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St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

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www.orthodoxcarnegie.org

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023

SUNDAY, MAY 14TH

DIVINE LITURGY 9:30 AM

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN-TONE 4

PROPHET JEREMIAH

ACTS 11:19-26, 29-30; JN. 4:5-42

TUESDAY, MAY 16TH

MOLEBEN FOR UKRAINE 7:00 PM

SATURDAY, MAY 20TH

VESPERS 6:00 PM

SUNDAY, MAY 21ST

DIVINE LITURGY 9:30 AM

SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN-TONE 5

APOSTLE & EVANGELIST JOHN

ACTS 16:16-34; JN. 9:1-38

LITANY FOR AUTUMN ROCK

TODAY'S BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY.

KRIS BURIANEK IN MEMORY OF MY BELOVED MOTHER,
EVA STASKO. MEMORY ETERNAL

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Editor: Michael Kapeluck

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- hand delivered to the editor
- placed in the Bulletin envelope in the church vestibule.
- mailed to: 300 East Main Street, Carnegie, PA 15106
- e-mailed to: kapeluck@verizon.net

We welcome you today

We would like to remind our visitors of the following;:

- ❖ All people are encouraged to participate in the sacred services of our Church. We hope that you will be able to worship as well as have fellowship with us. Should you wish any information about the Orthodox Faith or this parish in particular, please see the rector or any member of the church. We are able to place you on our mailing list.
- ❖ Only Orthodox Christians may receive the Eucharist (Holy Communion) in the Orthodox Church. In like manner, Orthodox Christians may not receive the sacraments in a non-Orthodox Church. While we hope that one day all Christians will find unity and be able to approach the chalice of our Lord together, we observe the teachings of the Church that the Eucharist is a gift of unity and not a means of unity.

We remind our faithful and visitors of the following guidelines concerning the Holy Sacraments in the Orthodox Church.

- ❖ Orthodox Christians are urged to receive Holy Communion frequently.
- ❖ Communicants should be at peace with others before approaching the chalice (Mt 5:23-24)
- ❖ Realize the importance of making a thorough examination of sins and transgressions against God, ourselves and others and having prayed for forgiveness before coming to Holy Communion.
- ❖ Frequent communicants should come to Holy Confession at least four times a year (during the four fasting periods of the year). and additionally when an examination of conscience reveals the necessity to do so in order to heal any sinful behavior.
- ❖ Communicants should fast from all foods and liquids from the evening before receiving Holy Communion.
- ❖ Communicants should read prayers in preparation for receiving Holy Communion.
- ❖ All Orthodox Christians must receive the sacraments at least once a year.
- ❖ Those who are late for Divine Liturgy (after the reading of the Epistle and Gospel) should not approach the chalice.
- ❖ Those who are ill or who have special physical needs are exempt from the above guidelines.
- ❖ Infants and children (up to the age of seven) who are Orthodox Christians may receive Holy Communion and are exempt from the above guidelines.

Thank you for gathering to worship with us today. Together we have glorified the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May we be brought closer to one another and closer to God by following the eternal teachings of our Lord.

Нагадуємо нашім гостям., що:

ми заохочуємо всіх до участі у Священній Літургії в нашій Церкві; ми сподіваємося, що Ви зможете не лише молитися тут, але й стати членом нашої громади. Якщо Ви хочете отримати якусь додаткову інформацію про Православну віру, чи, зокрема, про нашу парафію, звертайтеся, будь ласка, до отця настоятеля чи до будь-кого із членів нашої парафії. Ми можемо внести вашу адресу до парафіяльного списку розсилки;

лише православні християни можуть отримати Євхаристію (Святе Причасття) у православної церкви і, відповідно, православні християни не можуть отримувати святого причасття у неправославній церкві. Плекаючи надію на те, що у майбутньому всі християни досягнуть єдності і зможуть разом пити із чаші нашого Господа, ми дотримуємося вчення церкви про те, що Євхаристія - це дар єдності, а не засіб до єдності.

