding of Sin

"It is necessary to understand what sin is ... Many Orthodox Christians have the wrong impression, influenced by Western thinking: they consider that sin is a mistake by which we offend God, we upset Him, and that we are guilty of the sins we inherit. This is a big mistake. In the vision of our Church, of our Orthodox faith, sin is a wound, sin is an illness. In our Church, we don't say the word "sin" without also saying "infirmity" and "illness". So illness, infirmity, and sin go together. Maybe we'll understand that sin is an infirmity, that the consequence of sin is an infirmity, that the cause of sin is an infirmity, and that sin is an illness that needs healing. A Greek priest - Romanidis - says that what is distinctive in Orthodoxy is the view of the Church, of the Orthodox faith, as healing. The first work of our Savior was to heal us. If we don't see sin as an illness, but juridically, then we won't be able to see our relationship with God as healing." - Schemanun Siluana



The Treasury

"... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. + Jesus Christ

<p>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305 Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840 Last Week's Collection (5/11/24): \$2,053</p>
