

June 2, 2013: The 5th Sunday after Easter (of the Samaritan Woman)

Epistle: Acts 11:19-30:

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. And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. 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.”

For two thousand years, the Church, the well of the New Testament, has been springing forth the living water, the word of God and the grace of the Holy Spirit, meant to quench the thirst of the souls of those who desire to be in communion with God.

The dialogue between Christ and the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well is an indication of how God reveals Himself to people. The Son of God initiates the dialogue with the Samaritan woman with a simple request *“Give Me a drink.”*

Once she is engaged in dialogue, slowly, slowly He reveals Himself to her; first, as the one who possesses the living water; then as the one who knows her secrets: *“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;”* Having captured her total attention, He reveals to her His true identity: *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.”*

When God reveals Himself to us, a restructuring of priorities takes place in our lives. The woman abandons her daily routine and becomes an apostle: *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?”*

May the risen Lord continue to give us the living water!

Fr. George Bazgan

The Romanian Orthodox Church will be hosting a Garage/Bake sale on:

- Friday, May 31, 2013: 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM.
- Saturday, June 1st, 2013: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- Sunday, June 2nd 2013: 12:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

This is a fundraising event with proceeds going towards the renovation of the kitchen.

To make this event a success, we NEED your help!

ITEMS NEEDED :

- CHILDREN'S CLOTHING (IN GOOD CONDITION).
- ADULT CLOTHING (IN GOOD CONDITION).
- TOYS /ELECTRONIC GAMES/OTHER ELECTRONICS.
- SPORTS EQUIPMENT.
- SMALL HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES AND FURNITURE.
- TOOLS.
- GARDEN ITEMS.
- MISCELLANEOUS (BOOKS, CHINA, DECORATIVE ITEMS, JEWELRY, PURSES, VASES, etc.).

Donations for the garage sale will be accepted between May 12 - May 28

(Sundays from 10:00 PM to 1:00 PM or call to make other arrangements).

Donation for the bake sale will be accepted on Thursday, May 30th and Friday May 31st,

between 6:00 and 8:00 PM at the church Hall.

NOTE: This event requires a large number of volunteers to sort, price and advertise so.... please let us know if you can lend a hand.

For further information, to make a donation or to volunteer, please contact:

- MARIA BAZGAN: (780) 473-0029.
- MARIANA DIACONU: (780) 473-6711.
- MARIETA MIEILA: (780) 439-9310.

Thank you very much!

Blessing of Graves

The blessing of graves will take place on Saturday, June 8 (the last Saturday before the Lord's Ascension), at 10:00 AM at St. Michael's Cemetery.

Those who have loved ones buried in other cemeteries, are asked to contact Fr. George (474-0029) for scheduling.

MEMBERSHIP

At the Annual General Meeting, held on February 24, 2013, the decision was made to keep the membership unchanged, at \$100/person (\$200/couple).

We encourage all our members and supporters to pay their membership as soon as possible so we can complete the various projects during the warm season and also to be able to assist the Archdiocese with the annual dues.

Keep in mind that \$35 of each membership goes to the Archdiocese.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

KITCHEN RENOVATION

Our kitchen is in dire need for expansion and renovation.

**In the fall of 2012 we launched a campaign to fundraise
for this important project.**

The last estimate for the project came at around \$80,000.

**We appeal to all of our members, supporters and friends
to give generously towards this major project
and support our fundraising events!**

**All donors will receive a tax-deductible receipt
and our heartfelt appreciation.**

THANK YOU AND MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS YOU!