

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd, Lansing, NY 14882

HolyApostlesLansing.org

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MAY 14, 2017

FIFTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 4. Samaritan Woman. Martyr Isidore of Chios (251). Ven. Isidore, Fool-for-Christ, Wonderworker of Rostov (1474). St. Nikita, Bishop of Novgorod and Recluse, of the Kiev Caves. Martyr Maximus (ca. 250). Ven. Serapion of Egypt (5th c.). St. Leontius, Patriarch of Jerusalem (1175). First opening of the Relics of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk (1846).

EPISTLE: Acts 11:19–26, 29–30: The disciples are scattered, and the Gospel spreads.

GOSPELS: John 4:5–42: Jesus speaks with the woman at the well.

COFFEE HOUR: This week: Darlene, Eileen, Marina, & Mat. Meg **Next week:** Sign up today!

MOTHER’S DAY: A happy Mother’s Day to all the mothers, grandmothers, and godmothers of our parish. May Our Lord, through the prayers of His Mother, bless you for your love and devotion. May St. Photine, the Samaritan woman whom we commemorate and who led her children in proclaiming the Gospel to the nations, be an example along with all of the holy women who have raised saints throughout the ages. The Church needs you all!

FOOD PANTRY HELP: The Lansing Food Pantry would love to have people from our parish come and help distribute food. They are open two days per month; please see Fr Joel for more information.

SMALL PARISH FORUM: A “small parish forum” will be held in New Kensington, PA July 13–15. This is hosted by the Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania and the Diocese of the Midwest, but people from our diocese are welcome as well. Information is available at <http://www.ocadwpa.org/smallparishforum.html>; please see Fr. Joel if you would be interested in attending.

ST. TIKHON’S SEMINARY COMMENCEMENT AND PILGRIMAGE: St. Tikhon’s Monastery will be holding its annual pilgrimage on Memorial Day weekend. The pilgrimage weekend will open Friday afternoon, May 26, with the arrival of the Hawaiian Myrrh-streaming Icon at 3:30 PM and close with Vespers and Matins on Monday evening, May 29, at 4 PM. On Saturday, May 27, the St. Tikhon’s Seminary commencement will be held, including the graduation of our own Reader Ivan from the diaconal program. More information is available on the oca website.

KNOW YOUR FAITH: The next “Know Your Faith” series will be discussing Serge Verhovskoy’s *The Light of the World*. (Not to be confused with Fr. Alexander Schmemmann’s *For the Life of the World*, the subject of a recent “Know Your Faith” series.) This book focuses on the Orthodox understanding of Christ, who He is, and what He calls us to be and do. It’s enriching and challenging for people at any level of theological knowledge. We will be meeting on Tuesday evenings, in a to-be-determined location. Please let Fr. Joel know if you are interested.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISER: On Saturday, July 8, we’ll be holding a chicken barbecue fundraiser. We’ll need volunteers in the morning and early afternoon; please see Bill if you’re able to help.

WELCOME VISITORS! We warmly welcome all of our visitors! Please know that we are glad to have you here praying with us, and we invite you to stay after the service to enjoy a meal and meet everyone in our community.

PRAYER SCROLL

LIVING:

Apr Timothy H
Apr Herman S
Apr Sergius K
Apr Thomas E
Apr Stephen M
Apr John R
Apr Patrick C
Pr Adam S & Angie
Mother Raphaela
Mother Christophora
Mat Joanna B
Mat Katya
Mat Mary G
Kh Lynn
Joshua
Brittany
Gretchen
Marianne
Terrence
Helen
Judy
Mary & Susan
John & Carmine
Nathan

Leah
Helen
Lindsey
Elizabeth
Mary
Joe A
Daniel
Andrew & family
Carol
Wilhelmina
Elizabeth
David
Shirley
Christina
Jim & Kim
Rachel
Constantine & Maria
Gaetan
Christine
Samuel
Lisa
Lyudmila
Nickolay
Anetta
Zachary

Iconographer Helena
Natasha, Lena, Vera,
Sergei
Caleb
Danielle
Larry, Mark, Katie
Ann
Dorothy
Ronald
Sheryl & Lacey
Alexander, Angela,
Anton
Peter
Gregory & Ann
Raymond
Vincent
Photini
Robert
Steven, Stephanie,
and family
Diana
Elizabeth
John
Felicia

Children: Anthony,
Mia, Isabel, Bear,
Victoria, Iva Bell,
Panagiotis, Ada,
Grace, Elias, Jack
Seminarians: Rdrs
Robert & Ivan
Birthdays: Casey
Anniversaries:
Namesdays:

REPOSED:

Apr John U
Priest Matthew
Priest John
Apr Alexander
Dn Mark
Rdr Gregory
Daniel
Ada
Lillian
Joseph
Marie
Joseph
Laura

Martha
Stanley
Taissia
Steluța
Theophan
Lynda
Florence
James
James R
Vasily
Mordecai
Alexandr
Ron
John
Eleanor
Harold
Alfred
Edward
Michael
Mat Julianna
Mario
Newly Reposed:
Robert, James, Pr
Ronald, Pr William

BY THE NUMBERS: Last Collection: \$1346.00. Building Fund: \$0.00.
Weekly Budget: \$1150. MTD: \$1346.00. Monthly Budget: \$4600

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Confessions are heard before and after Vespers or by appointment.

