

**JULY 22, 2018**

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

**74-109 Larrea Street  
Palm Desert, California 92260**

**Website: [www.go-stgeorge.org](http://www.go-stgeorge.org)**

**Email: [pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com)**



# THE LADDER

**Mailing Address:**

**P.O. Box 4755**

**Palm Desert, CA.92261**

**Tel: (760) 568-9901**

**or: (760) 880-5869**

**– 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.

**HAVE FAITH IN GOD**

St. John Chrysostom explained today's Gospel passage in his 49th Homily *On the Gospel of St. Matthew (Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 10, pgs. 304-307).*

St. John noted that Christ gave thanks before distributing the five loaves of bread and the two fish, because God is One God in Three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and the Bible emphasizes that God the Father created all things in heaven and on earth (Genesis 1:

1). The Holy Spirit hovered over "the face" of the waters (Genesis 1:2). The Son of God is the source of light's energy (Genesis 1:3 and St. John 1:1-3). The pronouns "we" and "us" in Genesis 1:26 indicate that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit worked in unity in the creation of all things. Therefore, the "thanks" expressed by our Lord in the wilderness as He performed this miracle of the five loaves and two fish gives testimony to the fact that Christ is God Who  
*Continued on page 2*

**ST. MARY MAGDALENE**

Today we commemorate St. Mary Magdalene. St. Mary was from Magdala in Galilee on the Sea of Tiberias, and for this was named Magdalene. When the Lord Jesus cast out seven demons from her, from which she had been suffering, she became His faithful and inseparable disciple, following Him and ministering unto Him even to the time of His crucifixion and burial. Then, returning to Jerusalem together with the rest of the Myrrh-bearers, she prepared the fragrant spices for anointing the body of the Lord. And on the Lord's day they came very early to the tomb as the Angels appeared declaring the Resurrection of the Lord. When Mary Magdalene saw the stone taken away from the tomb, she ran and proclaimed it to Peter and John.

Returning immediately to the tomb and weeping outside, she was deemed worthy to be the first of the Myrrh-bearers to behold the Lord arisen from the dead, and when she fell at His feet, she heard Him say, "Touch Me not." After the Lord's Ascension, nothing certain is known concerning her. Some accounts say that she went to Rome and later returned to Jerusalem, and from there proceeded to Ephesus, where she ended her life, preaching Christ.



Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος εξήγησε την σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή στην 49η Ομιλία του περί του κατά Ματθαίον Ευαγγελίου (*Γραπτά των Πατέρων της Σύνοδου Νίκαιας και Μετά την Σύνοδον της Νίκαιας*, Τομ.10, σελ.304–307).

Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης εσημίωσε ότι ο Χριστός ευχαρίστησε τον Θεόν Πατέρα πριν διαμείνει τους πέντε αρτούς και τα δύο ψάρια, διότι, ο Θεός είναι ένας Θεός με Τρία Πρόσωπα – Πατήρ, Υιός και Άγιο Πνεύμα – και η Αγία Γραφή τονίζει ότι ο Πατήρ εδημιούργησε τους ουρανούς και την γην (Γεν.1:1). Το Άγιο Πνεύμα εκύλυσε επάνω <στο πρόσωπο> του υδάτος (Γεν.1:2). Ο Υιός του Θεού είναι η αρχή του φωτός (Γεν.1:3 και Ιωαν. 1:1–3). Οι άνθρωποι <εμείς> και <μας> στην Γεν. 1:26 δείχνουν ότι ο Πατήρ, ο Υιός και το Άγιο Πνεύμα εργάσθηκαν ενώμενοι στην πράξη της δημιουργίας. Λοιπόν, το <ευχαριστώ> που εκφράσε ο Ιησούς είναι αποδείξεις ότι ο Χριστός είναι Θεός ο Οποίος είπε ότι όλη η δημιουργία είναι καλή (Γεν. 1).

Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης, συνεπώς, ετόνισε ότι πρέπει να ειμεθα ευγνωμόνες για όλα που στερεώνουν την πνευματική και την σωματική μας ζωήν. Καθώς αγαπάμε τον Θεόν, ας αγαπήσουμε τα πνευματικά χαρίσματα του Θεού ώστε να μπορούμε επίσης να δεχθούμε και να χρησιμοποιήσουμε τα υλικά αγαθά του Θεού προς δόξαν του Θεού.

Το έλεος του Θεού είναι δώρον για εμάς ώστε να το μοιραστούμε με άλλους ώστε όλοι να γνωρίσουν την αγάπην του Θεού.  
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

said that all of creation “is good.” (Genesis, Chapter 1).

