

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN



Icon of Christ and the Samaritan Woman

Parish Rummage Sale – May 30th

There will be a rummage sale on May 30 to benefit the parish. It will feature a special Ukrainian craft section! We are now accepting donations. Volunteers are also needed. Please contact Olena Bankston at (619) 567-6967.

Пригадуємо що стоїмо підчас молитви

кожної Неділі і кожного дня від Великодня до Неділі П'ятдесятниці

Це не є нова вигадка а виразне повторення стародавнього звичаю і повчання стародавньої Церкви про праведне додержування Господнього Дня (Неділя). Це повчання ще із Собору Нікеї (325р). Були різні звичаї в різних місцевостях і Церква рішила наголосити Христове Воскресення кожної Неділі. Ця справа була така важлива що Церковні Отці рішили надати закон. Канон 20 каже: *Тому що є деякі громади що ще клякають в Неділю і в дні П'ятдесятниці, цей Святий Собор проголошує що в спільній молитві (Служба Божа) молимося Богові **стоячи**.*



	<i>Sunday Collection: April 12, 2009:</i>	
Paschal Services		\$2006.00
Flower Donations:		\$175.00
Total:		\$2,181.00
	<i>Sunday Collection: April 19, 2009:</i>	
10:00 AM		\$708.00
Sviachenne		\$472.00
Total:		\$1,180.00
	<i>Sunday Collection: April 26, 2009:</i>	
8:00 AM		\$80.00
10:00 AM		\$978.00
Total:		\$1,058.00
	<i>Sunday Collection: May 3, 2009:</i>	
8:00 AM		\$225.00
10:00 AM		\$747.00
Total:		\$972.00

НЕДІЛЯ САМАРЯНКИ

„Справжні поклонники поклонятимуться Отцеві в Дусі і правді. А таких поклонників шукає собі Отець”. Ці слова Спасителя, сказані до жінки самарянки, стануть предметом нашої нинішньої розмови.

Є, отже, питання: чи справді люди йдуть до церкви тому, що вони бояться смерті, чи може хочуть зустрітися з приятелями? Перед тим, як дати відповідь на це питання, запитаймо себе, чому ми прийшли до церкви? Чому ми цього ранку в церкві?

Щоб нам було легше відповісти, загляньмо у Святе Письмо. Розгорнім книгу Псалмів, які написав великий пророк і поет цар Давид. Книга Псалмів — це важлива книга. Важливою вона є не лише тому, що псалми — це молитви Старого Завіту, але також тому, що це був молитовник, з якого молився наш Спаситель Христос. Псалми — чудовий спосіб почитання Бога. В нашій Літургії, яка є найвищим почитанням Бога, ми співаємо в першому антифоні стихи псалма *„Воскликніте Господеві, вся земля, співайте ж імені Його, віддайте славу хвалі Його ... Вся земля нехай поклониться Тобі, нехай же співає імені Твоєму, Всевишній”.* Отже, псаломспівець Давид, а за ним наша Літургія, ясно і в чудовий спосіб, пояснює нам, чому ми є тут в Церкві. Ми зійшлися тут, щоби призна ти Богу велич і достойність. Саме в тому полягає наше почитання і поклоніння Богові.

Ми визнаємо, що Господь є нашим Творцем, що Він є Джерелом нашого життя, Він є нашим Богом. Ми любимо Його, ми славимо Його, поклоняємося Йому, ми дякуємо Йому. Це є якраз богочитання, поклоніння Богові.

Може, дехто із вас прийшов сьогодні до церкви, бо боїться смерті, може, тому, що почувається самотнім, може, прийшов до церкви тому, що хоче помолитися за іншого, а може, ще й тому, що має клопіт. Є сотні різних причин, які привели нас до церкви. Ті причини можуть бути добрі й важливі, однак, вони — другорядні. Головною причиною, чому ми є тут, чому ми прийшли на Службу Богу є бажання відчутти в церкві Богу присутність і визнати Богу велич, Богу достойність. Ми прийшли до церкви, щоби поклонитися вічному, всемогучому, милосердному Богові.

