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Sunday, May 18th, 2014

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Χριστος Ανεστη (Christ is Risen!)

“IF ANYONE THIRSTS, COME UNTO ME AND DRINK...”

Thirst is a natural human experience. Simply stated, we could not survive for any length of time without a regular intake of liquids. It is not surprising, then, that Christ would draw an analogy between Himself and water, for indeed, He is our unquenchable source of life. What IS surprising, however, is the method deployed by our Lord to accent this divine truth.

Much of today's Gospel on this, the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, centers around what appears to be an innocent conversation between Christ and a stranger. What is intriguing about this dialogue is that Christ would engage in such a conversation with a woman (unheard of in those days) and a Samaritan, who were natural enemies of the Jews, in the first place! Their

words begin with a discussion of a material nature: “Give me something to drink,” asks our Lord. It leads to matters of enormous spiritual and theological significances. “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,” He reminds the Samaritan Women, “but whoever drinks of the waters that I shall give him will never thirst. For the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” As their talk continues, Jesus ultimately reveals to her that He is the Messiah: the One Who can satisfy our every need.

The Gospel concludes with a message from the townspeople to the Samaritan woman: **Now we believe not because of what you have said, for we ourselves have heard Him.** It is important that we realize that we must, of our own accord, come unto that “Living Water” and drink! We must believe in Christ out of a personal, inner experience of faith.

HOLY COMMUNION REMINDER— Please follow Ushers Instructions

We welcome those visiting with us today and ask that only Baptized/Chrismated Orthodox Christians who are properly prepared through prayer, fasting and Holy Confession to come forward to receive Holy Communion. Women are kindly asked to remove their lipstick prior to receiving Holy Communion. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to receive the blessed bread from the Priest at the end of the Divine Liturgy and to join us for fellowship in our hall. We ask that everyone please dress appropriately for church. **Visitors: we ask that you fill out a yellow welcome card & give it to an usher.**

COMING UP...

- ♦ *Sunday School:*
TODAY following Divine Liturgy AWARD CEREMONY & ICE CREAM SOCIAL
- ♦ *Parish Council:*
Tues. May 20th 6PM MEETING
- ♦ *S.S Constantine & Helen Weds. May 21st Orthos 9AM Div. Lit 10AM*
- ♦ *Circle of Friends:*
Thurs. May 22nd 12PM Picnic @ Cinnamon Cove
- ♦ *Ladies Philoptochos Society: Sun. May 25th following Divine Liturgy BAKE SALE*
- ♦ *Ladies Philoptochos Society: Tues. May 27th 10:30AM GENERAL MEETING*
- ♦ *HOLY ASCENSION: Thurs. May 29th Orthos 9AM Div. Lit. 10AM*

EPISTLE READING

Acts of the Apostles 11:19-30

IN THOSE DAYS, those apostles who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabos stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea, and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel of John 4:5-42

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, 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." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" 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."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks 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 the Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to him.

Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony. "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard ourselves, and we know that this is indeed Christ the Savior of the world."

Saints Constantine and Helen

This sovereign of the Christians was the son of Constantius and of the blessed Helen. In 306, when his father died, he was proclaimed successor to his throne. In 312, on learning that Maxentius and Maximinus had joined forces against him, he marched into Italy, where, while at the head of his troops, he saw in the sky, beneath the sun, a radiant pillar in the form of a cross with the words: "By this shalt thou conquer." The following night, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him in a dream and declared to him the power of the Cross and its significance. When he arose in the morning, he immediately ordered that a labarum be made (which is a banner or standard of victory over the enemy) in the form of a cross, and he inscribed on it the Name of Jesus Christ. Under him all the persecutions against the Church ceased. Christianity triumphed and idolatry was overthrown. In 325 he gathered the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea. In 324, in the ancient city of Byzantium, he laid the foundations

of the new capital of his realm, naming it after himself, Constantinople. Since the throne of the imperial rule was transferred from Rome, it was named New Rome, the inhabitants of its domain were called Romans, and it was considered the continuation of the Roman Empire. Falling ill, he requested to receive divine Baptism, and he reposed in 337, on the day of Pentecost.

As for his holy mother Helen, after her son had made the Faith of Christ triumphant throughout the Roman Empire, undertook a journey to Jerusalem and found the Holy Cross on which our Lord was crucified. After this, Saint Helen, in her zeal to glorify Christ, erected churches in Jerusalem at the sites of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, in Bethlehem at the cave where our Saviour was born, another on the Mount of Olives where He ascended into Heaven, and many others throughout the Holy Land. Having been thus glorified for her piety, she departed to the Lord being about eighty years of age.

Entrance Hymn

In the congregations bless God, the Lord from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, who arose from the dead.

Ἐν Ἐκκλησίαις εὐλογεῖτε τὸν Θεόν, Κύριον ἐκ πηγῶν Ἰσραὴλ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ναστὰς ἐκ νεκρῶν.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life. Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζῶν ἠρισάμενος.

The female Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel
Τὸ φαιδρὸν τῆς Ἀναστάσεως κήρυγμα, (page 45)

O Lord, midway through the Feast/Μεσοῦσης τῆς ἑορτῆς

Festal Apolytikion

Festal Apolytikion: O illustrious leaders/Βυζαντίου ποιμένες

Annunciation Hymn

Today is the crown of our salvation, and the manifestation of the mystery from the ages. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces the good tidings of grace.

