

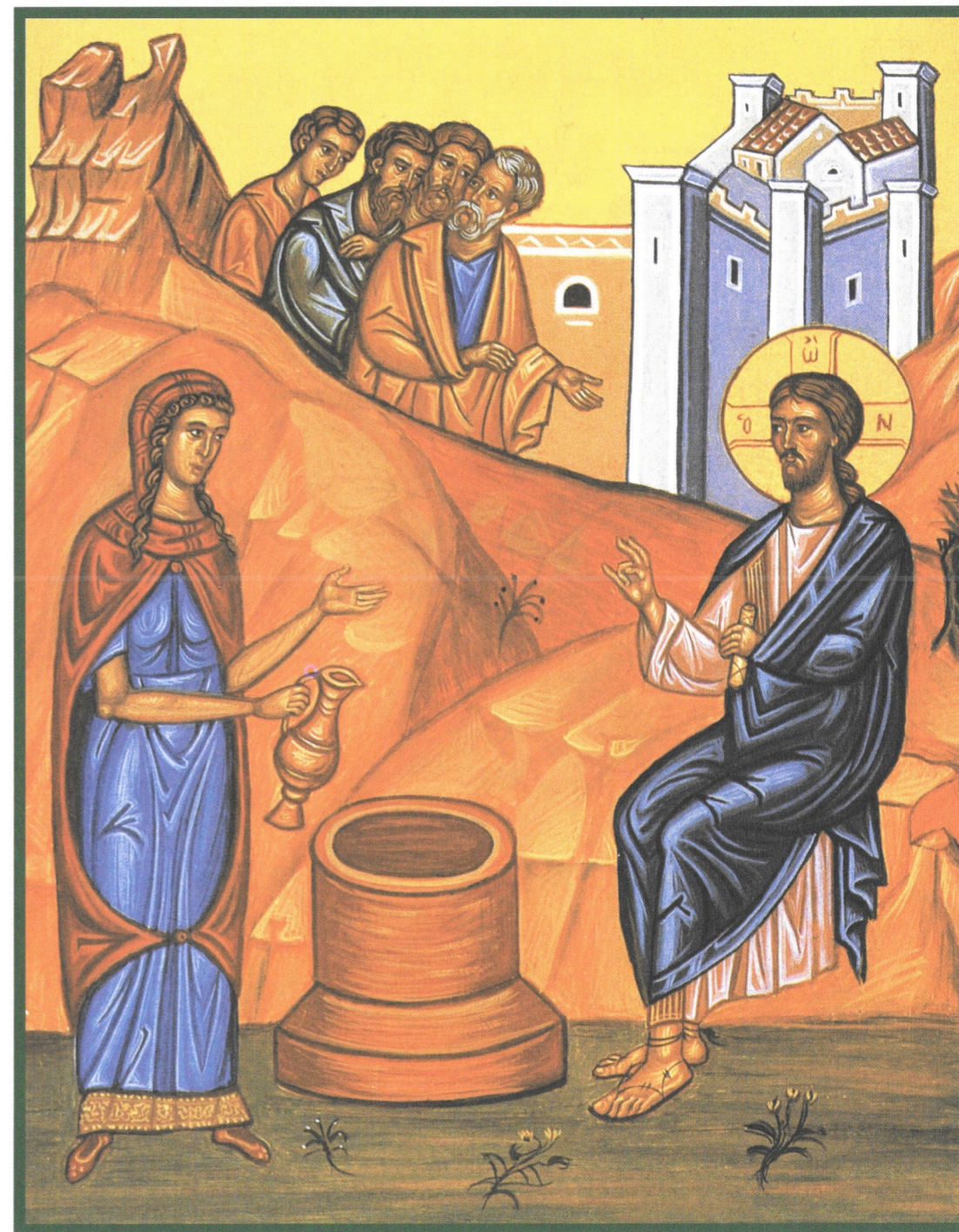
“IF ANYONE THIRSTS, COME UNTO ME AND DRINK”

Thirst is a natural human experience. Simply stated, we could not survive for any length of time without a regular intake of liquids. It is not surprising, then, that Christ would draw an analogy between Himself and water, for indeed, He is our unquenchable source of life. What IS surprising, however, is the method deployed by our Lord to accent this divine truth.

Much of today's Gospel on this, the Sunday of the SAMARITAN WOMAN, centers around what appears to be an innocent conversation between Christ and a stranger. What is intriguing about this dialogue is that Christ would engage in such a conversation with a woman (unheard of in those days) and a Samaritan, who were natural enemies of the Jews, in the first place! Their words begin with a discussion of a material nature: “Give me something to drink,” asks our Lord. It leads to matters of enormous spiritual and theological significance. “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,” He reminds the Samaritan Woman, “but whoever drinks of the waters that I shall give him will never thirst. For the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” As their talk continues, Jesus ultimately reveals to her that He is the Messiah: the One Who can satisfy our every need.

The Gospel concludes, with a message from the townspeople to the Samaritan woman: “Now we believe, not because of what you have said, for we ourselves have heard Him.” It is important that we realize that we must, of our own accord, come unto that “Living Water” and drink! We must believe in Christ out of a personal, inner experience of faith.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.



