

• ON THE SAMARITAN WOMAN:

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 recognized 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. —*Metropolitan Anthony of London*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



May 17, 2020

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman



• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Four:

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 over-thrown, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

• TROPARION OF MID-FEAST, Tone Eight:

At Mid-feast give Thou my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of piety; for Thou, O Savior didst cry out to all: whosoever is thirsty let him come to Me and drink. Wherefore, O Well-spring of Life, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

• KONTAKION OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN, Tone Eight:

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 OF MID-FEAST, Tone Four:

O Sovereign Master and Creator of all things, O Christ our God, Thou

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didst cry unto those present at the Judaic Mid-Feast: come and draw the water of immortality freely; wherefore, we fall down before Thee and faithfully cry aloud: grant Thy compassions unto us, O Lord, for Thou art truly the Well-spring of life for all.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, May 16: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy—Reception of Communion following
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, May 17: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy—Reception of Communion following
12 PM, Online Church School
3 PM, Women's Online Fellowship
8 PM, Small Compline
- Monday, May 18: 7 PM, Men's Online Fellowship
- Wednesday, May 20: 5 PM, Vespers
7 PM, Study of the Book of Acts
- Thursday, May 21: 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Constantine and Helen

• ONLINE ACTIVITY:

Church School will meet via Zoom on Sunday, beginning at 11:30 AM. The *Women's/ Men's Online Fellowships* and the *Study of Acts* all take place on Zoom. Info to log on will be sent via our GROUPS forum. All of our Church services are streaming on Facebook at the following:

<https://www.facebook.com/stseraphimofsarovsr/>

• SATURDAY DIVINE LITURGY:

Beginning this Saturday, May 16, the Divine Liturgy will be served by Fr. Nicholas each and every Saturday at 9:30 AM in the Protection Church.

Holy Communion will be given at the end of the Liturgy at about 10:40 AM on weekends and 9:40 AM on weekdays (don't

be late). Some things to keep in mind:

- If you are ill, stay home.
- If you plan to receive Holy Communion on Saturday, or on any of the days of the Divine Liturgy, please let me know so we can be prepared.
- Pray the prayers before Communion.
- After Communion say the Prayers of Thanksgiving. —*Fr Lawrence*

• STREAMING VIA FACEBOOK:

Anyone who has logged on to Facebook to watch the live stream of our church services knows how frustrating it can be to lose sound or audio, and have to log back on. One is never sure if the problem is internet, Facebook or our church equipment. We've had our share of glitches, but Facebook has its own glitches and drops, and there's nothing we can do about that. To help correct some problems, we will be increasing our internet upload speed here and upgrading some of our routers. We also received a generous donation to purchase some audio equipment to provide better and more reliable sound quality and to stream via a computer rather than a phone. All this should provide a more reliable experience.

• SAYINGS OF ST. SOPHRONY OF ESSEX:

It is essential to read the Gospel, that incomparable book. Then our life will be built up on the basis of the Word of God. And we will begin to think and make decisions in the spirit of the Divine commandments. How beautiful, when one begins to think like the Creator of this world!"

The most important thing in the spiritual life is to strive to receive the grace of the Holy Spirit. It changes our lives (above all inwardly, not outwardly). We will live in the same house, in the same circumstances, and with the same people, but our life will already be different. But this is possible only under certain conditions: if we find the time to pray fervently, with tears in our eyes, to ask for God's blessing, that a prayerful attitude may define our entire day.

—*Elder and Saint Sophrony reposed on July 11, 1993*