

JUNE 11, 2017

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



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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.*

PRAYER: THE LESSON OF SAINTS

We have become a spectacle to the world; to angels and to people...We are persecuted, yet we endure; being defamed, we entreat...we have become as the refuse of the world.” (1 Corinthians 4:9,12).

People of previous ages – and even those of the present age – have honored and do, indeed, honor the famous personalities of athletes, movie stars, musicians. From ancient times, people have honored them by knowing the names; the life; the deeds and the ideas of many of

them. However, in general, people do not know the works and the virtues of the Saints of our Church, who are the true “great people” of God. All of the Prophets, Apostles, Fathers, Martyrs – including all the humble Christians of every generation – are the “eternal greats”, because each Saint offers to us an example of “living prayer” and the virtuous “life in Christ”. Through the Saints, we come to understand that which we hear during the
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ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

The Sunday that follows Pentecost is known among Orthodox Christians as “All Saints Sunday.” During every Orthros Service, as we prepare for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, there is a statement read through which the Saints of the day are listed. This “statement” of commemoration of the Saints of the day is called the “Synaxarion” statement. The Synaxarion for the Sunday following Pentecost Sunday reads,

“On this day, the Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the feast of All Saints, who are from every part of the world; those in Asia, Africa, Europe and America, from the North and from the South. Sing praises to all the Friends of my Lord and, those who are so destined, let their names be added to this day’s celebration.”

All Saints Sunday confirms the fact that our Risen Christ is the only One Who knows our individual spiritual lives. As such, many even today are Saints of whom people are unaware and are the unknown Saints of God (unknown to us, that is).



Θεατρον εγενηθημεν τω κοσμω, και αγγελιοις και ανθρωποις...δι-ωκομενοι ανεχομεθα, βλασφημουμενοι παρακαλουμεν – ως περικαθαρματα του κοσμου εγενηθημεν...> (1 Κορ. 4:9,12).

Ο ανθρωπος των προηγουμενων αιωνων – και της σημερινης εποχης, ακομη – ετιμουσε και ακομη τιμα τα περιφημα προσωπα των αθλητων και των ηθοποιων του κοσμου. Εξ αιτιας της τιμης την οποια προσφερουμεν στους κοσμικους <μεγαλους> γνωριζουμεν τα ονοματα,τις πραξεις, τις ιδεες των <μεγαλων προσωπων> της κοινωνιας μας. Αλλα δεν γνωριζει ο κοσμος τα εργα και τις αρετες των Αγιων της Εκκλησιας μας, οι οποιοι ειναι οι αληθινοι <μεγαλοι> του Θεου. Ολοι οι Προφητες, οι Αποστολοι, οι Μαρτυρες και Πατερες και Οσιοι – και ακομη οι ταπεινοι Χριστιανοι της καθε εποχης – ειναι οι αιωνιοι μεγαλοι, διοτι ο καθε Αγιος προσφερει σε εμας ενα παραδειγμα της <ζωντανης προσευχης> και της εναρετης <εν Χριστω ζωης>. Δια των Αγιων καταλαβαινουμεν αυτο το οποιο ακουμεν κατα την τελετην της Θ. Λειτουργιας καθως προσευχωμεθα για <την ενοτητα της πιστεως και την κοινωνιαν του Αγιου Πνευματος>.

Η προσευχη ειναι το μεσον δια του οποιου μας φωτιζει το Αγιο Πνευμα. Οι Αγιοι μας διδασκουν οτι οποιοις δεν προσευχεται ομοιαζει με το πλοιο το οποιο περνα στα κυματα της θαλασσης χωρις το φως απο τον φαρων – και χανεται τελειως. Δια της χαριτος του Αγιου Πνευματος, η οποια ειναι καρπος της προσευχης, θα φθασουμεν ασφαλεις στη λιμνη, η οποια ειναι: *η κοινωνια του Αγιου Πνευματος!*

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

Divine Liturgy as we pray for, “the unity of the Faith and the communion of the Holy Spirit.”

Prayer is the means through which the Holy Spirit enlightens us. The Saints teach us that people who do not pray are like ships that voyage through the violent waves of the sea without light from the lighthouse – they become utterly lost. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, which is the fruit of prayer, we arrive safely into the harbor: *the unity of the Faith and the Communion of the Holy Spirit.*

But, what does “unity of the Faith and the communion of the Holy Spirit” mean? It means that we are united among ourselves and we are, together, united with the Saints in our Faith in God, as well as in our Faith *about* the Person of God and our personal relationship *with* God. This, above all, is unity in the life of prayer and worship. In this context the Holy Spirit descends upon us and sanctifies the Holy Gifts during the course of each Divine Liturgy everywhere and every time the Liturgy is celebrated. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit we receive Christ into our lives.

