

NOVEMBER 19, 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.

THOU SHALL NOT COVET

Today's passage from St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians gives us the opportunity to compare worldly thinking with the way of thinking promoted by our Church. Between the lines of today's passage, we comprehend that, while society speaks about *rights*, St. Paul (in agreement with the entire teaching of the Gospel) speaks about *love*. There is a difference between *rights* and *love*, as they are expressed in today's circles of conversation. *Rights* are expressed as something that is *owed* to us by others.

Love is something that we *owe* to others by respecting *their* human rights.

Through the fall of humanity as a result of sin, there are "two worlds." The one "world" is a "world of separation between human beings and God and between the individual and other people." This is the "world" of an atheistic society, in general. The other "world" is the "world of unity between human beings and God and unity among people." This is the "world" of the Church in essence.

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THE STRUCTURE OF THE DIVINE LITURGY - Traditionally, Orthodox theologians have pointed out that there are, indeed, two parts to the Divine Liturgy. Part One, consists of the beginning of the Divine Liturgy continuing up to the Great Entrance at which time the Holy Gifts are placed on the Altar Table. This is known as "The Liturgy of the Word", which is a vestige of the ancient worship Tradition of the Old Testament. This part of the Liturgy contains readings from Scripture; the sermon and prayers asking for God's forgiveness and mercy. Part Two of the Divine Liturgy includes the Creed and the Great Eucharistic Prayer; prayers of "remembrance" leading up to prayers for our participation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion—and, finally, the Dismissal Prayer, by which we are sent back into the world to do the work of Christ. The Great Eucharistic Prayer ("Eucharist" means *Thanksgiving*) begins with the exclamations and priestly prayers following the Creed, at which time we give thanks to Christ our God for all things, while giving glory to Him as God. The Prayer continues with the words of Christ blessing the bread and the wine as His Body and Blood. The hymn of praise and thanksgiving, "We praise You; we bless You; to You we give thanks, O Lord, our God," is offered in gratitude for the Descent of the Holy Spirit by which the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

+FR. THEODORE



Η σημερινή περικοπή από την Επιστολήν του Αγίου Παύλου προς τους Εφεσίους δίνει σε εμάς την ευκαιρίαν να συγκρίσουμε την κοσμικήν φρονήσιν με την πνευματικήν φρονήσιν της Εκκλησίας μας. Μέσα στα γραμμάτα της περικοπής αυτής, αντιλαμβανόμεν ότι, ενώ ο κόσμος ομιλεί για *δικαιώματα*, ο Άγιος Παύλος (σε συμφωνία με την ολοκληρήν διδασκαλίαν του Ευαγγελίου) ομιλεί για *αγάπη*. Υπάρχει διαφορά μεταξύ *δικαιωμάτων* και *αγάπης* όπως εκφράζονται στις σημερινές κουβεντές. Το *δικαίωμα* εκφράζεται ως κάτι που είναι *υποχρεώσεις* των άλλων προς εμάς. Η *αγάπη* είναι *υποχρεώσεις* ημών προς τους άλλους.

Δια της φθοράς της ανθρωπότητος λόγω της αμαρτίας, υπάρχουν <δύο κόσμοι>. Ο ένας <κόσμος> είναι <κόσμος χωρισμού και εχθρας> μεταξύ Θεού και ανθρώπου και μεταξύ ανθρώπου και ανθρώπων. Αυτός ο <κόσμος> είναι ο κόσμος της αθεϊστικής κοινωνίας. Ο άλλος <κόσμος> είναι <κόσμος της ενότητος μεταξύ Θεού και ανθρώπου και μεταξύ ανθρώπου και ανθρώπων>. Αυτός ο <κόσμος> είναι η Εκκλησία στην ουσίαν της.

Λέγει ο Άγιος Παύλος ότι η ενσάρκωσις του Θεού, ο Όποιος είναι ο Χριστός, ενώνει τον άνθρωπον με τον Θεόν και τον καθεναν με άλλους ανθρώπους. Αυτή η ενωσις εκφράζεται δια μέσου της αγάπης – ο ένας για τον άλλον, και όλοι μαζί για τον Θεόν. Δια μέσου της ενσάρκωσέως του Θεού ο άνθρωπος γνωρίζει σαφές, όχι μόνον το διανοητικό νοήμα της αγάπης, αλλά και τον <τρόπον ζωής> της αγάπης. Η σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή τονίζει ότι χρειαζόμεθα την αρετήν της αγάπης. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

St. Paul says that the Incarnation of God, Who is Christ, unites the human being with God; each person is also united with others, and, together we are united with God. By means of the Incarnation of our Lord, this unity is tangibly evident through words and deeds of Christ-centered love, not only in terms of the intellectual *meaning* of love, but in terms of love's *way of life*.