НАГАДУЄМО НАШИМ ВІРНИМ І ГОСТЯМ ПРО ПРАВИЛА, ЩО СТОСУЮТЬСЯ СВЯТОГО ПРИЧАСТЯ У ПРАВОСЛАВНІЙ ЦЕРКВІ:

ми спонукаємо православних християн часто ходити до Святого Причасття;

ті, хто причащаються, повинні бути у мирі з іншими перш, ніж підійти до євхаристичної чаші (Св.Матвій 5:23-24);

перед тим, як прийти на Святе Причасття, дуже важливо ретельно осмислити гріхи і порушення, які було вчинено проти Бога, нас самих та інших і помолитися за їх відпущення;

тим, хто часто причащається, слід приходити на святую сповідь принаймні чотири рази на рік (під час кожного із чотирьох щорічних постів);

ті, хто причащається, повинні з вечора перед прийняттям Святого Причасття, припинити вживання всякої їжі і напоїв;

ті, хто причащається, повинні шляхом молитов підготувати себе до прийняття причасття;

всі православні християни повинні, принаймні, раз на рік отримати Святе Причасття;

ті, хто спізнився на Божественну Літургію (прийшов після того, як було прочитано Апостол і Євангеліє) не можуть підходити до чаші; **хворі**, і **ті**, хто має обмежені фізичні можливості, звільняються від вище викладених вимог;

немовлята та **діти** до семи років, які належать до Православної християнської віри, можуть отримувати Святе Причасття і звільняються від вище викладених вимог;

Дякуємо за те, що Ви прийшли помолитися з нами сьогодні у церкві Ісуса Христа. Разом з вами ми віддали славу Єдиному Господу, Отцеві, і Синові, і Духові Святому. Нехай дотримування вічного вчення нашого Господа наблизить нас один до одного Богу

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN



TROPARION TO THE RESURRECTION 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 (Midfeast)

In the middle of the feast, O Savior,
fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety, as You cried to all:
“If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!”
O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to You!

KONTAKION TONE 8 (Pentecostarion)

The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith;
she saw You, 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 You and faithfully cry:
“Grant us Your mercies, for You are the Fountain of our life!”

PROKIEPON TONE 3

Sing to our God, sing to our King, to our King sing.

Verse: O clap your hands together, all ye people; O sing unto God with the voice of melody.

LESSON FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

(c. 11, v. 19-30)

In those days, the Apostles were scattered because of the persecution, which arose over Stephen and traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch. But they preached the message only to the Jews. Yet, some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who had come to Antioch, preached the Gospel of the Lord Jesus to the Gentiles also. The hand of God was with them. So, a great number of men believed and turned to the Lord.

The news about them reached 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 exhorted them all to remain faithful and steadfast to the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. So, a considerable number of people were converted to the Lord.

Then, Barnabas proceeded to Tarsus to look for Saul. He found him and brought him to Antioch. They met for a whole year in that church and preached to large numbers of people. Now, it was in Antioch that for the first time the disciples were called Christians.

In those days, prophets from Jerusalem came down to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and foretold through the Holy Spirit that a great famine was going to occur all over the world. This famine took place in the days of Claudius. Therefore, the disciples, each according to his ability, decided to send relief to the brethren, who lived in Judea. They did so and sent it to the elders through the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Дії 11:19-30

Під час переслідувань віруючих, що почалися після вбивства Степана, багато з них мусили тікати в далекі краї: до Фінікії, Кіпру й Антіохії. Там вони проповідували Слово Боже, але тільки юдеям. Дехто з тих віруючих походив з Кіпру та Киринеї, та коли вони потрапили до Антіохії, то почали проповідувати й грекам, розповідаючи їм Благовість про Господа Ісуса. Сила Господня була з ними, і багато людей повірило й навернулося до Господа.

