

OCTOBER 15, 2017

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

THE SAINTS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

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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.

A GOOD AND NOBLE SOUL

“As he sowed his seeds, some fell...upon the good soil and, straightway, it produced fruit a hundred-fold.” (St. Luke 8:8). Our Lord interprets these very words of His, saying, *“The seeds on the good soil are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”* (St. Luke 8:15). Here we have questions: 1) What is a “good and noble heart?” and, 2) How do we acquire a good and noble heart?

Christ our God Himself described a

good heart as follows: He said that whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God as an innocent child is not worthy to enter that Kingdom. (St. Mark 10:15). A child’s heart is innocent—it is not filled with deceit; it is filled with faith and hope. It expresses the truth of things—*“Out of the mouths of babes and infants Your praise is heard.”* (St. Matthew 21:16). A soul like that of an innocent child describes, to the best of my ability, the nature of a good and noble soul

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PRAYERS FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE RECENT CALIFORNIA FIRES -His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos has asked that we pray for our fellow Orthodox Christians who have literally lost everything as a result of the recent California fires. (Copies of His request are available in the parish hall.)

Currently, 10 Orthodox Christian families have come forward to help the victims. This is an amazing act of Christian love! His Eminence asks that the following liturgical petition be inserted in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, along with the prayer to be read immediately following our participation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion:

Petition: “For the rapid end to the fires in California; comfort to the victims and their families, eternal rest to those who have perished and strength to the firefighters and those who bring aid and relief, let us pray to the Lord.”

– PRAYER: *“O Lord our God Whose peace passes all understanding and Whose grace and mercy abound, send down Your Holy Spirit to comfort all who are suffering in mind, body and spirit as a result of the devastating fires in California. We ask that you stretch forth Your mighty hand during this time of uncertainty, steadying us by Your love, compassion and peace. Grant strength to those who are fighting these fires, calm the winds and open the heavens so that rain may pour forth and cease further destruction. We especially ask for Your blessings and protection upon all those who have fled their homes, that they may be spared injury and that their homes may be preserved. May You also grant peaceful repose to those whose lives have been lost, as well as comfort to those who are grieving. For, You are a merciful and loving God and to You we give glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.”*



<Εν τω σπειρειν αυτον – ο μεν επεσεν ...εις την γην την αγαθην και φυεν εποησε καρπον εκατονταπλασιονα.> (Λκ. 8:8). Ο Κυριος ερμηνευει αυτα τα λογια Του, λεγοντας, <Το δε εν τη καλη γη, ουτοι εισιν οιτινες εν καλη καρδια και αγαθη ακουσαντες τον λογον κατεχουσι και καρποφορουσιν εν υπομονη.> (Λκ. 8: 15). Εδω υπαρχουν ερωτησεις: 1) Τι ειναι <η καλη καρδια και αγαθη;> και 2) Πως μπορούμε να αποκτησουμε μια τετοια καλη και αγαθη καρδια;

Ο Χριστος ο Θεος ο Ιδιος περιεγραψε την καλην καρδιαν ως εξης: ειπε οτι οποιος δεν παραδεχεται την πραγματικοτητα της Βασιλειας του Θεου σαν ενα αθωο παιδι δεν ειναι αξιος να εισελθη στην Βασιλειαν αυτην. (Μκ. 10:15). Η καρδια του παιδιου ειναι αθωα – δεν μελετα πονηριες, ειναι γεματη απο πιστην και ελπιδαν, και εκφραζει την αληθειαν αφου <εκ στοματος νηπιων και θηλαζοντων ητοιμασαν αινεσιν.> (Ματθ. 21: 16). Μια τετοια καρδια του παιδιου περιγραφει, συμφωνα με τις δυναμεις μας, την καλην ψυχην, μεσα στην οποιαν η φωνη του Χριστου ακουεται και επηρεαζει τα βηματα τα οποια παιρνει ο ανθρωπος στην ζωην του.

Οσον αφορα στο <πως> θα αποκτησουμε καλην ψυχην, η απαντησις ευρισκεται σε δυο μερη: 1) προσευχη και συμμετοχη στα Αχραντα Μυστηρια και 2) υπακοη στις διδασκαλιες της Εκκλησιας, οι οποιες προερχονται απο την Αγιαν Γραφην και απο την γενικην πνευματικην πειραν των Αγιων Πατερων της Εκκλησιας, αφου και σημερα τους μνημονευουμεν.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

in which the voice of Christ can be heard and then influence the steps in life which an individual will take.

With regard to “how” we acquire a good soul, the answer is found in two places: 1) prayer and worship – and, 2) obedience to the teachings of the Church, which are derived from Holy Scripture and from the general spiritual experiences of the Holy Saints of the Church. In fact, today, for example, we commemorate those who gathered at the Seventh Ecumenical Council.

Prayer and worship places our souls in the reality of God. As Elder Thaddeus of Serbia notes, “Prayer is the breathing of the soul...fasting and prayer are a means of embellishing our soul and bringing it back to its original state.” (*Our Thoughts Determine our Lives*, pg. 111). With the help of Christ our God we unclutter our souls. We *weed out* the thorns (the cares of worldly ambitions) which choke us; we *erode* the “rock-hard” attitudes that make us jaded and manipulating in our behaviors; we *avoid* being trampled down by the arrows that are thrown at us by evil powers. For Orthodox Christians, prayer and worship arise out of putting the Word of God into action. Our correct understanding of the Bible is best achieved through study of the lives and writings of the Saints, since they *lived* the Bible. In other words, they *lived* the life of Christ – God in the flesh.

