



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

June 2, 2024

Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen! Khristos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese! (Russian/Ukrainian)

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 4

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!”

Troparion – Tone 8

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!

Kontakion – Tone 8

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!

Kontakion – Tone 4

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!”

Prokeimenon – Tone 3

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

V. Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

The Holy Martyr Photina (Svetlana) the Samaritan Woman, her sons Victor (named Photinus) and Joses; and her sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskevė, Kyriake; Nero’s daughter Domnina; and the Martyr Sebastian: The holy Martyr Photina was the Samaritan Woman, with whom the Savior conversed at Jacob’s Well (John. 4:5-42).

During the time of the emperor Nero (54-68), who displayed excessive cruelty against Christians, Saint Photina lived in Carthage with her younger son Joses and fearlessly preached the Gospel there. Her eldest son Victor fought bravely in the Roman army against barbarians, and was appointed military commander in the city of Attalia (Asia Minor). Later, Nero called him to Italy to arrest and punish Christians.

Sebastian, an official in Italy, said to Saint Victor, “I know that you, your mother and your brother, are followers of Christ. As a friend I advise you to submit to the will of the emperor. If you inform on any Christians, you will receive their wealth. I shall write to your mother and brother, asking them not to preach Christ in public. Let them practice their faith in secret.”

Saint Victor replied, "I want to be a preacher of Christianity like my mother and brother." Sebastian said, "O Victor, we all know what woes await you, your mother and brother." Then Sebastian suddenly felt a sharp pain in his eyes. He was dumbfounded, and his face was somber.

For three days he lay there blind, without uttering a word. On the fourth day he declared, "The God of the Christians is the only true God." Saint Victor asked why Sebastian had suddenly changed his mind. Sebastian replied, "Because Christ is calling me." Soon he was baptized, and immediately regained his sight. Saint Sebastian's servants, after witnessing the miracle, were also baptized.

Reports of this reached Nero, and he commanded that the Christians be brought to him at Rome. Then the Lord Himself appeared to the confessors and said, "Fear not, for I am with you. Nero, and all who serve him, will be vanquished." The Lord said to Saint Victor, "From this day forward, your name will be Photinus, because through you, many will be enlightened and will believe in Me." The Lord then told the Christians to strengthen and encourage Saint Sebastian to persevere until the end.

All these things, and even future events, were revealed to Saint Photina. She left Carthage in the company of several Christians and joined the confessors in Rome.

At Rome the emperor ordered the saints to be brought before him and he asked them whether they truly believed in Christ. All the confessors refused to renounce the Savior. Then the emperor gave orders to smash the martyrs' finger joints. During the torments, the confessors felt no pain, and their hands remained unharmed.

Nero ordered that Saints Sebastian, Photinus and Joses be blinded and locked up in prison, and Saint Photina and her five sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskev  and Kyriake were sent to the imperial court under the supervision of Nero's daughter Domnina. Saint Photina converted both Domnina and all her servants to Christ. She also converted a sorcerer, who had brought her poisoned food to kill her.

Three years passed, and Nero sent to the prison for one of his servants, who had been locked up. The messengers reported to him that Saints Sebastian, Photinus and Joses, who had been blinded, had completely recovered, and that people were visiting them to hear their preaching, and indeed the whole prison had been transformed into a bright and fragrant place where God was glorified.

Nero then gave orders to crucify the saints, and to beat their naked bodies with straps. On the fourth day the emperor sent servants to see whether the martyrs were still alive. But, approaching the place of the tortures, the servants fell blind. An angel of the Lord freed the martyrs from their crosses and healed them. The saints took pity on the blinded servants, and restored their sight by their prayers to the Lord. Those who were healed came to believe in Christ and were soon baptized.

In an impotent rage Nero gave orders to flay the skin from Saint Photina and to throw the martyr down a well. Sebastian, Photinus and Joses had their legs cut off, and they were thrown to dogs, and then had their skin flayed off. The sisters of Saint Photina also suffered terrible torments. Nero gave orders to cut off their breasts and then to flay their skin. An expert in cruelty, the emperor readied the fiercest execution for Saint Photis: they tied her by the feet to the tops of two bent-over trees. When the ropes were cut the trees sprang upright and tore the martyr apart. The emperor ordered the others beheaded. Saint Photina was removed from the well and locked up in prison for twenty days.

After this Nero had her brought to him and asked if she would now relent and offer sacrifice to the idols. Saint Photina spit in the face of the emperor, and laughing at him, said, "O most impious of the blind, you profligate and stupid man! Do you think me so deluded that I would consent to renounce my Lord Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols as blind as you?"

