

OCTOBER 23, 2016

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE

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– 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.

BEING APOSTLES TODAY

Today is the Feast Day of St. James the Apostle, the Brother of our Lord. He is the “brother” of Christ, not because the Mother of God had other children after giving birth to Christ, but because St. James was the cousin of Christ on the part of Joseph, the Betrothed.

The passage from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Galatians describes how the Holy Spirit works for the salvation of all of humanity: the Holy Spirit enlightens people everywhere and goes wherever

God Wills so as to sanctify the world.

St. Paul himself is an example of this, as he wrote: “I persecuted the Church of God violently and I tried to destroy it. I had advanced in Judaism beyond others of my own age among my people, being so extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But...He Who set me apart before I was born and had called me through His grace was pleased to reveal His Son to me...” (Galatians 1: 11-13). Therefore, St. Paul came to know the Risen Christ personally in a miraculous manner. But, St. Paul did not go out

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ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE – According to some, this Saint was a son of Joseph the Betrothed, born of the wife that the latter had before he was betrothed to the Ever-virgin. Hence he was the brother of the Lord, Who was also thought to be the son of Joseph (Matt. 13: 55). But some say that he was a nephew of Joseph, and the son of his brother Cleopas, who was also called Alphaeus and Mary his wife, who was the first cousin of the Theotokos. But even according to this genealogy, he was still called, according to the idiom of the Scriptures, the Lord's brother because of their kinship.

He became the first Bishop of Jerusalem, elevated to this episcopal rank by the Apostles, according to Eusebius (Eccl. Hist., Book II: 23), and was called “The Just,” because of his great holiness and righteousness. Standing before the Pharisees, he bore testimony concerning his belief in Jesus, and he proclaimed with a great voice that Jesus sits at the right hand of the great power of God and shall come again upon the clouds of heaven. On hearing this testimony, the Apostle was cast down headlong and then was stoned. While he prayed for his slayers, his head was crushed by the wooden club wielded by a certain scribe. The first of the Catholic (General) Epistles written to the Jews in the Diaspora who believed in Christ was written by this very St. James the Apostle.

– Taken from the Archdiocese website: www.goarch.org



Σήμερα είναι η εορτή του Αγίου Αποστόλου Ιακώβου Αδελφοθεού. Είναι <αδελφος> του Χριστού, όχι επειδή η Θεοτοκος είχε άλλα παιδιά μετά που ετεκνοποίησε τον Χριστόν, αλλά επειδή ο Άγιος Ιακώβος ήταν εξαδελφος του Χριστού εκ μέρους του Ιωσήφ, ο μεμνηστηρευμένος με την Μαρία.

Η περικοπή από την Επιστολήν του Αγίου Παύλου προς τους Γαλάτας περιγράφει πως εργαζεται το Άγιο Πνεύμα προς την σωτηριαν της ολοκληρης ανθρωποτητας: φωτιζει ανθρωπους παντου και πηγαινει οπου και οπως θελει για να αγιασει τον κοσμον.

Ο Άγιος Παύλος ο ίδιος είναι παραδειγμα περι τουτου, καθώς εγραψε: <Εδωκον την Εκκλησιαν του Θεου και επορθουν αυτην, και προεκοπτον εν τω Ιουδαισμο υπερ πολλους συνηλικιωτας εν τω γενει μου, περισσοτερος ζηλωτης υπαρχων των πατρικων μου παραδοσεων. Οτε δε εδοκησεν ο Θεος, ο αφορισας με εκ κοιλιας μητρος μου και καλεσας δια της χαριτος αυτου αποκαλυψαι τον Υιον Αυτου εν εμοι...> (Γαλ. 1: 11-13). Λοιπον, εγνωρισε ο Άγιος Παύλος τον Αναστанта εκ νεκρων Χριστον προσωπικως κατα τροπον θαυματος. Αλλα, ο Άγιος Παύλος δεν επηγε σε δικο του δρομο για να κηρυξει τον Λογον του Θεου, ξεχωριστος απο την Αγιαν Αποστολικην Παραδοσιν. Εσπουδασε το Ευαγγελιον και την διδασκαλιαν της Εκκλησιας με διδασκαλους του: τον Άγιον Πετρον και τον Άγιον Ιακωβον (Γαλ. 1: 19).

