

JANUARY 24, 2016

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

**74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260**

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

THE LADDER

ST. XENIA THE DEACONESS OF ROME



Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755
Palm Desert, CA.92261
Tel: (760) 568-9901
or: (760) 880-5869

– Fr. Theodore Pantels,
Proistamenos (Pastor)
– Deacon Euthym Kontaxis,
M.D.

Holy Communion Order

1. Please remain standing while following the directions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly remove lipstick before receiving.
3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name), and naturally receive as if being fed.
4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
5. All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.

LET US GLORIFY GOD!

As we learned from last Sunday upon hearing the Gospel passage about the ten lepers, we comprehend yet again with today's Gospel reading that everything that God does for us is done so that we can glorify Him with words and deeds. Indeed, there is no other reason for us to pray. When we celebrate the Divine Liturgy, during the petitions leading up to the Creed, we hear: *"For all things that are good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the whole world, let us ask the Lord."*

Sometimes we forget that we pray for those things that are good and beneficial *for our souls*. And, to the extent that we have God's blessings, we also have *peace within our souls*. In as much as there is divine peace within us, others also find peace within their souls—not only this, but, through divine peace, we are able to inspire others to glorify God.

The blind man of today's Gospel passage prayed to receive his sight.

Continued on Page 2

ST. XENIA THE DEACONESS OF ROME

Our righteous Mother Xenia of Rome was of a distinguished family. While her parents were preparing to wed her, she stole away secretly, taking two handmaids with her, and departed for Mylasa of Karia in Asia Minor, and there she completed her life in asceticism. She was ordained deaconess by Paul, her spiritual father, who became Bishop of Mylasa. Although she was originally named Eusebia, to conceal her identity, she took the name Xenia - which means "stranger" in Greek - because of her estrangement from her country.

Apolytikion of St. Xenia, Deaconess of Rome (Tone 8): The image of God, was faithfully preserved in you, O Mother. For you took up the Cross and followed Christ. By Your actions you taught us to look beyond the flesh for it passes, rather to be concerned about the soul which is immortal. Wherefore, O Holy Xenia, your soul rejoices with the angels.

"I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13



Οπως εκαταλαβαμεν την περασμενην Κυριακην καθως ακουσαμεν την Ευαγγελικην περικοπην περι των δεκα λεπτων, καταλαβαινουμεν και με το αναγνωσμα της σημερινης Ευαγγελικης περικοπης οτι ολα τα οποια κανει ο Θεος για εμας εχουν ως σκοπον να Τον δοξασουμεν με λογια και με εργα. Μαλιστα, δεν υπαρχει αλλος λογος για να προσευχωμεθα. Οταν τελουμεν την Θειαν Λειτουργιαν ακουμεν κατα τα πληρωτικα: <Τα καλα και συμφεροντα ταις ψυχαις ημων και ειρηνην τω κοσμο, παρα του Κυριου αιτησωμεθα.> Μερικες φορες ξεχνα ο ανθρωπος οτι προσευχεται για τα καλα και συμφεροντα της ψυχης του. Και, οσο εχουμεν τις ευλογιες του Κυριου, εχουμεν επισης ειρηνην της ψυχης μας. Οσο υπαρχει θεικη ειρηνη μεσα στις ψυχες μας, και οι αλλοι γυρω μας ευρισκονται σε ειρηνη – και οχι μονον αυτο, αλλα, δια της θεικης ειρηνης, θα τους εμπνευσουμεν να δοξασουν τον Θεον.

Ο τυφλος της σημερινης Ευαγγελικης περικοπης επροσευχηθηκε για να εχει την οραση του. Αλλα, η οραση του αρχισε να εχει μια δευτερευουσα σημασια σε συγκριση με την επιθυμιαν του να δοξαζει παντοτε τον Θεον. Καθως εδοξασε τον Θεον, αλλοι εδοξασαν τον Θεον μαζι του. Ολα τα αγαθα του Θεου – ακομη η σωματικη υγεια μας – εχουν σκοπο να δοξαζωμεν τον Θεον με υμνους, προσευχες και καλα εργα. Για αυτο εγραψε ο Αποστολος Παυλος περι του εαυτου του, <...Ο Ιησους Χριστος ηλθε εις τον κοσμον αμαρτωλους σωσαι ων πρωτος ειμι εγω...ινα εν εμοι πρωτω ενδειξηται Ιησους Χριστος την πασαν μακροθυμιαν.> (1 Τιμ. 1:16).

