

THE WEEK OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN: The Samaritan woman, **Photini** (*the luminous one*), (*Svetlana* in Slavonic, *Claire* in the West), is an image of our baptism (Note that in the icon on the bulletin cover the well is shaped like a cross: a baptismal font). Since Jacob's well could not quench her thirst, the Lord revealed to her true worship of the Father in spirit and in truth. In this week we draw from the water of the well of enlightenment and imitate the holy and repentant Photini, Great Martyr and Equal to the Apostles, the woman enlightened by our Lord. She was martyred during the reign of the Emperor Nero who ruled from AD 54 – 68. In addition to today, she is also commemorated on February 26th.

Once at the sixth hour [noon], O Master, our first mother Eve saw You walking in Paradise. Now her daughter, at the same hour, sees You, O Fountain of Life, sitting at the well, asking her for water to drink. You are the Fountain of living water. Her thirst was quenched by drinking of Your life-bearing streams. She proclaimed to those in the town: Come! Drink from the river of abundance.

At the sixth hour, You came to the well, O Fountain of Wonders, to ensnare the fruit of Eve; for at that same hour, she [Eve] had been driven from Paradise by the guile of the serpent. When the Samaritan woman came to draw water, You said to her, O Savior: *Give Me water to drink, and I will give you waters of eternal life.* And the woman hastened to the city and proclaimed to the people: *Come and see Christ the Lord, the Savior of our souls!*




The setting of a meeting at a well often implies a nuptial scene. On his mission to Haran, Abraham's servant prayed that if a maiden offered to water his camels at the well, «*let her be the one whom You have appointed for Your servant Isaac.*» Rebecca left Haran with a gold ring and a wedding proposal, and returned with Abraham's servant to marry Isaac. «*And he loved her.*»

The Song of Songs describes the beloved as a well within Paradise: «*A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.*» «*A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.*» In Medieval times the enclosed garden (*hortus conclusus*) was associated with the Virgin Mary, and in art the Annunciation is sometimes depicted as taking place at a well evoking all the nuptial images described above.



~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

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CONGRATULATIONS TO RYAN HESS and to his parents Jennifer and Daniel. Ryan graduated Saturday from the University of Pittsburgh with a BA in Criminal Justice. He spent his senior year in Washington, D.C. interning with the United States Secret Service and was promoted this past week to Special Agent! «*May God grant to His servant Ryan peace, health, and happiness for many blessed years!*» *ad multos annos! εἰς πολλά ἔτη!*
- ETERNAL MEMORY!** The parish extends its deepest condolences and prayers to the members of the Rusinko Family upon the death of their brother David. *In blessed repose, grant, O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of Your departed servant David and remember him forever.* **Бѣчнаа памать!**
- THANK YOU** to Jim Fullman, Sr., Joshua Lucas, and Tom Shultz for cutting down and removing the trees and shrubs that grow behind the apse of the church.

- **MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 10th.** Spiritual Bouquet cards and envelopes are available on the tables in the Narthex.

- The public is invited to attend a **HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** presented by the students of Christ the Divine Teacher School located at 323 Chestnut St. Latrobe, PA on **Monday, May 11th at 9:00 a.m.** in the school cafeteria. Please **RSVP to 724-539-1561**; a brief reception will follow.



- The **ANNUAL SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS BYZANTINE CATHOLIC SEMINARY COLLECTION** will be taken up the weekend of **MAY 16 – 17**. There is a special envelope for this. Please give generously for the formation of the future deacons and priests of our church and remember to **PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!**



- **SCHOOL OF DIACONATE STUDIES!** The admission process for the 2027 School of Diaconate Studies is now open. Men discerning a call to diaconal service to the Church are encouraged to apply. Classes for the first year of the four year program will be held June 13 – 26, 2027 at our seminary in Pittsburgh. A two week residency is required each year. Please submit the registration form and once received, candidates will then be contacted by the Vocations Office. **Deadline to register is July 1, 2026.** For any further inquiries, you may email vocations@archpitt.org.
- **Helping Hands Day – May 30, 2026** The Sisters of St. Basil warmly invite you to join them in preparing for Pilgrimage—a special time when your presence, prayers, and helping hands are truly a blessing. Volunteering not only allows you to serve, but also makes you part of a tradition that touches countless lives and forges new bonds of faith. This year, two meaningful opportunities await your generosity and spirit.

The first opportunity is Helping Hands Day, sponsored by the Greek Catholic Union of the U.S.A., which will take place at Mount St. Macrina on **Saturday, May 30th**. On this day, we come together—young and old friends and family—to prepare for the **92nd Annual Pilgrimage**, a gathering that uplifts and strengthens the bonds of our faith community. With every flower planted, every shrine cared for, and every corner tended, we offer not only our labor but also our prayers and hopes for all who will come to the Pilgrimage—September 5th & 6th. Your service helps transform the grounds into a place of welcome and peace, ready to embrace pilgrims with beauty and grace.

If you can participate, please note the following:

- The group will meet in the Trinity Center for coffee and donuts at 9:30 a.m. A brief prayer service will follow, and work will begin at 10:00 a.m.
- Bring lawn tools (including brooms, rakes, weed whackers, etc.) for outside work. Bring brooms, mops, dust pans, etc., for any indoor cleaning.
- Lunch will be served. To register or for additional information, please call Sr. Joanne at 724-438-4940 or Greek Catholic Union at 1-800-722- 8644.

On **Saturday, August 22**, there will be another organized preparation day, with a rain date set for Saturday, August 29. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Trinity Center at 9:30 a.m. Please bring brooms, weed whackers, blowers, weeding tools, rakes, and clippers. Lunch will be provided. **For further information, please call Sr. Joanne at 724-438-8644.**