

JUNE 24, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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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.*

PERTAINING TO TRUE WORSHIP

In the Old Testament we read about the Golden Calf. We read how the Israelites behaved -- as pagans who worshiped their idols by drinking and having orgies. The Golden Calf was actually made from the golden bits of jewelry of the people. As it was a materialistic creation that became an idol, it was worshiped in a materialistic, worldly fashion. This is how paganism works and history shows

that the Israelites often abandoned their worship of the One True God. As a result, they acted as pagans.

This becomes clear when the Prophet Elijah confronted those who worshiped the false-god, Baal. Parallel with the ministry of the Prophet Elijah, St. John the Baptist worked to bring the people back to the worship of the One True God. Today, we

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THE NAMING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

He that was greater than all who are born of women, the Prophet who received God's testimony that he surpassed all the Prophets, was born of the aged and barren Elizabeth (Luke 1: 7) and filled all his kinsmen, and those that lived round about, with gladness and wonder.

Being barren was considered a great hardship in those days, since children were (as they are today) considered to be blessings from God. Those who did not have children would suffer stigma from peers and neighbors. Therefore, that our Lord heard the prayers of Elizabeth and Zachariah, asking Him to grant to them a child, was evidence of His great Love, by which this miracle occurred. Zachariah, by doubting the Angel Gabriel who announced to him that his wife would be with child, was made mute until the day of John's circumcision.

Thus, on the eighth day when he was circumcised, that is, the day on which a male child receives his name. Those present called the new-born babe Zacharias, the name of his father. But the mother said, "Not so, but he shall be called John." Since the child's father was unable to speak, he was asked, by means of a sign, to indicate the child's name. He then asked for a tablet and wrote, "His name is John." His name is a variation of the Hebrew "Johanan," which means "Yah is gracious." After this, Zachariah was again gifted with the ability to speak.

--Taken from: www.goarch.org



Στην Π. Διαθήκη, διαβαζουμεν για τον Χρυσο Μοσχον. Διαβαζουμεν πως συμπεριφερθηκαν οι Ισραηλιτες – σαν τους ειδωλολατρες που ελατρευαν τα ειδωλα των πινοντας και κανοντας οργιες. Ο Χρυσος Μοσχος εδημιουργηθηκε απο τα υλικά κοσμηματα του λαου. Ως υλιστικο δημιουργημα που εγινε ενα ειδωλον, η λατρεία του ειδωλου εγινε με υλιστικο, κοσμικο τροπον. Ετσι λειτουργει η ειδωλολατρεία και η ιστορια δειχνει οτι οι Ισραηλιτες συχνά εγκατελειψαν την λατρείαν του Αληθινου Θεου. Ως αποτελεσμα ενηργησαν σαν ειδωλολατρες.

Αυτο εγινε πολυ σαφες οταν ο Προφητης Ηλιας αντιμετωπησε τους προσκυνητες του ψευτικου θεου, Βααλ. Παραλληλα με το εργο του Προφητου Ηλιου, ο Αγιος Ιωαννης ο Βαπτιστης εργασθηκε για να φερει τον λαον πισω στην σωστην λατρείαν του Αληθινου Θεου. Σημερα εορταζουμεν την Γεννησην του Αγιου Προδρομου Ιωαννου του Βαπτιστου – η <φωνη βοωντος εν τη ερημω;> κραζοντας, <Μετανοειτε! Επλησιασεν η Βασιλεια των ουρανων.> (Μαρκ. 3:2)

Στην Επιστολην του προς τους Ρωμαιους, ο Απ. Παυλος καθιστα σαφες οτι πρεπει να μετανοησουμεν απο τους ειδωλατρικους τροπους μας και να θυσιασουμεν τον εσωτερικο μας εαυτον για την σωτηριαν του συνανθρωπου μας προς δοξαν Θεου. Ο Αποστολος μας εξηγει οτι ο χαρακτηρας του εσωτερικου εαυτου μας φαινεται απο το πως συμπεριφερομεθα. Γραφει τα εξης: <Ενδυθητε τον Κυριον Ιησουν Χριστον, και μη φροντιζετε περι της σαρκος, εις το να εκτελητε τας επιθυμιας αυτης.> Επομενως, η σωστη λατρεία προς δοξαν Θεου ειναι η πνευματικη ζωη της Αποστολικης Παραδοσεως. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

celebrate the Nativity of St. John the Baptist -- that "Voice in the wilderness," crying out, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."