Hearing such words, Nero gave orders to again throw the martyr down the well, where she surrendered her soul to God (ca. 66).

On the Greek Calendar, Saint Photina is commemorated on February 26.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 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: 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 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."

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED

Dates are when the name was added to the bulletin; names will remain in four bulletins and then removed. To add the name again, please email Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com.

For the Sick / Caregiver

Subdeacon Serge (5/12)

Melody (5/12)

Michael (5/12)

Charlotte (5/12)

Vera (5/12)

Matushka Mary (5/19)

Father Paul (5/19)

Alexandra (5/19)

Lynne (6/2)

Bill (5/19)

Kim (5/19)

Katherine (5/19)

Kelly (5/26)

Liam (5/26)

Bill (6/2)

Carmine (6/2)

Marianne (6/2)

For the Deceased

Bishop Matthais (5/12)

Albert (6/2)

Awatif (6/2)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the week of June 2

Sunday June 2 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Saturday June 8 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday June 9 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

May 26 – 58 adults, 19 youth, \$1,829

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEEDED! The Ladies Assumption Altar Society needs **boxes and packing material** for the bazaar in June. Please bring to Daria Hall as soon as possible. Thank you.

Please remove all Pascha decorations from the church cemeteries. Per the Cemetery By-Laws: All decorations must be removed three weeks after the holiday.

Reminder: Next Sunday, June 9 there will be a meeting in Daria Hall during Coffee Hour regarding the formation of an Emergency Response Team – defibrillator training and choking device training, as well as discussions on security responsiveness. The meeting will be led by John Cassar. If you are interested, please attend this important meeting.

On Friday **June 21**, Father is planning an outdoor camping trip for youth over the age of 12 and adults of the parish. The camping sight will be near the Holy Protection Monastery in White Haven, PA. More information will be provided later. If anyone has any questions, please contact Leon Brasowski.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SOUTH RIVER: The Ss. Peter and Paul South River Men's Club will be holding its Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, June 15th from 5:00 - 8:00 PM, in the Church hall at 9 Jeffrie Ave. (*Vespers will be served at 4:00 PM*). A limited number of "baskets" will be raffled off as well. Tickets: \$15 for adults and \$8 for 14 and under. Price includes spaghetti, great meat sauce, sausage, salad and dessert! Soda and water will be available for purchase at this BYOB event. Tickets are available by contacting Phil at 908-331-1297. Come and enjoy good food and fellowship!

The Ladies Assumption Altar Society will hold a bazaar/flea market in Daria Hall - open to the public and parish on Saturday **June 22** and only for our parish **June 23**. Please bring gently used items and clothing to be sold; electric items must work; no rust or damaged items please. The items may be placed in the coat room or on the left side only of the stage in Daria Hall. Large empty boxes, newspaper, bubble wrap, and tissue paper are also needed. The ladies are looking for volunteers to help price items and set up, and also to help on Saturday June 22 during the bazaar. We would really appreciate some male volunteers for security detail on Saturday. See Alla with any questions.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Eleni Athanatos – June 2

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

COFFEE HOUR

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. **PLEASE NOTE: Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services.** If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky or Alla Strauss.

SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (non-dairy)

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) **with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event.** The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

June 2 Alex & Rebeca Medina, Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana

June 9 Melody Stavisky, Cole Johnson

June 16 FOCA Club

June 23 Nina Laushell, Lynne Sheedy & Bill Hazelton

June 30 Ludwig & Paula Koerte, Nina Shafran

July 7 Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt, Ramazi Shubitidze

July 14 **ST. VLADIMIR DAY CELEBRATION**

July 21 Arina Balako, Herman & Francine Meyer

July 28 Tamara Karkusova, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky

Aug. 4 **FAST** Luwam Tesfa, Nebiat Tesfa

Aug. 11 **FAST** Nancy Mitsos, Darice Keyes

Aug. 18 Ladies Assumption Altar Society

Aug. 25 Alex Godun, Blake & Jessica Kilgore

Sept. 1 Tyler Burger, Awet Tesfa

Sept. 8 Olga & James Bates, Tanya & Walter Tribbey

Sept. 15 James & Monia Pitra, Anne Cheslock

Sept. 22 **ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC – NO COFFEE HOUR**

Sept. 29 Sami Bachir, Nour Ragab

Oct. 6 Virgiliu & Gabriela Plesa, Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav

Oct. 13 **ANNUAL TURKEY SOCIAL – NO COFFEE HOUR**

Oct. 20 Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick, Alan & Mimi Berck