

A Meeting at the Well



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

May 2, 2010

Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor; Subdeacon Daniel
J. Korba and Nikitas Tsokris, Cantors

Rectory 215-862-9227; Parish Center 732-780-3158

We Are A Stewardship Parish Of Time, Talent and Treasure

The mission of our parish faith community is to teach the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Orthodox Church; to enable people to reflect the image of Jesus Christ in every day activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Orthodox believers in our Freehold area.

We of St. Paul the Apostle Parish dedicate ourselves to maintaining the sanctity of worship and spiritual enlightenment in a family environment that reaches and involves all ages and unifies all people.

We believe in the spirit of ecumenism in which we share our faith by word and example and extend our spiritual insights to all people.

We accept the responsibility of Christian Stewardship that through generous giving we may all experience a faith communion with Christ as the Center of our lives.

We dedicate ourselves to insuring the well-being of all people so that we may truly experience the message of Christ's salutary gospel.

We are a beacon on a hill with the eyes of many upon us; that beacon is the inspired Light of Christ which must shine brightly in our lives.

It is not ourselves we preach but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in us 2 Corinthians 4: 5 – 8.

GLAD TIDINGS

+++ Father sincerely expresses his gratitude for the blessed concern and intercessory prayers as he was briefly hospitalized this past week for a bacterial infection. In turn he offers intercessory prayers for the continued genuine faith of our parishioners and their spiritual and physical good health for Many & Blessed Years, Christ Is Risen!

+++ Next Sunday at 9: 15 AM, we will celebrate a Memorial Service for the repose of the souls of his beloved parents, +Andrew and +Haratina, requested by George and Debra Szmajda. We pray the Lord

continues to comfort George and Debra and their loved ones in their loss and that He grants a blessed repose to the souls of +Andrew& +Haratina and creates for them Eternal Memory, Christ Is Risen!

+++ We remind our faithful that at the last Diocesan Council this past summer, the Diocesan Dues were raised, due to inflation and need, from the past \$50.00 per adult individual, eighteen years and older, to \$60.00 per year. Our envelope offering system still has the old amount on it, so please disregard that figure and make your offering according to the new mandated amount. If this offering was made in the old amount, please correct it by submitting the additional amount with a notation on the envelope because the parish must send the entire amount to the diocesan chancery.

+++ We will have Bake Sale on Friday, May 28 in time for the Memorial Day celebration. Please secure orders for Nut Rolls, Poppyseed, Lekvar and Apricot Rolls at \$12.00 each.

+++ The offering for flowers for the coming feast of Pentecost will be taken on Sunday, May 16. Please plan on being generous for the beautification of our church as we celebrate its birthday.

+++ The sign-up sheet for both the Web Site and Bulletin sponsors is on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Please sign up as soon as possible. Do NOT make payment until your sign-up month has arrived. This will make it easier for Father to keep track of payments. Thanks in advance to all who support the parish in this way.

+++ We offer thanks to the Blessed Trinity for inspiring generosity in the souls of our faithful and the blessing of abundant grace in our midst with the offering received this past week-end: Tithe Offering, \$1,200.00; Candles, \$100.00; Kitchen, \$50.00; Holyday, \$50.00; Food Coupons, \$100.00; Christian Fellowship, \$50.00 for a total of \$2,400.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offered their God-given treasure for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls! The attendance was 41 adults and 13 children last Sunday.

+++ As faithful believers, we intercede and associate ourselves in prayer with the following who have prayed and offered seven day lights for their intentions: Father Lucas, Pani Lucas, Kent Pasquino, Kyle Pasquino, and Pani Buletza.

+++ We make a PENNIES FROM HEAVEN Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of \$1,000.00 from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ For the expansion of our much needed parochial facilities, our parish pledge support to date totals \$1,000.00. As we thank the Lord for inspiring generosity in the hearts of our faithful, we also thank the donors for accepting the challenge of the Lord in building up His Body. We cordially invite and look forward to receiving additional and increased pledges from all our devoted parishioners.

