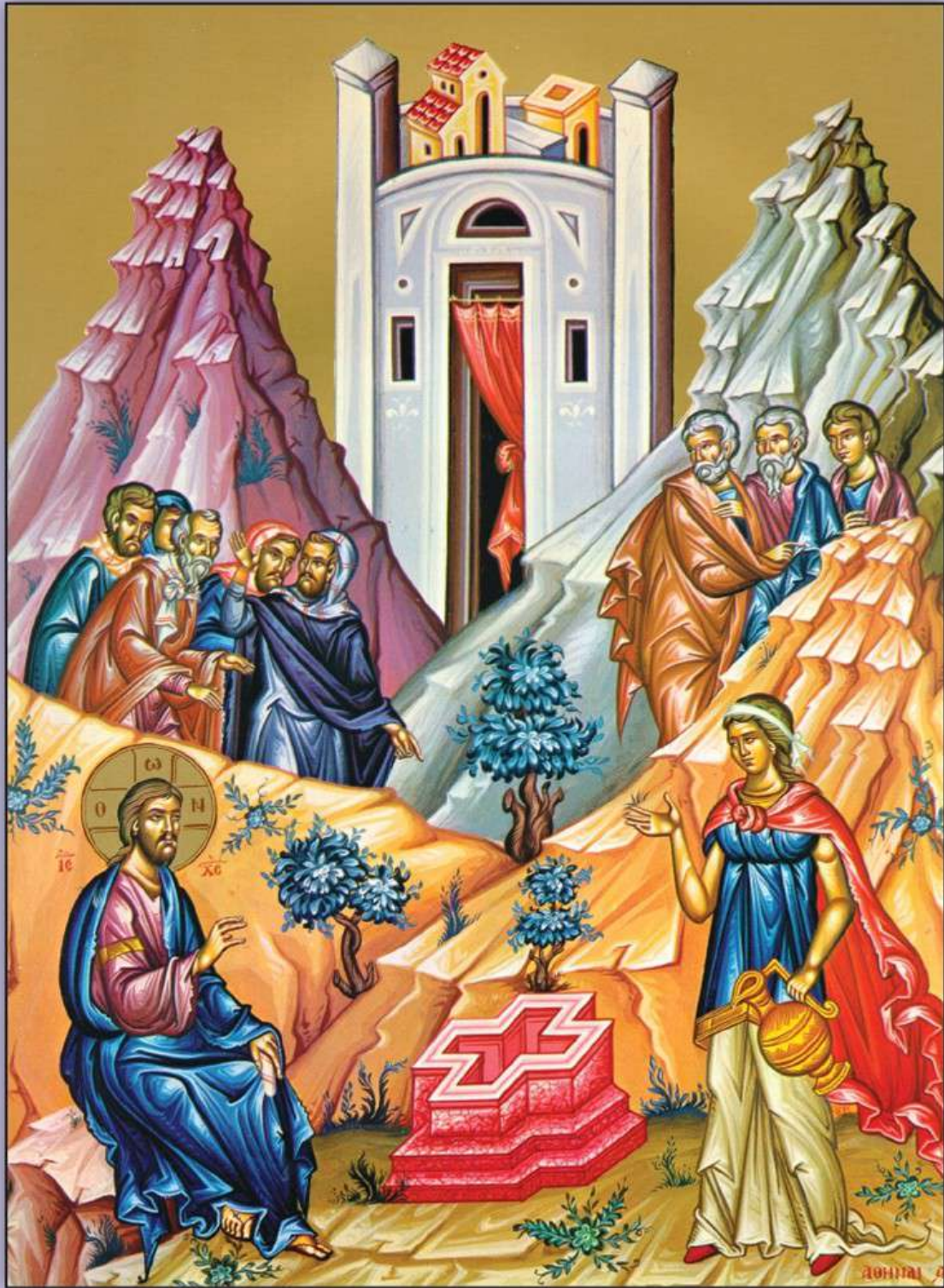
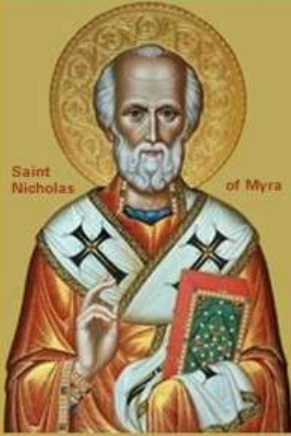


SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN



Icon of Christ with the Samaritan Woman



**ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*2200 Arctic Boulevard
Anchorage, AK 99503*

**BL. THEODORE ROMZHA
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC MISSION**

*Sacred Heart Church 1201 E Bogard Rd,
Wasilla, AK 99654
2nd and 4th Sundays of the month*



