

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church
Celebrating 125 years witnessing to the Apostolic Faith

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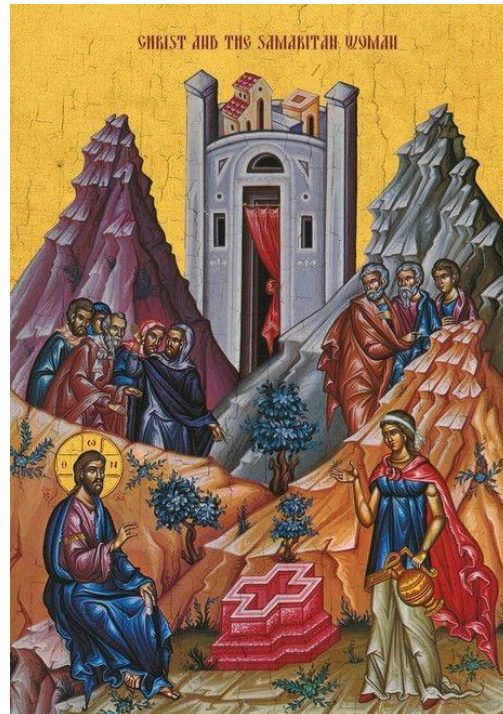
***Holy Assumption Orthodox Church is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America,
Diocese of the Midwest***

MAY 18, 2025

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PASCHA
SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN**

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

In those days, 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. 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.



Christ and the Samaritan Woman

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

At that time, Jesus 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.”



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

MON. May 19	Hieromartyr Patrick, Bishop of Prusa; Acts 12:12-17, Jn 8:42-51
TUE. May 20	Unmercenary Physician Thallelaïos at Aegae in Cilicia and his companions; Acts 12:25-13:12, Jn 8:51-59
WED. May 21	Equal of the Apostles and Emperor Constantine with his Mother Helen; Acts 13:13-24, Jn 6:5-14
THU. May 22	Martyr Basiliscus, Bishop of Comana; Acts 14:20-27, Jn 9:39-10:9
FRI. May 23	Saint Michael the Confessor, Bishop of Synnada; Acts 15:5-34, Jn 10:17-28
SAT. May 24	Venerable Simeon Stylite; Acts 15:35-41, Jn 10:27-38

4:00 PM VESPERS

SUN. May 25 **6th SUNDAY AFTER PASCHA, *BLIND MAN, Tone 5***

9:10 AM HOURS

9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY Followed by Coffee Hour



PRAYER LIST

Parishioners & Family: Natalie Twarek / Cliff & Kathy Ruggles / Sandra / Renee Haynal / Tina Rindfleisch / Sharon Shaheen (Patti Owen’s sister) / Norb / Heidi Golob / Ron & Bobbie Royhab / Rodney Clevenger / Jennifer Heffernan / Tom Hileman / Pam / Jim Twarek / Ed Garrity / Patti Owens / Barbara Wroblewski / Michal Tomáš / Helena Tomášová / Ruth Sheller / Basil Glovinsky / Dale / Sophie / Carol / David Martin / Fred Soski / Chris Hannon / Irene Vangeloff / Sonja Rose / James Bargdill / Carole Conaway/ Gary Conaway / Sharon Dietrich / Michael Glovinsky / Shirley Gresh / Joseph Habegger / Betty Kovach / Child Stella Miller / William Pipenur / Earl Rindfleisch / Helen Jean Rofkar / George Royhab / Marianne Royhab / Kathy Jacob / the child Bodhi Cassell / Gleice, Sophie & Chloe / Carol / Nora.