Η αληθινή πνευματική εμπνευσις από τον Θεον μας στρεφει προς την Εκκλησιαν του Χριστου. Ας προσεξουμεν να μην πλανωμεθα απο διδασκαλιες οι οποιες δεν ταιριαζουν με αυτες της Εκκλησιας.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

on his own path to preach the Word of God, apart from the Holy Apostolic Tradition. *He studied* the Gospel and the teachings of the Church with his teachers: St. Peter and St. James. St. Paul wrote: *"After three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Peter (Cephas) and remained with him for fifteen days. But, I saw none other of the Apostles, except James, the brother of the Lord."* (Galatians 1: 19).

St. John writes in his First Epistle: *"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."* (1 John 4: 1). A calling that comes from God leads people *into* the Church and inspires them to participate in the Church's Sacramental Life. This is the case with St. Paul. We know that his vision of Christ was authentic, because he was led to the Church, in that he felt that it was vital to understand the Apostolic Faith from the Apostles themselves. Inspiration from God should also turn us toward the Church, not in terms of necessarily meeting our social needs, but in terms of participating in the Life of the Divine Liturgy. Willingly not participating in the Divine Liturgy is equal to the Gadarenes rejecting Christ, as we heard from today's Gospel passage. We may offer many excuses...for the Gadarenes, they rejected Christ because He commanded the demons to enter the swine, which interfered with their economic system—a system based on activity contrary to God's Law.

As for the demon-possessed man, Christ did not hate him, condemn him, or reject him, while others around him were prone to bind him in chains. Instead, Jesus rescued him from a fate of destruction, giving notice that Christ delivers all of humanity from the demons. What is more, even the demons know Christ. Speaking through this possessed man, Christ God was asked, *"What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?"* (St. Luke 8: 28). It is sad that even the demons know that Christ is the True God, while, at the same time, so many people in our society do not acknowledge this fact.

While the Gadarenes rejected our Lord, the man having been released from the demons wanted to follow Christ. But, Christ turned him into an Apostle, saying, *"Return to your own house and tell what great things God has done for you."* Christ has often rescued us from evils brought on by temptations and hardships, which are based on the deceit and perversions caused by demons. Like the demon-possessed man who was rescued by Christ, we are called to be Apostles and glorify God, beginning in our own "houses" and extending through our whole parish and community at large. Becoming Apostles ourselves, let us bring relatives, friends and neighbors to Christ's Holy Church!
+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Yvonne Flessas, George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Nicholas Kyriakou, Mary Ganakis, Erika Aguilar (Ana and Wynn Storton's daughter), Dafni Saphazis (niece of Georgia Saphazis (*Many of the faithful on our Prayer List face chronic or serious illness*)).

ANTIPHON I: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou..." (By the prayers of the Theotokos...)*

Verse 1— Bless the Lord, O my soul, and everything within me, bless His Holy Name.

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."*

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

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

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

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."*

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

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

ANTIPHON II: *"Soston imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)*

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.

Refrain: *"Soston imas, Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."*

Verse 2 - Blessed is He whose help is the God of Jacob; his hope is in the Lord his God.

Refrain: *"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.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."*

Doxa Patri ke Io ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous eonas ton eonon.

