

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Administrator: Reverend Michael D. Kunitz, M. Div.
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Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family
Sub-Deacon: Raphael Ruggiero

May 18, 2025
Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, May 18: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

10:25 am Rosary, 11 am Divine Liturgy

IMO Hedwig Bacasa by son and daughter-in-law Gerald & Alexandria Bacasa

Monday, May 19: 6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Daily Vespers

Wednesday, May 21: Constantine & Helen – Equals to the Apostles

6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy

Friday, May 23: 6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy

IHO Ivan Sidor by the Revilak Family

Saturday, May 24: 5:00 pm Confessions, 6:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, May 25: Sunday of the Man Born Blind

10:25 am Rosary, 11 am Divine Liturgy

IHO of Joseph and Dolres Bacasa-63rd Wedding Anniversary by their children and

grandchildren

Divine Liturgies are open for intentions for this new year. If you would like to make an intention for a Liturgy, please call the office or fill out request form in the back of the church and give it to Fr. Michael

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: If you are interested in learning to lead Matins as a Reader's Service on Sunday before Liturgy, please see Father Michael. Matins is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.

MAY 31ST FLEA MARKET: We are currently accepting donations for our next flea market. It's a great time to Spring Clean, but please no books or clothing. We need volunteers to help set up the tables and price items. We hope you can support this important fundraiser. There are sign-up sheets in the back of the church. Please see Mary Dzurichko with any questions.

JUNE 1ST 40 DAY COMMEMORATION FOR POPE FRANCIS: As is custom in our Byzantine Catholic Church, a commemoration for the deceased is to be given 40 days after their passing. On Sunday, June 1, the Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council, we will pray with special intentions for our departed pontiff Francis. Light refreshments will be served in the hall afterwards.

JUNE 8th PENTECOST SUNDAY/PARISH ANNIVERSARY POTLUCK: Please bring a dish and plan to enjoy fellowship as we celebrate our **118th Anniversary** with a potluck lunch. This will also be the last day before we switch to the summer liturgical schedule. Mark your calendars!

COFFEE SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: In addition to attending services together, it is important that we spend time in conversation with one another. To make it truly a time of sharing – we ask everyone to sign up to host a Sunday. We look forward to seeing you!

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

May God grant you many happy and blessed years!

5/26 - Joseph & Dolores Bacasa, Anniversary

ICONS AVAILABLE: There are several blessed icons in the church hall, there is no cost to take these home, though a free will offering for the benefit of the parish is welcome.

2025 BYZANTINE ASSEMBLY JULY 16-20, WHITING, IN: Join us as we worship and walk alongside our bishops, hear inspiring discussions on faith and mission, and connect with fellow Byzantine Catholics from across the Metropolitan. Register now at ByzantineAssembly.org You can also see Fr. Michael for a paper registration form to mail in.

DIVINE LITURGY TODAY: At Jacob's Well, the Samaritan woman Photina asked Jesus for His LIVING WATER. This "water," which quenches the soul and conducts us to eternal Life, is precisely the grace that flows into our lives from the waters of baptism when we are brought into Christ's community of believers. Through these living waters we are reborn into Jesus, and then we receive the name first used at Antioch: we become Christians.

THE PASCHAL PERIOD'S FIFTH SUNDAY: The theme for **The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman** is the **living water** about which Jesus spoke in today's holy gospel. Through the **Mystery of Baptism**, this "living water" comes to us as we are initiated into the Christian community—Christ's Church. In this way, we vicariously participate in His passion, death, and resurrection through which He renewed all creation, giving it a rebirth. In the act of baptism, we are cleansed and then reborn to a "New Life" in the risen Jesus. We "pass-over" from being slaves of sin and evil to being children of God and heirs to His heavenly Kingdom. As we sing in the Divine Liturgy during the resurrectional period, we who are baptized have "put on Christ" as we are initiated into His Church. We have been purified by His "living waters"; and because of this, at every Divine Liturgy we are able to encounter Him just as the Samaritan woman met Him at Jacob's Well. We can drink from the very Source of immortality! And once we eat the Bread of Life and drink the Blood of the true Paschal Lamb, we need never hunger or thirst again. Our souls will be nourished by Jesus, our triumphant and glorified Savior!

