

**St Ignatios of Antioch
Melkite Greek Catholic Church
1003 Merry Street
Augusta, Georgia 30904
706 364-6219**



**Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
7 May, 2023**

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN



ON THE MOUNTAIN OR IN JERUSALEM? (JOHN 4:5-42)

ARGUMENTS ABOUT RELIGION are a favorite Middle Eastern pastime. Some are simply talk for talk's sake: my faith is the oldest, the truest or the best. Sometimes these disagreements have become causes for acrimonious divisions between believers as the number of Jewish, Christian and Muslim factions show. One of the most vehement in the ancient world is mentioned in the Gospel passage about the Woman at the Well (Jn 4:5-42): the conflict between Jews and Samaritans.

The division between Jews and Samaritans can be traced to the division of David's kingdom into northern and southern realms after the death of King Solomon. The northern kingdom, known as Israel, was overrun by the Assyrians in the eighth century BC. The South was called Judah and its inhabitants ultimately became known as Jews. The southern kingdom would remain until conquered by Babylon almost 200 years later.

The Samaritans claimed that they were the true Israel, descendants of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh who survived the destruction of the Northern kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians in 722 BC. To this day Samaritans prefer to call themselves Israelites (the word Samaritan means "Keeper of the Law"). There were reputedly one million of them in the first century AD. Only about 850 remain as a distinct community today.

Both Jewish and Samaritan religious leaders taught that it was wrong to have any contact with the opposite group, and neither was to enter each other's territories or even to speak to one another. This is why the Samaritan woman responded to Jesus' request for a drink by saying, "*How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman? For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans*" (Jn 4:9). Given this relationship, Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan was especially forceful.

Samaritans only accept as Scripture the first five books of the Old Testament, the Torah (the Law), rejecting the authority of other sections of the Old Testament (the prophetic/historical books) as well as the Talmud, a principal source of Jewish Tradition. Their text of the Torah differs from that used by the Jews as well. The Samaritans claim that their version of the Torah was the original and that the Jews had a falsified text produced by Ezra during the Babylonian exile. Modern Scripture scholars point to considerable editing of the Jewish Scriptures at that time; perhaps the Samaritans have a point.

Question of the Temple

Both Jews and Samaritans believed that God had a unique dwelling place on earth. It was there that the glory of God was manifested just as it had been to Moses on Mount Sinai. They disagreed, however, on the location of this holy place. Jews looked to Jerusalem, where Solomon had built his temple before the division between northern and southern kingdoms. Samaritan worship was focused on Mount Gerizim, near Shechem (modern Nablus), which they asserted was the original sanctuary, in use since the time of Joshua. This was the place, they believe, where Abraham was commanded by God to offer Isaac, his son, as a sacrifice (Genesis 22:2).

When the Jewish leadership, which had been deported to Babylon in the sixth century BC, were allowed to return, they rebuilt the Jerusalem temple and codified their Scriptures and ritual practices. While in earlier centuries sacrifices were regularly offered in shrines associated with Abraham and other early figures, the newly emergent Jewish leadership insisted that the Jerusalem temple was only legitimate place of sacrifice.

In the first half of the 5th century BC the Samaritans built a temple on Mount Gerizim and offered sacrifices there. This temple was destroyed in 128 BC by the Jewish high priest John Hyrcanus who captured Samaria and enlarged the Jewish kingdom.

Samaritans were not associated with the Jewish revolts against the Romans so, while the Romans expelled the Jews from Jerusalem in 135 AD, the Samaritans were allowed to remain. The Samaritan temple on Mount Gerizim was rebuilt at that time and remained until the fifth century AD when the Samaritans revolted against Rome. They were defeated and barred from Mount Gerizim.

Samaritans continued to oppose Rome; they were recognized as a legitimate community under Islam. While they never rebuilt their temple, they still celebrate Passover every year at the “altar of Abraham,” at their ancient temple site.

Christ and the Temple Question

In Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman He touched on the issue of the temple. The woman said, “*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... But the*

hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth... ’’ (Jn 4 19-23). Jesus dismissed the importance of a physical temple as necessary to worship God. God’s relationship with mankind was changing.