Administration

His Eminence, Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla DD
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Bishop Artur Bubnevych

Ruling Bishop of the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix

Pastor: Very Reverend Father Vasyl Mutka

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10am-4pm (Please Call before coming to the office)

Phone: (907) 277-6731

E-mail: pastorstnicholas@yahoo.com

www.ak-byz-cath.org



WELCOME TO ALL PARISHIONERS & GUESTS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY

Whether you're searching for a new church home or just visiting, we're glad you're with us today. If you are looking for God, have a prayer request, looking for more information about the Eastern Catholic Church, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr. Vasyl, he will be happy to talk to you. Please join us for our coffee hour in the Parish hall following the Divine Liturgy. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

Schedule of Services MAY 3—MAY 10 2026

**CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN!
CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! VOISTYNU VOSKRESE!**

Sunday, May 3—Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

9:15-9:45 am Confessions

9:40 am 3rd Hour

10:00 am Divine Liturgy *For parishioners, founders, donors, decorators of our St. Nicholas Parish & Wasilla Mission and for their relatives*

Monday, May 4

9:00 am Morning Prayer

Tuesday, May 5

9:00 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday, May 6

6:30 pm Divine Liturgy

Thursday, May 7

No Divine Liturgy

Friday, May 8

9:00 am Morning Prayer

Saturday, May 9

4:15-4:45 pm Confessions

4:35 pm Prayer Rule of the Theotokos (Byzantine Rosary)

5:00 pm Vespers/Divine Liturgy with Panachida † *Intention of Our Departed*

Mothers

Sunday, May 10—Sunday of the Man Born Blind

9:15-9:45 am Confessions

9:40 am 3rd Hour

10:00 am Divine Liturgy *For parishioners, founders, donors of our St. Nicholas Parish & Wasilla Mission and for Our Living Mothers*

4:00 pm Divine Liturgy in Wasilla *Special intention*

"Don't let sin separate us from Christ. When we believe that He loves us and we love Him, we don't feel strangers and distanced from Him even when we sin. We have secured His love and however we behave we know that He loves us."

Elder St. Porphyrios



Please remember in your prayers:

For health and salvation: Fr. Chris Zegger, Fr. Joseph Wargacki, Fr. Robert, Veronica Frazier, David Bich, Max, Aniela, Ken Wake, Molly Buggy, Kim Bryan, Shawn, Anna Gage, Oceana Grabianowski, Anthony Heller, Solanche Stone, Dorothy Savok, Spruce Lynch, Truman Beer, Natalie, Basil, John Michalski, Phyllis Shepherd, Sherry, Bruce Heller, Gayle Veker

For repose of the departed: +Bishop Gerald N Dino, +Fr. Michael Artim, +Fr. Eric, +Christine Vincent, +Corine Hurst, +Ruth Langley Ayers, +Denise, +Ed, +Sandra, +William Florez

Please pray also for all our benefactors, friends, neighbors and anyone we may have forgotten. Please let Fr. Vasyl know if you would like to add new names to the prayer list and also notify him about any sick and/or hospitalized parishioners and family members.

Eastern Christian Formation (ECF) for Families: next Sunday, May 3rd, at noon, there will be an ECF class for families. Classes are held on the first and third Sundays of the month. The theme of the next class will be *“The value of motherhood in light of God’s plan”*. All are welcome.

2026 Bishop’s Appeal:



Thank you to all the parishioners of St. Nicholas of Myra who have already contributed to the 2026 Bishop’s Appeal Eparchial Collection. Your generosity supports the vital ministries and outreach of our Eparchy.

It is not too late to participate! If you have not yet made your pledge, you

can still contribute in the following ways:

Donate Online: Visit ephx.org, click "Home-Eparchy of Phoenix," then click "Giving." Crucial: Please make sure to note that you are from St. Nicholas of Myra, Anchorage, AK.

By Mail/In-Person: Ask Father for the 2026 Bishop’s Appeal brochure and pledge/payment form to mail directly to the Eparchy.

Through the Parish: You may mail or hand a check to St. Nicholas Parish. Please make checks payable to St. Nicholas and write "The Bishop’s Appeal" in the memo line. Thank you for your continued generosity and prayers!

Strengthening the Church at Home: Did you know that many Catholics in the United States live in rural, poor, or isolated regions? **The Catholic Home Missions Appeal** supports over 70 dioceses and eparchies that cannot provide basic pastoral services—like Mass, the sacraments, and religious education—without outside help. Your generosity ensures that the Gospel continues to be spread across the U.S., from Appalachia to Alaska. You can join this build this weekend.