Чутки про це дійшли й до віруючих у Єрусалимі, й вони послали Варнаву до Антіохії. Прибувши туди, Варнава побачив милість Божу в дії і сильно зрадів з того, та закликав їх усім серцем бути вірними Господу. Бо він був добрим чоловіком, сповненим Духа Святого й віри, і чимало людей прилучилося до Господа.

Звідти Варнава вирушив до Тарса, шукати там Савла і коли знайшов його, привів його до Антіохії. Цілий рік зустрічалися вони з віруючими й навчали багатьох людей. Саме в Антіохії учні були вперше названі християнами.

У той час приходили з Єрусалиму в Антіохію пророки. Один з них, на ймення Агав, встав і, натхнений Духом Святим, прорік, що великий голодомор настане по всьому світі. (І таке справді сталося в часи цезаря Клавдія). Кожен учень вирішив послати скільки міг братам і сестрам, які жили в Юдеї. Вони так і зробили, передавши все через Варнаву та Савла старійшинам церкви в Юдеї.

ALLELUIA

V. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!

V. For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN

(c.4, v. 5-42)

At that time; Jesus came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the tract of land which Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was here. So Jesus, tired after his journey, sat down at the spring. It was then about noon.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her: "Give me a drink." For his Disciples had gone away to the city to buy food.

The Samaritan woman asked him: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan, to give you a drink?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

Jesus answered her: "If you knew the gift of God and the man who has told you, Give me a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said: "Lord, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our Father Jacob, who gave us this well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his cattle?"

Jesus answered her: "Anyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never be thirsty any more. The water I give him will be a fountain of water leaping up to eternal life." The woman said to him: "Lord, give me that water so that I may never be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw water any more."

Jesus said to her: "Go home, call your husband, and come back here." The woman answered him: "I have no husband." Jesus said to her: "You are right in saying, I have no husband. You have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. You have told me the truth."

The woman replied: "Lord, I see that you are a prophet. Now our ancestors have worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the proper place for worship is Jerusalem." Jesus said to her: "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship something you do not know, we worship what we do know, for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and it has come already when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for these are the worshippers that the Father wants. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship him in spirit and truth."

The woman replied: "I know that the Messiah, namely Christ, is coming. When he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her: "I, who speak to you, am the Messiah."

At this point his Disciples returned and were surprised that he was talking to a woman. Yet no one asked: "What is it?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

Then the woman left her water jar, went off to the city, and said to the people: "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done. He may be the Messiah." So they left the city and went to find him.

In the meantime, his Disciples were urging him : "Rabbi, eat something." Jesus answered them: "I have food to eat of which you know nothing." The Disciples said to one another: "Somebody may have brought him food."

Jesus replied: "My food is to do the will of the Father who sent me and to accomplish his work. You say: ' After four months comes the harvest.' Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, see, the fields are already white for harvesting. The reaper is receiving his wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life. Then sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds true: One sows and another reaps. I sent you to reap a crop for which you did not labor. Others have labored and you reap the harvest of their labor."

Many Samaritans of that town believed in him on account of the woman who testified: "He told me everything I have ever done." So after the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them.

He stayed there for two days, and many more believed on account of what he told them. Then they said to the woman: "We no longer believe on account of your report. For we have heard him ourselves, and we know that he is really the Messiah, the Savior of mankind."

Від Івана 4:5-42

В Самарії Ісус прийшов до міста Сіхар, неподалік від землі, що Яків віддав своєму синові Йосипу. Там знаходилася криниця Якова. І було тоді близько полудня, коли Він, втомившись з дороги, сів відпочити коло Якової криниці. Ісус звернувся до самаритянки, яка прийшла до криниці набрати води: «Дай мені напитися». Його ж учні пішли до міста купити щось поїсти.

Самаритянка спитала: «Чому це Ти, юдей, просиш у мене, самаритянки, напитися?» (Юдеї не спілкувалися з самаритянами). Ісус відповів їй: «Якби ти знала про те, що Бог дає людям, і Хто у тебе просить напитися води, то сама б попросила в Мене, і Я дав би тобі води живої».