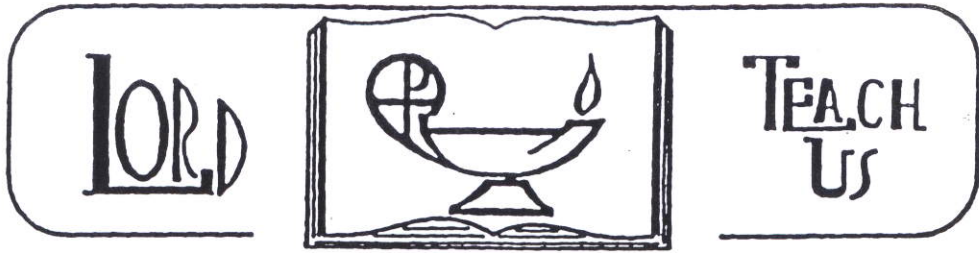
+++ Please check the Sign-Up-Sheet for the weekly Christian Fellowship for the coming weeks. Simple foods without need for preparation are the best. Marilyn Korba coordinates this vital apostolate. Please assist her in making it a success by bringing your donation early so that all are present at the worship of our God.

+++ Be certain your child attends the spiritual formation classes held each Sunday following the Divine Liturgy. We make a serious attempt to share the love of our Lord with all.

+++ Please be certain to see **Helen Karpiak** or a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using **Shop Rite Food Coupons** available in \$20.00 denominations. We invite **ALL** to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized \$5100.00 on this project to date!

+++ **We remind our faithful only those who are present for the entire Divine Liturgy should come forward to receive Communion. The entire Liturgy means "Amen" to "Amen."**

+++ May all glory, adoration and worship be accorded our God in the Holy Trinity by all the faithful of our parish with one mind, one soul and one heart each day of the week!



PARENTS

Fathers do not anger your children. Bring them up with the training and instruction befitting the Lord. Ephesians 6:4

Then the Lord, your God, will increase in more than goodly measure the returns from all your labors, the fruit of your womb, the offspring of your livestock, and the produce of your soil; for the Lord, your God, will again take delight in your prosperity, even as he took delight in your fathers.' Deuteronomy 30:9

"With that he set off for his father's house. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him and was deeply moved. He ran out to meet him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' The father said to his servants: 'Quickly bring out the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Take a fatted calf and kill it. Let us eat and celebrate because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and is found.' Then the celebration began." Luke 15:20-24

Wives should be submissive to their husbands as if to the Lord because the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is head of his body, the church, as well as its Saviour. As the Church submits to Christ, so wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church. He gave himself up for her to make her holy, purifying her in the bath of water by the power of the word, to present to himself a glorious church, holy and immaculate, without stain or wrinkle or anything of that sort. Husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. Ephesians 5:22-28

The rod of correction gives wisdom, but a boy left to his whims disgraces his mother. Correct your son, and he will bring you comfort, and give delight to your soul. Proverbs 29:15, 17

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

The joyful message of the Resurrection was heard by the faithful women from the angel. And being freed from the ancestral curse, they boasted to the apostles: "Dead and despoiled is death; Christ our God is risen, giving great mercy to the world." Troparion, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman.

When the Samaritan woman came to the well with faith, she beheld You, O Water of Wisdom; You allowed her to drink abundantly, and glorified her eternally, for she inherited the eternal kingdom. Kontakion, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman.

When the Paschal feast is half-completed, quench my thirsty soul with the waters of devotion, for You, O Saviour, have announced to all: "Let him who is thirsty come to Me and drink." O Christ God, Source of our life, glory be to You! Troparion, Mid-Pentecost Feast.

O Christ God, Creator and Lord of all, when the Paschal feast was half-completed, You told those present: "Come and draw the water of immortality," Let us therefore adore You and cry out with faith: "Grant us Your goodness, for You are the Source of our life!" Kontakion, Mid-Pentecost Feast.

You fought the good fight with faith, O Martyr of Christ, George. You exposed the perversion of the persecutors and offered an acceptable sacrifice to God. Therefore, you also received a crown of victory and through your prayers, O holy one, obtained the forgiveness of sins for all. Troparion, Feast of St. George the Martyr.

Inspired by God, you sowed the seeds of piety, harvesting sheaves of virtue. You sowed in tears but reaped in joy; and having honorably fought and given your blood, you were received by Christ. Through your prayers, O holy one, obtain the forgiveness of sins for all. Kontakion, Feast of St. George the Martyr.