Today's issues surrounding the ideal of equal rights are best addressed in terms of expressing love through words and deeds coming *from within our souls*, going forth to bolster the dignity of others as "images of God." These issues can only be addressed from *within us*, and expressed *outwardly* from ourselves for the benefit of those who surround us and for the benefit of our souls. In sum, the issue of human rights is succinctly expressed by Fr. Stanley Harakas: "*In the tradition of the Bible and the Church, the great emphasis in moral teaching has been upon our duties toward others. There is little in the sources of our Faith which highlight and emphasize claims for the fulfillment of rights...[Yet], human rights begin with the right to our life. No other rights can be enjoyed if the right to life is not respected.*" (Contemporary Moral Issues, pg. 130-133.)

St. Paul makes it clear that we are all one people in God's love. He maintains that Gentiles as well as the Chosen People are all one people, who, together, make up God's inheritance. This is expressed in the Church's hymn, "*Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance...*" Accordingly, we are to *inherit* everything that God has, without respect to gender, age, race, ethnic background or education.

So, then, what is it that we are *owed*? If we truly believe in God's love, there should be nothing for which we should covet. If so, we need to call to mind the Commandment, "*Thou shall not covet...*" This is a Commandment that is so often overlooked by all of us – and, in particular, it is dismissed entirely by a society that increasingly seems to have less and less faith in the fact that God's Will is supreme in all things.

Perhaps the one setting where the illusion of "superiority" and "inferiority" – "fairness" and "unfairness" – seems to disappear is on the table where surgery takes place – where life and death often teeter in the balance of things. In almost every case, patients coming out of recovery have little concern over politics. Most of the conversations with family and friends center upon the gratitude they have that God has given them another chance in life and very often they want to give something of themselves to God and others, knowing that "this night" their souls could have been taken.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Constantine Papapetru, Erika Aguilar, Mary Mitsias, Nula Papapetru, Tom Evans, Jim Alex, Nicholas Kyriakou, Chris Laskaris, J.J. Richards (*Many faithful on the 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, soson 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, soson 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: *"Soson 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: *"Soson imas Ie 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: *"Soson 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. Amin

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

ANTIPHON III- *This is the day the Lord made. Let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn — Katelisas to Stavro Sou ton thanaton [Tone 7]...*(You have destroyed death by Your Cross; You have opened Paradise to the thief; You have changed the lamentation of the Myrrh-bearers into joy; and You have commanded your Apostles to proclaim that You, Christ our God, have arisen, granting to the world the Great Mercy.)*

Hymn for St. George — Os ton echmaloton 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 our God that He may save our souls.)*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday— O Katarotatos Naohs tou Sotiros...*(The Savior's most pure and immaculate temple, the very precious bridal chamber and Virgin, Who is the sacred treasure of the glory of God, on this day is intro-duced into the House of the Lord, and with Herself She brings the grace in the Divine Spirit. She is extolled by the Angels of God. A heavenly tabernacle is She.)*

READINGS: *Epistle—Ephesians 2: 9-14 / Gospel— St. Luke 12: 16-21*

Axion Estin

Communion Hymn — Enite ton Kyrion....*(Praise the Lord...)* page 64 in the Divine Liturgy books.

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

Proverbs 4:23



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Alexandra Dymond

STREET LIFE PROJECT – For those interested in signing up to feed the homeless there will be an important, but brief meeting with **Rhonda Latkovic** to discuss details today. The meeting will take place inside our church (in the back pews) immediately following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUES - Donated by **Nicholas Demetropoulos** in loving memory of his parents.

PHILOPTOCHOS – Happy Thanksgiving to all our parishioners and their families. Our General Meeting on Nov. 13 went very well with 30 members and guests attending and meeting **Jeannie Ranglas**. Save the date for our Annual Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 9. Reservations are now being taken. See **Tina Veroulis** or **Rhonda Latkovic**. As soon as the hall floor is completed, we start baking for the Christmas Bake Sale. We are hoping to start December 1. We need Coffee Hour Sponsors or Hosts for December and January. See **Pat Dalkas**.

