

## SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN



*Icon of Christ with the Samaritan Woman*



# St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

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The Propers for today are on pages 186-88 of the teal Divine Liturgy books and pages 67-68 of the yellow pew books.  
*The week of the Samaritan Woman:* The Samaritan woman, Photina, is an image of our baptism. Though the well of Jacob could not quench her thirst, the Lord revealed to her true worship of the Father in spirit and truth. In this week we draw of the water of the well of enlightenment and imitate the holy and repentant Photina, the woman enlightened by our Lord. Her feast is Feb. 26.

**Christ is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen! Christós Voskrése! Voístinu Voskrése!**  
**Föltamádt Krisztus! Valoban Föltamádt! Christós Anésti! Alithós Anésti!**

## Divine Liturgy Schedule:

*All are welcome!*

### Scripture readings:

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 11: 19:-26.29-30

Gospel: St. John 4: 5-42

Sat.	May	18	<b>Post-festive Day of Mid-Pentecost. The Holy Martyr Theodotus</b> 4:00 p.m. For the parish family of St. Nicholas Church
Sun.	May	19	<b>SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN</b> 8:30 a.m. +Vincent Stemarie by John MacDonald 11:00 a.m. +Wayne Beitel by the Huddas families <b>Reader of the Epistle: Subdeacon Phillip Dinsmore/Cantor</b>
Mon.	May	20	<b>Postfestive Day of Mid-Pentecost. The Holy Martyr Thaleus</b> 6:00 p.m. +Joseph Chontos by Judy Chontos and family 7:00 p.m. Parish Council meeting
Tues.	May	21	<b>Postfestive Day of Mid-Pentecost. SS. Constantine and Helen</b> 9:00 a.m. +John and Mary Petrosky by John and Mary Dirda
Wed.	May	22	<b>Leave-taking (Otdaniye) of Mid-Pentecost. The Holy Martyr Basiliscus</b>
Thurs.	May	23	<b>Our Venerable Father and Confessor Michael</b>
Fri.	May	24	<b>Our Venerable Father Simeon</b>
Sat.	May	25	<b>Feast of the Third Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist</b> 4:00 p.m. For the parish family of St. Nicholas Church
Sun.	May	26	<b>SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND</b> 8:30 a.m. +Sister Maria, OSBM by Theresa Ortman 10:30 a.m. Akathist to the Mother of God — intention for our parish 11:00 a.m. +Fr. Robert Barter by the parishioners of St. Nicholas Church <b>Reader of the Epistle: Subdeacon Phillip Dinsmore/Cantor</b>

**WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS** The faithful of St. Nicholas Church would like to welcome new parishioners and visitors. We are happy that you have joined us on our spiritual journey and we hope that you feel welcome. **RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION** If you are Roman Catholic or Orthodox you are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When coming to receive Communion please do not extend your tongue — tilt your head back and open your mouth so that the priest can place the Body and Blood of Christ into your mouth with a golden spoon. Please do not close your mouth upon the spoon. **FASTING BEFORE LITURGY** Please fast at least (a minimum of) one hour before attending the Divine Liturgy and receiving Communion. **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)** Please do not receive Communion if you have committed sins of a grave nature (i.e., "mortal sins"). Go to Confession first before receiving Communion. Visitors: please sign the guest book by the bulletin board.

**Please continue to pray for the sick and shut-in of our parish:** Doris Crawley, Lillian Stefano, Kitty Marchione and Pete Digon.

*Have mercy on me, God, have mercy on me. I seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.*

The Gospel reading today takes place at the well. When you live in the desert, water is experienced as essential for life. It's simple, no water equals no life. The well is also the meeting place. It is the place of encounter and engagement. Jesus meets the woman at the well. The woman at the well comes to draw water. Yet when she leaves, she leaves behind her water jar for she has found something more than water, more life giving, she has found the source of life — The people when they come to Jesus at the well — tell the woman after they hear Him speak — "No longer does our faith depend on your story. We have heard for ourselves and we know that this is really the Savior of the World!" Jesus is the meeting place for Christians — He has established the New Covenant in His Body and His Blood. Take this and eat it. This is my Body. Drink of this all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant for the remission of sins. Do this in memory of me. Jesus is the source of faith. He opens up for us and is the gift of Divine Life. It is around this that our faith, our worship, our community, our identity is made as Christians. The communion hymn for Mid-Pentecost on Wednesday says: He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood live in Me and I live in him, says the Lord. Alleluia! Our Communion hymn for today says: Receive the Body of Christ! Drink the source of immortality. Alleluia! Our Liturgy, our worship identifies Jesus as the well, the source of immortal life, the source of divine life. Jesus is the one around whom we gather and offer ourselves with Him. Jesus is the one who leads us and teaches us, who meets us in the Divine Liturgy. Jesus is our source of faith and hope. At every Eucharist we receive Him into our lives. At every Eucharist we offer ourselves to Him as we receive our Lord and our Savior. At every Eucharist we are united to Christ and one another. The Eucharist is the source of immortality!