Looking For Life

Not long ago, a member of the parish was given the unhappy news that cancerous or pre-cancerous tissue had gained a foothold in a vital area of his body. Surgery was performed to remove the threat. Chemical and radiation therapy was administered. After time had been allowed for this allegedly curative treatment to do its work, a second group of tests was given to determine if the treatment was successful.

After the second tests the wife called the physician to hear the report. He told her the news was not good. After the treatment her husband had the same condition which existed before treatment. The doctor announced the only hope now was for radical surgery. The wife not only heard the unhappy news, but it fell on her to inform her spouse of the evil tidings. Her husband, upon hearing the report, retreated into a state of depression.

A short time later the telephone rang once again. The wife did not really feel like speaking with anyone. She let it ring several times. But when it incessantly rang, she saw it must be answered. It was the family physician with whom she spoke earlier. With much apology he announced his nurse brought him the original report of the husband's condition prior to treatment. He had carelessly not looked carefully enough at the date until the conversation ended and he had hung up. Happily now he told her that the current update report indicated all the tissue was normal and her husband had every reason to expect a healthy life.

In that household profound sorrow turned to joy, despair was replaced by hope, depression made way for rejoicing and celebration. If you can understand the feelings of this family, you will understand the faith response described in the Resurrection story of Scripture. Three women, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary, the mother of James, went to the grave of the Lord on that first morning of dark night and bright day. They were going there to complete the anointing which Jewish people practiced to prepare the body for burial.

This process had been left incomplete, because the Sabbath came immediately after Great and Holy Friday and no work was allowed on the feast. The preparing of a friend's body for burial is a task in which no one finds joy or pleasure. It is doing the best one can under the circumstances. The last memory of Jesus was that of seeing His body removed from the Cross and placed in the tomb.

Undoubtedly, a surprise was in store for these women. "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here; He is risen." The angels concluded by reminding them that Jesus predicted He would be crucified and would rise from the dead on the third day. These words of greeting were somewhat of a rebuke, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" They are in fact a reminding rebuke to backward looking faith and backward look personalities.

If the family at the outset of this discourse had still suffered from depression and sorrow after they received the updated diagnosis, we would think something was wrong with their comprehensive abilities. We would say with some impatience, "Get rid of your long face! You cannot live as if it had never come. This is a time for rejoicing, not sorrow. Do not live in the past. The bad news is overcome. Live with the present enduring good news!"

Now there are some Christians who live life as if Christ were still in the tomb. It may be that some with misguided faith have placed too much emphasis on the Cross. Because we place the Cross everywhere around us, some misunderstand its meaning. Because it remind us of the suffering and death of the Saviour for the sake of our salvation, we mistakenly believe Great and Holy Friday is more important than Resurrection Sunday. Some begin to think faith stops and ends with Great and Holy Friday and a Saviour Who dies.

The angelic powers of heaven condemn this kind of faith saying, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, He is risen!" The tomb is empty this day of the Resurrection. Perhaps we should emphasize the empty grave, the open tomb with as much enthusiasm as the Cross itself because it bears witness to the joy of our faith; it is precisely like the second, affirming, explaining and illucidating call from the physician. We are to remember the Cross; we also are to remember that Christ is risen from the dead. We worship, not a dying, martyred Jew, but a risen Saviour, Who assures us, "Because I live, you too, shall live."

We have seen it is possible to have a backward looking faith. It is also possible to have a backward looking personality. Some people enjoy looking back at the unhappy days of their lives. They remember only their "crucifixions." They likely forget their "Resurrections." They see only the sorrows of life and they are outraged that life appears many times so miserable. How many husband and wives see only the unhappy days of their marriage! An unfortunate incident which may have occurred years ago, remains alive and the center of their lives. Although they live in happier times, one or the other still wants to live in the past. They cannot leave Golgotha and its gripping and riveting pain to approach the empty reverberating with joy and gladness empty tomb of the Resurrection.

Some people complain about their childhood and how they were allegedly abused, which makes them unhappy many times in the present. What happened to us in our childhood is important, but it is also necessary to look at the present. It was unfortunate the doctor referred to the incorrect medical report. It was tragic he did not look at the date. It was a sad moment for the wife to have to tell her husband he had to face major difficulties. But to dwell on this and to think only of this is to forget the telephone rang a second time and the news was good, even very very good.

