

APRIL 22, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRBEARING WOMEN

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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.*

APPROACHING GOD WORTHILY

From the passages that were read today from Holy Scripture we come to understand that love for God is the essence of the Holy Apostolic Tradition. The Myrrh-bearing Women exemplify the human ability to overcome the biggest obstacles of the world through love for God. Through love for God, the Myrrh-bearing Women overcame their own fears and difficulties -- in specific terms, the fear that they felt from those who hated Christ our God and the difficulty that they faced in having to roll away the large stone that covered the entrance

to His tomb. Love for Christ and faith in His love for all of us are virtues that supply us with the inner strength that we need to accomplish things that are truly of benefit for the salvation of the souls of other people. Indeed, love for God is truly an *other-oriented* virtue. This is made evident from the personalities of the Holy Apostles, as well as from those of the Myrrh-bearing Women.

The Apostles showed this virtue through their decision to ordain deacons to prayerfully serve the needs of

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THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

About the beginning of His thirty-second year, when the Lord Jesus was going throughout Galilee, preaching and working miracles, many women who had received His many blessings followed after Him and were His disciples. They ministered unto Him out of their own possessions, even until His crucifixion and entombment. Afterwards, neither losing faith in Him after His death, nor fearing the wrath of the Jewish rulers, they came to His tomb, bearing the myrrh-oils they had prepared to anoint His Body. It is because of the myrrh-oils, that these God-loving women brought to the tomb of Jesus that they are called the Myrrh-bearers. Of those whose names are known are the following: first of all, the most holy Virgin Mary, who in Matthew 27:56 and Mark 15:40 is called "the mother of James and Joses" (these are the sons of Joseph by a previous marriage, and she was therefore their step-mother); Mary Magdalene (celebrated July 22); Mary, the wife of Clopas; Joanna, wife of Chouza, a steward of Herod Antipas; Salome, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus; and Susanna, through whose wealth many of the ointments were purchased.

--Taken from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese website:
www.goarch.org



Απο τα αναγνώσματα των σημερινών περικοπών της Αγίας Γραφής, καταλαβαίνουμε ότι είναι η αγάπη για τον Χριστό που διαμορφώνει την Ιεράν Αποστολικήν Παράδοσην. Μέσω αυτής της αγάπης, οι Μυροφόρες παραδειγματίζουν την ανθρωπινήν δυνατότητα να ξεπεράσει ο άνθρωπος τα μεγαλύτερα εμπόδια του κόσμου δια μέσου της αγάπης του για τον Θεόν. Δια της αγάπης, οι Μυροφόρες Γυναίκες εξεπεράσαν τους φόβους και τις δυσκολίες των – συγκεκριμένα, τον φόβον που ενίωσαν από αυτούς που έμισούσαν τον Χριστόν και την δυσκολίαν να αποκυλήσουν τον λίθον που εφραγίσει τον τάφον Του. Η αγάπη για τον Χριστόν τον Θεόν μας και η πίστις στην αγάπην Του για εμάς είναι αρετές που μας παρέχουν εσωτερικήν δύναμιν για να πετύχουμε έργα που προσφέρουν μεγάλα οφέλη για την σωτηρίαν των ψυχών άλλων ανθρώπων. Μαλιστα, η αγάπη για τον Χριστόν είναι αρετή προς το καλό άλλων και προς δόξαν Θεού, και όχι προς τα προσωπικά μας οφέλη.

Αυτό φαίνεται από τα πρόσωπα των Αποστόλων και των Μυροφόρων. Το παραδειγμα της αγάπης για τον Χριστόν παρέχεται από τους ίδιους Αποστόλους δια μέσου της αποφάσεως των να χειροτονήσουν τους διακόνους για την προσευχικήν εξημερέτησιν στις ανάγκες των πιστών. Οι πρακτικές ανάγκες των πιστών έχουν πνευματικήν ουσίαν. Και στην σημερινήν μας εποχήν, εμείς έχουμε υποχρεώσιν ενώπιον του Θεού να ανταποκριθούμε στις προκλήσεις της καθημερινής μας ζωής όσον αφορά στην ψυχικήν και σωματικήν υγείαν όλων. Οι προσευχές των Αποστόλων εσυνετέθησαν με αυτήν την αγάπην για τον Θεόν.
+ Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

the faithful. The practical needs of people do have a spiritual dimension. Even in today's age, we have the obligation before God to meet the practical challenges surrounding our physical and spiritual well-being. The prayers of the Apostles were composed with this love and faith. Considering that the essence of the Church's mission to the world is the Body and Blood of Christ into Whom we are baptized, the Apostles ultimately, saw the whole world as God's entire Church, filled with people who are to be saved in the Risen Christ.