In his Epistle to the Romans, St. Paul makes it clear that we, too, must repent of our pagan ways and sacrifice our inner selves for the salvation of others and for the glory of God. The Apostle explains to us that the character of our inner self is shown from the way we behave. He writes the following: "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts." (Romans 13: 14). Hence, the proper worship to God's glory is to live the spiritual way of life of the Apostolic Tradition.

Worship is an expression of lives - and the way we live is an expression of our worship. The people who worshiped the Golden Calf did so with their way of life that was reflected in their everyday dealings, which obviously included the drinking, eating and orgies. Those who worship Christ our True God do so by reflecting a way of life that is simple through the virtues of sobriety , fasting and abstinence.

The frame of mind that connects with worship offered to our Savior needs to be consistent with our frame of mind as we live out our daily lives—a spiritual life, or in essence a life of prayer. Through prayer, we gain the Wisdom and guidance of our Lord. In a way, prayer involves our effort to seek a daily relationship with Christ, reminding us that He is always looking upon us to guide and bless us. This is one of the reasons for why Orthodox Christian churches have the icon of the Pantocrator (Christ blessing us) in the inside of the dome of the church edifice.

Ultimately, Divine guidance is what we need on a daily basis so that we can avoid temptations by which we might be deceived to commit sins—the works of darkness. Darkness is likened to blindness. As one of the Saints once said, "The person who wants sunshine and air opens the window. It would be folly to sit behind the drawn curtains and say: 'There is no light in my life; there isn't a breath of air!' Let this picture show you clearly how prayer works. God's power and grace is always and everywhere accessible to all, but one cannot get one's share of it without wanting it and acting accordingly." (The Way of the Ascetics, by Tito Colliander, pg. 70).

+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: *Efrenestho ta ourania [Tone 3]... (Let all things above in heaven rejoice and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet, He has trampled down death by death and First Born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.)*

Hymn for St. John the Baptist: *Prophitah ke Prodromeh, tis parousias Christou... (O Prophet and Forerunner of the appearance of Christ, with longing we honor you, although we have not the means of extolling you worthily. Your birth, which was exalted and most glorious, ended * the barrenness of your mother and the muteness of your father; and unto the world it announced the Incarnation of God the Word.)*

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 13: 11-14; 14: 1-4 / Gospel: St. Luke 1: 1-25; 57-68; 76-80*

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated

Communion Hymn: *Eis mnimosinon eonion este dhikeos, Alleluia... (The righteous will be remembered forever. Alleluia)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hour: Mr. and Mrs. Carkonen

PHILOPTOCHOS -- We have a special treat at Coffee Hour today. Come join us. Have you renewed your membership yet? How about today? See **LindaLallis** or **Linda Petalas**. If you are interested in sponsoring a Coffee Hour this summer, see **Pat Dalkas**.

GEORGE COLOMBOTOS – Funeral Services for our brother in Christ, **George Colombotos** will be held at the Ascension Greek Orthodox Church in Oakland, California on **Tuesday, June 26, 2018**. His **40 day Memorial Service** is scheduled for **Sunday, July 15, 2018** here at our **St. George parish**.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – The following is to inform St. George parishioners of the 2018-2019 Altar Flower Program’s present status:

The month of October is filled.

November: Nov. 4th (two); 18th (one)

December: Dec. 2nd (one); 30th (two) Note: Christmas (not available)

We have already begun to fill dates in January through May 2019. Therefore, if parishioners have significant dates to remember loved ones and would like to order Altar Flowers on particular dates, please see Altar Flower Coordinator, Louise Dobbs Barringer now, or annotate the dates on the sign-in sheet located on the parish hall bulletin board. Thank you.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 26th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe he was not the Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the True Light which gives Light to all people coming into the world.”

– St. John 1: 6-8

*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.