Other Requests: Ron Ossivicki / Kristy Ackley / Steve Rohweder / Nicole Williams / John Couture / Don / Ann Turinsky / Marcia / Sarah King / Catechumen Blake Shoemaker / Catechumen Nickolas Dawenport / Catechumen Joshua Paull / Catechumen Danielle Paull and her unborn baby / Catechumen Wrenley Paull / Arimus Paull / Linkoln Paull / Catechumen Ryan Stamp / Matushka Melania / Sharyn Osborne / Christine Zahm / Amy / Bill Byrnes / Susanne / Charles Schlett / Kathy Debevits / Maxwell Chaney / Anthony / Archpriest Ján Čižmár / Archpriest David Lis / Archpriest Emilian & Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan / Donald Gresh / Mark Ludvik / Robert Piznar / Mark Masica / Valerie Ritzenthaler / William / Rick Rowe / Chris.

Military: Craig Cassell / Jake Ellithorpe / Jordon Fulton / Justin Issler / Tikhon / Nicholas / & All Military



CHARITY OF THE MONTH

“Joyful Connections” is the charity we donate to for the month of May.



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Natalie Twarek, 117 Lucien Drive, Marblehead, OH 43440; **Patti Owens**, 311 Woodbridge Road Vermilion, OH 44089; **Tina Rindfleisch**, 2119 Willow Cove Marblehead, OH 43440; **Basil Glovinsky**, 1007 Glendale Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452; **Irene Vangeloff**, 454 Strouse Lane, Sandusky, OH 44870



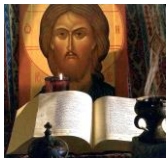
ATTENDANCE

05/10 Vespers, **4** attending; **05/11** Divine Liturgy, **19** attending (2 guests) [15 people less than the previous year]



READERS LIST

Sunday May 18 – Tim
Sunday May 25 – Jake
Sunday Jun 1 – Joe



MAY REPOSED

Julia Onyock (1921) No date provided; Andrew Onyock (1922) No date provided; Christos Karniotis (1992) No date provided; **1-**Donald Cholcher (2020); **4-** Norman Anthony Glovinsky (2016); **8-** Brad Bauer (2019); **14-** Stanley Lis (2019); **15-**George Glovinsky (1986); **21-** Anna Mazurik (2008); **22-** Mary Opritza (2011); **24-** Helen Greshko (1980); **25-** Anna Mazurak (1966); **25-** Philip Timko (2021); **27-** John Gresko- (2008); **30-** Anna Elchisco (1977)



MAY CANDLE SPONSORS

Altar Candles: Fr. Peter and Mat. Michelle, For Health and God's Blessings for Barbara Wroblewski, and Michal & Helena Tomáš (**\$50**); **Chandelier:** Natalie Twarek, In loving birthday remembrance of our dads, George (5/3) and John (5/6) (**\$50**); **Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** Available (**\$25**); **Candles at the Cross:** Laura Kovach, Birthday blessings to Michael (**\$20**); **Candles at St. Tikhon Icon:** Available (**\$20**)



VIGILS FOR MAY 4

Matushka Michelle 2 Special Intentions

Susan Guzy 2 Blessings & prayers to Natalie, Happy Mothers Day to all mothers, grandmothers, Godmothers and aunts past and present, special intentions

Jean Hileman 2 In loving memory of mothers- Helen & Elaine, Grandmothers Maria, Domnica, Mmildred & Mary

Laura Kovach 3 For health and/or healing of Kristi A., Ron O., Martha B., infant Benny, Nichole W., Alex M., Tina R., Nick S., Mike T., Andrew K., Matushka Melania, Ron R., Betty K., Margaret M., Hannah S., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Irene V, Heidi & Wayne G., Sarah K., and Dan D.