Please be generous in this mission.

Catholic Social Services: CSS is facing high demand and needs our support to keep the pantry stocked. Please continue to bring non-perishable food items (canned soup, veg-



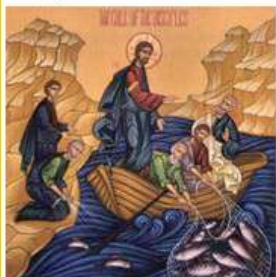
etables, pasta, peanut butter) to the designated bin in the parish hall. Your generosity provides nutritious meals for local families in need. Thank you!

Mother’s Day Remembrance Liturgy: On May 10, we will celebrate Mother’s Day. We would like to remember our mothers, both living and deceased, in the Divine Liturgies to be celebrated on May 9 (for the deceased) and May 10 (for the living). Envelopes, labeled "Mother’s Day Liturgy Remembrance," are available at the welcome table and in the narthex. Please list the names of mothers you would like to have prayed for.



ANSWERING GOD'S CALL: "We have heard for ourselves and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world, the Christ." The saving love of Christ quenched the thirst of the Samaritan woman. He wants all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Are you open to bringing that saving love to the world by becoming a priest, deacon, monk or nun? Contact the Vocations Office at 602-861-9778 or email: vocations@ephx.org

Prayer for Vocations



Everyone in the parish is invited to pray for and encourage others within the Church that they might respond generously to God's call in their lives. God relies on generous men and women to minister among us as priests, deacons, monks, and nuns. The Church needs people like you to pray for and encourage them. Sign up today to have the

Pilgrim Vocation Icon "The Call of the Disciples" in your home for one week. You will be greatly blessed. Please sign up on the sheet that is posted in the parish hall on the table.

Prayer for Vocations

Lord our God, older than all creation, you have made us in your image and likeness. You have given us the gift of the Holy Spirit through your servants who proclaim the good news of your Church all that is necessary for our sanctification.

We humbly beg you, do not leave your people deprived of spiritual gifts, but grant us an abundance of vocations to your holy priesthood, the diaconate and consecrated life, and to lives dedicated to your service.

Open the hearts of men and women to hear your words, "Come, follow me!"

Indeed, do not leave us orphans, but be with us through your Holy Spirit, who is present everywhere and fills all things, and who raises up mere mortals to divine service by the mystery of his grace.

Truly you will never forget your promise to be with us always, until the end of the world, but forgive us if we have, in our weakness, failed to follow you as we should.

For you alone are holy now and ever and forever. Amen.

You are a light for the world: We are looking for those who want to join our parish team of religious and catechetical education. We need ECF class teachers. If you are ready to learn and share knowledge with others (children, adults) see Fr Vasy1.

We are happy to share with you that this year, July 31st – August 2nd at St. Stephen Cathedral in Phoenix, AZ. the first gathering of directors of religious education and catechists for the Eparchy of Phoenix will take place.

Feel the call of Christ to share His Good News!

Let us pray

O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, who didst choose the Sixth Hour to rest at Jacob's Well, weary from Your journey to seek the lost image of Adam.

As You once approached the Samaritan woman, breaking down the barriers of prejudice to offer her salvation, look upon my own heart with the same mercy. I confess, O Lord, that I have chased after many broken cisterns, attempting to satisfy my soul with fleeting passions and worldly pleasures that leave me dry and thirsty again.

Like the woman who came to draw water, I come before You bearing the heavy jar of my sins, regrets, and shame. I implore You, O Fountain of Life, quench the deep thirst within me with Your Living Water—the grace of the All-Holy Spirit—that I may never thirst again.

Give me, I pray, the grace of repentance, that I may recognize You as the Messiah, the Savior of the world, and like St. Photini, leave behind the vanities of this world to proclaim Your love to others.

Enlighten my mind to worship You in Spirit and in Truth, not merely in location, but in the depths of my heart.

Through the prayers of the Equal-to-the-Apostles, St. Photini, and by Your own unfathomable compassion, raise me up from the dry desert of my passions to the refreshing springs of Your divine mercy.

For You are the Fountain of Life, and to You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

SAINT DYMOPHNA FEAST DAY



ON SUNDAY, MAY 17, we WILL CELEBRATE THE MEMORY OF SAINT DYMOPHNA, whose feast day the Holy Church celebrates on May 15.

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
- Veneration of the First Glass Relic of St Dymphna

SAINT DYMOPHNA is the patroness of those suffering from nervous, mental afflictions, epilepsy, as well as victims of incest.

Feel free to share this information with friends, neighbors, and potentially interested people.