We must look beyond Great and Holy Friday, to the brightness of the Resurrection. Too many people live in the shadow of Holy and Great Friday rather than be drawn into the light of Christ's victory. Like the three women who went to the tomb, they are unaware that a new day of life and joy has come. The Resurrection is a strong rebuke to the backward looking faith and backward looking personality in so many people. We do not worship a dead Jew. We worship a living and victorious and triumphant Saviour!

The last word in our precious faith commitment is not the Cross. We remember the empty tomb. Christ's presence among us did not end with death and burial in a cave. Jesus rose from the dead. He met and reassured His friends and loved ones on the hills of Galilee. Today our lives will have joy and peace when we center our attention and our lives on crucifixion life, but emphasize Resurrection victory. It is time to abandon the backward look; it is time to look to the present and the future. We are Resurrection people; we are victory celebrants. If the Lord is to have meaning in our lives, it is not because He died so much, but that He died and rose, that He is alive, that He is with us now!

If we as people are to have some distinct real, genuine, authentic meaning for one another, it is because we are alive, not dead; because we are joyful and happily alive and not dead and sorrowing, but being of service in encouraging faith commitment in each other. Do not seek the living among the dead. "He is not here; He is risen!"



*God, I will thank you forever
for what you have done. With those who worship you,
I will trust you because you are good.*

PSALM 52:9

The Resurrection and Ascension

In the life of our Lord, Jesus Christ, there were exciting days, indeed beginning with dawn on the first day of the week after His burial and continuing for forty days to the moment of His Ascension from the two-mile long ridge, running north to south, called the Mount of Olives. The site of His Ascension was Jebel-et-Tur, the southernmost elevation on the ridge almost three thousand feet above sea level.

The focus during those days had switched from His ministry to His person. His Resurrection was challenged, as it continues to be even in some circles today.

Yet there was a guard at His tomb, a guard in the employ of the chief priests and the Pharisees. His tomb was secured and sealed by them, that is the company of chief priests and Pharisees and guards (Matthew 27: 62 – 66).

After the Resurrection of Christ, some of the guard reported to the chief priests what happened. Their response to the guards was, "...they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, "You are to say, "his disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep." And if this gets to the ears of the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble" Matthew 28: 12 – 14.

These conspirators, from the chief priests to the lower ranking guard, knew full well that the body had not been stolen. Now, if the body had been stolen, would the thieves, whoever they would have been, have unwrapped the dead body before they carried it away? Both SS. John and Peter saw the burial clothes left behind in the tomb, along with the cloth that had covered his head. (John 20: 4 – 7).

The first person to whom Jesus appeared was Mary Magdalene. Now, if the Resurrection was just a fable and not fact, the perpetrators of the story would have chosen men as the first witnesses because in the patriarchal Jewish society of the time women did not have much credibility as witnesses.

Again, conjurers of the story of the Resurrection would have made sure that all of the participants were in agreement; no dissenters are permitted in a conspiracy. Yet, Mary Magdalene did not tell Peter and John, "Jesus Christ has risen from the dead!" What she told them was, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb and we do not know where they put him" John 20: 2. In St. Luke's gospel, the reaction to the story of Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary the mother of James, by the apostles was, "...their story seemed like nonsense and they did not

believe them” Luke 24: 10, 11. The reaction of Thomas, one of the Twelve, to the Resurrection was, “Unless I see the marks of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe” John 20: 25.

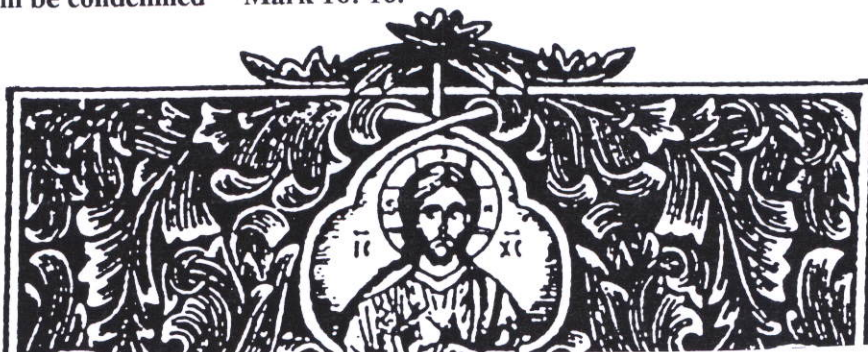
Historical witness of the Ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven is found in Luke 24: 50 – 53 and in the Acts of the Apostles 1: 9 - 12.