Христос каже: *„Прийдіть до мене всі втомлені і обтяжені... ярмо бо моє любе й тягар мій легкий”* (Мт. 11, 30). Він говорить нам про Бога, як про нашого Отця, а ми — Його улюблені діти. Тепер ми слухаємо Бога не тому, що Він зв'язав нас законами, і за невиконання їх нам грозить кара. Ні! Ми сповняємо Божі закони, бо вони є бажанням нашого Небесного Отця, який нас любить.

„Справжні поклонники Отцеві поклонятимуться в Дусі й правді”, — сказав Христос до самарянки й говорить до нас. Христос запрошував самарянку й запрошує нас увійти в нове життя, в життя свободної Божої дитини, яка кориться Богові не зі страху, але з любові.

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

"...Authentic worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth. Indeed, it is just such worshipers the Father seeks." These words of the Savior, spoken to a Samaritan woman, are the premise of today's discussion.

The question is: do people go to church because they are afraid of death, or, perhaps, because they want to meet with their friends? Before answering the question, let us ask ourselves: why have we come to church?

To make it easier for us to answer, let us look at the Holy Gospels. Let us open the book of Psalms written by the great prophet and poet King David. The book of Psalms is an important book because psalms are the prayers of the Old Testament and because this book served as a prayer book from which our Savior Jesus Christ prayed. Psalms are a wondrous way of worshiping God. In our Liturgy, which is the greatest worship of God, we sing in the first Antiphon these words of a psalm: *"Shout to the Lord, all the earth; sing now to His name, give glory to His praise... Let all the world worship You and sing to You, let it sing to Your name, O Most High."* The psalm of King David and our Divine Liturgy both clearly and wondrously explain to us why we are in church today. We came here to acknowledge God's greatness and worthiness. This is where our worship and adoration of God comes from.

We know that the Lord is our Creator, that He is the Seed of our life. He is our God. We love Him, glorify Him, adore Him and thank Him. This is what worship and adoration of God consists of.

Perhaps some of you have come to church today because you fear death or feel lonely or, perhaps, because you want to pray for the intention of another or because you have problems. There are hundreds of reasons that bring us to church, some good and important, but still secondary. The main reason we are here to participate in the Divine Liturgy is the desire to feel God's presence and acknowledge His greatness and worthiness. We came to worship the eternal, almighty, merciful Lord.

Christ says: *"Come to Me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome... for My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* (Mat. 11, 30). He speaks of God as our Father, and tells us that we are His beloved children. We listen to God not because He has tied us to Him with laws and violating these laws will bring about severe punishment. No! We fulfill God's commandments because Our Heavenly Father, Who loves us, wants us to obey these laws.

"...Authentic worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth," Christ says to the Samaritan woman and to us. Christ invites the Samaritan woman and invites us to enter a new life, the life of a free child of God who submits to God, not out of fear, but out of love.

Mothers in God's Service

Whether we are aware of it or not, we are all called to serve God. Whatever talents He has given us, we should choose to use in the service of His glorification. One such talent is the ability of a woman to care for the children she bears. She takes care of their physical needs and also tries to promote what she herself perceives as a need to know God. To women, God has given the wonderful mission of raising children, of building little temples for Him, raising another generation inspired to praise God.

Orthodox Christians understand just how exalted motherhood is. Has God not willed to be incarnate of a woman - Mary, the blessed offspring of aged Joachim and Anna? She was found worthy to take part in the mystery of the incarnation, having perfected in her soul purity, humility, obedience, silence, simplicity and a gentle disposition. She knew that such is precious in the sight of God (**I Pet. 3:4**). And in the environment of her purity of mind and speech, as well as her quiet comportment, she raised her holy Son with gentle love and care. While she is unique in her holiness, she is absolutely beautiful in her humanity.