In memory of my mom, grandmothers, and Godmother on Mother's Day

Prayers for a successful surgery and speedy recovery for Natalie

Safe travels for Fr. Peter, Tina, and Tony

Sandy Martin 1 Special Intentions

Gabe Mazurik 1 Special Intentions

David & Roddie Mazurik 1 Special Intentions

Natalie Twarek 10 In loving Mother's Day memory of our moms, grandmas and God mothers, Mother's Day blessings to Missy, Nikki, Amber, Matushka Michelle and all of our parish moms, For the health of Kathy, For the health and recovery of Steve, Safe travel for Tina and Tony and health and recovery of Tina, For the health & recovery of Matushka Melania, For the health and recovery on Basil, Ron, Rodney, Betty, Carol, Kayla, Pam, Jim, Heidi, Wayne, Nicole, Peggy, Ann, Laura, Mike, Marcia, Health and healing for Father's parents Michal & Helena and Matushka's mom Barbara, and Walter, For the health of Jen, Tony, Father David, Carole, Gary, Sharon, Tina's dad, Earl, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Bodhi, Stella, Jake, Pat, Special intentions



ANNUAL VISIT TO MIDDLE BASS ISLAND

Annual Lake Erie cruise and molieben of thanksgiving at St John the Baptist Chapel on Middle Bass Island will take place on **June 12th at 12:30 pm.** Followed by Debby's foodfest! Please text Debby **216 676 9531** or Roger **419 285 5200** if you plan to attend, so they can make sure they have enough ferry tickets. Ferry sails from Catawba at **11:15 AM.** Roger will meet us there.



SUNDAY OFFERING

Sunday, May 11, 2025

Tithe	\$1,577.00
Candles	\$ 41.00
Vigils	\$ 120.00
Holy Day Donation	\$ 5.00
Joyful Connections (May)	\$ 125.00
Cemetery Donation	\$ 125.00
Total:	\$1,993.00

May the Lord reward you for your financial and spiritual support!

UP-COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH – MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- May 27th** Baking Day 8:00 AM (Tuesday)
- May 28th** Baking Day 8:00 AM (Wednesday)
- May 29th** ASCENSION OF OUR LORD (Thursday)
- May 31st** 1st Market Day of the Season (Saturday)
- June 8th** – HOLY PENTECOST (Sunday)
- June 15th** – All Saints Sunday – Father's Day (Sunday)



CLEANING SCHEDULE

- May 19, Basil & Tim
- May 26, Susan
- Jun 2, Angela
- May 12, Angela



COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR LIST

- May 18 - Natalia
- May 25 - Laura
- Jun 1 - Danielle & Josh

Please sign up to host coffee hour. Signup sheet is located in the Social Hall



MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

20 – Joe & Valerie Schutt Anniversary (8); **23** – Dale Bricker *; **26** – Quincy Kowal*



BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

You are invited to participate in the Annual Baby Bottle Campaign sponsored by Ottawa County Pregnancy Services. Please take a Baby bottle which you will find in the vestibule and fill it with loose change, cash or check made out to Ottawa County Pregnancy. Please return the bottle on or before Father's Day.



OUR SYMPATIES – MEMORY ETERNAL

Our deepest sympathies are offered to family and friends of †**CRAIG MAZUR**, who passed away on **Tuesday, May 13th** and will be buried from our church on **Wednesday, May 21st**. *“Grant rest eternal in blessed repose, O Lord, to thy servant †CRAIG who is fallen asleep and make his memory to be eternal! Memory Eternal!”*



Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Commemorated on May 18

The Holy Martyr Photina (Svetlana) the Samaritan Woman, her sons Victor (named Photinus) and Joses; and her sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskevė, Kyriake; Nero's daughter Domnina; and the Martyr Sebastian: The holy Martyr Photina was the Samaritan Woman, with whom the Savior conversed at Jacob's Well (John. 4:5-42).

During the time of the emperor Nero (54-68), who displayed excessive cruelty against Christians, Saint Photina lived in Carthage with her younger son Joses and fearlessly preached the Gospel there. Her eldest son Victor fought bravely in the Roman army against barbarians, and was appointed military commander in the city of Attalia (Asia Minor). Later, Nero called him to Italy to arrest and punish Christians.