The Ascension presupposes the Resurrection because that which ascended was His glorified body. The doctrine of the Resurrection is not alien to Jewish belief. Judaism teaches that the bodies of the dead will rise from their graves at some future time. In Jewish thought, eschatological phenomena include the ingathering of the dispersed Jewish exiles, the war against Gog and Magog, the day of Judgment, the advent of the reign of the Mesisha, the resurrection of the dead and the re-establishment of the original paradise on earth (see Daniel 12: 2). The Resurrection and Ascension, then, are not extraneous to the theology of Judaism. Indeed, for many Semites, there cannot be any eternal life in any real sense unless the body shares in the glorified existence of the person who inhabited the body.

Who opposes the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ? The first among these were the religious leaders of Judaism in Christ’s own time. St. Matthew’s gospel was written after 70 AD, some forty years after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ, and he writes, “this story has circulated among the Jews to the present day” What story? The soldiers’ story, “his disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep” Matthew 28: 11 – 15. But they fail to explain how sleeping soldiers knew what happened or that it was actually the apostles who stole the body!

The chief priests, the elders, the Pharisees, contemporaries of Christ, could not and did not obviate the facts of His Resurrection and Ascension.

Who else opposes the Resurrection and Ascension? Sinners in every generation who fear what St. Paul speaks of, “...it is appointed that human beings die once, and after this the judgment” Hebrew 9: 27. Unrepentant sinners today, too, put their hands over their ears at these words of Christ prior to the Ascension, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned” Mark 16: 16.



The Lord of the Pocketbook

Following many years of faithful service as a dray horse, the old animal collapsed and died one day on the street. His owner, who depended on this poor old horse to earn a livelihood, was upset and worried, wondering how he could possibly afford another horse. A crowd gathered around this dreadful spectacle, telling the horse's owner how sorry they all were. Then a man named John Bright, who listened patiently to all the sympathies and concerns, stepped into the midst of the crowd, took off his hat, and put a five dollar bill into it. He then passed his hat among all the gathered sympathizers saying, "I'm sorry five dollars worth; how sorry are you for this man's misfortune?"

Whether we like it or not, whether we understand it or not, what we give away is one of the measures of our commitment to God. We all know that in every parish there are folks who live on a comfortable income but only sacrifice meagerly each week for their church and its support. They are something like a man who achieved fame and renown through a chain of restaurants he had established. Finally, however, he came to the end of his life as we all do. As he lay dying, his relatives gathered around to hear his final words. He said, as he breathed his last, "Slice the ham thin."

It has been said that often those who have been blessed with much, but give only a little in return are not really stingy. They may be kind-hearted people who would not ignore the obvious needs of the Church. The problem, instead, is a failure to realize that a complete and full commitment to our Heavenly Father includes allowing Him to be not only the Light of our lives and the Source of our faith, but just as importantly, the Lord of our pocketbooks and wallets.

How grateful are we? How deep is our commitment? Do we permit our faith to shine in every other area of our lives, but attempt to keep the dark recesses of our pocketbooks and wallets from His view? Is it unreasonable to expect that every committed believer should strive to give sacrificially of his income for the support of the work of Christ in our own midst? Has not Christ entrusted the care of His Body, the Church to us who are beneficiaries of its grace? When it comes right down to it, the Sunday morning offering speaks pretty loudly when it says: "O Lord, no matter what else we say or do here today, no matter how much we praise You and sing Your glory, this is what we really think of You! Amen."

We are pleased to acknowledge so many truly generous and sacrificial souls in our midst. And we salute them with gratitude to our Creator Who endowed them with generosity of soul. They recognize it is He Who has blessed us with our earthly treasure and they are humbly grateful to return a portion of His blessings to Him for the good care of His Church. His trust in them is not misplaced. God bless you, good and faithful souls!

*Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.*

ISAIAH 64:8 NRSV

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13 NIV

*I will be glad and rejoice in your love,
for you saw my affliction
and knew the anguish of my soul.
You have not handed me over to the enemy
but have set my feet in a spacious place.*

PSALM 31:7–8 NIV

*And the God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ,
after you have suffered a little while,
will himself restore you and make you strong,
firm and steadfast.*

1 PETER 5:10 NIV



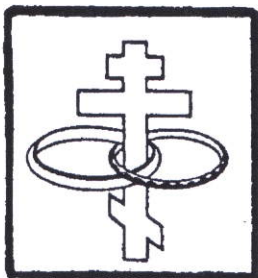
Birthday
Wishes!

We are pleased to greet those of our faithful communicants who celebrate their birthday this month. Our Lord has offered these souls yet another year of blessed life. The most obvious way He blesses us and participates in our life is by sharing His divine life with us in the Eucharist at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Thus we can gather together and offer thanks to Him for yet another year of life blessed by His most gracious hands. Today, we prayerfully remember in the Divine Liturgy the following souls who celebrate their birthday during the month

May 3 Betty Samaris
May 9 Rachel Marie Korba

With a prayerful heart and grateful soul, our parish faith community asks the Lord to continue to bless these birthday celebrants with good spiritual and physical health for the coming year. We invite all to add their intercessory prayers so that with one voice and one heart we may also participate in the grace and joy of their celebration. As we wish them a happy and blessed celebration of their birthday, our ardent prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless them for

Many and Blessed Years



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

The Byzantine Fathers of the Church were wont to emphasize how ancient and how venerable marriage is in the sight of our God because it was established yet in paradise before the fall of Adam and Eve and brought to blessed perfection by Christ in Cana of Galilee. Its grace survived the sin of our first parents and it remains a sign of the presence of the Holy Trinity in our midst. It is a living symbol of the deep and abiding love between Christ and His Bride, our blessed Church. It is characterized in the liturgical life of the Church as a happy martyrdom. And it is precisely for this reason the sacramental Mystery of Marriage is such a joyous event. On the third Sunday of this month, we honor those of our good parishioners who observe their marriage anniversaries this month of May. They are specially remembered in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and subsequently receive an individual and personal blessing of the Lord at its conclusion. Celebrating this month are:

May 22 Frank & Maria Pashos
May 24 Charles J. & Marion Peles
May 24 Robin & Louis Pasquino

We gratefully give thanks to the Blessed Trinity for having guided and strengthened the marriages of these believers, and their cooperation with sacramental grace to remain faithful to one another over the years. Like all who are faithful to Christ, they recognize the presence and necessity of the Holy Spirit not only in the marriage, but in subsequent family life as well. As we praise our God for their witness in our midst, let us also join them with our prayers and thanksgiving before the throne of the Lord. May they continue to praise His Holy Name by their love and devotion to one another for

**Many and Blessed Years,
Christ Is Risen!**

QUENCHING THE THIRST OF A PARCHED SOUL

It was a long, rugged journey from Judea to Galilee - a journey that necessitated traveling through the region of Samaria. It is no wonder that our Lord, weary from such a grueling trip, paused to rest in the heat of the noonday sun at a well in the village of Sychar. His Divine Body was in need of water, but as this morning's lengthy Gospel lesson relates, Christ encounters someone with a far greater "thirst." A Samaritan Woman comes to draw water from the well, and Jesus strikes up a conversation with her. If only the Pharisees could see Him now! Not only was Christ talking to a Samaritan - bitter enemies of the Jews - but a woman no less! This just wasn't something that would have been deemed as "politically correct" at this point in time. Our Lord, however, cared little for the norms of society - He was much more concerned with changing the direction of the life of a soul that had gone astray.

As this fascinating dialogue between them unfolds at the well, we soon understand that the Samaritan Woman has had a troubled past. She has had five husbands, and currently is living with another man. But rather than judge her for her moral shortcomings, Christ sees her as someone who is searching for something. He knows what that "something" is: it is the "living water" that only He could offer and provide. It didn't matter if she were a woman or if she were a Samaritan. Jesus saw her as a child of God seeking the Messiah. By the end of their conversation, the woman knew, indeed, that she was speaking to the One for Whom the world had been waiting.

The Samaritan Woman would one day be known as St. Photini, which means "the enlightened one." She would go on to be a great missionary, proclaiming to the world the Gospel of Jesus Christ which she learned at the town well in Sychar one fateful day.