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

But, his sight became a secondary concern compared to his desire to constantly glorify God. As he glorified God, others glorified God, as well. All of God's good gifts – especially *and including* our health – have as their purpose for us to glorify our Savior Jesus Christ our God with hymns, prayers and good deeds in accordance with His teaching. It is for this reason that St. Paul wrote, with regard to himself, “...*Jesus Christ entered into our world in order to save sinners, of whom I am the chief* (remember these words during the “Communion Prayer” of our Divine Liturgy)...*so that first in me, Jesus Christ can show all of His compassion.*” (1 Timothy 1:16).

For the blind man Christ God revealed not only His *power*, but also His *love*. This is true for all of us. The response is *to follow Him*, the desire for which is beautifully expressed in the “Communion Prayers” of the Divine Liturgy. We confess in these prayers that we are “captivated” for Christ, which, at the same time is an experience of “spiritual trembling” in being careful to please God Whom we glorify – and we glorify God through our *faith and love*. “*With the fear of God, faith and love, draw near.*” We pray: “*The Body of God both deifies and nourishes me: deifies my soul and wondrously nourishes my mind.*” The word “deifies” means that the Body and Blood of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ makes us *divine beings* of God – sons and daughters of God. The blind man, by receiving his sight, was made a *child* of God, an *inheritor* of everything God has to offer. How can one not be “captivated” by such a great blessing?

Finally, once we comprehend the Divine Love that God has for us, we cannot help but to be “changed people.” The “old self” changes into the “new self” - a new personality; a new world-view, with new values and new goals that are meant to glorify God, or, as we pray, “*to magnify [His] two presences.*” In this, we mean that we glorify His “first presence” by which He cured humanity (as revealed in the healing of the blind man today) *and* the “second presence” by which He will come “*in glory to judge the living and the dead,*” as we say in the Nicene Creed. His judgment will be just, because it is a judgment that we will have given ourselves by virtue of making (or not making) the choice to repent of our sins and glorify God through all that we can do in this life-time.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Yvonne and George Flessas, George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Aryroula Krespis (Nick Krespis' mother), Bob Maverick, John Kouletsis (Mary Mitsias' brother), Robert Fleming (Rhonda Latkovic's father), Debbie Vawter, Skip Lewis, Anne Boukidis-Michas, Gerasimos Mikelatos (Evangelia Canakis' cousin), Evangelia Melissaratos (Spiro Canakis' sister), Mary Fondas, Sherry Untiedt (Debbie Vawter's sister) (*Many of the faithful on our Prayer List face chronic or serious illness*).

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

ANTIPHON I:

Verse 1: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and everything within me, bless His holy name."

Response: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soston imas."

Verse 2: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His rewards".

Response: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, O save us."

Verse 3: "The Lord prepared His throne in heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all."

Response: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soston imas."

Chanter(s): "Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen".

Response: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."

ANTIPHON II:

Verse 1: "Praise the Lord, O my soul! I shall praise the Lord while I live; I shall sing to my God as long as I exist."

Response: "Soston imas Ie Theou, o Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si: Allilouia."

Verse 2: "Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob; his hope is in the Lord his God."

Response: Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, we sing to You: Alleluia.

Verse 3: "The Lord shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations."

Response: "Soston imas Ie Theou, o Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si: Allilouia."

Chanter(s): "Doxa Patri ke Io, ke Ayio Pnevmati, ke nin ke ai ke is tous eonas ton eonon. Amin."

People: O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou... (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)

ANTIPHON III:

Resurrection Hymn: Tou lithou sfraghismentos [Tone 1]...(The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding watch oe'r Your pure and sacred Body, O Savior, the third day You arose. And unto all the world did you give life whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that you are the Giver of Life. Glory unto our Resurrected Christ; glory unto Your King-dom; glory to Your dispensation, O You alone Who loves all.)

