

**JULY 1, 2018**

**ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT**

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# THE LADDER

THE HOLY MARTYRS STS. COSMAS & DAMIAN

## Mailing Address:

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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.

## THE POWER OF LOVE

The demons know that Jesus Christ is the True God and our Savior. "Behold, they cried out saying, what have we to do with You, O Jesus Son of God? Have You come here before the time to torment us?" (St. Matthew 8:29). While demons know that Christ is our True God, they try to pull us away from Him by means of unbelief and worldly cares. Our salvation, however, depends on our willingness to avoid deceptions. For us to succeed in this effort, we need each other.

Certainly, it is for this reason that St. Paul wrote to the Galatians: "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2). The Church's often-stated prayer, "...let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God," is based on this directive.

It is noteworthy that the citizens of the Gardarenes' city did not show any gratitude regarding the salvation of the demon-possessed men of today's Gospel reading. They preferred to try and hide their sin

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**STS. COSMAS & DAMIAN** --There are two sets of Saints named Cosmas and Damian. The Sts. Cosmas and Damian whom we commemorate today, are different from those that are celebrated on the 1st of November. These Sts. Cosmas and Damian Saints were from Rome. They were physicians, freely bestowing healing upon beasts and men, asking nothing from the healed other than that they confess and believe in Christ. They ended their life in martyrdom in the year 284, under the Emperors Carinus and Numerian. The Saints named Cosmas and Damias whom we commemorate on November 1st were from Asia (that is, Asia Minor). After the death of their father, their Christ-loving mother Theodota reared them in piety and in all manner of virtue, and had them instructed in every science, especially that of medicine. This became their vocation, and they went about healing every illness and malady, bestowing healing freely on both men and beasts alike; because of this, they are called "Unmercenaries." And thus, having completed the course of their life, they reposed in peace. (See [www.goarch.com](http://www.goarch.com).)

Their ministries for the glory of our God and Savior Jesus Christ are very similar. In both cases, their ministry involved giving to the poor and helping them. This is why Sts. Cosmas and Damian (both sets) are the Patron Saints of the Ladies of Philoptochos Society of our Holy Archdiocese.



Οι δαιμονες γνωρίζουν ότι ο Ιησους Χριστος είναι ο Αληθινος Θεος και ο Σωτηρ μας. <Ιδου εκ-  
ραξαν λεγοντες, τι υμιν και σοι  
Ιησου Υιε Θεου; Ηλθες ωδε προ  
καιρου βασανισαι ημας;> (Ματθ.  
8:29). Ενω εξευρουν οι δαιμονες  
οτι ο Χριστος είναι ο Θεος μας,  
προσπαθουν να μας τραβηξουν  
απο τον Κυριον δια της απιστίας  
και των κοσμικων μεριμνων. Η  
σωτηρια μας εξαρταται απο την  
προθυμια μας να αποφυγουμεν  
τις απατες. Για να πετυχουμεν  
στην προσπαθειαν αυτην, χρεια-  
ζομαστε ο ένας τον αλλον.

Και, μαλιστα, για αυτον τον λογον,  
ο Αποστολος Παυλος εγραψε  
στους Κορινθιους: <Η αγαπη μα-  
κροθυμει, χρηστευεται..συγχειρει  
δε τη αληθεια, παντα στεγει, παντα  
πιστευει, παντα ελπίζει, παντα  
υπομενει. Η αγαπη ουδεποτε εκπι-  
πτει> (1 Κορ. 13:6-8). Επανω σε  
αυτα τα λογια του Αποστολου  
Παυλου, βασιζεται η ευχη της Εκ-  
κλησιας: <εαυτους και αλληλους  
και πασαν την ζωην ημων Χριστω  
τω Θεω παραθωμεθα.>

Σημαντικο είναι οτι οι πολιτες της  
πολεως των Γεργεσηνων δεν εδει-  
ξαν ευγνωμοσυνην περι της σωτη-  
ριας των δαιμονισμενων. Μαλλον,  
επαρεκαλεσαν τον Χριστον να φυ-  
γη ωστε να μην είναι κοντα τους.  
Επροτιμησαν να κανουν μια  
προσπαθειαν για να κρυψουν τις  
αμαρτιες των (δηλ. η ενασχολησις  
των χοιρων) αντι να δοξασουν τον  
Χριστον.

Στην δικην μας εποχην, στην  
οποιαν κυκλοφορουν πολλοι δαι-  
μονες οι οποιοι μας ενοχλουν με  
σκοτεινες σκεψεις και αμφιβολιες,  
ας βοηθησει ο ένας στον αλλον  
δια της προσευχης και των πνευ-  
ματικων συμβουλων μας.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

(i.e., their dealings with swine) rather than to glorify Christ.

In our own age, in which many demons circulate in the effort to bother us with dark thoughts and doubts, we need to offer spiritual strength to one another through prayer and with spiritual advice.

As we celebrate America's freedom in a few days, we need to understand that freedom is a gift that comes only from God. Without God, freedom turns into chaos; sins are cheered on as being virtues and virtues are shunned as being sins. The lines between "right" and "wrong" are often blurred through the prism of popular opinion. Without God in our minds and hearts, we are very much like the Gardarenes who wanted to do their own thing. Sharing their attitude toward life eventually leads to sin, heartache, and unhappiness. As free as America is, our citizens are not truly happy, as they endure many economic and social stresses, without asking for help from God.