Living the Life of Christ is a matter of obedience. The Saints actually obeyed the words of Christ commanding us to seek the Kingdom of God, with the promise that all things will be added to us. Seeking God’s Kingdom is the key to inner peace, which, in turn gives way to peaceful relationships – an important need for parents and children; husbands and wives, as well as co-workers. As to *where* we can find the Kingdom of God, the Bible tells us that the Kingdom of God is within us – within our souls and in the hearts of our neighbor. This is the basis of both private prayer and community worship. As to *how* we can find Him, we are to pray *with all our heart and soul* – not half-heartedly, but with real commitment. In the Book of Jeremiah we read: “‘Seek Me with all your heart and I will be found by you,’ says the Lord.” (Jeremiah 29:14). The Saints sought God *in* the depths of their “noble and good souls” and *with* their whole hearts. They were, in turn, provided with all that they needed – many were martyred; but none starved. They considered the fulfillment of their needs to be blessings, with the purpose of imparting their blessings upon others. It is easy to see, then, that *living* the Bible yields fruits a hundred-fold.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK:George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Constantine Papapetru, Erika Aguilar, Mary Mitsias, Nula Papapetru, Tom Evans, Jim Alex, Jean Chronis-Kuhn, Chris Laskaris (*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, 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 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: *"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. 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—*Ote katilthes pros ton thanaton [Tone 2]... (When You descended to the realm of death, You, as Life Immortal, rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant divinity. And when You, from the inner depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heavens did proclaim and cry out: O Life-giving Christ and our God we give glory.)*

Hymn for the Saints of the 7th Ecumenical Council—*Yeper-theh-thoxasmenos.... (Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God. You established the holy Fathers upon the earth as beacons, and through them You have guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly merciful One, glory be to You.)*

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—*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—Titus 3: 8-15 / Gospel—St. Luke 8: 5-15*

Axion Estin.

Communion Hymn—*Enite ton Kyrion. See page 64 in our Divine Liturgy books*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour Sponsor: Mila Karabuva

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Today, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, all Sunday School students are invited to join in our annual **Pumpkin Painting Party**. **Fotini Krespis** will bring the pumpkins and the paint. A pizza luncheon will be provided for Sunday School students and their parents.

PHILOPTOCHOS – We sent a donation of **\$1,575** to the **IOCC** to support relief efforts for Hurricanes Harvey and Irma victims. We voted to take \$1,000 from our budget and our members donated another \$575 to the cause. Thank you members. Also, we want to thank our parishioners donating to our Coffee Hour each Sunday. We need someone to sponsor October 29 and the Sundays in November. See Athena Snarksis or Linda Petalas.

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN – The Baby Bottle Campaign will continue this Sunday. Baby Bottles with instructions will be on the tables in the parish hall. Donations will be sent to **Birth Choice of the Desert** in La Quinta, CA. Their theme is "*Birth Choice of the Desert Wants to Save God's Babies!*" **WILL YOU HELP?**" Checks are to be made payable to: "Birth Choice of the Desert."

PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE ORDER FORMS – Now available in our parish hall at the coffer bar.

THE VOICE OF ST. GEORGE- Copies of the October 2017 parish newsletter, *The Voice of St. George* are available in our parish hall. Take a copy for yourself and a friend.

HELP MAKE OUR FESTIVAL A SUCCESS – We always are in need of volunteers. Also, If everyone can give something toward underwriting the costs of the Festival, a lot can be accomplished. Please feel free to offer a donation according to one's ability toward our Festival. If everyone tries, we can reach a substantial sum (to the surprise of all!) to off-set Festival expenses.

COLORING BOOK SESSION – This **Friday, October 20th at 12 noon**. Notify **Rhonda Latkovic** today that you intend to participate. This way adequate luncheon arrangements can be made. (See the flier in our parish hall.)

AHEPA – Please see the fliers in the parish hall announcing our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon!

GREEK FESTIVAL: ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH IN TEMECULA – Today! Fliers are in the parish hall.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 17th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 18th.....ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Orthros-8:30 a.m. /Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Men's Bible Study – 2:00 p.m. (St. Luke 8: 26-39)

Thursday, October 19th.....Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m.

Friday, October 20th.....ST. GERASIMOS OF CEPHALLONIA
Orthros-8:30 a.m. /Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Coloring Book Session & Luncheon – 12 noon

Saturday, October 21st.....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.



ADULT COLORING SESSION & LUNCHEON

When: Friday, OCTOBER 20th @ noon-2pm

Where: St. George Church Hall

RSVP: By OCTOBER 15th to Rhonda Latkovic

We will have a Fall Theme for our luncheon & coloring session! Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM with coloring to follow. A \$5.00 minimum donation is requested. There will also be a raffle. Coloring supplies provided.

Please join us!



**SUNDAY, 12:00 P.M.
NOVEMBER 19th**



**ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX
CHURCH Hall**



74-109 LARREA PALM DESERT, CA

ADULTS: \$15

Children under 12 are free

Tickets can be purchased from Philoptochos or AHEPA 528

All proceeds go to

Fr. Theophilos Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Donations accepted at www.ahepa528.org or mailed to:

AHEPA 528 Scholarship fund

PO Box 1735 Palm Desert, CA 92261-1735

contact@ahempa528.org

Please make any checks to AHEPA Chapter 528 or pay online. Scholarship awards benefit members of Saint George Church and the AHEPA 528 Family

Deadline for Reservations: Sunday, November 12, 2017

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	\$ _____