Therefore let us cry out with him unto the Mother of God: hail

to thee who are full of grace; the Lord is with thee. Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τό Κεφάλαιον, καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος Μυστηρίου ἡ φανέρωσις, ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται, Διὸ σύν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν, Χαίρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

Kontakion

Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection. Εἰ καὶ ἐν τάφῳ κατήλθες Ἀθάνατε, ἀλλὰ τοῦ ἄδου καθεῖλες τὴν δύναμιν· καὶ νέστης ὡς νικητῆς, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, γυναιξὶ Μυροφόροις φθηνγόμενος, Χαίρετε, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις εἰρήνην δωρούμενος, ὁ τοῖς πεσοῦσι παρέχων νάστασιν.

Hymn to the Theotokos

The Angel cried aloud to the Lady full of grace...be illumined, illumined. (Ὁ Ἄγγελος ἐβόα.....Φωτίζου, φωτίζου)

Communion Hymn

The Body of Christ (Σῶμα Χριστοῦ)

SAINTS COMMEMORATED

TODAY, SUN. MAY 18th

•Holy Martyrs: Peter, Dionysius, Andrew, Paul, Christina, Heraclius, Paulinus and Benedimus

•Julian the Martyr

•Euphrasia the Martyr of Nicea

•Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are 5 months into 2014. Please pray and offer your time and talent sheet. Submit your pledge card or ask an usher for a new one. Our goal is \$200,000 for 2014! A follow-up letter went out to be sure everyone pledges.

Our Church passes 2 offering trays. The 1st goes towards our Operating Budget, the 2nd tray will continue for the NEW Education Building Fund

MEMORIALS

Today we offer a 1 year Memorial for the servant of God, Aglaia Tsakirellis, mother of Georgia Morgan and a 6 year Memorial for the servant of God, George Tsakirellis father of Georgia Morgan. Additionally she will be sponsoring Coffee Hour in their honor.

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

Coffee Hours hostesses for the month of May are Marilena and Marlene. Please lend a hand in helping these ladies.

Sunday, May 25th-Sunday May 25th Final Bake Sale. Last chance to buy these bakery goods.

Tuesday May 27th- May 27th Tues: Last Philoptochos Society Meeting to be held at Carrabbas Restaurant on 41 in Fort Myers at 11:30 am please sign up with Marianthi, husbands are welcome.

DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$2K CASH OR \$2K TRAVEL CERTIFICATE FROM A LOCAL TRAVEL AGENCY. PLEASE SEE JOAN SIMON at 201-826-8991 OR AN LPS REPRESENTATIVE FOR YOUR \$25 DONATION TOWARDS A TICKET PURCHASE TODAY. WINNER TO BE ANNOUNCED IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY, JUNE 15TH. WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

EXTENDED: The Fort Myers Ladies' Philoptochos Society is pleased to announce that it will be awarding TWO \$500 Scholarships this year. The Applicant:

**Must be enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited college/ university beginning with the next Fall 2014 Semester.*

**Their parent or guardian MUST be a paid AGOC Steward in good standing.*

Application & Essay question can be picked up at the church office any time after March 31st. Application & Essay must be completed and submitted to the church office on or before **May 27th in a plain manila envelope, sealed & marked: "LPS Scholarship Committee."*

**Winning applicant(s) will be announced in church on a Sunday in June (date to be announced).*

Don't delay! Apply for your LPS Scholarship, today!

AWARDS CEREMONY & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday School will be having an Awards Ceremony and Ice Cream Social following Divine Liturgy, TODAY! We look forward to having everyone attend for this fun affair!

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES

If you know of or are a college or high school graduate please call the office and let us know! We would like to collect everyone's name and if you are a college or high school graduate. Thanks! Call the office at 239-481-2099.

LAST WEEKS MEMORIALS

(Due to an oversight on the offices behalf I would like to note last weeks Memorials this week. I am truly sorry for this error and apologize greatly to the families below.)

Last week we offered a 1 year memorial for the servant of God, Eleni Haldeos, mother of Maria Mourgis. A 6 year memorial for the servant of God, Ioannis Haldeos, father of Maria Mougis and a 5 month Memorial for the servant of God, Pavlos Haldeos, brother of Maria Mougis. Additionally Maria Mourgis sponsored Coffee Hour with some special treats.

Last week, we also offered a 40 day Memorial for the servant of God, Dorothy Pappas mother of Joyce Kopidakis.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATES:

"Building Your Faith" is this years theme. Dates are June 16th– June 19th. Forms due by May 18th.

BELOW ARE SOME GENTLE REMINDERS ABOUT CHURCH ETIQUETTE & TRADITION

We should offer Christ our "Sunday best," every single day of the week, both in conduct and dress. This is our Lords house 24/7 and the respect we show should never change from one day to the next. We should always dress neatly and modestly, not only on Sundays. Shoulders and chest areas should be covered, and discretion used concerning skirt lengths, appropriately fitting clothes, excessive make-up and jewelry.

Along with fasting before church (from both food and improper speech), gum is a no-no during services, and in fact, gum should not be used several hours after receiving Holy Communion. Although toddlers and infants may need to drink, eating is to be discouraged.

Please blot lip-stick before venerating Icons and receiving Holy Communion.



Praying for You

We offer prayers for health and the needs for the servants of God for Al Hunter, Susan Christodoulou, Helen Rogers, Dimitra Vasilakos, Theodore Lizas, John Kontinos, Louis Eftim, Stella Demosthenis & Mary Kendrick. Please notify the office if there is someone that needs to be added to the prayer list. 239-481-2099