Sunday, May 14: 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

Monday, May 15: Rector's Sabbath

Tuesday, May 16: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer with Akathist

Wednesday, May 17: 8:30 AM Matins

Thursday, May 18: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer with Akathist "Nurturer of Children"

Friday, May 19: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

Saturday, May 20: 6 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, May 21: 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that Thou wouldst renew us and this parish by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with love and longing for Thee. Grant that we would seek not our own will, but to do Thy will in all things and to be willing to lay down our lives out of love for Thee and for our neighbor. Draw thirsty souls to this place and remove their spiritual blindness, granting them through Thy grace to see the beauty of Thy Holy Glory in this place. Fill this community with new life, spiritual vigor, and an insatiable desire to live godly and holy lives. Forgive us all of our sins as we fall down before Thee. Bring us all to a greater repentance and to an amendment of our lives as we look to Thee, the only merciful and loving Lord, Who calls all to salvation. We beg Thee, our merciful Lord, hear us, grant all of these petitions and all of our requests unto salvation: we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

FROM THE PENTECOSTARION

Let heaven and earth to-day radiantly be glad, for Christ has appeared in flesh as man to free all Adam's race from the curse; and by wonders he is made wonderful. When he comes to Samaria, he approaches a woman, and he who is wrapped in the waters of a cloud, seeks water. Therefore all we faithful worship him who willingly became poor for our sakes in his compassionate purpose.

The spring of life's source, Jesus our Saviour, came to the spring of the Patriarch Jacob and sought water to drink from a woman of Samaria. But when she objected that there was no sharing vessels by the Jews, the wise creator diverts her with sweet words rather to ask for the eternal water; which she accepted and proclaimed to all, saying: Come, see the one who knows hidden things, and is God come in the flesh to save mankind.

Glory to God for all things!

HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH LANSING, NEW YORK



SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2017
SAMARITAN WOMAN

A SERMON ON THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

by Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost

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 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.

ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MOTHERHOOD

by St. John Chrysostom

Ye women, especially, emulate those admirable women. Has a child been born to any one? Imitate Hannah's example (1 Sam. i. 24.); look at what she did. She brought him up at once to the temple. Who amongst you would not rather that his son should become a Samuel than that he should be king of the whole world ten thousand times over? "And how," you will say, "is it possible he should become such a one?" ... it was the faith of the mother and her earnest zeal that wrought the whole. He was her first child, and her only one, and she knew not whether she should ever have others besides. Yet she did not say, "I will wait till the child is grown up, that he may have a taste of the things of this life, I will allow him to have his pastime in them a little in his childish years." No, all these thoughts the woman repudiated, she was absorbed in one object, how from the very beginning she might dedicate the spiritual image to God. Well may we men be put to the blush at the wisdom of this woman. She offered him up to God, and there she left him. And therefore was her married state more glorious, in that she had made spiritual objects her first care, in that she dedicated the first-fruits to God. Therefore was her womb fruitful, and she obtained other children besides. And therefore she saw him honorable even in the world. For if men when they are honored, render honor in return, will not God much more, He who does this, even without being honored? How long are we to be mere lumps of flesh? How long are we to be stooping to the earth? Let everything be secondary with us to the provident care we should take of our children, and to our "bringing them up in the chastening and admonition of the Lord." If from the very first he is taught to be a lover of true wisdom, then wealth greater than all wealth has he acquired and a more imposing name.

WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 14

Troparion, Tone 4 (*Resurrection*)

When the women Disciples of the Lord
learned from the Angel the joyous message of the 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 (*Midfeast*)

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 (*Samaritan Woman*)

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 (*Midfeast*)

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 thy hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Alleluia, Tone 4

v: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!
v: For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity.

Communion Hymns

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality!
Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

A HYMN OF PRAISE

St. Photina, the Samaritan Woman, by St. Nikolai of Žiča

The Samaritan Woman met Christ at the well,
And was enlightened with the light of Christ Himself.
Under Nero she ended her life in another well,
And she gave her spirit to Christ God, her Lord.
Her glorious sons were Victor and Josiah:
The saintly mother enlightened both of them with holiness.
Five sisters suffered for the name of Christ,
And with her were translated to heaven, to receive their reward.
O penitent Photina, wonderful sufferer,
How your countenance now shines with eternal light!
Once, you did not even give water to the Savior;
Finally, even your blood you shed for Him.
Your soul had once been darkened, as you were a Samaritan;
When you became a Christian, you shone more brightly than the sun's rays.
In Sychar, you proclaimed Christ with fear;
In the center of Rome you witnessed to Him by your death.
Love destroys every fear and makes one a hero—
O Photina, love forever glorifies you.
Two or three Romes can Nero burn down,
But the soul of Christians cannot burn.
Vessels of clay can Nero smash,
But he had no power over the spirit of Photina.
O immortal saint, help us now,
By your prayers, before the throne of Christ the Savior.

(From *The Prologue from Ochrid*)

The Samaritan woman, St. Photina or Photine, continued proclaiming Christ as the Messiah after the events of today's Gospel. With her sons, Victor and Josiah, and her sisters, Anatolia, Phota, Photida, Parasceva, and Cyriaca, she traveled as far as Carthage in Northern Africa. They were arrested, taken to Rome, and martyred under the Emperor Nero. St. Photina was thrown down a well, surrendering her soul to the One whom she had met by the well in Sychar.