There is today a fundamental misunderstanding regarding the purpose of prayer. It’s purpose is not simply to “get things.” It’s purpose is to *be united with Christ our God.* Hence, praying for our country, for example, is not a request that God somehow magically makes our country a good country. Praying for our country is a request that God makes us *good people.* Praying for our Church is not simply a request that God somehow finds a way to “keep the doors open,” but it is a request for us to persevere in *maintaining our Orthodox Faith* by comprehending the value of worship and knowing the ways by which we can participate in God’s work. Another example: prayer for health is not a request for God to allow us to have more “fun” *out of life*, but it is a request for God to allow us to do *His Will.* Prayer is, in sum, the very *mentality of the Saints.*

Prayer is much more than words and incense. Prayer is a way of life that is a real expression of faith in God in tangible ways. As Fr. Alexander Schmemmann writes: “The starting point is not ‘belief’, but love. In itself and by itself all belief is partial, fragmentary, fragile. ‘For our knowledge is imperfect, and our prophecy is imperfect...as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.’ Only ‘love never ends’ (1 Cor.13). And...to love Christ is to know and to possess him as the Life of my life.” (O Death, Where is Thy Sting?, pg. 111).

+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, Jean Chronis-Kuhn (*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—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: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soston imas."*

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

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, soston"*

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 Ie Theou, O en doxi aneliftheis af imon eis tous ouranous, 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 ascended from us in glory into the heavens, 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 en doxi aneliftheis af imon eis tous ouranous, psallontas si alleluia."*

Doxa Patri ke Yio ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous aonas ton aonon. Amin. *"O Monogenis Yios ke Logos tou Theou..."*

ANTIPHON III—This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.

Sunday Hymn : *Ex ipsous katilthes [Tone 8]... (O Lord by Your Sacred Cross You abolished death and granted unto the theif 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, bestowing Your mercy upon the world for evermore.)*

Hymn for All-Saints Sunday ... *Ton en olo to kosmo Martyron Sou...(Your Church is arrayed in the holy blood of Your Martyrs who witnessed throughout the world, as though in purple and fine linen. Through them She cried to You, Christ our God, 'Send down to Your people Your tender love; grant peace from above to Your commonwealth and, to our souls, Your great mercy.)*

Hymn for St. George : *Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... (Since you are a deliverer of captives and a defender of the poor; a physician for the sick and a noble attendant to kings, O Great among the Martyrs and Glorious George, intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls.)*

Sunday Kontakion Hymn: *Os aparchahs tis physeos... (O Planter of creation, Lord, to You does the entire world bring as an offering the God-bearing martyr Saints, as being nature's first fruits. At their earnest entreaties, keep Your Church in a state of profoundest peace, through the Theotokos, O Lord abundantly merciful.)*

READINGS: *Epistle:-Hebrews 11: 33-40; 12 :1-2 / Gospel: St. Matthew 10: 32-33; 27-38; 19: 27-30*

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated

Communion Hymn: *"Aghaliasthe dhyke-ei en Kyrio, tis efthesi prepi enesis, Alleluia." (Rejoice greatly in the Lord, O Righteous ones; praise is fitting for the upright. Alleluia)*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Today Philoptochos' Coffee Hour is sponsored by: Mike and Christina Long, with this dedication: "Keep in our prayers the sick."

MEMORIAL – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servants of God, **Fr. Anthony Kosturos**, the beloved father of **Paul Kosturos** and Symbethero of **Theophania and George Nicholas, Sr.**; **Theodore Arges**, the beloved brother of **Theophania Nicholas** and uncle of **Constantina Kosturos** and **George Nicholas, Jr.**; and **Harry Nicholas**, the beloved brother of **Constantina Kosturos** and **George Nicholas, Jr.** May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest to **Fr. Anthony Kosturos, Theodore Arges** and **Harry Nicholas** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Theophania and George Nicholas, Sr.** and the entire family. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS – We need Coffee Hour Sponsors for the Sundays in July and August. See **Athena Snarskis**. We want to thank our parishioners for their donations to the Street Life Project.

COACHELLA VALLEY RESCUE MISSION'S "90 DAYS OF MERCY" PROJECT – Donations are needed to support the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission's "90 Days of Mercy" Project. Donations of any amount will go toward increased housing facilities; job training; food and water. Make checks out to: "Coachella Valley Rescue Mission" and write: "90 Days" in the memo section. For more information, contact Fr. Ted.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 13th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Men's Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 17th.....Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

"All the Saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fires, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight...Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. "

– Hebrews 11: 33-40

The Ladder for the month of June 2017 is donated by

Mr. & Mrs. William G. Barringer

"We thank God for our Anniversary, and for His healing miracles"!

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.