When Jesus was in the Jerusalem temple He made this cryptic announcement: *“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ Then the Jews said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?’ But He was speaking of the temple of His body” (Jn 2:19-21).* The place of sacrifice would not be in a shrine or a temple; it would be the very body of Christ Himself. That is where the one definitive sacrifice would be offered for the forgiveness of the sins of all mankind.

While Christ’s earthly body would be the temple of His sacrifice on the cross, His spiritual body, the Church would also share in His role as the new temple of God. Since the Church is the Body of Christ, in which the Holy Spirit dwells, it is a temple made up of living stones, the first of whom is Christ, the Head of the Body.

And so it is as the temple of the Living God that we are reminded, *“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:4-5).* Those who are united to Christ in baptism become this holy priesthood whose sacrifice of praise, the Divine Liturgy, whose alms, whose gifts of fasting and other offerings are united to Christ’s own sacrifice. The community of Christians throughout the world is the spiritual house built of living stones and joined to the Precious Stone chosen by God.



THE SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

The Fourth
Sunday
After Pascha

Sunday Collections

Attendance	Date	Collection
22	March 12, 2023	263.00
26	March 19, 2023	10,000.00
26	March 26, 2023	165.00
33	2 April 2023	1,060.00
40	9 April 2023	580.00
28	16 April 2023	10.00
30	23 April 2023	
30	30 April 2023	1,041.00

Syrian Earthquake Relief \$ 775.00

Divine Liturgy Intentions: For the Living:

Bishop Francois, Fr. Eugene Mitchell, Fr. James Graham, David Mangelsdorf, Brian Frank, Maria Barklage, Nookid Graham, Ali de la Vega, Dn. Kent & Diana Plowman, A Special Parish Intention, Mandie, Stephanie, Nick Baiad, Medical Personnel and First Responders

For the Dead:

Announcements

We are live-streaming on our Facebook page at the following days & times:

Friday – 6:00 PM Weekday Vespers

Saturday – 6:00PM Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00AM Orthros & 10:00AM Divine Liturgy

As announced last week, Fr. Michael will be away on vacation starting on Wednesday and returning to Augusta on Monday, May 22nd. The schedule of services while he is away will be:

Next weekend, Saturday May 13th **ONLY**, 6pm, Dn. Sami Jajeh will celebrate the Typika service with Holy Communion.

Feast of the Ascension – Reader's Vespers, Wed, May 17th at 7pm.

Weekend of **May 19-20** – Regular weekend schedule, Fr. Rob Adams, a bi-ritual priest from Kentucky, will be the celebrant.

Reader's Vespers will also be celebrated, as usual on Friday the 12th and the 19th.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND TOWN –Most Holy Trinity parish will be hosting a Men's Holy Hour every Friday morning from 6-7am. There will also be a coffee hour and reflection time afterwards – Men from all parishes are invited to attend for whatever portion of the time they are available. For the Ladies – St. Joseph's will be hosting a Women's Holy Hour on the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

National Association of Melkite Youth

NAMY Conference 2023

Our Melkite Mission: Becoming Disciples, Making Disciples

Who: Melkite Youth throughout the US, ages 13-18

When: Monday July 10th- Friday July 14th, 2023

Where: St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire

Why: Faith, Fellowship, Fun

For more information:

Please contact Fr. Thomas & Pres. Rebekah Moses at namy@melkite.org



Resurrectional Troparion

(Tone 4)



The wo - men di - sci - ples of the Lord, ha - ving



learned from the an - gel the joy - ful an -



- nounce - ment of the re - sur - rec - tion, and ha - ving re -



- jec - ted the an - ces - tral sen - tence proud - ly told the A -



- pos - tles: Death is de - spoiled Christ God is ri -



- sen, be - stow - ing to the world great mer - cy.

Festal Troparion

(Tone 5)



Christ is ri - sen from the dead and by His death



He has tram-pled u-pon Death, and has gi-ven life to those



who were in the tombs.



Al Ma-see-hu qa-ma min bayn il am-wat wa wa - ti al



maw-ta bil mawt, wa wa-hab al ha-yat li - la-dhee-na fil



qu - boor.



Chris-tos a-nes - ti ek ne - kron tha-na - to



tha - na - ton ba - tee - sas, kai tees



en dees mni-ma - si zo - in kha-ri - sa - me-



- nos.