«Шановний, — каже жінка, — але ж Ти й відра не маєш, а криниця глибока. То як же збираєшся дістати тієї живої води? Чи, може, Ти величніший за пращура нашого Якова, що дав нам цю криницю і сам пив із неї разом з дітьми своїми і худобою?» На те Ісус відповів їй: «Кожен, хто вип'є цієї води, скоро знову спрагу відчує. Але хто вип'є тієї води, що Я йому дам, ніколи більше не страждатиме від спраги, бо вода, якої Я дам напитися, перетвориться в людині на животворне джерело, що несе вічне життя». Тоді жінка каже: «Шановний Добродію, то дай же і мені тієї води, щоб я більше ніколи не відчувала спраги й не приходила сюди по воду».

Ісус сказав їй: «Йди поклич свого чоловіка і сама приходь сюди». «У мене немає чоловіка», — відповіла вона. Ісус тоді промовив: «Правду кажеш, що не маєш чоловіка. У тебе було їх п'ятеро. А той, якого маєш тепер, не чоловік тобі! Отже, ти сказала правду».

Тоді жінка й каже Йому: «Тепер я бачу, Пане, що Ти — пророк ! Наші батьки йшли на цю гору поклонятися, але ви, юдеї, стверджуєте, буцімто Єрусалим є тим самим місцем, де ми маємо поклонятися Господу».

Ісус на те відповів: «Жінко, повір Мені! Надходить час, коли ви поклонятиметеся Отцю не на цій горі й не в Єрусалимі. Ви, самаритяни, поклоняєтеся тому, чого не розумієте. Ми ж, юдеї, знаємо, чому поклоняємося, бо спасіння приходить від юдеїв. Та близький той час, і він уже настав, коли справжні прихильники поклонятимуться Отцю в душі та істині. Таких людей і прагне Отець в богомольці собі. Бог є Дух. І той, хто поклоняється Йому, має поклонятися в душі та істині».

Й мовила до Нього жінка: «Я знаю, що має прийти Месія. (Якого називають Христом). Коли ж Він прийде, то розтлумачить нам про все». Тоді Ісус їй і каже: «Той, Хто розмовляє з тобою, і є Христос».

В цей час підійшли Його учні й дуже здивувалися, що Він розмовляє з жінкою. Та ніхто з них не спитав: «Що Тобі треба від неї?» або «Чому розмовляєш із нею?»

Жінка залишила свій глечик й, повернувшись до міста, сказала людям: «Ходімо побачите Чоловіка, Який розповів мені про все, що я зробила в житті! Можливо, Він і є Христос». Тоді вони залишили місто й пішли до Нього.

Тим часом Ісусові учні умовляли Його: «Вчителю, Ти б чогось попоїв!» Але Він їм відповів: «Я маю їжу, про яку вам нічого невідомо». І почали учні питати один одного: «Можливо, Йому хтось вже приніс поїсти?»

Ісус мовив до них: «Їжа Моя в тому, щоб виконувати волю Того, Хто послав Мене, і закінчити Його справу. Засіваючи поле, ви часто кажете: „Ще чотири місяці, а там і жнива”. Отож кажу Я вам, розплющіть очі й погляньте на поля. Вони вже готові для жнив. Жнець уже одержує платню і збирає врожай для вічного життя, щоб і сіяч, і жнець удвох раділи й були щасливі. І справді слухна приказка: „Один сіє, другий жне”. Я послав вас збирати те, над чим ви не трудилися: інші працювали, а ви прийшли, щоб зібрати прибуток».

Багато самаритян із цього міста повірили в Ісуса зі слів жінки, яка свідчила: «Він розповів мені про все, що я робила в житті». Коли самаритяни прийшли до Нього, то попросили Його побути з ними, тож Він залишився там на два дні. І багато хто ще повірив в Ісуса, почувши, що Він їм розповідав. Вони сказали тій жінці: «Спочатку ми повірили в Ісуса з твоїх слів, а зараз ми почули Його самі. Отже, ми бачимо, що цей Чоловік і справді Спаситель світу».

