

SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER OF TOLEDO: RECTOR

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May 17, 2020

5th Sunday after Pascha - Tone 4

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Apostle Andronicus of the Seventy and Junia



From the Fathers...

"You are pleased when people help you when you are in need. Therefore strive yourself, as much as you can, to help your neighbor in all of his needs."

- Metropolitan Gregory of St. Petersburg



Welcome Visitors!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed through your participation with us. In the Orthodox Church, the reception of Holy Communion is a mark of membership in the Church. Only those who have been united to the Orthodox Church through Baptism or Chrismation, and have prepared themselves through regular Confession, prayer and fasting are permitted to partake of Holy Communion. We encourage visitors to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the vestibule. Please feel free to ask questions before or after the service, as well as join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship after the Liturgy.



The Fountain of miracles came to the well at noon/ to ensnare the daughter of Eve./ Once, Eve had been driven out of Paradise by the serpent's guile;/ now a woman of Samaria came to draw water./ The Savior saw her and said to her:/ "Give me water to drink,/ and I will fill thee with the waters of eternal life!"/ She ran to the town and proclaimed to the crowd:/ "Come and see Christ the Lord!// He is the Savior of our souls!"

The Lord of compassion came to the well/ and conversed with a woman of Samaria./ She said: "Give me Thy water that I may never thirst again!/ I will drink from the fountain of joy and redemption."/ O Life-giving Lord, glory to Thee! (*Stichera of Lord, I Call*)

A PARISH OF THE BULGARIAN DIOCESE OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

TODAY'S WORSHIP - HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

Resurrection Troparion in Tone 4

When the women Disciples of the Lord/ learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection,/ they cast away the ancestral curse/ and elatedly told the Apostles:/ "Death is overthrown!/ Christ God is risen,// granting the world great mercy!"

Midfeast Troparion in Tone 8

In the middle of the feast, O Savior,/ fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety,/ as Thou didst cry to all: "If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!"// O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to Thee!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Pentecostarion Kontakion in Tone 8

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!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Midfeast Kontakion in Tone 4

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 Thee and faithfully cry:// Grant us Thy mercies, for Thou art the Fountain of our life!

Epistle: Acts 11:19-26, 29-30

Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Gospel: John 4:5-42

So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says 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 then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a

fountain of water springing up into everlasting 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 and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such 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" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ? Then they went out of the city and came to Him. In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

THIS WEEK AND LIFE IN CHRIST

Sunday, May 17th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Livestream)

5th Sunday of Pascha—Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

St. Euphrosyne of Moscow

Acts 11:19-26, 29-30, John 4:5-42

Monday, May 18th

Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra and those with him

Martyrs Simeon, Isaac, and Bachtisius of Persia

Acts 12:12-17, John 8:42-51

Tuesday, May 19th

Hieromartyr Patrick, Bishop of Prussa

Rt. Blv. Dimitry Donskoy, Grand Prince of Moscow

Acts 12:25-13:12, John 8:51-59

Wednesday, May 20th

Leavetaking of the Midfeast of Pentecost

Martyr Thalelaeus of Aegae in Cilicia

Acts 13:13-24, John 6:5-14

Thursday, May 21st

Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Constantine and Helen

St. Constantine and his children of Murom

Acts 14:20-27, Acts 26:1-15, 12-20

John 9:39-10:9, John 10:1-9

Friday, May 22nd

Martyr Basiliscus, Bishop of Comana

Righteous Melchizedek, King of Salem

Commemoration of the Second Ecumenical Council

Acts 15:5-34, John 10:17-28

Saturday, May 23rd

5:00 PM Great Vespers (Livestream)

St. Michael the Confessor, Bishop of Synnada

St. Michael "the Black-robed" of St. Sabbas Monastery

Acts 15:35-41, John 10:27-38

Sunday, May 24th

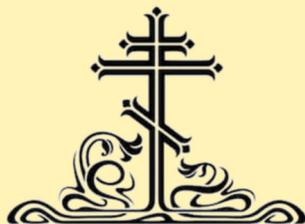
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Livestream)

56h Sunday of Pascha—Sunday of the Blind Man

Ven. Symeon the Stylite of the Wonderful Mountain

Martyrs Meletius Stratelates and those with him

Acts 16:16-34, John 9:1-38



Who is Junia?



The Church honors the Samaritan Woman who met Christ while drawing water at Jacob's Well. She was surprised by His love and concern for her, since she was a Samaritan, with whom the Jews "had no dealings." She was further surprised by His knowledge of her crowded personal life.

