

# Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Sunday, May 17, 2020

## St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



**SYNAXARION:** The Holy Apostles Andronicus and Junia; Holy Godbearing Nectarius, the Builder of the Holy Monastery of Varlaam of Meteora; Theodotos the Martyr of Ancyra & the 7 Virgin-martyrs; Athanasios, Archbishop of Christianopolis; The New Martyrs of Batak, Bulgaria; Nicholas the Younger who was martyred in Metsovo, Epirus

**Resurrectional Apolytikion:** When the tidings of the Resurrection from the angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the apostles, with boasting did they proclaim: that death is vanquished evermore and Christ our God is risen from the dead, granting to the world His great mercy.

**Apolytikion of Mid-Pentecost:** When the Paschal Feast was half-completed, O Creator of all and their Master, You said to those present, O Christ our God: Come to Me and draw now, the water that is immortal. Wherefore we fall down to You and cry out in faith. Your great mercies grant to us; for You are indeed, the Fountain of our lives.

**Apolytikion of St. John:** The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you O Forerunner the witness of the Lord is sufficient. You have proved to be truly more venerable than the prophets. Since you were granted to baptize in the river, the One Whom they proclaimed. Therefore, you strove for truth, proclaiming with joy the Good News, even to those in Hades: that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sins of the world, and grants to us His great mercy.

**Kontakion of Pascha:** Even though You descended into the grave You destroyed the Power of Hades and You rose as a Victor, O Christ our God, saying to the myrrh bearing women: Rejoice! And to Your Apostles granting peace and to the fallen, You also grant Resurrection.

**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: George and Toula Tsaros, Fr. Pat Legato, Nellie Pringle, Robert Calbi, Yolanda Webb, Angela Bougas, Tony Ekonomou, Ron, Jason Vickers, Rex Garrison, Tina Chakonas, Ann Demas, Alex Martinez, Adriana Martinez, Aaron Martinez, Christina Noel Kouzes Houck, Evangeline Xeroteris, Nichole Ross, Daniel Ross, Daniella Ross, Ashley Henderson, Natalie Henderson, Chris, Debbie, James, Avery, Lily, Jacob, Jesse, Ann, Rosario, Antonia Caffentzis, Alissa, John, Angela, Joey, Christine Scourtes, Steven, Matthew & Family, Phyllis, John Zelatis, Reagan, Peter Zaharis, Alexandra Ferrarolis, Leon & Despina Botham, Cindy Xenick, Mary Ellen Evdemon, Marie Sofia Panagopoulou, Maria Hursey, Chris Vamvakias, Effie Sorolis, John Myer, Mike Trimis, Robert and Alice Stoccardo, John Alexander, Michael Romero, George Hambos, Dean Kondilis and Family, Bill and Nancy Manikas, Patricia Costello, Anastasia Smyrnakis, Ekaterina & Anna Shushaalykova, Dora Koudouna, Ana Mourer, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Anne Sakellaris, Denise Badrane, Sia Blankenship, Don Payne, Zhana Temelkova, Stanislava Terzieva, James, Jude and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

# Readings for Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

## Epistle Reading is from Acts of the Apostles 11:19-30

In those days, those apostles who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea, and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

## Gospel Reading is from John 4:5-42

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying 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 do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal 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 him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks 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 the Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony. "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard ourselves, and we know that this is indeed Christ the Savior of the world."

# Upcoming Services & Announcements

<b>Sunday, May 17</b>	<b>Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</b> (via livestream) Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Men's Group 5:00 p.m. via zoom
Monday, May 18	Monday Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m. via zoom
Tuesday, May 19	Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. via zoom
<b>Wednesday, May 20</b>	Paraklesis Service 6:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, May 21</b>	<b>Sts. Constantine and Helen</b> (via livestream) Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
<b>Sunday, May 24</b>	<b>Sunday of the Blind Man</b> (via livestream) Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

## LITURGICAL NOTES

**Paraklesis Service** of Supplication to be celebrated every Wednesday until the end of the Coronavirus Crisis—There is a service called the Paraklesis Service of Supplication the Virgin Mary which is celebrated during the first 14 days of August, and also in times of sorrow, distress and necessity. During this time of crisis, where people are sick and people are anxious, where life is more in isolation and our community is dispersed, we will offer this service every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., praying for our community by name, until this crisis is over. On the first Wednesday after we are ALL able to return to church, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Unction on that Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday, May 17 - Sunday of the Samaritan Woman** Christ talks about the water of eternal life which will never make us thirst again. The woman here is St. Photini.

**Thursday, May 21 - Sts. Constantine and Helen** May 21 commemorates the feast of Sts. Constantine and Helen. St. Constantine was the emperor of the Roman Empire who decided to make Christianity the official religion of the empire. For the first time in history, the Christian church would not fall under persecution. St. Constantine also moved the capital of the Empire from Rome to Constantinople (present day Istanbul, Turkey), where he inaugurated the Byzantine Empire which flourished from 325 until 1453. He also convened the first Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in the year 325, which inaugurated what is known as the “golden age of Orthodoxy,” and resulted in the writing of the Nicene Creed (edited to its current version in the year 381). St. Helen, the mother of St. Constantine, is recognized as being the person who found the true cross of Christ in Jerusalem. She went on a pilgrimage to the Holy City and searched diligently for the Cross, finding it under a patch of Basil (Vasiliko) on the Mountain of Golgotha. Sts. Constantine and Helen have the title Isapostolou, “Equal to the Apostles” because of the tremendous contributions they made to the Orthodox Christian Church.