Troparion of Mid-Pentecost

(Tone 8)



Kondakion of Pascha

(Tone 2)



Though You went down in the tomb, O im-mor - tal



One, You o-ver-threw the po-wer of Ha - des and



rose vic - to - ri - ous, O Christ God, You



gree - ted the oint - ment bear - ing wo - men, say-



- ing: Re-joice! You gave peace to Your a-pos - tles, and to



those who had fal-len, re-sur-rec - tion.

Hirmos of Pascha

(Tone 1)



The an-gel cried out to the one who is full of grace:



Hail, O im - ma - cu - late vir - gin! Hail! a - gain: for your



Son is ri - sen from the tomb on the third day.



Shine, shine, O new Je - ru - sa - lem! For the glo - ry of the



Lord has shone up - on You. Re - joice and



be glad, O Si - on, and you, O pure one, O Mo - ther of



God, ex - ult in the re - sur - rec - tion of your Son.

Prokimenon

Reader: How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have wrought them all.

All: How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have wrought them all.

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord my God!

All: How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have wrought them all.

Reader: How great are your works, O Lord!

All: In wisdom You have wrought them all.

Readings for the Week:

Monday:	Acts 12:12-18	John 8:42-51
Tuesday:	Acts 12:25-13:12	John 8:51-59
Wed:	Acts 13:13-24	John 6:5-14
Thursday:	Acts 14:20-15:4	John 9:39-10:10
Friday:	Acts 15:5-12	John 10:17-28
Saturday:	Acts 15:35-41	John 10:27-38

Saints of the Week:

May 7: Commemoration of the Apparition of the Cross over Jerusalem during the reign of Emperor Constantius, son of Constantine the Great
May 8: Commemoration of the Holy, Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian; and of our Holy Father Arsenios the Great
May 9: Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Isaiah; and the Holy Martyr Christopher
May 10: Holy Apostle Simon the Zealot
May 11: Foundation of the city of Constantinople; commemoration of the Holy Martyr Mocios; and of Cyril and Methodios, Equals to the Apostles, Apostles to the Slavs.
May 12: Commemoration of our Holy Fathers Epiphаний, Bishop of Cyprus; and Germanos the Hymnographer, Patriarch of Constantinople.
May 13: Commemoration of the Holy Woman Martyr Glyceria
May 14: Commemoration of the Holy Martyr Isidore of Chios

Word Search

M	W	I	Y	T	F	R	D	A	F	S	Z	B	R	F	J	Q	T
S	H	W	R	E	O	O	L	M	Q	F	D	J	B	I	E	S	F
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M	N	H	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	D	O	J	Z	R	H

Christ
Disciples
Drink
Field
Flocks
Fountain
Husband
Jacob

Jacobs Well
Jerusalem
Jew
Joseph
Journey
Living Water
Messiah
Prophet

Samaria
Sichar
Sir
Sixth Hour
Thirst
Water Jar

Parish Information:

Rt. Rev. Michael Skrocki, JCD
Pastor

abounamike@aol.com

Knights of Columbus **JFK Council**

1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm.

Odd-numbered months at St. Ignatios

Even-numbered months here at Most Holy Trinity

4th Degree Assembly

2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Odd-numbered months at Most Holy Trinity

Even-numbered months here at St. Ignatios

Publicans Prayer Group

Postponed until Further Notice

New Parishioners:

Please register with Fr. Michael.

Mystery of Holy Confession

Please contact Fr. Michael to set up a convenient time.

Mystery of Christian Initiation

Expectant parents should notify Fr. Michael prior to the birth of the child. Adult converts should contact Fr. Michael so arrangements may be made for any necessary instruction and sacraments.

Mystery of Holy Crowning

Those planning to marry should notify the Fr. Michael
at least six months prior to the desired Wedding date.

Mystery of Holy Anointing

Please notify Fr. Michael when you or a family member is in need of anointing.

To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers of the Eparchy of Newton, please call the **Victim Assistance Coordinator** at 1-800-479-5910.

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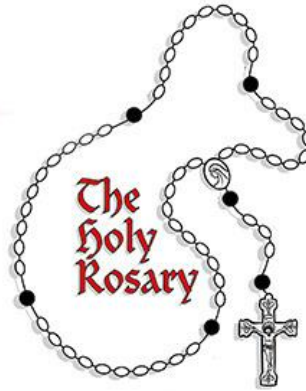
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