

APRIL 30, 2017

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN



Mailing Address:

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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.

LIFE'S BIG SECOND CHANCE

"You seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He is risen!...Go and tell His Disciples and Peter that He goes before you to Galilee: there shall you see Him, as He said unto you." (St. Mark 16: 6-7). Gregory the Diologist, in his "Forty Gospel Homilies," stated: "And the women who came with spices saw angels, since those who advance toward God through their holy desires, accompanied by the sweet smell of the virtues, behold citizens from on high." (Homily 21, Migne Patrology, pg. 158). In essence, their first words from

the time of Christ's Resurrection from the dead are paraphrased in the well-known hymn of the Church: "Christ is Risen from the dead, by death trampling down death and to those in the tombs, He gives life." These words resemble the announcement of the Myrrh-bearing Women to the Apostles – and, by extension, to the whole world – that Christ is Risen from the tomb, whereby death is "trampled." This hymn, confirms that the love of Christ is truly life-giving, while sin creates a chasm

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ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA, NICODEMOS & THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

Along with the Myrrh-bearing Women, we commemorate Sts. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus today. Joseph of Arimathea owned a new tomb, which he probably planned to use for himself. After our Lord died on the Cross, Joseph courageously asked the governor, Pilate, that Jesus' Body be given to him. This was a daring act. Remember that Christ was crucified as a criminal. For anyone to obtain the body of a criminal for burial, other than what was allotted for common criminals, required special permission – and in seeking that permission there was the risk that one could be implicated as a criminal, as well, and given the same death sentence. In helping Joseph to carry out this request and place Jesus' Body in the tomb, Nicodemus also risked his life. They were both declaring to the world that they were friends of our Lord and Savior!



<Ιησουν ζητειτε τον Ναζαρηνον Τον εσταυρωμενον; Ηγερθη, ουκ εστιν ωδε...υπαγετε επατε τοις Μαθηταις Αυτου οτι προαγει υμας εις την Γαλιλαιαν.> (Μαρκ. 16: 6-7).

Ο Αγ. Γρηγοριος ο Διαλογος, στις Σαραντες Ομιλιες Περι του Ευ-αγγελιου, ειπε: <Και οι Μυροφορες Γυναικες, οι οποιες ηλθαν με το μυρον ειδαν αγγελους, αφου οσοι πλησιαζουν τον Θεον με ιερα κτηνητρα και με το γλυκο αρωμα των αρετων, συναντουν και ουραنيους πολιτες.> (Ομιλια 21, *Migne*, σελ. 158). Στην ουσια, τα πρωτα λογια των Μυροφορων απο την στιγμη της Αναστασεως αντηχουν στα αυτια μας δια μεσου του υμνου της Εκκλησιας μας: <Χριστος ανεστη εκ νεκρων θανατω θανατον πατησας και τοις εν τοις μνημασι, ζωνν χαρισαμενος.> Τα λογια αυτα ταιριαζουν με την ανακοινωσιν των Μυροφορων οτι ο Χριστος ανεστηθηκε απο τον ταφον. Ο υμνος μας βεβαιωνει οτι η αγαπη του Χριστου στην πραγματικοτητα ζωοποιει, ενω η αμαρτια δημιουργει χασμα μεταξυ ημων και του Θεου. Το χασμα αυτο λεγεται <ο θανατος>. Ειναι ο Θεος, ομως, ο Οποιος συγχωρει τις αμαρτιες. Ο Ιδιος εχαρισε σε εμας την ιδια εξουσιαν και τις σχετικες δυναμεις. Ειναι ο Θεος ο Οποιος ιατρευει τις πληγες των αμαρτιων δια μεσου της χαριτος της συγχωρησεως.

Οι Μυροφορες ησαν οι πρωτοι να γνωρισουν οτι ο Χριστος ανεστηθηκε απο τον ταφον και, συνεπως, ησαν οι πρωτοι να ανακοινωσουν την Αναστασιν του Χριστου. Δια της Αναστασεως, η αγαπη του Θεου φανερωεται και η Αναστασις του Χριστου προσφερει σε εμας τον σωστον σκοπον για την ανθρωπινη μας ζωνν.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

between us and God. This chasm is known as death. It is God Who forgives and Who has granted this authority and its related powers to us. God is the One Who heals the wounds of sin through the grace of forgiveness. God's forgiveness is our true "second chance" in life, provided we repent.

The Myrrh-bearing Women were the first to know about His Resurrection and, as a result, the first to tell others that Christ is Risen from the dead. It is in the Resurrection that the love of God is truly magnified and the Resurrection gives true meaning to human life.

Wellness is defined in the Liturgical life of the Church. We begin by cherishing the life that God grants to us, both through the act of creation and through the reality of the Resurrection – the renewal of creation, following the destruction of death. Cherishing the life that Christ our God grants to us requires our participation in His love, as opposed to an otherwise passive biological existence.

Celebrating the Resurrection of Christ leads us to baptism. With this, we are reminded that Holy Confession is our re-baptism in Christ through the tears of repentance. In the weeks that follow after this Sunday, we are reminded of our baptism through the Gospel readings describing the wellness of the paralytic at the pool of the Sheep Gate (next Sunday) which is the pool (or font) of "living water." This "living water" is spoken of by Christ in His encounter with the Samaritan Woman (the following Sunday). This is also the "water of illumination" regarding the truth about Eternal Life, which is expressed through the experience of the Blind Man, whose eyes were opened by Christ (the next Sunday after the Samaritan Woman).

Wellness does depends on awareness, or, more directly, *illumination*. When we are aware of pain, we are motivated to seek a cure. When we are aware of our weakness, we can seek strength. When we are aware of our sins, we can pray for enlightenment to avoid evil.

With the news of the Resurrection from the dead of Christ our God, the Myrrh-bearing Women announce a new day in human life – and, with it, a new attitude toward the day ahead of us and each day that follows into eternity to a day of the never-setting sun. Our lives are not meaningless ends in themselves; they are valuable reflections of God's love, in which wellness is not always defined as a painless, "suffering-less" life, as much as a fruitful, rewarding life equal to the glory of God's Saints!

FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Nicholas Kyriakou, Argyroula Krespis (Nick Krespis' mother), Constantine Papapetru, Erika Aguilar, Nicholas Coussoulis, Mary Mitsias, Nula Papapetru, Jim Alex (*Many faithful on our Prayer List face chronic or serious illness*).

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY:

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

Verse 1— Shout to God all the earth. Sing now to His Name; give glory to His praise.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."

Verse 2— Say to God, "How fearful are Your works; in the greatness of Your power Your enemies will lie to You.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."

Verse 3— Let all the earth worship you and sing to You; let them sing to Your Name.

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

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

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."

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

Verse 1— May God be gracious to us and bless us; may He cause His face to shine upon us.

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

Verse 2 — That we may know His way on earth, Your salvation among all Gentiles.

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

Verse 3 — Let the peoples give thanks to You O God; let all the peoples praise You. May God bless us, and let all the ends of the earth be in fear of Him.

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

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

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

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *Christos Anesti... (Christ is Risen from the dead, by death trampling upon death, and to those in the tombs, bestowing life.)*

Also... Ote katilthes... (When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You.)

Hymn for the Myrrh-bearing Women: *Tes myrrofeses gheenexi... (When he took down Your immaculate Body from the Cross, the honorable Joseph wrapped it in a clean linen shroud with spices and laid it for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day You arose, O Lord, and granted the world Your great mercy.)*

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 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 for this Sunday: *Ee ke en tafo... (Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.)*

READINGS: Epistle- Acts 6:1-7/ Gospel – St. Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8

Instead of "Axion Estin": *O Angelos evoh-a ti keharitomeni... (The Angel cried aloud to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice...) The Paschal (Easter) "Megalynarion" for this Sunday.*

Communion Hymn: *Soma Christou metalavete, pyghees athanatou ghevsastheh (Receive the Body of Christ; taste from the immortal font.)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hour: In honor and tribute to Bob Maverick and Presvytera Maria Costarakis

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of the soul of the servants of God, **Bob (Haralambos) Maverick (40 days)**, the beloved husband of **Tommie Maverick**, and father of **Ed and Wayne Maverick**, grandfather of 5 grandchildren and great-grandfather of 4 great-grandchildren, and **Presvytera Maria Costarakis (18 years)**, the beloved wife of **Fr. Peter Costarakis** and dear friend of **Annette Laskaris**. May our Risen Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Bob (Haralambos) Maverick** and **Martha (Laskaris)** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Tommie Maverick** and **Annette Laskaris** and their families. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS – Our next Board Meeting will be tomorrow, Monday, May 1 at 11:00 a.m. Our next General Meeting will be on Monday, May 8 at 11:30 a.m. These meetings will be the last ones of the season. We will resume our meetings in September. Don’t forget the Agape Celebration of Love for Kids “n” Cancer will be on Sunday, May 7 at 2:00 p.m.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS-Today’s Altar Flower Bouquets offered to God’s glory were donated by:

Dr. Michael Long – “In loving memory of my mother, Helen Long. Eternal Rest!

Matushka Gloria Lehman – “In memory of my loving husband, Fr. Charles Lehman, his fourth year anniversary; love never dies!”

AMERICAN WRESTLER – We all join in thanking God for His blessings in allowing the son of our parishioners, **Constantina and Paul Kosturos, George Kosturos**, to be the lead character in a movie coming out this summer, entitled *The Wrestler*. **Special showing: May 3rd at the Rivers**. See flier in parish hall.

COLORING BOOK GROUP – This Friday, May 5, 2017 at 12:00 noon. Lunch is included. \$5 contribution requested. R.S.V.P. by tomorrow, May 1st. See the flier in the parish hall.

AHEPA – AHEPA Sunday celebration on Sunday, May 21, 2017. Adults, \$15/ Children, \$10. See the flier in the parish hall.

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monday, May 1st.....Philoptochos Board Meeting – 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 2nd.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. / Men’s Bible Study – 6:30 p.m (Acts 9: 32-42)

Wednesday, May 3rd.....*American Wrestler* at the River Century Theater – 4:00 & 7:30 p.m.

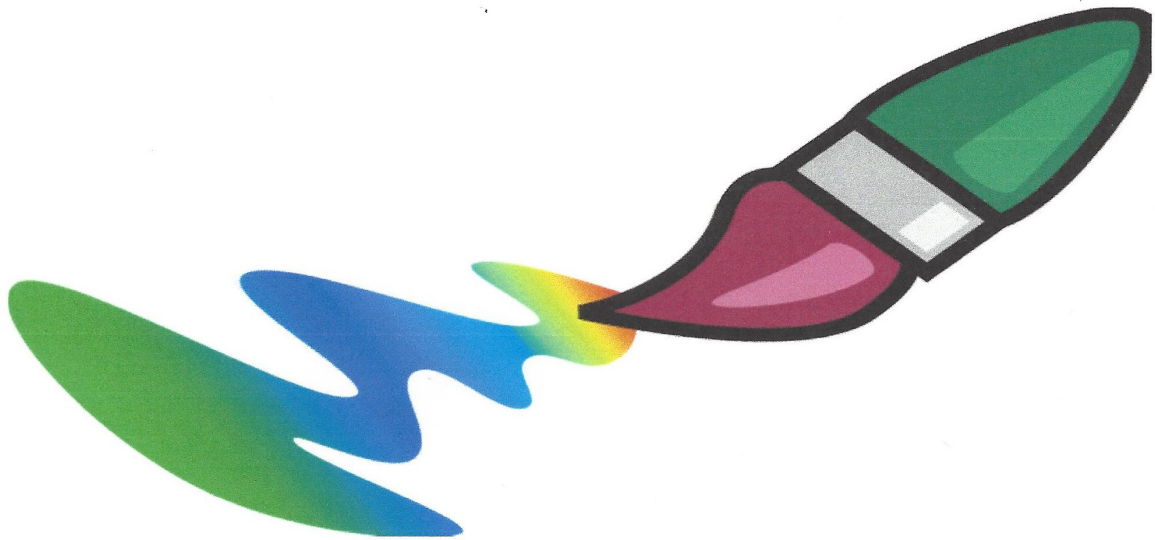
Thursday, May 4th.....Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m.

Friday, May 5th.....Coloring Book Group – 12:00 noon

Saturday, May 6th.....Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here. He is Risen. Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, “The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and the third day arise again.” And they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the Mother of Jame and the other women with them who told these things to the Apostles.” St. Luke 24: 5-10

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.



ADULT COLORING SESSION & LUNCHEON

When: Friday, MAY 5th @ noon-2pm

Where: St. George church hall

RSVP: By MAY 1ST to Rhonda Latkovic

This will be the last coloring session for the first half of the year! Lunch will be served at noon with coloring to follow. A \$5.00 minimum donation is requested. There will also be a raffle. Coloring supplies provided. Please join us!