Sebastian, an official in Italy, said to Saint Victor, “I know that you, your mother and your brother, are followers of Christ. As a friend I advise you to submit to the will of the emperor. If you inform on any Christians, you will receive their wealth. I shall write to your mother and brother, asking them not to preach Christ in public. Let them practice their faith in secret.”

Saint Victor replied, “I want to be a preacher of Christianity like my mother and brother.” Sebastian said, “O Victor, we all know what woes await you, your mother and brother.” Then Sebastian suddenly felt a sharp pain in his eyes. He was dumbfounded, and his face was somber.

For three days he lay there blind, without uttering a word. On the fourth day he declared, “The God of the Christians is the only true God.” Saint Victor asked why Sebastian had suddenly changed his mind. Sebastian replied, “Because Christ is calling me.” Soon he was baptized, and immediately regained his sight. Saint Sebastian's servants, after witnessing the miracle, were also baptized.

Reports of this reached Nero, and he commanded that the Christians be brought to him at Rome. Then the Lord Himself appeared to the confessors and said, “Fear not, for I am with you. Nero, and all who serve him, will be vanquished.” The Lord said to Saint Victor, “From this day forward, your name will be Photinus, because through you, many will be enlightened and will believe in Me.” The Lord then told the Christians to strengthen and encourage Saint Sebastian to persevere until the end. All these things, and even future events, were revealed to Saint Photina. She left Carthage in the company of several Christians and joined the confessors in Rome.

At Rome the emperor ordered the saints to be brought before him and he asked them whether they truly believed in Christ. All the confessors refused to renounce the Savior. Then the emperor gave orders to smash the martyrs' finger joints. During the torments, the confessors felt no pain, and their hands remained unharmed.

Nero ordered that Saints Sebastian, Photinus and Joses be blinded and locked up in prison, and Saint Photina and her five sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskev  and Kyriake were sent to the imperial court under the supervision of Nero's daughter Domnina. Saint Photina converted both Domnina and all her servants to Christ. She also converted a sorcerer, who had brought her poisoned food to kill her. Three years passed, and Nero sent to the prison for one of his servants, who had been locked up. The messengers reported to him that Saints Sebastian, Photinus and Joses, who had been blinded, had completely recovered, and that people were visiting them to hear their preaching, and indeed the whole prison had been transformed into a bright and fragrant place where God was glorified.

Nero then gave orders to crucify the saints, and to beat their naked bodies with straps. On the fourth day the emperor sent servants to see whether the martyrs were still alive. But, approaching the place of the tortures, the servants fell blind. An angel of the Lord freed the martyrs from their crosses and healed them. The saints took pity on the blinded servants, and restored their sight by their prayers to the Lord. Those who were healed came to believe in Christ and were soon baptized.

In an impotent rage Nero gave orders to flay the skin from Saint Photina and to throw the martyr down a well. Sebastian, Photinus and Joses had their legs cut off, and they were thrown to dogs, and then had their skin flayed off. The sisters of Saint Photina also suffered terrible torments. Nero gave orders to cut off their breasts and then to flay their skin. An expert in cruelty, the emperor readied the fiercest execution for Saint Photis: they tied her by the feet to the tops of two bent-over trees. When the ropes were cut the trees sprang upright and tore the martyr apart. The emperor ordered the others beheaded. Saint Photina was removed from the well and locked up in prison for twenty days.

After this Nero had her brought to him and asked if she would now relent and offer sacrifice to the idols. Saint Photina spit in the face of the emperor, and laughing at him, said, "O most impious of the blind, you profligate and stupid man! Do you think me so deluded that I would consent to renounce my Lord Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols as blind as you?"

Hearing such words, Nero gave orders to again throw the martyr down the well, where she surrendered her soul to God (ca. 66).

On the Greek Calendar, Saint Photina is commemorated on February 26.