St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

6447 76th Avenue, North, Pinellas Park, St. Petersburg, Florida 33781

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of North America

His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami & the Southeast

Fr. Michael Massouh, Pastor (727) 510-7657

Deacon Elias Haddy (951) 290-8825

www.stnicholasaoc.org

info@stnicholasaoc.org

May 17, 2020 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Welcome to St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

We greet you in the Name of the Lord, and are thankful for your visit to pray with us. Your participation in the work of all who enter here with faith, reverence and the fear of God makes the Divine Liturgy alive. For the “lit-orgia” is truly the “work of the people.”

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church’s mission is to assist people of all races, cultures and backgrounds on their journey to God’s Kingdom by standing firm in the Gospel handed down to us by Christ and His Apostles. We will accomplish this mission by a) living a full liturgical and sacramental life, b) proclaiming the Orthodox Christian faith to all people, c) providing effective charitable and social programs, and d) establishing strong spiritual leadership and educational resources. St. Nicholas is a living reflection of Christ and shines as a light to all people.

Communion is reserved for those Orthodox Christians who prepared themselves through regular confession and fasting from the night before. Others may approach the chalice for a blessing and partake of the antidoron (blessed bread).

To encourage a proper spirit of prayer and devotion, we respectfully ask that you enter the sanctuary quietly during the Diving Liturgy. Please, do NOT enter or exit the sanctuary at the following times:

- When the priest censes the church
- During the Little Entrance with the Gospel
- During the reading of the Epistle and Gospel. (*You may enter the nave immediately after the reading of each is completed*).
- During the delivery of the Sermon
- During the Great Entrance with the Holy Gifts
- During the Prayers of Consecration. *You may enter the nave after the Hymn to the Theotokos “It Is Truly Meet.”*

REGULAR SERVICE SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00 PM Vespers

Sunday 9:30 AM Orthros

10:30 AM Divine Liturgy

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS & SISTERS:

Departed: Anna Jacob, Bertha Bouren, Claire Kelsey Green, Donna Abood, Cornelia Biggers, Fahd Kassis, Nasser Elias Kakesh, Kosta Radich, Helen Kirshy, Olga Kovalenko, Jennie Davis, Richard Austin, Daniel Karpelenia, Thekla Massouh, Zachary Mason

Shut-Ins/Sick: Metropolitan PAUL, Archbishop YOHANNAH, Annette Haddad, Nicholas Hughes, Schauki Kassis, John Bennett, Rose Beede, Alice Flaherty, Theodora Ohlinger, Sally Bell, Bob Bostley, Bill Yopp, George Joseph Rolfes, Aurelia Buda, Evelyn Lonack, Richard Pippy, Diane Zorich, Lisa McCoy, Viola Haddad, Susana Kassis, Mary Semaan

For the Health of: Fr. Lazarus Sucanto, Kh. Virginia Massouh, Pf. Margot Siniari, Angela Jacob, Farhat David, Helen Massarelli, Carole Massarelli, Evelyn Salem, Helen Salem, Ruth & Evern Hazel, Georgette Abraham, Mariam Haddad, Bryan Haddad, Nasir Kassis, Mitch & Geri Kanaan, Mary Ellen James, Alice Faccenda, David & Eva Szabo, Marion Bostley, Theodore Todorow, Alex Gimon, Leo Poirier, Collin Lamkin, Sophie Massouh, Stephen Bove’, Leila Bashara, Natalie Floreancig, Mary Magdalene Foltz, Marie Miller, Diane Karns, Paula Massouh, Charlene Toney, Gail & Charlie Barnett, Suha Mansour, Bob Poirier, Bruce Bingham, Dorothy Mihelic, Loretta Karpelenia

Service Members: Christopher Salem (USAF): Nephew of Helen Salem, Peter McIntire (Army): Grand Nephew of Viola Haddad, Curtis Brickwood (Navy): Fr Michael’s Cousin, David Butler (Navy): Son of Joanna Kassis Butler, Trenton Wesley (Army): grandson of Leila Bashara

God grant you many years....

BIRTHDAYS

May 17	Robin Bianca, Luis Rodriguez, Jr., Charles Doerner (son)
May 18	Najib Jacob
May 19	Jonathan Samborski
May 20	Lance Lubin
May 21	Stephen Bove’
May 22	Amanda Kanaan, Ilham Isaac

ANNIVERSARIES

May 17	Darren & Kristen Wilkerson
--------	----------------------------

The Church has a new SECURE business address for receiving money, packages, and special deliveries. Please use:

**St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
7780 49th Street N, #239
Pinellas Park FL 33781**

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying, Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION FOR MID-PENTECOST IN TONE EIGHT

In the midst of this Feast, O Savior, give Thou my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of true worship; for Thou didst call out to all, saying: Whosoever is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Wherefore, O Christ our God, Fountain of life, glory to Thee.

THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

THE EPISTLE

How great are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

The Reading from the Acts of the Saintly and Pure Apostles. (11:19-30)

In those days, the Disciples, 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, upon 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.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. 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 Thou, 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, Thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Art Thou 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 forever; 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 Thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and Thou sayest that in 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 Messiah is coming [He Who is called Christ]; when He comes, He will tell 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 dost Thou wish?" or, "Why art Thou 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 said to 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 words. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."