Hymn for St. Xenia the Deaconess: En si mitra akrivohs...(SEE COVER PAGE OF TODAY'S LADDER)

Hymn for St. George: Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... ("As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and the champion defender of kings, bearer of trophies are you, O Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.")

Kontakion Hymn: O mitran parthenikin aghi-ah-sas...(Through Your birth, O Christ our God, You have sanctified the Virgin womb and fittingly You have blessed the hands of Symeon and now, on this day, You have come brining salvation to us. Therefore, grant to Your commonwealth You peace in times of war and Your strength to the ones who rule those beloved by You, for You alone love mankind.)

READINGS: Epistle - 1 Timothy 1:15-17 / Gospel - St. Luke 18:35-43

Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos): Axion Estin... (Divine Liturgy Book, Pg. 51)

Communion Hymn: Enite ton Kyrion (Divine Liturgy Book, pg. 64)

Reminder from our Greeters: A kind hello, and a pleasant smile will help to make a 'Greeters Day'! We will try to make the start of your day with happiness, joy, and love!
May God bless you all... Welcome Committee - Greeters!!

"Above all else,
guard your heart, for
it is the well-spring
of life" Proverbs 4:23



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Usher: Jim Christopoulos, Nick Kaperonis

Greeter: Josie Desnoyers

Coffee Hour: Kiki Monogenis

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of the servant of God, **Mr. Anatoly Sviridov (1 year)**, the beloved husband of **Nadia Sviridova** and the beloved father of **Maria Smith**. We pray that our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ will grant Eternal Life to **Mr. Anatoly Sviridov**, and that He will grant peace and comfort to **Nadia Smiridov** and **Maria Smith**. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS – Our Knitting Project has started. If you haven't picked up your patterns and yarn, do so today after Services. See **Rhonda Latkovic**. She has patterns for knitting and crocheting. We need Coffee Hour Hostesses for **February 7 and for March**. Please see **Linda Petalas**. We have been busy helping prepare food for the Festival these past two weeks. The Festival need many women of the parish to help whether you are a member of Philoptochos or not. **This week we are making koulourakia**. Come get a cup of coffee, make cookies and get to know us even better.

FESTIVAL PROGRAM SPONSORS – Everyone is asked to make every effort to obtain at least one sponsorship for the 20th Annual Festival Program. Business “logos” are \$300. One-line greetings are \$150. See Presvytera Pantels today to pick up a “Festival Program Sponsorship Form.” **Today is the absolute final deadline.**

YIAYIA’S ATTIC – It’s that time of year again! Yiayia’s Attic is gathering treasures for the Festival’s Attic Booth. Please start organizing your donations now! Call **Becky Allen** at (760) 699-5439 for details and/or questions. Items may be brought to our parish at any time.

DONATIONS FOR FESTIVAL NEEDS – Any donations of monies toward the purchase of needed festival supplies will be a great blessing and we will give special recognition to those who do contribute funds to help in making our festival purchases. Please contact our parish office for information on “Festival Needs.”

PREPARATION SCHEDULE – This week’s festival preparations include: koulourakia. Everyone’s help is a precious gift from God. Please join us in the blessings of fellowship and support for our Holy Church.

ALTAR FLOWERS – Requests can now being made for Altar Flowers beginning October and through December 2016, this also includes orders for the Altar Christmas Poinsettias! Please be advised that the first Sunday, October 2nd is taken. The schedule is on the Bulletin Board for your use, and participation, individual bouquets are \$50.00 each, and Christmas bouquets (poinsettias) are \$85.00 each, you may see **Louise Dobbs Barringer**, or **Fr. Ted** for your orders. Thank you so much for your support!

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, January 25th-ST. GREGORY, THEOLOGIAN
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, January 26th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, January 28th.....Choir Practice – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 30th-THREE HIERARCHS
Orthros-8:30 a.m./DivineLiturgy-9:30 a.m
Vespers-5:00 p.m.

*The Ladder for January 2016 is sponsored by: Helena Christie
in loving memory of
Paula Kozlen*

We encourage all of our parents to sit in the church with their entire family as they participate in the beauty and mysteries of the Divine Liturgy. For those with young children, feel free to sit near an aisle so that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a “crying room” in the narthex for your use. God Bless.