

• 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](#) (*Bloom*) of London, *reposed 2003*

• HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY:

Let us spend this day considering how precious are those good mothers and Godmothers that nurture their children. When we are young, we rely and treasure our mothers. As we get older, we know the treasure and their labors and love for us to be even greater than we ever imagined. Many Years to our mothers and Godmothers. The Agape Meal is being prepared by the St Seraphim Men's Fellowship in honor of Mother's Day.

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



May 14, 2023

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:

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all, cried to all in the midst of the

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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!”

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Friday, May 12: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
- Saturday, May 13: 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
- Sunday, May 14: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
- Tuesday, May 16: Noon, *Senior and Retired Lunch Fellowship*
- Wednesday, May 17: 6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, May 18: 7 PM, Online Study of the Book of Acts
- Friday, May 19: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions

• SENIOR LUNCH:

Seniors and retired: you are invited to lunch on Tuesday, May 16 at Noon. Come and enjoy the Paschal Fellowship.

• PENTECOST:

Having celebrated the Lord’s Pascha and Ascension (May 25), we look forward to the Feast of Pentecost on Saturday, June 3 and Sunday, June 4. Most folks know that Pentecost is a Great Feast, but perhaps most of us don’t realize that it is also the crown and fulfillment of Pascha—for it is by the “seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit” in Chrismation that we sinful and but transformed humans are given the “power from on high” (Acts 1–2), in order to live the new life, the Risen Life, received in baptism. We become “little christs” and bearers of the Spirit of God. “Out of the heart,” says the Lord Jesus about the Spirit in us, will “flow rivers of Living Water” (John 38–39). So, **of course** we are going to celebrate our own Pentecost on the Feast of Pentecost, with as much gratitude, attention

and enthusiasm as we celebrated on Pascha. An Orthodox Christian does not miss Pascha, nor would he or she fail to attend Pentecost. *Acts 20* tells us that St. Paul was “hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.” So we too must become eager and desirous to celebrate the Great Feast. Mark the calendars: June 3, Vigil at 5 PM; June 4, Divine Liturgy with the *Kneeling Vespers* to follow. —*Fr Lawrence*

• UPCOMING:

- Tuesday, May 23, 6 PM: The *Leave-Taking of Pascha* will be celebrated with Matins. Please note the time change from 7 PM on the Calendar.
- Choir Dinner at 7 PM, in the Parish Hall, following the Matins.
- Wednesday, May 24, 6 PM: Vigil for the *Feast of the Ascension of Christ*.
- Thursday, May 25, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy for *Ascension*—The feast is always on a Thursday (forty days after Pascha), and therefore tends to be forgotten. Please try to participate in either the Vigil or Liturgy.
- Thursday, May 25, 6 PM: The *St. Seraphim Men’s Fellowship* with gather for a dinner in the Parish Hall.

• ON LOVE, from St. Ignatius Brianchaninov:

Do not seek or expect love from anyone. With all your might, seek and demand from yourself love and compassion for people. Love for one’s neighbor is a path leading to love for God, because Christ, who is God, willingly assumed the shape of each of our neighbors.

Pay respect to your neighbor without distinguishing between age, gender or class, and the holy love will gradually begin to appear in your heart. Show respect to the blind, leprous, damaged in mind, infants, criminals and pagans, for they carry an image of God. Care not about their weaknesses or shortcomings! Observe yourself so that you do not have a lack of love.

If you think that you love God, and there is ill disposition in your heart albeit toward one person, then you are in sorrowful self-delusion. Keep your conscience in relation to your neighbor: do not be content with the mere speciousness of your behavior [i.e. appears good, but is inwardly wrong].