PRAYERS FOR ABRAHAM RASSI & FAMILY - The family of **Abraham Rassi** mourns the loss of Abraham's sister, **Sabah-Sarah Rassi**, who fell victim to a tragic accident recently. Her 40 Memorial will take place at our church on Sunday, December 3rd.

HELP MAKE OUR FESTIVAL A FINANCIAL SUCCESS – Along with volunteering time and talent, if everyone can give some financial contribution toward **underwriting the costs of the 2018 Festival**, a lot can be accomplished. Please see the "2018 Festival Needs List," posted in our parish hall.

PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDACY FORMS – 2018 Parish Council Candidacy Forms are now available in our parish office (or from Fr. Ted). Deadline : Monday, December 11, 2017. To be considered for candidacy to serve as a Parish Council member, one must be baptized and chrismated as an Orthodox Christian and, if married, his or her marriage must have been performed according to the **Rites of our Holy Greek Orthodox Archdiocese**. In addition, one must be a responsible Stewardship member of St. George parish for at least one year prior to applying for candidacy. Candidates are also required to meet with Fr. Ted prior to the Parish Council Elections. Elections will be held on **Sunday, December 17th**.

PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE & CHRISTMAS CARD FORMS – *Available in the parish hall.*

READERS NEEDED – We need faithful servants of God to volunteer for reading the Sunday Epistle passages. Please contact **Jim Christopoulos** to sign up and be included in the schedule of Sunday Readers.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 21st... ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS TO THE TEMPLE
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m. / Bible Study - 11:00 a.m.
Street Life Project – 4:00 p.m. (meeting at the church to go to Indio to serve food to the homeless: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)
Wednesday, November 22nd.. Men's Bible Study- 2:00 p.m. in the church
Thursday, November 23rd.....THANKSGIVING DAY (Office Closed)
Saturday, November 25th..... ST. CATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Vespers- 5:00 p.m.

*The Ladder for November 2017
is sponsored by:
the St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society*

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.

Christmas Bread-Vasilopita

Koulourakia



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

The Ladies of Philoptohos Society will be baking again this year the traditional Christmas bread, Vasilopita and Koulourakia that are delicious any time of day.

Orders with your contribution should be made no later than **November 27, 2017**. Please place the completed order in an envelope marked "PHILOPTOHOS" in the basket on the Coffee Bar in the Church Hall or give to Lula Valissarakos, Pat Dalkas or Tina Veroulis in the office. If you have any questions, please call Lula at 760 200-8501 or Pat at 760-574-1531

PICK UP DATES:

Sunday, December 10, 2017 (following the conclusion of Church Services)

Sunday, December 17, 2017 (following the conclusion of Church Services)

We thank you in advance for your continued support of Philoptohos



NAME _____

PHONE _____

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT PRICE</u>	<u>AMOUNT (\$)</u>
Koulourakia	_____	\$ 6.00	_____
Christmas Bread	_____	\$10.00	_____
Vasilopita Bread with Coin	_____	\$10.00	_____
<u>Make checks payable to Philoptochos</u>		Total Amount	\$ _____



Dear Parishioners,

Once again, our community of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of The Desert will be preparing a Parish Christmas Card. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this very popular and meaningful Christmas Blessing.

Please join the many families of our parish in expressing Christmas Greetings to fellow members and friends by completing this form. A donation of \$20.00 should be enclosed along with this form and made payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert. You can mail it to P.O. Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261.

Please print your name, as you would like it to appear on the card on the line below. (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Deadline: December 1, 2017



St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert
Contact our parish office – 760-568-9901
74109 Larrea Street-Post Office Box 4755
Palm Desert, CA 92261
St. George Greek Orthodox Church is a 501(c) 3 Exempt
Organization

CHRISTMAS BLESSING



*Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon
Saturday, December 9, 2017*

11:30 a.m.

At

*Desert Horizons Country Club
44900 Desert Horizons Country Club
Indian Wells, CA 92210
760-340-4646*

*R.S.V.P. by December 3, 2017 to
Rhonda Latkovic, Linda Kallis, Tina Veroulis
Make your check out to Philoptochos*

Family and Friends are invited

*Pre-fixe Menu, no substitutions \$35.00 per person
Choice of:*

- 1. Salmon with creamy polenta, sherried mushrooms and vegetables*
 - 2. Petite Filet with chutney sauce, garlic mashed potatoes and vegetables*
 - 3. Medallions of Chicken with kale risotto and vegetables*
- Salad, soft drinks and dessert are included*

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Number attending: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____