## Pontic Genocide Rememberance

The Greek Orthodox Genocide in Pontus refers to the systematic extermination of the native Greek subjects of the Ottoman Empire before, during and after World War I (1914-1923) from Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. It included massacres, forced deportations and death marches, summary expulsions, boycotts, rape, forced conversion to Islam, conscription into labor battalions, arbitrary executions, and destruction of Orthodox Christian cultural, historical and religious monuments. According to various sources, approximately 1 million Ottoman Greeks perished during this period. All Greek males aged between 21-45 were forcibly conscripted into labor battalions Most of them perished under appalling conditions being forced to work around the clock with little food or water. In 1915, under the advice of German military personnel. These Greeks were not permitted to take anything with them. Goods in their shops were later sold by Ottoman authorities. They were deported to the interior and to Muslim villages where they were forced to choose between Islam or death. According to figures compiled by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, by 1918, 774,235 Greeks had been deported from their homes, many of them to the interior of Turkey, never to be seen again.

---

## Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project

### May 17-24

*I love Thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in Whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:1-2*

How do we fill in the blank of this statement—“I love You, O Lord, my \_\_\_\_\_” There are lots of things we can fill in there. I love You Lord, my insurance policy (I don't think of you much but I think of you enough in case you are real); or I love You Lord, when it is convenient (when everyone else is honoring God, it is certainly easier); or I love You Lord a couple of times a year (because everyone thinks of the Lord on Christmas and Pascha); or I love You Lord when things are going well (but when things don't go well You are the first to get blamed). Ideally, we see the Lord as our strength, our rock, our fortress. A fortress is something that protects us. So, in seeing God this way, we see Him are our protector. And in times of crisis (and non-crisis), He is the one we go to for our strength.

# Announcing the Parish Assistance Program (PAP)

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is excited to share that, beginning May 1st, we will be offering a Parish Assistance Program, PAP, with BayCare Behavioral Health. The PAP program will provide our parishioners access to free and confidential counseling services - offering additional support when life's challenges become overwhelming. The PAP utilizes a network of faith-based providers and are sensitive to the values and beliefs of those they serve and provide compassionate care to children, adults, parents, and seniors. Parishioners can contact BayCare to request up to three free and confidential counseling sessions from a licensed mental health professional. The BayCare helpline, 800-878-5470, is answered 24/7 by mental health professionals. Many BayCare therapists are also offering telephonic and virtual counseling sessions to help parishioners maintain their emotional wellbeing during these trying times.

Through BayCare Behavioral Health, your parish has access to help for those suffering from the emotional turmoil that results from the challenges of everyday life. These challenges span a lifetime.

BayCare Behavioral Health understands the importance of compassionate care. Our network providers are sensitive to the values and beliefs of those they serve.

Help is available for life issues including:

- Stress
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Family discord
- Marital problems
- Substance abuse issues
- Behavioral issues

Services offered:

- Toll-free confidential helpline available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year
- Problem identification
- Assessment
- Referral to face-to-face counseling
- Referral to community resources



**For more information: (800) 878-5470**

[BayCareBehavioralHealth.org](http://BayCareBehavioralHealth.org)

BC1602865-0416 BC BH 3425

# Catechism Lesson For Adults and Teenagers

## Sunday, May 17

### Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

*Read Gospel Passage, John 4:5-42*

#### Discussion questions:

1. How would you describe this woman's response for most of her conversation with Jesus?
  - a. Puzzled—Why would this Jewish man even talk to me?
  - b. Searching—Is it possible this is what I've been looking for?
  - c. Avoidance—I think I'd better try to change the subject
  - d. Skeptical—Who does this guy think he is?
2. What most influenced the woman to consider that the man she was talking to was the Messiah?
  - a. What he said about "living water"
  - b. The way He knew so much about her without being told
  - c. His accepting her though she was a loose-living Samaritan woman
  - d. When He claimed, "I who speak to you am He"
3. Jesus offered this woman "living water" for what she was thirsting for in life. What do you think she really wanted?
  - a. Intimacy in her relationships
  - b. Intimacy with God
  - c. Acceptance of who she was
  - d. Forgiveness for the life she had been leading
  - e. Meaning and purpose in life
  - f. Basic survival in life
4. Jesus overcame social and cultural differences to reach this woman. How can you overcome those same barriers?
  - a. Initiate conversations
  - b. Go through "Samaria"
  - c. Look beyond differences
  - d. See people as God does
  - e. Other \_\_\_\_\_
5. What are you thirsting for most in life right now?
  - a. Close friendships
  - b. Closeness with God
  - c. Acceptance of who I am
  - d. Forgiveness
  - e. Meaning and purpose in life
  - f. Basic survival in life
  - g. Other \_\_\_\_\_
6. What do you need to do to relieve your spiritual thirst?
  - a. Accept the forgiveness that Jesus offers
  - b. Enter into a real relationship with Christ
  - c. Seek Jesus' direction in my life
  - d. Reach out to people just like Jesus did
  - e. Practice more spiritual discipline
  - f. Other \_\_\_\_\_