Today's reading is rich in meaning; one way of understanding it is as a demonstration of the truth of a verse that we read in the past: 'God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him' (3:17). The Samaritan woman would have been a good candidate for condemnation, if Jesus had wanted to go around condemning people. Being a Samaritan, she was a heretic. She had been divorced five times and was now living with a man. She might have been lazy as well: noon is a little late to be getting the day's water (verses 6-7). Jesus could certainly have found plenty to berate her about. Instead Jesus struck up a friendly conversation with her, and offered to give her something. She was thirsty for ordinary water; Jesus told her about a source of water welling up to eternal life. He was that source, and he took the initiative to enter into her life. Jesus neither approved of her multiple partners nor thought that Samaritan beliefs were just as valid as Jewish beliefs. This woman had done nothing to merit what Jesus offered her. But he offered it anyway, and offered it before pointing out her sins and mistakes. Jesus treats us the same. There are things in our lives that he wants changed, but his first word to us is an offer of eternal life. He wants to slake our thirst with a spring that will never run dry. Picture yourself coming to this well and meeting Jesus. What words would he speak to you? What invitation would he give to you? *Lord Jesus, you are the inexhaustible spring of water that can satisfy all my thirsts. Thank you for entering into my life and inviting me to share your life.*

The newly awakened faith of the Samaritan woman stirred the interest and faith of others. Soon the whole community was awakened to faith in Christ. This is our challenge: to be in love, to be on fire with the love of God and one another, especially those who need to meet Christ in their lives — the unchurched and the alienated, "To reveal Jesus Christ and His Gospel to those who do not know them has been, ever since the morning of Pentecost, the fundamental program which the Church has taken on as received from her Founder" (*Evangelization in the Modern World* #51).

"Sanctify then thy soul, sanctify thy body, by having these ever in thy heart, and on thy tongue. For if foul speech defiles and invites devils, it is clear that spiritual reading sanctifies and draws down the grace of the Spirit." St. John Chrysostom

## Weekly Collections

5/12/2019

**"My return to the Lord for all His goodness to me"**

Offertory	\$ 1,975.00
Candles	\$ 33.00
Total:	\$ 2,008.00

St. Nicholas parishioners are exceptionally generous. Thank you to those who generously support our parish through your time, talent and treasure.

## St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

23300 King Drive, Clinton Township, MI 48035

Phone: (586) 791-1052; Email: [stnicksbyzantine@yahoo.com](mailto:stnicksbyzantine@yahoo.com)

Served by: Father Joseph J. Repko, Pastor  
Subdeacon Phillip Dinsmore

Cantors: George Nagrant, Nicholas P. Nagrant, Joseph Wanchik, Steve Terlescki, John P. Minarish, and Subdeacon Phillip Dinsmore and Richard Baranko, *Cantor Emeritus*.

Choir Director: Nicholas J. Nagrant

Catechetical Director: Suzanne Swanney

Youth Directors: Adam Digon and Kimberly Kaufman

Liturgy Schedule: Saturday 4:00 P.M. (Anticipated Sunday Obligation with Vespers)  
Sunday 8:30 A.M. (Slavonic / English mix)  
11:00 A.M. (English)  
Daily Liturgy as scheduled (see inside of the bulletin)  
Holy days as scheduled (see inside of the bulletin)

### *The Samaritan Woman*

The Fourth Gospel, attributed to Saint John the Evangelist, is used exclusively from Easter until Pentecost for the Sunday readings. The first chapter of John's Gospel is the proclamation used for the Divine Liturgy on Easter itself. This week, we are reminded of the story of Christ's encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob, and thereby Christ's fulfillment of the Old Testament. In one of the many unique stories of the Fourth Gospel not found in the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark or Luke), Jesus reveals himself as Messiah to this woman of Samaria and talks with her about the "water that I will give will become ... a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

In the early days of His ministry, Jesus travels back and forth between Galilee and Jerusalem, and must pass through Samaria. The Samaritans

were outcast Jews because they were not subject to the Babylonian exile of the Israelites from other provinces. Therefore, when Jesus talks with this Samaritan woman, His disciples are surprised and in shock that He would carry on a conversation with a woman at the well, let alone a Samaritan. But as the story is explained, the woman's testimony about Jesus spreads through the nearby town, and because of her many come to hear His teachings. After hearing His word, they come to believe in Him, and proclaim Him "the Savior of the world." (Jn 4:42)

With water as the focal point of this encounter, we are once again reminded of our Baptism, and that Christ's Baptism is that of "eternal life" through "living water."

*Archbishop Vsevolod of Scopelos*





## Saint Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

Clinton Township, MI

*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!*  
*Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!*

### Announcements for May 19th, 2019: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

**Icon Workshop at St. Nick's (May 31- June 2):** We will be having another icon-writing workshop at St. Nick's, starting Friday evening, May 31<sup>st</sup>, and continuing through Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Participants will paint an icon of either St. Michael the Archangel or the Archangel Gabriel. Cost is \$135 per person, which includes all supplies. All are welcome. For information and instructions on how to register, please see the applications on the bulletin stand in the vestibule, or check out [www.stnicksdetroit.com](http://www.stnicksdetroit.com). A minimum of 10 people must register in order to have the workshop.

