

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN



*Icon of the Samaritan Woman*



## PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

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### Patronage Church at Hagerstown:

St. Ann Catholic Church: 1525 Oak Hill Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742

Contact: Adam and Lauren Myers: (301) 791-0930 / [axxearp@yahoo.com](mailto:axxearp@yahoo.com)

Next Liturgy: Saturday, May 20th, at 10am

### DIVINE LITURGY - PATRONAGE CHURCH

| Date                                      | Time               | Service                  | Intention                                      |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Sunday of the Samaritan Woman<br>5.7.2023 | 8:45am<br>9:00am   | Matins<br>Divine Liturgy | For: +Ursula Kerscher<br>From: Anna Esquela    |
| Sunday of the Man Born Blind<br>5.14.2023 | 11:00am<br>11:15am | Matins<br>Divine Liturgy | For: Living and Deceased Mothers of Our Parish |

This is the **Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**.

The **Divine Liturgy During Pascha** booklets, with Propers, are located in the pews.

**Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Christós Voskrése! Voístinnu Voskrése!**

CONFESSION: Fr. Serhii is available 20 minutes before or immediately after Divine Liturgy. 1

**2023 BYZANTEEN EPARCHIAL YOUTH RALLY:** This year's rally will take place on **Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>** at the Carpathian Village in Cresco, PA. We are waiting on more details, but Byzanteen Rally 2023 participants must be age 13 by November 1, 2023, and not have reached the age of 18 by June 27, 2023. You can find both the rally's Teen and Chaperone Registration forms on the Eparchy's website at [eparchyofpassaic.com](http://eparchyofpassaic.com), click on "Youth and Young Adult Ministries," then "Byzanteens Youth Ministry." If you are interested in attending this rally, please let Fr. Serhii know so he can make sure you receive any updates that he receives. If you are enrolled in ECF, our church will cover the registration fee.

**2023 EPARCHIAL ALTAR SERVER CONGRESS:** Registration for this year's Altar Server Congress, is now open! It will take place at the Carpathian Village, 802 Snow Hill Road, Cresco, PA, from Sunday, **July 16<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please visit [eparchyofpassaic.com](http://eparchyofpassaic.com), click on "Youth and Young Adult Ministries," then "Altar Server Congress," for camper registration forms and further information. You can also contact Fr. Michael Salnicky at 570-595-3265, if you have any further questions. Please let Fr. Serhii know as soon as possible, if you are interested in attending. If you are enrolled in ECF, our church will cover the registration fee.

**GCU BYZANTINE FAMILY DAY AT KNOEBELS 2023:** Join the GCU on **June 11, 2023**, from 11am – 9pm, for a family day at Knoebels Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA. The schedule of events for the day and discounted ticket books can be purchased at [www.GCUUSA.com](http://www.GCUUSA.com). You can call the GCU with questions regarding this event at 724-495-3400, ext. 3810.

**2023 GCU BYZANTINE FAMILY DAY AT KENNYWOOD AMUSEMENT PARK – 101 YEARS:** Join the GCU on **Thursday, July 27, 2023**, from 11am – 9pm for unforgettable fun. The park is located in West Mifflin, PA. For tickets, or more information, please contact the Fraternal Communications Department at 1-800-722-4428 X3927, or email [mkullen@GCUusa.com](mailto:mkullen@GCUusa.com). You can also visit the GCU's website – [www.gcuusa.com](http://www.gcuusa.com).

**ANNA DONSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:** The Carpatho-Rusyn Society is accepting applications for this scholarship **now through May 31, 2023**, for students attending or will be attending a college, or accredited technical or scientific institution. Interested applicants can view the scholarship criteria and find the application at [c-rs.org/Anna-Donson-Memorial-Scholarship](http://c-rs.org/Anna-Donson-Memorial-Scholarship). For more information, please contact the Scholarship Committee Chair, Sharon Jarrow, at [shangp@rcn.com](mailto:shangp@rcn.com).

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN



"Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw'" (John 4:13-15).

## Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Dear Brothers and Sisters! Christ is Risen!

In today's Gospel, we heard the story of the meeting of the Samaritan woman with Jesus. A special gem in Jesus' dialogue with the Samaritan woman is the tender and delicate tone of the dialogue, based on the gentle and merciful love of God.

Jesus Christ, with all the love of his soul and a gentle word, gently touched the soul of the Samaritan woman, helped her to know the true God, to free herself from the bondage of sin, to feel free and happy. In the conversation with the Samaritan woman, the Lord said to her, "...If you knew the gift of God (that is, the great grace of God that God sent you in this meeting) and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water" (Jn. 4:10).

The Savior calls his Divine teaching living water. Just as water saves a thirsty person from death, so His Divine teaching about God's love saves a person from eternal death and leads to eternal blessed life. The peculiarity of the Divine teaching of Christ the Savior is God's love, which is characterized above all by gentleness and mercy towards every person.