The very seedling of the Church's mission to the world is found in the hearts and souls of the Myrrh-bearing Women, who were the first to experience and proclaim Christ's Resurrection from the dead. They approached the tomb of Christ just like we are to approach the Chalice: with respect for God's Will (fear of God); with love for God and for others - and with faith in God Who is Christ. Approaching the Chalice with this same mentality is tantamount to partaking of Holy Communion *worthily*. The result for those who partake *worthily* is the same as that in the case of the Myrrh-bearing Women. St. Gregory the Diologist, in his "Forty Gospel Homilies" (Homily 21, Migne Patrology, pg. 158), 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." As we, too, advance toward God with holy desires and with Christian virtues, we, too, will be guided by the angels of God. Each of us is to emulate the Myrrh-bearing Women today by "anointing" the Church (i.e., the people of God) with a life of Christian virtues: prayer, care, humility, faith, charity – and so many other such Christian virtues. In other words, for them, knowing the Risen Christ meant that their whole life was *other-oriented* -- that is, in humility and with love, they oriented their motives and cares toward pleasing God and saving others on an *on-going, consistent* basis - not as a momentary act of heroism, upon which to rest laurels. They were not *self-oriented* in terms of seeking self-serving accolades, awards and rewards.

If we are not approaching the Holy Chalice as the Myrrh-bearing Women approached Christ's tomb, we should call into question whether we are partaking of Holy Communion *worthily*. In terms of our personal salvation, it matters from the point of view of acquiring the virtues exemplified by the Myrrh-bearers themselves; it matters also from the point of view of acquiring the Wisdom of our Savior in meeting our daily responsibilities. In terms of the Church, partaking *worthily* matters from the point of view of inspiring others and acquiring new souls as faithful participants in our parish ministries.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Erika Aguilar, Jim Alex, Chris Laskaris, J.J. Richards, Chris Panopoulos, Nicholas Kontaxis, Jean Chronis (*Many faithful on our Prayer List face chronic/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) "Megalyrnarion" for this Sunday.

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Philoptochos Dessert Bake Sale Fundraiser today following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy

PHILOPTOCHOS – Today is our Dessert Bake Sale. Our members made their favorite desserts to help raise money for an AED Machine for the Church. We need sponsors for the Coffee Hours in May and June. See **Athena Snarskis and Pat Dalkas**. Renew your 2018 membership. See **Linda Kallis or Linda Petalas**. If you are interested in attending the Agape Celebration of Love to benefit **Kids 'n Cancer on May 6**, see **Linda Kallis**.

AHEPA – Now is the time for college students to apply for the **AHEPA 528 Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship**. Every year scholarship awards from the **Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund** are awarded to deserving college students of our parish and community on AHEPA Sunday. This year, **AHEPA Sunday** will be observed on **May 20, 2018**. Please visit the AHEPA 528 website: www.ahepa528.org to download the Scholarship Application Form. Also, donations to this AHEPA Scholarship Fund are always welcome by contacting this website for more information.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Today, April 22nd.... Great Vespers - 5:00 p.m.

Monday, April 23rd..ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR
Orthros-8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy- 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 24th...No Bible Study

Saturday, April 28th..Vespers - 5:00 p.m.

“I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.” Phil. 4:13

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Kids 'n' Cancer/Camp Agape Ministry is dedicated to providing support for children afflicted with cancer and their families. This beloved ministry offers a compassionate and caring environment, exemplary of Christ's unconditional love, along with an opportunity to shape meaningful friendships and create precious memories.

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board cordially invite you to attend an

Agape Celebration of Love
to benefit the Kids 'n' Cancer Ministry

Sunday May 6, 2018
Two o'clock

Newport Beach Country Club
1 Clubhouse Drive
Newport Beach, California

\$75 per person
Kindly respond by April 20, 2018

Register online at sfphiloptochos.org
For more information, please contact the Metropolis Philoptochos office at 415-431-2600 or via email: office@sfphiloptochos.org

*The Ladder for April 2018
is sponsored by:
Eve Meek*

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.

2018 AHEPA SUNDAY



CHAPTER 528

AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922 in response to the evils of bigotry and racism that emerged in early 20th century American society. They also assisted Greek immigrants to assimilate into mainstream society.

Today, AHEPA brings the ideals of ancient Greece, which includes philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence to the community. Although a majority of the membership is composed of Americans of Greek descent, application for AHEPA membership is open to anyone who believes in the mission of the organization.

2018 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Please go online ahepa528.org for scholarships or see a current AHEPAn or Fr. Ted at Church

SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED AFTER SERVICES

Applicant must be *active member or son/daughter of an *active member, in good standing, of AHEPA Chapter 528 and/or St. George Orthodox Church of the Desert steward.

**Please read scholarship for eligibility and be aware of all deadlines.*

Chapter 528 meetings every 2nd Wednesday of the month~6:30pm at St. George Church

Chapter President - Wynn Storton PDG --760.832.2825 Wynn@ahepa528.org;

Vice President - Nick Krespis

Secretary - Gus Kurupas; Treasurer - Harry Loukatos PCP ;

Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Ted Pantels ...Contact@ahepa528.org

SUNDAY MAY 20, 2018

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR FALLEN BROTHERS:

2011— Fr. T. P. Theophilos, 2016—Steve Geotas, 2016—Stan Georgalakis,

2016—Steve N. Pisanos, 2017—Bob Maverick, 2017—George Tcharos

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