To all who are called by God to motherhood, may it be granted not only to be worthy servants of His chosen flock, but also to take part in raising that God-glorifying generation. While God entrusts the leading to spiritual growth and development of virtues to many people, including priests and godparents, He chooses women to serve Him in motherhood, and we ought to understand that it is a holy calling. A woman worthy of being called “mother” is also worthy of being deemed “martyr” because raising children is a great sacrifice of self. Do not underestimate the serious and holy service you render when you accept from God to raise the little ones He gives you.

BEING A MOTHER

After 21 years of marriage, my wife wanted me to take another woman out to dinner and a movie. She said, 'I love you, but I know this other woman loves you and would Love to spend some time with you.'

The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my Mother, who has been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my three children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally.

That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie. 'What's wrong, are you well,' she asked? My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a late night call or a surprise invitation is a sign of bad news.

'I thought that it would be pleasant to spend some time with you,' I responded 'just the two of us.' She thought about it for a moment, and then said, 'I would like that very much.'

That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up I was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed to be nervous about our date. She waited in the door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to celebrate her last wedding anniversary. She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel's.

'I told my friends that I was going to go out with my son, and they were impressed,' she said, as she got into the car. 'They can't wait to hear about our meeting.' We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cozy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady.

After we sat down, I had to read the menu. Her eyes could only read large print. Halfway through the entrees, I lifted my eyes and saw Mother sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips.

'It was I who used to have to read the menu when you were small,' she said. 'Then it's time that you relax and let me return the favor,' I responded...

During the dinner, we had an agreeable conversation nothing extraordinary but catching up on recent events of each other's life. We talked so much that we missed the movie. As we arrived at her house later, she said, 'I'll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you.' I agreed.

'How was your dinner date?' asked my wife when I got home. 'Very nice, much more so than I could have imagined,' I answered.

A few days later, my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I didn't have a chance to do anything for her. Sometime later, I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place Mother and I had dined. An attached note said: 'I paid this bill in advance. I wasn't sure that I could be there; but, nevertheless, I paid for two plates - one for you and the other for your wife. You will never know what that night meant for me. I love you, son'

At that moment, I understood the importance of saying in time: 'I love YOU' and to give our loved ones the time that they deserve. Nothing in life is more important than your family. Give them the time they deserve, because these things cannot be put off till some 'other' time.

– Anonymous

Українська Католицька Парафія Матері Божої Неустаючої Помочі
Церква Святого Пророка й Предтечи Йоана Хрестителя
Святиня Святого Миколая, Архієпископа Мір Лікійського, Чудотворця

Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Church of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptizer John
Shrine of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycea

4400 Palm Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91941
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

Website: stjohnthebaptizer.org

Падох: о. Яків Бенькстон
Pastor: Fr. James Bankston
frjames@mac.com
Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

Spreading the Good News

After Our Lord spoke to the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well, she left her water jar and rushed to tell her townspeople to "Come and see someone who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" On the strength of her testimony, many in the town believed in Jesus. After they met Jesus and listened to Him, they were able to say to her, "Our faith no longer depends upon your story. We have heard Him ourselves and we know that this is really the Savior of the world" (John 4: 42). The experience of the Samaritan woman was one of discovering and sharing. She discovered Our Lord, and she joyfully shared her discovery with others. The townspeople were first attracted to Jesus through the woman's testimony. Then, through their own encounter with Him, they were convinced He was the Savior of the World, the Messiah. The story of the Samaritan woman is a good example of how Our Lord makes His message of salvation known, especially in the use of human instruments to "reach out and touch the lives" of others. The mission of the Church is to bring God to people and people to God, and to transform the world through the divine power of the teachings of Christ. The People of God (the Church), which includes bishops, priests, deacons, religious and laity, are to be lights to others by word, example and service, and lead others to God. We are called to light up this spiritually dark world with the light of Christ, who is the Way, Truth and Life. We are called to be disciples and missionaries of our Lord, to be instruments to bring His love and presence to those who need it. If we love God and our neighbor, we want to share our love for God and our faith with others, just as the Samaritan woman did.

Richard Michael J. Dudick