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

HYMNS FOR THE ENTRANCE WITH THE HOLY GOSPEL: ANTIPHON III— *This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein. Let heaven and earth praise Him the seas and everything that moves in them.*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *Tou lithou sfraghisthendos [Tone 1]... (The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding watch over 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 Kingdom; glory to Your dispensation, O You alone Who loves all.)*

Hymn for the Holy Apostle St. James: *Os tou Kyriou mathitees... (As a disciple of the Lord, you accepted the Gospel, O James the Just. As a Martyr you have unchangeability; as the Brother of the Lord you have confidence; and you can intercede as a hierarch. Intercede with Christ our God, entreating Him to save our souls.)*

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: *Prostasia ton Christianon... (A Protection of Christians unshamable; mediation with the Creator immovable. We sinners beg You: do not despise the voices of our prayers, but anticipate, since You are good, and swiftly come unto our aid as we cry out to You with faith: Hurry to intercession; and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos, Who defends at all times those who honor You.)*

READINGS: Epistle – Galatians 1: 11-19 / Gospel – St. Luke 8: 26-39

Megalinarion: Axion Estin (page 52 in the Divine Liturgy Books)

Communion Hymn: *Enite ton Kyrion... (Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Allelouia.)*

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

Proverbs 4:23



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Rhonda Latkovic & Lula Valissarakos Greeter: Josie Desnoyers

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – Correction to last Sunday’s Ladder: Last Sunday’s Altar Flower Bouquets gracing our Holy Altar (on Sunday, October 16, 2016) donated by: Ms. Diane Young - “Remembering Dr. Ken Pascal- Memories Eternal!”

Mrs. Bessie K. Heinrich - “In loving memory of my husband Carl; ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God!’

Mr. & Mrs. Peter McEvoy - “In loving memory of both of our parents!”

PHILOPTOCHOS – Come by the Philoptochos table today and get your tickets for the AHEPA and Philoptochos Thanksgiving Luncheon on Saturday, November 12. We need Hostesses for Coffee Hour in December. See Linda Petalas.

THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON – The Thanksgiving luncheon, through combined efforts of our AHEPA and Philoptochos, will be served on **Saturday, November 12, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.** Proceeds will benefit the AHEPA Chapter 528 Fr. T.P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund. Deadline for reservations: **Sunday, November 6, 2016**. Please see the enclosed flier for more information.

PET BLESSING THANK YOU– We thank God for the efforts of **Linda Kallis, Lula Valissarakos, Tina Veroulis, Matushka Gloria Lehman, Chrysonthe Mehas, Doris Elmo, Kathy Petropoulos, Thalia Aeder, Nick Kaperonis,** and **Jim Christopoulos** which they offered toward the success of yesterday’s Pet Blessing Event. The event itself was organized by **Rhonda Latkovic**. Congratulations to all for a most joyous & successful event!

CELEBRATING HUMAN LIFE NIGHT – Mark **Thursday, November 10th** on your calendars and join us for an hour and a half symposium, **“The Value of Human Life,”** at the **St. Garabed Armenian Apostolic Church on Monterey Ave., Rancho Mirage at 7:00 p.m.** Fr. Ted has been organizing this event with **Fr. Krikor Zarkanian** of the St. Garabed parish and **Mr. Bob Kurtz** of the **Sacred Heart Parish in Palm Desert**. Speakers: **Fr. Donald Craig**, Chaplain at Eisenhower Medical Center, on the topic of **“Physician-Assisted Suicide;”** **Fr. Michael Fanous**, priest at St. Mary Magdalene Coptic Church in Indio, on the topic of **“Genocide in the Middle East;”** and **Patti Smith** of the Roman Catholic Church organization, **“Silent No More,”** on the topic of **“Praying for the End of Abortion.”**

ST. RAPHAEL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH – The annual Feast Day of St. Raphael will be celebrated at the St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms, California with the Divine Liturgy on Saturday, November 5, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

GREEK FESTIVAL MEETING – Monday, November 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Tuesday, October 25th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.
Parish Council Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 26th.....ST. DEMETRIOS THE GREAT MARTYR
Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
- Friday, October 28th.....PROTECTION OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
- Saturday, October 29th.....Vespers - 5:00 p.m.

**ST. GEORGE
ANNUAL VETERANS
DAY PROGRAM –
Sunday, November 6,
2016
SAVE THE DATE**

*The October 2016 Ladder
is sponsored by
Rhonda & Nicholas Latkovic
in memory of
Patricia Fleming (Rhonda Latkovic's mother)*

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.