

May 10, 2015: 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 through the Church established by the incarnate Christ.

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

MOTHER'S DAY

On Sunday, May 10, 2015, we celebrate *Mother's Day*.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to extend, to all mothers, best wishes for many years filled with good health, peace and joy!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Blessing of the Graves

The blessing of graves will take place on Saturday, May 16 (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, please contact Fr. George (473 - 0029) for scheduling.

PROHOD AT BOIAN

On Sunday, May the 17th, the Sunday before the Lord's Ascension into heaven, we are all invited to partake in the Divine Liturgy and the blessing of the graves (Prohod) at our mother Church, *St. Mary's* in Boian.

Thank you!

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY



On May the 24th, we will celebrate our Church Anniversary:

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy.

12:00 AM: Memorial service for the church founders.

12:45 PM: ANNIVERSARY BANQUET.

Tickets: \$40/adults and \$15/children (7-14).

Contact Claudiu Nanu: 780-914-1223

MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish, asking them **to pay their membership as soon as possible.**

This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our financial obligations during the Summer months and for the rest of the year as well.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

GARAGE SALE

The Romanian Orthodox Church will be hosting a Garage Sale:

- Friday, May 29 2015: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
- Saturday, May 30 2015: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- Sunday, May 31 2015: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

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

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 are accepted every Sunday between 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM,

(or call to make other arrangements).

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:

- Psa. MARIA BAZGAN: 780-473-0029
- MARIANA DIACONU: 780-473-6711
- MARIETA MIEILA: 780-439-9310
- GABRIELA DINCA: 780-497-1326.

Thank you very much!

On Mixed Marriages

Living in a pluralistic society, such as ours, has its share of advantages and challenges as well, especially for the young people.

When it comes to mixed marriages, the Orthodox parents and their children need to know what the position of the Church is. Based on the teaching of the Orthodox Church, mixed marriages must meet the following conditions:

1. The non-Orthodox party must be a Christian. This means that that person must have been or must be baptized (before the wedding service) in one of the other two Christian denominations: Catholic or Protestant. Of course, we would prefer that such a person be baptized in the Orthodox Church.

Therefore, an Orthodox person cannot marry a non-Christian in the Orthodox Church.

2. The wedding service must take place in an Orthodox Church and be officiated by an Orthodox priest. Just because the wedding takes place in an Orthodox church does not mean that the non-Orthodox party becomes Orthodox. This is done only as a favor to the Orthodox party.

3. The children resulted from this union must be baptized and raised/educated in the Orthodox Church.

Should an Orthodox person enter a marriage union with a non-Christian, such a person must understand that by so doing they have forfeited their right/possibility to receive Communion and be a Godparent at a Christening or a Wedding.

For further details, please talk to the priest.

Fr. George Bazgan