Today, in the Gospel reading, we heard how our Lord, in a conversation with a Samaritan woman, revealed incredible truths to us in simple language, "Whoever drinks the water that I will give him will never thirst;" "God is Spirit..." and so forth. In this way, the Lord broke many stereotypes of His contemporaries regarding the attitude of God to humanity. However, we do not even see the many stereotypes prevalent in our time that the Lord continues to destroy. The Savior talks to a Samaritan woman, communicates with the one with whom orthodox Jews did not communicate. The Lord talks to the one who "had five husbands", whom everyone perceived as a sinner, but the Lord did not reject her, thus showing His Divine love.

The Samaritan woman, going to the well, did the usual work every day to collect the water so necessary for life. Christ came unexpectedly and, being God, saw in the soul of the Samaritan woman that she would be a light for the other Samaritans. Her very name, which we know from tradition was Photinia, means "light." Her soul was illuminated by the light of the revelation of the Messiah, and she enlightened her compatriots, announcing the One who is to come.

There is a special type of palm that grows in the hot sands of the desert. It absorbs moisture from the air, retains it in itself, and then irrigates the earth around it in the form of refreshing dew. For this reason, you can always find other vegetation near such a palm tree. The gathering of such palm trees forms a whole oasis. Despite the fact that the sky does not give rain and the rivers dry up, this life-giving plant does not stop its functions - it absorbs moisture from the air and irrigates the soil around it with moisture. This tree itself lives and creates life around itself. The true Christian soul is something similar. The true Christian soul receives the Grace of God from Heaven, feeds on it, and draws strength from it. It then lives happily and teaches other people to live happily.

Dear believers! The Gospel reading teaches us to be careful, because Christ will come at a time we do not know. So let us always be ready to receive Him in our homes, and in our souls.

**SPECIAL THANK YOU:** Many thanks to everyone who assisted, in any way, with +Lisa Guba's funeral. Your efforts were greatly appreciated, and really helped everything run more smoothly.

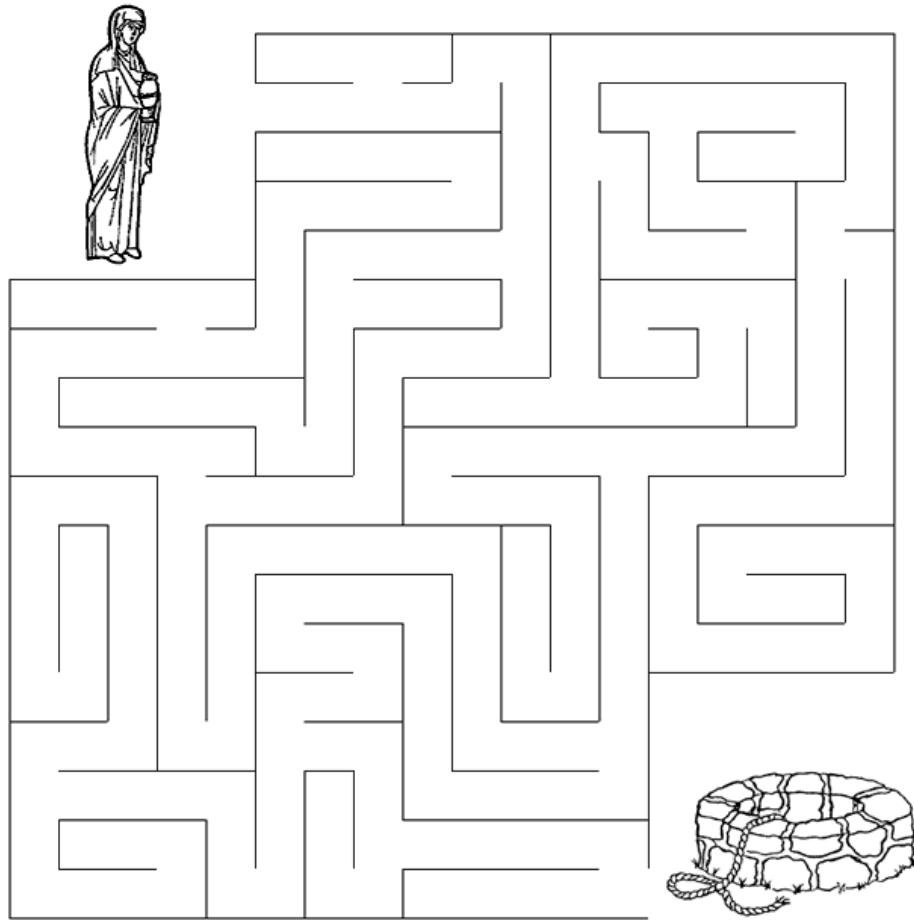
**GOD WITH US +ONLINE+:** The next free virtual program entitled, "*The Pauline World, Understanding the Apostolic Church,*" presented by Rev. Daniel Dozier, will take place in a two-part series **Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>, from 8-9:30pm**. Join us as we embark on a journey into the world in which St. Paul lived, worked, was converted to Christ, and then spent his life preaching the Gospel. Rev. Daniel will give us insights into the people to whom St. Paul was preaching, and the current events and political arena which surrounded him, to gain important context for more fully understanding his numerous epistles in Scripture and the Apostolic Church as a whole. For more information and to register for this program, visit [godwithusonline.org](http://godwithusonline.org).