But unlike some others, she was neither offended nor frightened by the depth of His insight, and so eventually she became His follower and strong witness. She is traditionally known by the name Photini. With her sons and sisters, she was arrested by the Emperor Nero and later suffered martyrdom, but not before she brought the cruel emperor's own daughter to the faith.

Some years ago, Newsweek Magazine and other more notably academic publications trumpeted the news of a "remarkable discovery" concerning another of Christ's female followers. The discovery was made by a feminist professor of Christian Studies at Brandeis University. By reading older versions of the Bible, this professor had found out that the person mentioned by Saint Paul in Romans 16:7 is a woman named Junia, not a man named Junius. According to the Newsweek article, her name had been "masculinized" over the centuries by Biblical translators "with their own agenda"—presumably a misogynistic agenda.

But Saint John Chrysostom, in the fourth century, wrote this about Junia: "Oh, how great is the devotion of this woman, that she should be counted worthy even to be called an apostle." The so-called discovery of Junia's identity as a female really reflects only incomplete knowledge and superficial research on the part of some modern scholars, not a brave uncovering of deliberately-hidden truth.

Saint Paul writes about Junia with obvious admiration, calling her and her husband his "countrymen and fellow prisoners" and saying that they are "of note among the apostles." He also writes that they were both Christians before he was. One modern scholar who is reliable and respected, Ben Witherington, has speculated that Junia is the same person as Joanna, one of the Myrrh-Bearing Women. He believes it is possible that she broke with her first husband Chuza (King Herod's steward) and later married Andronicus. Then together they worked with Paul to spread the Gospel and teach.

But whether Junia is Joanna or a different person really makes little difference. She is honored as someone who, like the Samaritan Woman, believed in Jesus Christ deeply enough to be imprisoned for her faith. She is recognized as His apostle.

The Orthodox Church has never hidden or attempted to alter facts about Junia. As we have noted, Saint John Chrysostom singles her out for praise. And the reason she comes to our attention in the first place is that Saint Paul does the same. He appreciated any person, woman or man, who shared his dedication and readiness to suffer for Christ. Junia is a shining example of just such a person.

HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED TO CHAT? CALL OR EMAIL FR. GREGORY.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Guidance for COVID-19

New Guidelines

New guidelines have been released by the Holy Synod of Bishops and by Archbishop Alexander regarding the Bulgarian Diocese. These guidelines are currently being reviewed and any changes to our current practices will be announced.

Livestream Services

All services will be **live streamed on Facebook** and finished recordings will be **uploaded to YouTube**. **Like, Share, Subscribe** to both to be notified when new postings are available. The schedule is also available online at our website.

Confessions and Visitations

Confessions will be available by appointment only. Please contact Fr. Gregory directly to schedule. Hospital visitations remain limited to end-of-life only. Personal visitations by appointment with proper social-distancing may be available. Please contact Fr. Gregory to discuss.

Bulletin Sponsors

Bulletin sponsorships are still available, even in our current digital world. Sponsorships can be emailed directly to Fr. Gregory and can be paid online through tithe on our website.

Stewardship

We encourage you to continue giving your regular offerings during this time. Please review our new online giving option now available on our website!

Growing Young Initiative

The Parish Council is supporting The Growing Young Initiative, strategies to help young people discover and love the Church. Phase I is completed with the church survey results. Phase II involves developing an action plan with current plans including Facebook activities and leadership opportunities. If you would like to be a part of the conversation in growing our community young please let Cindy Hopper or Steve Timofeev know. We are meeting via teleconference on **Wednesday evenings 8:00-9:00 pm**.



We are praying for...

Newly Departed:

Archpriest Paul, Popadia Marilyn, Aleksei

Health and Well-Being:

Anthony, Maria, Tanya, Melissa, Kelly, Lawrence, Mary, Brian, Karen, Sandy, Panka, George, Cheryl, Barb, and the kidnapped hierarchs Metropolitan Boulos and Archbishop Yohanna of Aleppo; and those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East.

Catechumens:

Tim, Laura, Ethan, Naomi, Olivia, Daniel, Phoebe, Ezekiel, and Jachin.



Sanctuary Lamp

Sponsorships are available for the Sanctuary Lamp. Please email your requests to Fr. Gregory.



Celebrations

Birthdays:

Haley Mackiewicz (5/20)
Linda Ostas (5/22)

Name's Days:

Ileana Bruner (5/21)
Elena Snodgrass (5/21)
Elena Neceski (5/21)