Prayer List

Heavenly Father, Who sent Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be the Physician of our souls and bodies, Who came to heal sickness and infirmity, Who healed the paralytic, and brought back to life the daughter of Jairus, Who healed the woman who had been sick for twelve years by the her mere touch of the hem of your robe, visit and heal also your beloved servants:

Dolores Wachnowsky	Jane Allred	Teresa Stacy	Laila Bechtle
Maria Warholak	Kimberly Bailey	Sandy Wallace	Rebecca White
Michael Sally	Shaun McAdams	Jack Carrigan	Pamela Graham
Michael Welsh	Sandy M.	Chris Brown	Dan Rosga
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by the power and grace of Your Christ. Grant them the patience that comes from believing that You are always at work in our lives to bring good out of evil. Grant them strength of body, mind and soul. Raise them up from the bed of pain. Grant them full recovery. May they experience the same surge of healing power flow through their bodies ,as did the sick woman who touched your robe. For we, too, are touching your robe today, dear Lord, through this our prayer. We approach you with the same faith she did. Grant them the gift of health. For You alone are the source of healing and to You we offer glory, praise and thanksgiving in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen

Mnohaya Lita - Many Blessed Years

Name Days

May 17 Martyr Pelagia

Gretchen Reinhart

May 18 Great Martyr Irene

Irene Onufrey, Irene Rozum, Lisa Irene Ryan,
Iryna Reiterovych

Anniversaries

May 15 Ethan & Natalie Nixon

May 15 Craig & Mary Stevens

Birthdays

May 15 Jenny Sally

May 15 Dennis Quinn

May 17 Kristi Rozum

May 18 Nicholas Wachnowsky

May 18 Ryan Quinn

May 19 Sharon Bottorf

May 19 Lou Turicik

Feast Days of:

May 14 Prophet Jeremiah

May 15 St. Athanasius the Great

Pray for our friends and relatives serving in the armed forces.

Patrick Kluyber, Catherine Sheerin, Gregory Markiw,
Ethan Rock, Michael Hrishenko

Pray for our friends and relatives serving in the Ukrainian armed forces.

Stephan, Andrii, Olexander, Dmitro, Stepan, Evhen, Volodia, Oleksander, Yuri, Victor, Petro, Oleksiy, Volodymyr, Viktor, Ruslan, Roman, Olya, Miroslav, Yevgen, Olexander, Taras, Roman, Vitaliy

Pray for our Catechumens

Pray for the newly departed servants of God

- **PYSANKY SESSIONS:** That's right, we're not stopping! Do to the overwhelming crowds at the eggs sale for the past two year's we are going to have a handful of pysanky making sessions throughout the year to produce more eggs for the sale. The first ones will be Sunday, April 30th, May 7th & 14th after coffee hour. If you've never made an egg before or it's been a while and you're rusty, this is the perfect time to come. The egg sessions are actually a wonderful social gathering... food, fellowship & eggs!
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Carnegie Arts Walk 2023 - Saturday, July 29, 11 to 6 pm! - Mark your calendars to come to Carnegie as the art galleries, businesses, restaurants, library & churches will be celebrating the arts through artist's demos, exhibitions, musical performances, and more! All ages will enjoy the 2023 Carnegie Arts Walk!

Stewardship

THANK YOU FOR THESE RECENT DONATIONS:

Join us for a

*Mother's Day
Coffee Hour Luncheon
May 14, 2023*



Sponsored by the Sr. VOL Chapter

The Powerful Witness of the Great Martyr Photini: Homily for the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman and After-Feast of Mid-Pentecost in the Orthodox Church

[Fr. Philip LeMasters](#)

Acts 11:19-30; John 4:5-42

Christ is Risen!