EPISTLE: Acts 11:19-26 & 29-30

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that arose because of Stephen went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but Jews. There were some Cypriots and Cyrenians among them, however, who came to Antioch and began to speak to the Greeks as well, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The news about them reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas [to go] to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain faithful to the Lord in firmness of heart, for he was a good man, filled with the holy Spirit and faith. And a large number of people was added to the Lord. Then he 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 number of people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians. So, the disciples determined that, according to ability, each should send relief to the brothers who lived in Judea. This they did, sending it to the presbyters in care of Barnabas and Saul.

~This scriptural account from *The Acts of the Holy Apostles* relates how the young Church was growing despite the persecutions by the Romans and the Jews. The Holy Evangelist Luke tells us that at Antioch, Saul (who would later be called Paul) and Barnabas were baptizing not only Jews, but Greeks as well, initiating more and more people into the community of Christ's believers through the "living waters" of holy baptism. Large numbers of Jews and gentiles alike were thus introduced to the "New Life" offered by the risen Christ. It was here at Antioch for the first time that those who believed in the Lord Jesus and who had become His disciples were called by the name "**Christian.**" As modern-day followers of Christ, we must demonstrate by our lives that we have been **reborn** in the Lord Jesus through His LIVING WATER which was given to us at baptism when we were brought into the community of His believers and initiated into His holy Church. We must drink deeply of Jesus' living water—His grace—and thus demonstrate by our lives that we are indeed worthy to be called by His name and that we are truly His followers—that we are Christians!

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who 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, you do not even have a bucket and the well is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband." Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.' For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed, the Father seeks such people 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 the Messiah is coming, the one called the Anointed; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you." At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you talking with her?" The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?" They went out of the town and came to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "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, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'In four months the harvest will be here'? I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving his payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work." Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I have done." When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

~The Holy Evangelist John recounts for us how Jesus passed through Samaria and came to the town of Sychar near the historic well that the old-testament patriarch Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Tired from this journey, Jesus stopped around noon at Jacob's Well, about twenty miles north of Jerusalem. While He rested there, a Samaritan woman named Photina came to draw water, and Jesus began a conversation with her. This Samaritan woman was in a sad spiritual state, and Jesus offered her salvation. He told her about His LIVING WATER which, unlike the well's water, would never make a person thirsty again. Our Lord explained to her that He is the Fountain of Living Water, flowing from the very throne of God. The woman was confused spiritually and did not comprehend this water as being the grace that Christ bestows in offering us salvation. Because of His redemptive acts, Jesus has given us access to this living water and the capability of drinking from it. Through the sacramental mysteries of His Church, we become the recipients of His grace. And by this grace, we are initiated here on earth into the beginning of the "New Life" provided for us by Jesus, the victorious Savior, Who, has assured us of being participants in the fullness of this Life for all eternity.

ON-LINE GIVING IS HERE! If you wish to make a monetary donation to our parish – you can do so on our website or by using this QR code. Remember every dollar helps support the mission of our parish community. Thank you.



PRAYER FOR OUR FOUR SAINTLY BISHOPS: Please pray for the causes of our four Saintly Bishops and ask them to intercede for your specific intentions: O Almighty God, our Lord, we bless You, we praise You, and we thank you for all the graces which You, in Your infinite mercy have bestowed upon us. We are especially grateful for giving us four saintly and heroic Bishops: **Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, Bishop Paul P. Gojdich OBSM, Bishop Basil Hopko, and Bishop Alexander Chira**, who, by their courage, charity, and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. By their great sufferings, humiliating imprisonment, and violent death they gave living witness to their Catholic faith and glorified Your exalted name. Therefore, O Gracious Lord, glorify them in return by Your divine power and inscribe their names in the book of Your Saints. For you are holy, our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever, Amen. With Ecclesiastical Approbation Acknowledgment of answered prayers: Postulator's office, 54 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214, U.S.A.

PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS: **Saints Cyril and Methodius**, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen. St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen