

JANUARY 29, 2017

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

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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.*

OUR LORD & MASTER

Today, from the reading of the passage from the Gospel of St. Matthew, we heard of the incident in which the Canaanite Woman met Christ. We know that God enlightened this woman, even though she was not “of the lost sheep of Israel.” As God enlightened the Prophet David, He enlightened the Canaanite Woman so that she would seek God’s love, even though she felt that she was unworthy.

We compare the words of the Prophet

David with those of the Canaanite Woman. David says, “*A sacrifice to God is a contrite spirit. A contrite and humble heart, God will not despise.*” (Psalm 50:19). The Canaanite Woman says, “*Yes, Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.*” (St. Matthew 15:27). Like David, this woman’s soul was “contrite and humble.” The Canaanite idols did not have the love nor the power to cure her daughter. Even Christ ignored her, saying, “*It is not good to take the children’s bread and give*”
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THE THREE HIERARCHS

St. Basil the Great, St. John Chrysostom, and St. Gregory the Theologian are the Three Hierarchs that will be commemorated with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy tomorrow.

This common feast of these three teachers was instituted a little before the year 1100, during the reign of the Byzantine-Roman Emperor Alexis I Comnenus, because of a dispute and strife that arose among the notable and virtuous men of that time. Some of them preferred Basil, while others preferred Gregory, and yet others preferred John Chrysostom, quarreling among themselves over which of the three was the greatest.

the three Saints appeared together to the saintly John Mavropous, a monk who had been ordained Bishop of Euchaita, a city of Asia Minor, they revealed to him that the glory they have at the throne of God is equal, and told him to compose a common service for the three of them, which he did with great skill and beauty.

Taken from: www.goarch.org



Σήμερα ακουσαμεν για το περιστατικό στο οποίο εσυναντήσε η Χαναναία τον Χριστόν κατά το αναγνώσμα του κατά Ματθαίον Ευαγγελίου. Γνωρίζομεν ότι ο Θεός εφώτισε την Χαναναίαν, αν και δεν ήταν μίαν από τα <προβάτα τα απολωλότα οικου Ισραήλ> Όπως φώτισε ο Θεός τον Προφήτην Δαυίδ, εφώτισε και την Χαναναίαν, ετσι ώστε να αναζητησει αυτη την αγαπην του Θεου, αν και ενιωσε τον εαυτον της ως αναξια.

Συγκρινουμεν τα λογια του Προφητου Δαυιδ με τα λογια της Χαναναίας. Ο Δαυιδ λεγει: <Θυσια τω Θεω, πνευμα συντετριμμενον, καρδιαν συντετριμμενην και τεταπεινωμενην ο Θεος ουκ εξουδενωσει.> (Ψαλ. 50:19). Η Χαναναία λεγει: <Ναι, Κυριε, και γαρ τα κυναρια εσθιει απο των ψιχιων των πιπτωνων απο της τραπεζης των κυριων αυτων>. (Ματθ. 15:27). Όπως ο Δαυιδ, η ψυχη της Χαναναίας ήταν <συντετριμμενη και τεταπεινωμενη.> Τα ειδωλα των Χαναναίων δεν ειχαν την αγαπην, ουτε την δυναμιν να θεραπευσουν την κορην της. Ακομη και ο Χριστος την αγνοησε, καθως ειπε: <Ουκ εστι καλον λαβειν τον αρτον των τεκνων και βαλειν τοις κυναριοις.> (Ματθ. 15:26).

Με συντετριμμενην ψυχην, η Χαναναία επαδεχθηκε την χαμηλην της σταση ενωπιον του Θεου. Αντιπροσωπευει ολους μας, αφου η αμαρτια μας ριχνει στην ιδιαν χαμηλην στασην με την <ξενην> Χαναναίαν. Αλλα, μας εμπνεει η Χαναναία, ως επμνευσμενη απο τον Θεον, να φθασουμεν στο ιδιο υψηλο πνευματικο επιπεδο της διαμεσου της θερμης πιστεως—δια της οποιας θα μπορεσουμεν να ομολογησουμεν ότι ο Ιησους Χριστος είναι στην πραγματικοτητα ο Κυριος της ζωης μας.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

give it to the dogs." (St. Matthew 15:26).

With a humble soul, the Canaanite Woman accepted her low status before God. She represents all of us, since sin throws us down to the same status as that of this "foreign" woman. However, this same Canaanite Woman inspires us, as one inspired by God, to reach her same high spiritual status through sincere faith by which we confess that Christ is in truth the Lord of our lives.

She called Him "Lord" ("Yes, Lord, but even the dogs...") and "Master" ("eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."). Mystically, she foretells of the Sacrament of Holy Communion which is given to us from the Holy Altar Table. Her confession of faith in Christ is the "great faith" through which her demon-possessed daughter was saved, for the Name of Christ destroys demons.

The term "demon-possession" is greatly synonymous with the modern word: "addiction." Much of addiction is a matter of an illness of soul. This is why so many addicts recover once they turn to God. They struggle one day at a time, praying, "give us this day our daily bread," - the word "bread," meaning the strength and wisdom that comes from God—and which, to a deeper level, ultimately leads to the Bread and Wine that the Holy Spirit changes into the Body and Blood of Christ. We are all addicts in some way! Some are addicts to food; others are addicts to material possessions; some are addicts to sexual fantasies; others are addicts to popularity, while still others are addicts to power. Then, there are those who are addicts to drugs and alcohol, no less worse off spiritually than the others. We have much to fear from ourselves, given the lengths to which, without self-control, we can go to satisfy these addictions, which if unsatisfied, lead to great anxiety, anger, depression and maybe violence. Demons addict us to false gods.

Today's gods may promise total equality and utopia for everyone, including the sinner and the saint, but they will disappoint us, just like the Canaanite idols failed the Canaanite Woman, because there is no love from idols. They could never address her ingrained God-given capacity to love another human being as much as she loved herself. As her daughter suffered, she, too, suffered. Her daughter's cure, was her cure, as well. This capacity comes from God's breath within each person, which we know to be the human soul. Unphased by her "inequality," she shouldered her *responsibility* to find a cure for her daughter. Her search ended when she met the True God of Love and Salvation, through Whom all things were created, Jesus Christ our "Lord" and "Master" (to use her words). He is the only God Who suffers with us and for us. He is in our midst. For this reason, He also lovingly saves us. +FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Yvonne Flessas, George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Nicholas Kyriakou, Argyroula Krespis (Nick Krespis' mother), Constantine Papapetru (*Many of the faithful on our Prayer List face chronic or serious illness*).

HYMNS AND READINGS FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

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: *Katelisas to Stavro Sou ton thanaton...[Tone 7] (O Lord by Your sacred Cross You abolished death and granted unto the thief blessed paradise. The Myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the good news at Your command that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, be-stowing Your mercy upon the world evermore..)*

Hymn for St. Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch: *Ke tropon metochos, ke thronon diadhochos...(Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Ignatius. Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls.)*

Hymn for St. George: *Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis (pg. 110 in the Divine Liturgy books)*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: *O Mitran Parthenikin aghiasas to toko Sou...(You sanctified the virginal womb by Your birth, O Lord, and blessed the hands of Symeon fittingly, O Christ God; and even now You came and saved us. Now, give peace to our Nation in time of war, and empower our Leaders, so loved by You, the only one who loves humanity.)*

READINGS: EPISTLE— 2 Corinthians 6:16-18;7:1/ **GOSPEL—** St. Matthew 15:21-28

Axion Estin. *"It is truly right to bless you...(page 52 in the Divine Liturgy Books)*

Communion Hymn— *Enite ton Kyrion...(Praise the Lord in the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Alleluia.)*

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

Proverbs 4:23



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Carol Lyrons and Linda Bozigian

PHILOPTOCHOS— Thank you for volunteering to host a **Sunday Coffee Hour** in February. We are now looking towards March for volunteers. See **Linda Petalas**. Ladies, come help us prepare food this week. **We are making melomakarona and paximathia on Monday and on Tuesday we are making paximathia and packing the cookies.** We have other jobs also available to keep us on schedule toward our goal - the Festival!

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS— Today's Altar Flower Bouquets were donated for the glory of God by: **Mr. and Mrs. Tony Dalkas: "In loving memory of our parents, Peter & Maria Dalkas and Stanley & Helen Venetos."** Parishioners, please be advised that there are no more available Altar Flower spaces (January through May, 2017 has been occupied). Thank you for your support! May God bless you. — Louise Dobbs Barringer.

STEWARDSHIP— We are grateful for receiving **66** pledge cards year-to-date, totaling **\$73,910** towards our 2017 Stewardship pledge goal of **\$115,000**. Thank you for your generosity to our beloved church. God bless you. Please see **Rhonda Latkovic**, Stewardship Chairperson, if you still need a pledge card for this year.

GREEK FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS— If you have not already done so, please volunteer to work at our Festival, which is being held on Saturday and Sunday, February 25th and 26th. You can sign up in the church hall after Liturgy. The "**Festival Volunteer**" **Sign-up Table** is located near the bookstore. If you have any questions, please call **Jim Christopoulos at: goofy_328@yahoo.com**, or call him at: (760) 902-8460. **This week: help is needed for koulourakia and melomakarona.**

GREEK FESTIVAL PROGRESS — Photos of the Festival volunteers & food prep are posted in the church hall. Please review the Festival Preparation Calendar in the parish hall and see what days you can volunteer. We need your help!

YIAYIA'S ATTIC— **Now is the time to bring items for Yiayia's Attic in support of our 2017 Festival.** Please drop them off in our parish hall at any time during the week. Call before making your delivery to arrange for assistance upon your arrival. Please see **Becky Allen** for more information.

KNITTING CLASS— The Knitting Class met on Wednesday, January 25th at 5:30 pm in the church hall lead by **Tina Veroulis**. Knitted items are being made to be given to cancer patients at **City of Hope** from our Philoptochos Organization. The next class is scheduled for this **Wednesday, February 1st at 5:30 p.m. in the church hall**. We will supply the knitting needles, yarn, and a snack! Just bring yourself! Please RSVP to **Rhonda Latkovic** by phone, text, or email @ 714-875-4661 or r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, January 30th.....THE THREE HIERARCHS
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, January 31st.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, February 1st.....Knitting Class – 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 2nd.....PRESENTATION OF CHRIST INTO THE TEMPLE
Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Saturday, February 4thPLEASE NOTE: No Vespers

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.

GYROS • GREEK LAMB • BAKLAVA • LOUKOUMADES

GREEK CHICKEN • MOUSSAKA • SPANAKOPITA • DOLMADE • PASTICHIO • SOULVAKI • BAKLAVA • DOLMADES • GYROS



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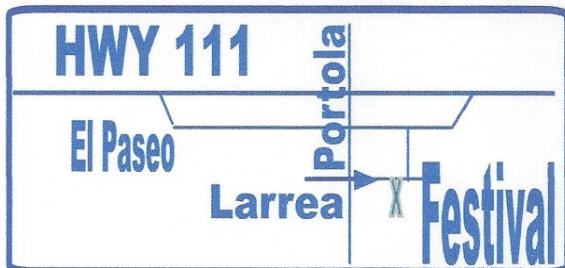
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"We are pleased to provide assistance to anyone requesting it. If you need help, please ask"

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