Today we continue to celebrate our Lord's great victory over death by remembering the Great Martyr Photini, also known as the Samaritan woman at the well. At first glance, she would seem an unlikely saint and evangelist. The Jews had nothing to do with Samaritans, whom they considered heretics. She had had five husbands and was then with a man to whom she was not married. Perhaps she went to the well at noon in order to avoid other women in her community who looked down on her. A Jewish man would not strike up a conversation with a woman in public, much less ask a Samaritan woman for a drink of water. Photini was the last person the Jewish Messiah would engage in conversation, according to the standards of that time and place.



How shocking, then, that the Lord's conversation with her is the longest recorded in any of the gospels. Photini showed a greater spiritual understanding than had the Pharisee Nicodemus in his conversation with Christ, and she made no excuses about the brokenness of her life. When the Lord told her that He knew about her five former husbands and current relationship, she said, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet" and simply continued the conversation. She had the humility not to become defensive or end the conversation due to hurt pride. Instead, she acknowledged the difficult truth about herself and did what it took to find healing. She genuinely sought to understand Who this unusual Jewish man was Who had asked her for a drink of water. She opened her mind and her heart to Christ and then dared to tell her fellow Samaritans about Him. That must have taken great courage, for the people of her village certainly did not view her as a spiritual teacher. Photini turned away from how she had lived previously to become an evangelist. Ultimately, her sons and sisters joined her in becoming martyrs for Christ at the hands of the Roman emperor Nero.

Photini's encounter with the Lord was truly transformative. He did not merely give her ideas about religion. He gave her the "Living Water" of the Holy Spirit which made her a participant in eternal life by grace. That is how she found the strength to reorient her life so profoundly to the Kingdom and to bear powerful witness for the Savior. Especially during this Paschal season, we must remember the profound change in the ability of women to give credible testimony to God's salvation. Women were not considered valid witnesses in Jewish law. Nonetheless, they are the first witnesses to the resurrection of Christ. Mary Magdalene, who in John's gospel is the first person to encounter the Risen Lord, is also the first preacher of the resurrection, for she proclaimed the good news to the apostles. Photini bore witness to her neighbors about this unusual Jewish Messiah in so powerful a fashion that many Samaritans believed and the Lord actually stayed with them for two days. The Church honors both Mary Magdalene and Photini as being "equal to the apostles" in proclaiming the good news.

As St. Paul famously taught, “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal. 3:28) He rose in victory over all the corrupting influences of sin, including the domination and strife characteristic of the troubled relationship between men and women. In Christ, the spiritual status of the sexes is the same; the differences between men and women concern the body, not the soul. Both bear the image and likeness of God. Male or female, the saints are examples for us all and call us to follow them into the life of the Kingdom.

Of course, the biological distinctions between male and female remain; that is how God has created us as embodied persons. In the world as we know it, there are Jews and Gentiles, as well as people who are enslaved or imprisoned and those who are not. In the brilliant light of Christ’s resurrection, however, we gain the spiritual clarity to see that such characteristics do not define the worth and dignity of persons who bear the image and likeness of God. We must no longer worship them as false gods which the powerful may use to control the weak. In a culture that at least claims to recognize the basic equality of all people, we may find it hard to see how profoundly shocking these truths were in first-century Palestine.

Those who rejected Christ as a blasphemer did so because they had distorted faith in the God of Israel into a way of gaining power for themselves over others. Both the leaders of the Jews at that time and the Romans who crucified Him used religion for the sake of their own agendas, and viewed those who were not members of their groups as enemies to be conquered. The Romans were certainly much more successful in gaining power, but the Jews looked down upon the Gentiles, and especially the Samaritans, as being unworthy of God’s concern. In such a world, proclaiming the spiritual equality of men, women, Jews, Gentiles, slaves, and free people was unbelievably radical and shocking.