St. John, therefore, emphasized that we must be grateful for all things that support our spiritual and physical lives. As we love God, let us love the spiritual gifts that God gives us so that we can also use His material blessings for His glory. The mercy of God is a gift for us to share with others so that they can know the love of God. This is what *is good!*

The theologians of the *Orthodox Study Bible* note that, collectively, the Saints of our Church understand the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand with five loaves of bread as an image of the Divine Liturgy. They also consider that the gathering of the leftover fragments by the Apostles “shows that the teachings that the faithful are unable to grasp are nevertheless held in the consciousness of the Church.” (pg. 1295).

The tremendous importance of giving thanks to God for all of the spiritual and physical benefits that we have is verified by our Church in the fact that there is an entire Church Service, which is included in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, which verbalizes for us our expressions of thanksgiving to God. It is the Service of the “Artoklasia” (The Blessing of the Five Loaves). This Service is usually held following the final Prayer of the Liturgy that is said before the Icon of Christ following Holy Communion (known as the “Opisthavonon Efhee”). It begins with petitions for the health and salvation for any who are enduring personal spiritual and physical suffering, as well as for all the parishioners of the community. A long intercessory prayer follows, asking that our Lord, through the prayers of the Mother of God and all the Saints, extend His mercy upon all people. A hymn to the Mother of God is then chanted, indicating that She is the Chief Intercessor for all of humanity in that She gave birth to Christ our Savior. Finally, a hymn quoting the words of Psalm 34:11 is chanted: “Wealthy people have become impoverished and have hungered; but, those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.”

The hymn explains the miracle of the feeding of the multitudes by Christ our God. As the multitudes sought Christ in the wilderness, staying even to a late hour, we too are to seek Christ. As the multitudes were fed, we too are fed through Holy Communion and every other blessings in our lives. Those who depend only on material wealth will go hungry, because, without God, all things go out of existence. This miracle makes tangible the words of our Lord, “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.” (St. Matthew 6:33).

+FR. THEODORE

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Erika Aguilar, Jim Alex, Chris Laskaris, Nicholas Kontaxis, Louise Scott, Gaylord Washington, Patsy Bruckens, Herline Williams, Jean Chronis, Markos Mihalatos (*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—**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 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 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 :** *Katelisas to Stavro Sou ton thanaton...[Tone 7] (O Lord by Your sacred Cross You abolished death and granted unto the thief 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 evermore.)*

**Hymn for St. Mary Magdalene:** *Chisto to dheer imas ek Parthenou techthendi ... (You followed Christ the Lord, who was born of the Virgin for us, and kept His laws, and you lived by His statutes; and thus as we celebrate your all-holy memorial, Mary Magdalene, today with faith we extol you, O most blessed Saint, and with divine love and longing we honor your memory.)*

**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; 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:- 1 Corinthians 1:10-17/ Gospel: St. Matthew 14: 14-22

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

**Communion Hymn:** *Enite ton Kyrion.... (page 64 in our Divine Liturgy books)*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Coffee Hour: Josie Desnoyers

**PHILOPTOCHOS** -- We want to thank the members for coming in on Wednesday to make, bake and package **koulourakia for our memorial inventory**. Those who helped **Pat Dalkas** were: **Eva Canakis, Doris Elmo, Bess Heinrich, Christina Kudanis, Crystal Maganas, Emily Tcharos and Linda Kallis**. If you are interested in sponsoring a Coffee Hour in August or September, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board or see **Pat Dalkas**.

**MASTER CALENDAR** -- A 2018-2019 Master Calendar our parish is being prepared. This is a good time to schedule events going into September 2018-May 2019. Please contact Fr. Ted.

**ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS** - The 2018 - 2019 Altar Flower Notice is posted on the Parish Hall Bulletin Board beginning to be filled. Parishioners interested in purchasing **Altar Flower Bouquets** on specific dates during the coming Altar Flower season, should sign up Now, or see **Louise Dobbs Barringer**, Altar Flower Coordinator! You may pay at the time of your order! SEE the following available dates:

THE MONTH OF OCTOBER IS FILLED. Status for "Altar Flower Bouquet" Sundays in November and December is as follows: November 4th (1): (18th (0); December 2nd (1): (30th) (2); CHRISTMAS is FILLED.

In 2019, the status for "Altar Flower Sundays" is as follows:

January 6st (1), (20th) (1); February 3rd (2): (17th (0); March 3rd (1): 17th (1): 31st (2); April 7th (2): 21st (2) (PALM SUNDAY IS AVAILABLE). April 28TH --EASTER SUNDAY is FILLED.

THE MONTH OF MAY IS FILLED.

Make all checks payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church, credit cards are accepted. Thank you all for your loyal support!

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 24th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

Thursday, July 26th.....ST. PARASKEVI  
Orthros-8:30 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Friday, July 27th.....ST. PANTELEIMON  
Orthros-8:30 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

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.