Reflections on the present Scriptures: Today's Gospel reading invites us to contemplate one of the most beautiful conversations the Lord Christ has ever had with the mortals (see Jn. 4:5–42). This conversation clearly reveals the gentleness and delicacy with which God treats us. This Sunday (the Fifth Sunday after Pascha, of the Samaritan Woman) reminds us of an important condition for entering the Kingdom of Heaven—the example of the Samaritan woman makes it clear that God, Who is willing to enter into a dialogue with us, expects sincerity and simplicity.

Christ was passing through the region of Samaria in the midday heat, under the scorching rays of the sun. He approached a spring and sat down to rest. A local woman was also on her way there. She came to the spring and saw a Jewish man there. She guessed it right based on His clothing and accent. It was none other than Christ, the God-Man, and He was about to change the soul of this woman who had not yet found her way to the Kingdom of God.

Christ's conversation with the Samaritan woman helps us to see clearly God's attitude toward us, who are often slow to grasp the depth of Divine teaching and to perceive the message God is willing to convey to us. We have the same reflexes as the Samaritan woman. She was a straightforward, sincere, and rather courageous woman. From the start, she asked Christ what He was looking for, since He was a Jew who didn't belong in that area. To the Jews, the region of Samaria was an unclean place that they had to avoid. The Jews never passed through Samaria, choosing instead other routes to avoid being exposed to these pagan people. The Jews believed that the Samaritans didn't serve the true God.

To find the reason for the conversation, Christ asks her for water. This request sounded convincing, because it was midday and it was scorching hot. And so Christ begins the conversation in order to bring it to a loftier subject, namely, to the living water, or the water of the Holy Spirit, which Christ give to those who wish to thirst for it.

Once she was told about the living water that will make you never experience thirst again, The woman reacted quite pragmatically. She was somewhat of a prisoner of the material dimension of the world. She might have had to travel a long way to reach this spring, and it was exhausting. Thus, as a truly sincere and genuine person, she asked Him to give her this water, so that she would no longer need to go to the spring.

Christ, in His gentleness, doesn't reproach the woman for failing to understand any of what He was saying, because He was talking about a completely different kind of water. The woman thought He was talking about drinking water and, once you drink it, you'd never thirst again, but Christ meant the living water.

When we fail to understand certain deep, spiritual things, the Lord, Who is always near us, is willing to help us. He is very considerate, and He helps us to attain the deeper narratives all by ourselves.

It often happens in our life that someone tells us im-

portant and profound things that can inspire us to perceive a certain reality and find the meaning of life as a result. But at that very moment, we have no clear understanding of what we're being told. Only some time later do those things come back to us and we finally realize how right that person was. We understand that the key to all the confusion and anguish inside our soul was concealed in that message. The same thing happened to the Samaritan woman. When Christ reveals the mystery of this woman's soul and lays open the most intimate aspects of her personal life, she understands that she is not talking to a simple man, but the Messiah Himself, the God-Man.

Based on the example of this conversation, we become convinced that when our minds are sealed and we can't grasp the message He wishes to convey to us, God shows patience and humbles Himself, never putting us down or punishing us. The Lord always expects simplicity and sincerity from us, which would allow us to gain self-knowledge. He waits for us to recognize our present state.

The Samaritan woman understood that she had sinned and that she was standing before a Holy Man. She immediately chose to rush back to her village and tell everyone that she had met the Messiah, Who had revealed the innermost secrets of her life. After her conversation with Him, she found herself so full of the living water Christ had poured into her heart that she herself acted like an apostle, bearing witness to the experience of her encounter with the Lord.

Whenever God wants to draw closer to man, He always instills in us the thought that He also thirsts to inspire us and make us feel thirst for the beauty of the true, Gospel-like life. When He encounters us, He inspires us to feel thirsty and to seek ways to quench our spiritual thirst.

Without being too pessimistic, however, we regret to say that modern man no longer feels any thirst, not even for material things, much less for the spiritual! This is a man whose spiritual functions have been anesthetized, so that nothing drives him to become more genuine and sincere, at least not with God.

Anytime God enters into conversation with our soul, He expects us to be sincere and genuine; that we never desire to appear as something we are not. Let us confess the true state of our soul to Him, so that, in this way, we may be transformed and our heart may thirst to meet God.

Lord Jesus Christ, Fountain of Life, Who filled St. Photini with the waters of salvation, I beg of You: Fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety. Cleanse me from every sinful desire, break my attachments to this world, and allow me, like the Samaritan woman, to become a witness to Your transformative love. Grant me grace to worship You in spirit and truth, for You are the Savior of the world. Amen.

