

JUNE 17, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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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.

FAITH & GOOD WORKS

Historically, there have existed two mistaken ideas with regard to our own role in the accomplishment of our Eternal Salvation. Some have taught that it is enough for a person to only believe in Christ in order to win salvation, since even pagans can do good deeds -- in which case, it is *faith* in Christ that is the main element for our salvation.

From another point of view, many even today express the mistaken notion that we are able to win our salvation on the basis of merits received in exchange for good deeds, in which case, good deeds are the determining factor for our salvation. However, it is impossible for us to save ourselves, or, "to buy our salvation," because salvation is the gift of our Savior's Crucifixion and Resur-

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FAITH & GOOD WORKS APPLIES TO ALL PEOPLE – EVEN OUR ENEMIES

In today's Gospel passage, our Lord tells us to have faith in God. At the same time, He asks that we first seek the Kingdom of Heaven and all things will be added to us for our salvation. Seeking the Kingdom of God is a choice that we make tantamount to making the effort to imitate Christ in His love for all people. In Chapter 5 of St. Matthew's Gospel, we hear these words from Christ our God: "You have heard it said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But, I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." (St. Matthew 5:44). Doing good works is not a matter of doing good works to some and not to others; for God, loves all of us even though, by sinning, we act as the enemies of God.

Fr. Stanley Harakas, in his book, *Toward Transfigured Life*, writes the following: "To have warm, kind, happy feelings about someone who is your enemy is a contradiction in terms...[It is] to ask the psychologically impossible, so long as the person is an enemy...What can be commanded is that we make every effort not to return evil for evil...that we want what is good for him or her; to seek his or her good, without trying to get anything out of it..." (pg.162)

Certainly, in our love for God, we cannot condone the evil that others do. We are to make every effort to correct them and to encourage them to turn to God and observe His Law. We condemn the evil, not the person. In fact, we pray for the person. Fr. Harakas adds, "St. Maximos the Confessor says, 'Love suffers on their [the enemies'] behalf so that, in due time, if possible, one might turn the enemy into a friend.'" (pg. 165). +FR. THEODORE



Ιστορικως υπηρχαν δυο λανθασμενες ιδεες σχετικως με τον ρολον του ανθρωπου στην πραγματοποιησιν της σωτηριας του. Μερικοι εδιδασκαν οτι αρκει στον ανθρωπον μονον να πιστευει στον Χριστον για να κερδισει την σωτηριαν του, αφου ο ειδωλολατρης, ακομα, μπορει να κανει καλα εργα – οποτε, λεγουν οτι η πιστις στον Χριστον ειναι το κυριο στοιχειο για την σωτηριαν μας.

Απο την αλλην μεριαν, μερικοι εκφραζουν μεχρι σημερα την λανθασμενην ιδεαν οτι ο ανθρωπος μπορει να κερδισει την σωτηριαν του με βαση τα πλεονεκτηματα που διδονται ως ανταλλαγμα για καλες πραξεις, οποτε οι καλες πραξεις προοριζουν την σωτηριαν του ανθρωπου. Ομως, δεν ειναι δυνατον στον ανθρωπον να <σωσει τον εαυτον του,> η, να <αγορασει την σωτηριαν του,> διοτι η σωτηρια του ανθρωπου ειναι δωρον της σταυρωσεως και αναστασεως του Σωτηρος μας Χριστου.

Η στασις της Εκκλησιας μας ειναι οτι και η πιστις στον Χριστον και τα ευαρεστα εργα χρειαζονται για να πραγματοποιηθη η σωτηρια του ανθρωπου. Οσον αφορα στο θεμα <περι πιστεως>, η Εκκλησια μας διδασκει οτι η πιστις στον Χριστον πρεπει να ειναι ζωντανη – να ρυθμιζει τις σκεψεις και την γενικην νοοτροπιαν ζωης – και, συνεπως, να ρυθμιζει και τις πραξεις μας και την συμπεριφεριαν μας. Ετσι, ο Ορθοδοξος Χριστιανος θα πει: 1) ο Χριστος με εσωσε (δια του Βαπτισματος), 2) οτι ειμαι στην διαδικασιαν της σωτηριας δια της αποκτησεως της χαριτος του Αγιου Πνεματος (δια του Χρισματος) και, 3) θα σωθω για παντα δια του ελεους του Σωτηρος κατα την Δευτερην Παρουσιαν Του.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

rection from the dead.