**GCU ANNUAL HELPING HANDS DAY AT MT. ST. MACRINA, UNIONTOWN, PA:** To assist the Sisters of St. Basil, they are looking for volunteers to work both inside and outdoors on **Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:30am – 2pm**. You can bring your own garden tools, if you would like. Lunch will be served. Please visit [www.gcuusa.com](http://www.gcuusa.com), click on "Events," and then "Helping Hands Day at Mt. St. Macrina," to register. If you can't volunteer, but would still like to help, you can make a donation to help purchase supplies and flowers for the event at the above noted website. The GCU will be matching total donations made by Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, up to \$2,000. Please consider helping out this great cause! You do not have to be a GCU member to volunteer or make a donation.

**METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY:** Most Rev. William Skurla, Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh, has invited all clergy and faithful to the Assembly of the Byzantine (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsboro, NJ, **November 2-5, 2023**. The theme of this Assembly is "*Living Our Faith, Moving Forward, Appreciating Our Past.*" Registration begins June 15<sup>th</sup>. The Assembly cost is \$250 for individuals and \$400 for couples. The Maria Theresa Foundation will underwrite the registration fees of individuals and couples between the ages of 18 and 35. Special rates for hotel accommodations have been arranged at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bridgewater, NJ. For more information, contact the Assembly coordinators, Fr. Ed Cimbala, at 212-677-0516 or Fr. Yuriy Oros at 609-394-5004. The assembly website is [byzantineassembly2023.org](http://byzantineassembly2023.org), and the email is [byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com](mailto:byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com).

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Help the Samaritan woman find her way to the well.



This feast day commemorates the encounter of Christ with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. Look at the icon on the front cover of this bulletin. It shows Our Lord sitting beside the well, speaking with and blessing the Samaritan woman. She is shown with her right hand outstretched toward Christ, indicating both her interest in what He is saying, and also a sign of her faith.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** The people of Ukraine, that peace may be soon be restored to their land, our parishioners, the founders of our parish, our benefactors, those who are sick, and those who cannot make it to church. Also, Fr. Serhii, and his family, Marge Dulina, Mike Skovran, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Nancy Erdek, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Anne Gupman, Anna Martin, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Georgianna Kostak, Sandra Suseck, Howard Guba, our first responders, and all military service men and women throughout the world.

*May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician and Healer of souls and bodies,*

*grant them peace and good health for many blessed years!*

**STEWARDSHIP:** (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733> – the link is also on our website)

**Patronage Church (April 30, 2023):**

Offertory: \$945.00

Tithe.ly: \$225.00

Easter: \$325.00

**Hagerstown Mission (April 30, 2023):**

Offertory: \$19.00

**GCU DONATION:** Because Patronage Church has established a GCU coordinator for our parish, we received a donation of \$2,000 this week, to help support our parish. Also, this will provide the opportunity to receive an additional \$3,000 in matching funds for our parish fund raising activities. The GCU continues to be a great supporter of our Ruthenian heritage, and we thank the GCU for their efforts!

**MOTHER'S DAY COMMEMORATION:** Next Sunday, **May 14<sup>th</sup>**, we will be remembering and reading the names of living and deceased mothers during Divine Liturgy. If you would like to include names for this commemoration, please complete the commemoration form, located on the shelf in the Narthex, and place it in the offertory basket by the end of Liturgy. We will also be having refreshments in the social hall immediately after Liturgy. Please join us!

**WELCOME TO OUR PARISH:** We welcome all new visitors, to our parish family, and are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and hope you will become an active part of our parish community. If you would like to be added to our parish email list, send us an email at [patronage.church@gmail.com](mailto:patronage.church@gmail.com).

***“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples” (Isaiah 56:7).***

## *Good Advice*

I exhort you to continue your course in the grace in which you are clothed, and to exhort all to be saved. Justify your office by paying attention to the bodily and spiritual concerns of all; concentrate on unity, since there is nothing better than that. Be the same support to all as the Lord is to you; be loving and patient with everyone, as you already are.

Devote your time to unceasing prayer; ask for greater understanding than you have; be vigilant with unsleeping spirit. Speak to each individual just as God would; bear the sicknesses of all like a perfect champion of Christ. Where there is greater toil there is great benefit.

If you love good disciples, you do yourself no favor; rather try to use gentleness to subdue the more troublesome. Not every wound is healed with the same kind of medicinal

plaster. To bring spasms to an end you must use liniment.

Be intelligent like the serpent in all things and eternally innocent like the dove. The reason why you have a physical and a spiritual nature is so that you may have a softening effect on what is visible to you; but you must beg for the invisible to be revealed to you, so that you lack nothing and possess every gift in abundance.

As sailors require winds and the storm-tossed require harbors, the time requires you to attain God. Be vigilant, like a champion of God; the prize is immortality and eternal life, in which you also believe. In all things I and my bonds, which you loved, are a substitute for you.

*St. Ignatius of Antioch*

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit  
[www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)**