Are We Broken or Transformed?

by Fr. James Guirguis

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (4:5-42)

Today we are blessed with one of the most profound and rich passages in the whole of the four gospels. There are so many different aspects to this amazing reading but in our limited time together we can only focus on just a couple of the main points.

Many people in North America have had an encounter with the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The woman at the well also had an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ, but what makes this encounter much more special is that the encounter was a life changing experience. We have all known people who are Christians, who go to church and say brief prayers, who go to Bible studies and help with bake sales, who celebrate baptisms and first communions. We know plenty of Christians who go through the motions of being Christians. Our Lord tells us in this passage that those who worship God must worship Him "in spirit and in truth."

What makes this encounter with the Lord so special is that it is indeed, a life-changing experience. We have a woman who was lost in her life. She lived a life of shame and regrets. She lived a life where she was ostracized from the rest of her community. She felt loneliness and pain. She lacked love and she desperately sought that feeling of love and belonging wherever she could find it. Her heart ached for something more.

It is only when someone is at the brink of despair that they are open to a life-changing experience of Jesus Christ. In times of comfort, it is easy to have an encounter with Christ but the results of the encounter are usually insignificant. In the life of every Christian there must be a life-changing experience of Jesus Christ and the love and healing that He offers. We should ask ourselves if we have had this experience and if we have not had it, we should quietly reflect and pray and question why we have not had that experience. We should determine what is holding us back from a true encounter with the Lover of mankind. Is it all of our comfort? Is it our comfort in material things, comfort in our distractions, comfort in our relationships, or even comfort with ourselves and our own sense of virtue and spirituality? Whatever the case may be, we cannot have a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ when He adds nothing of meaning to us because we are already so full.

The woman at the well had the potential to be transformed into a completely different person through the healing grace of the relationship and love she received from our Lord and Savior. This was possible for her because she came empty and in many ways, she was broken and suffering. It is so important for us to also come to the Lord with our brokenness and loneliness and suffering. We have to find that within us. Sometimes God in His mercy will use our outer circumstances to bring us to a place of need. Sometimes the Lord will allow us to become sick or weak physically. But sometimes we must sit quietly and dig deep within to acknowledge that we are all like this poor woman at the well. Above all else we must learn to repent in a way that makes our brokenness and necessity for Christ a reality. There is no doubt that we each need a life changing encounter with the Lord, and there is no doubt that we are each capable of having this because the Lord in His grace is hungry for this relationship with each of us. He is present, but where is our heart? Do we recognize that we are sick and have been enemies of Christ through our own sinfulness and pride?

I promise that the Lord is ready to remake us and to transform us. I know this to be true because I have seen it and observed it many times and this is further demonstrated by the life of the woman at the well who is now known within our Holy Orthodox Church as St. Photini. She met the Lord but she desired and thirsted for the living water that He alone could offer her. This living water changed her life, her goals, and her desires forever. We have each met the Lord, but have we thirsted for Him?

Some of us are going through the motions of being Christians and believers. I know this because I have moments where it is easy to do the same thing. Christ our Lord is not interested in rituals and religious routines that are done by rote habit. These ritual practices and observances will not save us by themselves. They have the potential to save us when they enliven and enlighten our hearts and minds and kindle a burning desire for God within us. But apart from our deep desire for a daily relationship with Jesus Christ, they are just hollow and superficial.

How do we kindle that relationship? We start with dedicated times of silence and repentance in our day. We sit or kneel and we reflect on our own sins and the ways we have hurt others or come short of the glory of God. We do this away from our phones or other distractions. We repent daily as an act of dying to ourselves or killing off the old man and his ways. For some it is enough to sit in front of the icons quietly, for most it will include using a prayer book or slowly and intentionally reading psalms. One of the most important things we can do to prepare for an encounter with Jesus Christ, is to prepare ourselves on Saturday evenings for the great and holy events of the coming morning, the Divine Liturgy and the Holy Eucharist (communion). God is waiting and He offers Himself to each of us.

We have encountered Him but have we been changed?

