

**Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church**  
*971 St. Clair Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905*  
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**The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**  
**(06.02.2024.)**

**John 4:5-42**

Then cometh He to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with His journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (For His disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto Him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast Thou that living water? Art Thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. The woman saith unto Him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when He is come, He will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am He. And upon this came His disciples, and marvelled that He talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why

talkest thou with her? The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? Then they went out of the city, and came unto Him. In the mean while His disciples prayed Him, saying, Master, eat. But He said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought Him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours. And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. So when the Samaritans were come unto Him, they besought Him that He would tarry with them: and He abode there two days. And many more believed because of his own word; And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world. (KJV)

## **The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Hristos Voskrese! Christ is Risen!**

God's Holy Church preserves, protects and proclaims the conversation between the Lord Jesus Christ and the Samaritan woman in the Gospel.. The Church wants believers to know of the Living Water of which Jesus spoke.

Jesus said the Living Water would be a well springing to everlasting life. Jesus offers the water that will quench the thirst of the believer's soul. Jesus offers the Living Water uniquely identified with and available from the Savior of the world.

Today's Gospel identifies Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world. Jesus stands through the centuries offering salvation for believers choosing to confess and follow Him. Jesus receives persons willing to repent of their sins and come to Him.

Jesus Christ went to the Cross as a demonstration of love for all. Jesus rose from the Tomb demonstrating victory over death and the possibility of eternal life.

God's Holy Church continues to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection.

The Church proclaims the Gospel of the Samaritan Woman every year to educate and remind believers of the Living Water. The Church encourages believers to drink from the Lord Jesus Christ unto everlasting life.

The world makes various offers to draw believers away from Christ and the path to eternal life. The world attempts to offer nourishment for the thirst of the soul. Only in Jesus Christ does the soul find complete satisfaction and peace.

Only in and through Jesus Christ does the believer experience the fulness of life and life eternal. Only in Jesus Christ does boundless love, mercy and forgiveness exist for each person..

The Resurrected Christ offers hope, joy and peace prevailing in all circumstance of life. The Lord Jesus Christ offers complete healing for the ravaged soul. The Lord Jesus Christ welcomes and transforms persons choosing to repent.

The Resurrected Christ makes all things new. Believers seriously following Jesus Christ experience newness throughout life. ( 2 Cor, 5:17) Believers in Jesu Christ move from glory to glory as well- described by the Holy Apostle Paul. (2 Cor. 3:18)

The Church is currently fully celebrating Jesus Christ's Resurrection. Each believer, every family, and every parish share in the Resurrection joy. Jesus Christ provides joy that permeates and endures through the centuries.

The Light of the Resurrected Christ dissipates any darkness arising in the world. The Living Water arising from Christ douses the fires that threaten to burn the soul. Christ's Living Water enables the believer to experience life everlasting.

**Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**

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**The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman. Holy Martyr Thaleus, Venerable Stephen of Piperi.  
May 20/June 2, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic**

## Sunday Of The Samaritan Woman



The fifth Sunday of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman. The day commemorates the encounter of Christ with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well.

The biblical story of this event and the dialog between Christ and the woman is found in the Gospel of Saint John 4:5-42.

One of the most ancient cities of the Promised Land was Shechem, also called Sikima, located at the foot of Mount Gerazim. There the Israelites had heard the blessings in the days of Moses and Jesus of Navi. Near to this town, Jacob, who had come from Mesopotamia in the nineteenth century before Christ, bought a piece of land where there was a well. This well, preserved even until the time of Christ, was known as Jacob's Well. Later, before he died in Egypt, he left that piece of land as a special inheritance to his son Joseph (Gen. 49:22). This town, before it was taken into possession by Samaria, was also the leading city of the kingdom of the ten tribes. In the time of the Romans it was called Neapolis, and at present Nablus. It was the first city in Canaan visited by the Patriarch Abraham. Here also, Jesus of Navi (Joshua) addressed the tribes of Israel for the last time. Almost three hundred years later, all Israel assembled there to make Roboam (Rehoboam) king.

When our Lord Jesus Christ, then, came at midday to this city, which is also called Sychar (John 4:5), He was wearied from the journey and the heat. He sat down at this well. After a little while the Samaritan woman mentioned in today's Gospel passage came to draw water. As she conversed at some length with the Lord and heard from Him secret things concerning herself, she believed in Him; through her many other Samaritans also believed.

Concerning the Samaritans we know the following: In the year 721 before Christ, Salmanasar (Shalmaneser), King of the Assyrians, took the ten tribes of the kingdom of Israel into captivity, and relocated all these people to Babylon and the land of the Medes. From there he gathered various nations and sent them to Samaria. These nations had been idolaters from before. Although they were later instructed in the Jewish faith and believed in the one God, they worshipped the idols also. Furthermore, they accepted only the Pentateuch of Moses, and rejected the other books of Holy Scripture. Nonetheless, they thought themselves to be descendants of Abraham and Jacob. Therefore, the pious Jews named these Judaizing and idolatrous peoples Samaritans, since they lived in Samaria, the former leading city of the Israelites, as well as in the other towns thereabout. The Jews rejected them as heathen and foreigners, and had no communion with them at all, as the Samaritan woman observed, "the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans" (John 4:9). Therefore, the name Samaritan is used derisively many times in the Gospel narrations.

After the Ascension of the Lord, and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the woman of Samaria was baptized by the holy Apostles and became a great preacher and Martyr of Christ; she was called Photine, and her feast is kept on February 26.

## Icon of the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

The icon of the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman depicts the biblical story of the Christ conversing with the woman at the well. Our Lord is shown sitting beside the well, speaking with and blessing the Samaritan woman. She is shown with her right hand outstretched toward Christ, indicating both her interest in what He is saying, and also as a sign of her faith and her efforts to bring others to hear what Christ has to say. In the background of the icon, the city is visible together with the Mount Gerazim.

## Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. On this Sunday and throughout the Paschal period until the Apodosis or leave-taking of Pascha, the day before the Feast of the Ascension, the services begin with the chanting of the troparion of Pascha, "Christ is risen..."

Scripture readings for the feast are the following: At the Divine Liturgy: [Acts 11:19-30](#); [John 4:5-42](#).

### Kontakion (Plagal of the Fourth Tone):

The Samaritan Woman, having come to the well in faith, beheld You, the Water of Wisdom from which she drank plentifully and inherited the Heavenly Kingdom as one who is blessed forever.

## Services this Week

- **Friday (06.07.2024.)**
    - **3<sup>rd</sup> Finding of the Honoured Head of St John the Baptist**
  - ***6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pacha – of the Blind Man (06.09.2024.)***
    - **Holy Hieroartyr Therapontes of Sardis; Venerable John the Russian**
- Divine Liturgy starts at 09:30 AM***

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Don't forget!!!**

**Beginning next Sunday June 2nd Divine Liturgy begins at  
9:30 AM**

**Polka-Fest – Friday May 31st to Sunday, June 2nd**

## MEMORIAL SERVICES IN 2024

Memorial services at the Church cemeteries will be held as follows:

BENSHOF HILL CEMETERY on Saturday, June 8, 2024 – 9:30 AM (Begin at Top)

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY on Saturday, June 8, 2024 – Beginning at 1:00 PM

OLD ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY on Saturday, June 15, 2024 – 9:30 AM

ST. PETKA CEMETERY Saturday, June 15, 2024 – 10:30 AM – (Begin at Top)

**Band of Brothers – July 11-13th and 17 – 20th**



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

**Johnstown Slavic Festival – September 20-21<sup>st</sup>**