Parish Giving

Great news for those donating online

Now you can use our new online giving tool to tithe online using your credit card or bank account information. You can also do a one-time donation or set up weekly donations! You will receive a receipt and statement immediately after donating. The software takes a very small percentage of the donation, but its worth it for the ease of the system. You can donate at:

<https://donorbox.org/support-st-nicholas-and-help-us-grow>



Tithes & Attendance:

April 26
Tithes: \$869.00
Youth tithe: \$20.00
Gift shop: \$118.00
Attendance: 53

Thank you for your support and love for our Parish.

Also, feel free to send in your regular tithe check by mail to:

2200 Arctic Blvd,
Anchorage, AK 99503.

It is very important that we continue to give a percentage of what Our Lord has given us, and continue to support the structure and ministry of the parish. Thank you!

Fred Meyer Rewards: St. Nicholas of Myra participates in the community rewards program with Fred Meyer stores which gives a

 Fred Meyer
community rewards



percentage of purchases by those signed up with the program to St. Nicholas. It does not cost anything for customers. Fred Meyer pays out each quarter and will send a check if it's above a certain amount. It won't cost parishioners and friends of St. Nicholas anything to participate. The steps to participate are:

- 1) Set up a Fred Meyer Rewards account if you don't have one or sign up at one of the stores.
 - 2) Set up an online account.
 - 3) Log into the account and search for Community Rewards.
 - 4) Search for **Saint Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church** or our account number **QD147** and select as the charity to receive the funds.
 - 5) Shop at Fred Meyer as you normally would and the St. Nicholas account will automatically be credited.
- Thank you!

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Support Our Church
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***Sunday,
May 3***

***Celebrating the Feast
of Saint Peregrine
with the Veneration of
a First Class Relic***



10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Devotions to Most Holy Theotokos

***"Pantanassa" (Queen of All), special prayers
for healing, blessing of oil, and anointing of
the sick after Liturgy***

***Saint Peregrine is the patron saint
of people suffering from cancer,
AIDS, or other life-threatening diseases***

April 23rd through May 1st

Novena for the sick

through the intercession of St. Peregrine

Send a prayer request to

pastorstnicholas@yahoo.com

St Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church

***2200 Arctic Blvd,
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 277-6731***

pastorstnicholas@yahoo.com

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I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.”

JOHN 16:33



Registration Opens JANUARY 2026

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PASTORAL MINISTRY AND SACRAMENTS:

SACRAMENT of CONFESSIONS: on Sundays and Holy Days: 30 min. before Divine Liturgy and other days, by appointment.

HOLY COMMUNION: for the sick, by appointment, anytime.

BAPTISMS - by appointment.

MARRIAGES - by appointment, at least 6 months in advance.

FUNERALS - by appointment.

ANOINTING of the sick, hospital visits - by appointment, anytime

Safe Environment:

The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions, and programs, is committed to assuring a Safe Environment in ministry for its children and vulnerable adults that conforms to the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. For additional information regarding the eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any concerns, please contact:

Subdeacon Paul Kilroy, Safe Environment Program Coordinator

Cell: (480) 745-0316 ~ Office: (602) 861-9778 ext. 204 ~ Email: sbdcnkilroy@ephx.org -

or -

Victim Assistance Coordinator, Deacon Michael Hanafin

Cell: (480) 307-5182 ~ Email: vac@ephx.org

The Samaritan Woman

The Fourth Gospel, attributed to Saint John the Evangelist, is used exclusively from Easter until Pentecost for the Sunday readings. The first chapter of John's Gospel is the proclamation used for the Divine Liturgy on Easter itself. This week, we are reminded of the story of Christ's encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob, and thereby Christ's fulfillment of the Old Testament. In one of the many unique stories of the Fourth Gospel not found in the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark or Luke), Jesus reveals himself as Messiah to this woman of Samaria and talks with her about the "water that I will give will become ... a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

In the early days of His ministry, Jesus travels back and forth between Galilee and Jerusalem, and must pass through Samaria. The Samaritans

were outcast Jews because they were not subject to the Babylonian exile of the Israelites from other provinces. Therefore, when Jesus talks with this Samaritan woman, His disciples are surprised and in shock that He would carry on a conversation with a woman at the well, let alone a Samaritan. But as the story is explained, the woman's testimony about Jesus spreads through the nearby town, and because of her many come to hear His teachings. After hearing His word, they come to believe in Him, and proclaim Him "the Savior of the world." (Jn 4:42)

With water as the focal point of this encounter, we are once again reminded of our Baptism, and that Christ's Baptism is that of "eternal life" through "living water."

Archbishop Vsevolod of Scopelos