Remember that there was no small controversy in the early Church about whether Gentiles could become Christians without first becoming Jews. Today’s epistle reading from Acts describes the establishment of the first Gentile church in Antioch, where the disciples were first called Christians. Especially as Antiochian Orthodox Christians, we must remember that our faith is not the possession of any nation, ethnic group, or ideological faction. We must not corrupt it to serve any worldly agenda, for Christ’s Kingdom is not of this world. He died and rose up in order to fulfill His gracious purposes for all He created to become like God in holiness as “partakers of the divine nature” by grace. He empowered the myrrh-bearing women to bear witness to His resurrection and enabled a Samaritan woman with a checkered past to become a powerful evangelist and martyr. We must bear witness to His great victory by refusing to think, speak, and act as though any merely human distinction destroys the divine image in anyone or makes it impossible to become more like God in holiness. Doing so amounts to living as though Christ were not risen and we were still held captive to the fear of death.

Another lesson that we must learn from the Great Martyr Photini is the power of our Risen Lord to set us free from our self-imposed captivity to corruption. Christ said, “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Luke 5:32) Hardly anyone else at the time would have looked at her and seen someone who would shine with the light of holiness. Her transformation shows that, regardless of our sins, there is hope for us all in the mercy of Christ. Like Photini, we must humbly acknowledge our sins in Confession as we turn away from them in true repentance. We must not allow the perverse form of pride called shame to keep us from honestly opening our souls to the Lord for healing.

Likewise, we must not view anyone as a lost cause before God due to our perception of his or her sins. We do not know other people’s hearts, and we each confess ourselves to be the chief of sinners in preparation to receive Communion. Christ warned the self-righteous religious leaders who rejected Him, “Tax-collectors and prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God before you.” (Matt. 21:31) We do not want those stark words spoken about us. Even as we pray for the Lord’s mercy on our corrupt souls, we must do the same for others, especially for those we are inclined to view as the very worst cases. If our Risen Lord can make a great saint out of the Samaritan woman at the well, there is hope for us all to be set free from the enslaving ravages of sin. The good news of Pascha extends to all, calling us to embrace our restoration and fulfillment as human persons in the image and likeness of God. Photini has shown us what that looks like and invites us to follow her into a Kingdom that remains not of this world. For “Christ is Risen!”

Calendar of Events

COFFEE HOUR

May 7	Cindy Haluszczak, Rachel Losego, Marlane Pawlosky
May 14	Mother's Day
May 21	Scott & Brittany Brettell, Matushka Laryssa
May 28	Sue & Juliana Leis, Pat Dorning
June 4	John, Shirley & Olesia Stasko
June 11	Church Picnic, Natalie & Ethan Nixon, Beverly Kapeluck
June 18	Father's Day
June 25	Holovatiuk & Reiterovych Families

Parish Weekly Schedule

Monday

Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble & School

Rehearsals begin every Monday at 6:00 pm. Classes for all ages.

For more info call Director Natalie Kapeluck or just stop down any Monday

Thursday Morning

Senior Coffee Hour

You're invited to our FREE coffee and donuts, and sometime pancakes, French toast or waffles every Thursday from 10:00 AM to 11:30 . . .or whenever it's over. At the parish hall. **YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BRING ANYTHING!!!** However, bring a Friend!!!

3rd Sunday of the Month

St John & Martin's Closet

Clothing for men, women and children. Bedding & towels

Trade something old for something new, leave a donation. or just take what you need.

Donations of clean, gently used or new clothing/bedding accepted when the closet door is open.

Call 276-9718 to schedule a donation.

Parish Website/Social Media

To Submit items for publication on website & social media

>email any information to be included on the Website, Facebook or Instagram to Parish Technology.

If you have any fliers or jpgs please include them, but not necessary.

E-mail Technology at technology@orthodoxcarnegie.org

Please indicate the time frame you would like items posted to website and/or social media.

Find & follow us on:



BULLETIN SPONSOR DATES

Apr. 2 _____
Apr. 9 _____
Apr. 16 _____
Apr. 23 _____
Apr. 30 _____

May 7 _____
May 14 _____
May 21 _____
May 28 _____

BULLETIN SPONSOR FORM

Sponsor _____
In Honor of _____
In Memory of _____
Date of Bulletin you wish to sponsor _____
Donation (\$20. minimum suggested) _____
(Please make checks payable to “Sr. UOL Chapter”) _____



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