I sincerely hope, that as we celebrate American Independence Day, we turn the words of our "Pledge Allegiance to the Flag" into a heartfelt prayer: "...One nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all." Only under God can we show the love of God to all people in every place and at all times.

Speaking of love, let us remember that the Gospel does not speak of the "touchy-feely" kind of emotional love that we usually like to experience so that "everybody feels happy." The Gospel speaks of a "difficult" kind of love that requires effort and sacrifice, so that happiness can be one that is lasting, rather than fleeting. For example, we can give an analogy with college studies: fleeting happiness is that which is experienced as momentary - a "frat party," or a "pep rally." That happiness, or joy, comes and goes. The lasting happiness is achieved through work and sacrifice, as when a student devotes time and energy to study, which leads to the more lasting joy of graduation and plans for the future.

Having this analogy in mind, we can read today's passage of St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians 12: 27 - 13:8 and understand that love in Christ is the greatest of all virtues, since it embodies many virtues: patience, kindness, endurance; joy in the truth and absence of envy.

+FR. THEODORE

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Erika Aguilar, Jim Alex, Chris Laskaris, J.J. Richards, Chris Panopoulos, Nicholas Kontaxis, Louise Scott, Gaylord Washington, Patsy Bruckens, Herline WilliamsJean Chronis, Markos Mihalatos, Debbie Vawter (Many faithful on our Prayer List face chronic/serious illness).

*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: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson 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, soson"*

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

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

Sunday Hymn : To fedron tis anastaseos kyrigma [Tone 4]... (When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more and Christ our God has Risen from the dead and granted to the world the Great Mercy)

Hymn for Sts. Cosmas and Damian: Aghi-ee anarghree... (Holy Unmercenaries and Wonderworkers, visit our infirmities. Freely you received; freely give to us.)

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: Prostasia ton Christianon... (A Protection of Christians unshamable, Intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering; reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us, for You are good; Your loving help bring to us who are crying in faith to You: Hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a Protection for all time, Theotokos, for those who honor you.)

*READINGS: Epistle:- 1 Corinthians 12: 27-31; 13: 1-8 / Gospel: St. Matthew 8: 28-34; 9: 1*

*The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated*

*Communion Hymn: Enite ton Kyrion ek ton ouranon.... " (pg. 64 in the Divine Liturgy books)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**MEMORIAL** -- Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of our brethren in Christ, the parents of **Mr. Nicholas Demetropoulos: Andrew**, his father; **Anastasia**, his mother; his brothers and sisters, **Alexander, Thomas, Victoria and Diamondo**. It is a **59 Year Memorial**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant to **Andrew, Anastasia, Alexander, Thomas, Victoria and Diamondo**. Eternal Life and may He grant peace and comfort to us and to **Mr. Nicholas Demetropoulos**. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

**PHILOPTOCHOS** -- This is the last few weeks to renew membership or to become a member of Philoptochos in order to be included in the updated St. George Philoptochos Directory. Coffee Hour sponsors are needed for later in July and into August. Contact **Pat Dalkas** to sign up.

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

**FR. TED WILL BE AWAY FOR TWO WEEKS** – Fr. Ted will be away from **Sunday evening, July 1, 2018, returning on Saturday, July 14, 2018**. As always, St. George parishioners, in case of emergency, are encouraged to contact **Fr. Andrew Lesko**, pastor of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Temecula, California (909-224-5046), or **Fr. David Kruse**, pastor of St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms, California (760-406-6116). **Fr. Dionisie Marian** of the Holy Resurrection Romanian Orthodox Monastery in Temecula, California **will celebrate the Divine Liturgy here at St. George on Sunday, July 8, 2018.**

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 in order that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a "crying room" in the vestibule for your use. God Bless.



## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

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Date: June 29, 2018

Protocol No. 97/18

July 4, 2018  
Independence Day

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we commemorate Independence Day, we are gathered in Boston for our 44<sup>th</sup> Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress. We are meeting in a city that has deep historical connections to the struggle for independence, a place where events supported the cause of liberty, and significant effort and sacrifice secured freedom and the birth of a new nation.

The theme of our Congress is connected to this history and to this place in a manner that provides a spiritual foundation for our freedom. Within the land of liberty and beyond, we have the freedom to pursue our potential in offering faith and love to others. We continue to affirm through our Congress and through our witness as Orthodox Christians that **all things are possible to the one who believes in Christ.**

We know and proclaim that all things are possible through faith because our Almighty God has freed us from sin and death through the power of the Holy Resurrection. We know the impossible is possible, because He has the power to set all of creation free from the *bondage of decay to obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God* (Romans 8:21). Through our faith in Christ, we have the freedom to live in the manner and for the purpose for which we were created, to explore the unlimited potential of the power of His grace.

We are blessed to live in a nation and society that values liberty and in a place where our freedom in Christ is joined with a freedom to worship, to minister, and to serve as we are led by God. We are free to work together as brothers and sisters in Christ, free to show and lead others to Him, and free to pursue the unlimited potential of our faith. Let us be committed to pursuing the opportunities offered by this freedom. As people of faith living in a free society and guided by the freedom we have in Christ, let us proclaim the truth that all things are possible and follow with action and plans that will bring honor and glory to God!

With paternal love in Him,

†DEMETRIOS  
Archbishop of America