**St. Nicholas Parish's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-- Next Planning Meeting is Tuesday, May 28th:** As we've announced in this space for the past several weeks, we are planning to celebrate our parish's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the weekend of August 7-8, 2021. At this point we know that the formal Liturgy and Banquet will be on the Sunday afternoon/evening, but everything else about the celebration that weekend is still open for discussion. If you have ideas to share and are willing to help in the planning of this wondrously significant milestone event in the life of our parish, please come to our next planning meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, from 7-9pm in the church hall. All parishioners are invited.

**Please mark your calendars for the ECF end-of-year picnic, which will be held on Sunday, June 2nd, after the 11am Liturgy.** All parishioners are invited to attend.

**IMPORTANT-- Eparchial Stewardship Drive:** We are nearing the end of this year's Stewardship Drive, but unfortunately we still are ~\$2,500 short of our goal (as of our last update). If you have not yet made your pledge for this Stewardship year, please send it in today! The deadline for making payments is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Come celebrate our Eparchy's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (June 21-22, 2019):** The Eparchy of Parma has unveiled its full program in celebration of its 50th anniversary this year. The festivities will be held at our Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Parma, OH, during the third week of June. There will be activities open to all parishioners within the eparchy on both the Friday and Saturday, June 21-22, with the main celebration being the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 11:00am on Saturday celebrated by our Metropolitan William Skurla. The homilist will be Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches. The eparchy expects more than 10 bishops from other jurisdictions to join the celebration. Please see the posted fliers for more information.

**Important:** Anyone who wants to attend either the Friday buffet dinner or Saturday luncheon **MUST REGISTER BY MAY 31<sup>st</sup>**. Each meal is \$25/adult or \$12.50 for children ages 13-17. You can register three different ways:

by visiting [jubileeparma.eventbrite.com](http://jubileeparma.eventbrite.com),

by emailing [jubilee@parma.org](mailto:jubilee@parma.org), or

by calling Nancy Fredrick at 216-741-8773, ext 4.

For our Eparchy's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are willing to help coordinate group transportation to the Saturday Liturgy and luncheon in Parma. Unfortunately, we looked into bus pricing, and it was too costly to pursue further. However, a cheaper option of renting a large passenger van or two may still be possible—but we need to know how many people are interested in attending, and who might be willing to be drivers. Therefore, **please sign up on the sheet posted in the vestibule ASAP if you would like to attend the Saturday Liturgy and luncheon, and also please indicate whether you would be willing to drive others**. Please sign up no later than next Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>—so we can make sure plans are made by the registration deadline of May 31<sup>st</sup>. For the rental van option, expect there to be some cost per person to help cover the cost of the vans. Each person will be responsible for registering directly with Parma for their meal.

**Happy Birthday this past week to Doris Crawley (5/14) and Bob Kulasa (5/18)!** May God grant them both many more happy, healthy, and blessed years!

**Happy Birthday this coming week to Christi Beitel (5/25)!** May God grant her many more happy, healthy, and blessed years!

**Akathist services at St. Nick's:** For those that might be interested, St. Nicholas Parish has started a regular offering of a special prayer service called an Akathist to the Mother of God on select Sundays (check the service schedule in the bulletin each week to confirm). The Akathists will start at 10:30am and end before the 11am Liturgy. Please attend if you are able. We will be praying for the spiritual welfare and growth of our parish!

**Have you heard? We now have the ability to accept online donations!!!** We can now accept donations electronically, and securely, through our website. Please check it out! Just go to [www.stnicksdetroit.com](http://www.stnicksdetroit.com), and click on the "donations" tab.

**Eparchial Boys and Girls Camps: June 19-22, 2019.** This year the Boys/Girls camps (for teens age 13-17) will be held as a joint event on the grounds of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 1900 Carlton Road, in Parma, on the occasion of the 50th-anniversary celebrations. Cost is \$125 per camper, with a maximum of \$300 per family. Scholarships are available upon request. To Register: visit <http://www.parma.org> and register by May 31st. Space is limited. Questions: email [youth@parma.org](mailto:youth@parma.org) or call 440-834-0290.

**Eparchial Video Contest for Teens:** Horizons Media is inviting all teens, 13-17 years old, to join in the 50th-anniversary celebration of the Eparchy of Parma and participate in a video contest about life at their parish. The video should be 2-5 minutes long. For contest rules and guidelines, go to: [www.parma.org/videocontest](http://www.parma.org/videocontest).

**Volunteers Needed for our Eparchy's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** Volunteers are needed to handle parking, ushering, greeting, etc at the Eparchy's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. At this point, the goal is to get 50 volunteers. If anyone is interesting in volunteering for the Eparchy's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary please contact Subdeacon Phillip.

**Orientele Lumen XXIII Conference:** The 23rd OL Conference is scheduled for June 17-20, 2019 at the Washington Retreat House near the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. The theme will be: "One City, One Bishop: Church Boundaries Past, Present and Future. For more details call 703-691-8862 or go online to <https://olfoundation.net/conferences/ol-xxiii/>

For more info: Please see our bulletin, LIKE us on Facebook or visit our website: [stnicksdetroit.com](http://stnicksdetroit.com)