The position of the Orthodox Christian Church regarding the importance of *faith* and *good deeds* is that *both faith and good deeds* are necessary for salvation. With regard to “faith,” our Church teaches us that our faith in Christ must be a *living faith* --one which regulates our thoughts and our general attitude toward life...and which regulates our actions and behaviors. Thus, an Orthodox Christian would say: 1) I am saved (through Holy Baptism); 2) I am in the process of being saved by the Grace of the Holy Spirit in my effort to work out my salvation (through the Holy Sacraments) and, 3) I will be saved at the Second Appearance of Christ on the Day of Judgment.

In the effort to work out our salvation, there exists a *synergy* (a co-worker-ship between us and our Lord: we give our efforts, while our Lord grants His guidance and mercy). In reviewing our Lord’s teachings, we find that our faith in His love and mercy is a vital factor in motivating us toward a life-style that is in keeping with His Will; we are not to be anxious about our needs, because we have faith in God (in accordance with today’s Gospel passage). On the other hand, however, we are to be giving of ourselves to meet the needs of others (as in the Gospel of St. Matthew 25:31-46). In this respect, one of the common threads that runs through the lives of the Saints collectively is their faith in God regarding their personal needs and their sense of charity in covering the needs of others.

St. John of Kronstadt is an example. His faith in prayer is attested to in his following remarks: *“It is good for us to live with the prayer of faith in our hearts, for during prayer we live with the Lord, Who has promised all good things to those who ask Him, saying, ‘Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened.’”* (My Life in Christ, pg.55). At the same time, St. John of Kronstadt considers caring for others as a form of living prayer - and, “by others,” he includes his need to care even for his enemies. In this regard, he even refers to St. Paul’s words from today’s Epistle reading, saying, *“Love your enemy and you will be wise. If only you knew what a triumph it is to love and do good to your enemy! After all, so did the Son of God - so did God in the Holy Trinity. God still triumphs through His love over us who are ungrateful. So also did God’s Saints triumph over their enemies by loving them and doing good. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...If when we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”* (Romans 5: 8-10).” (My Life in Christ, pg. 62).

+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, Sotiria (*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"*

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..."*

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

Sunday 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 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:- Romans 5: 1-11 / Gospel: St. Matthew 6:22-33*

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



Happy Fathers Day to all fathers, grandfathers and Godfathers!

MEMORIAL -- Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of our brother in Christ, **Angelo Stambolos (1 year)**, beloved husband of **Priscilla Stambolos**, father of **Sharon Stambolos** and 4 step children, grandfather of 5 grandchildren and brother of **Irene Stambolos** and **Vera Manolakas**, uncle to 2 nieces and 1 nephew, and 4 great nieces and 1 great nephew. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant to **Angelo Stambolos** Eternal Life and may He grant peace and comfort to us and to his entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS -- We are updating our Philoptochos Phone Directory soon. We want you to be in our updated version. If you have not renewed your membership, do so in the next couple of weeks. Mail your check to the office (P.O. Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92260) in the amount of \$45.00 made out to Philoptochos or see **Linda Kallis** or **Linda Petalas**.

ST. SOPHIA SUMMER CAMP - The two sessions for this year's youth **St. Sophia Summer Camp program** are: Session 1: July 22-July 28; Session 2: July 28-August 4, 2018. Fliers are available in our parish hall. **Registration forms are online at: www.SaintSophiaCamp.org.**

DR. JOHN MANESIS' NEW BOOK - **John Manesis'** new book, *With Steadied Hands* -- a collection of his medical poems -- is now available at Amazon.com.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 19th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

--Romans 5:11

Wise Sayings....Food for thought:

1. Everyone you know has a battle and you don't know what they are going through. Be kind!
2. The 4 Bs God wants from us:
 - A. Believe...in God's love for you and others.
 - B. Belong...with others who pray and worship.
 - C. Become...what God wants you to be.
 - D. Build...on the love and understandings that you have with others.

*The Ladder for June 2018 is sponsored
by
Tina & Angelo Veroulis
And
Joan & Frank Fakinos*

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.