

MAY 6, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert, CA.92261

Tel: (760) 568-9901

or: (760) 880-5869

email:

pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

– 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.

A MODEL FOR HOLY CONFESSION

The Lord said to the Samaritan Woman: "God is Spirit and those who worship Him are to worship in Spirit and truth." (St. John 4:24). In this respect, those who seek the blessings of God are to worship Him every day, knowing that our God is the Almighty God, Who knows the very heartbeat of each person. Our prayers are heard when they are said with all of the love of our souls and in the spirit of truth regarding our faith.

The presupposition with regard to the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is that the

person to be baptized *desires in truth* with all of his or her soul to live according to God's love and that his or her own love for God is measured against the truth about that person's inner, spiritual life. Within this presupposition, the Sacrament of Holy Confession is to be found, because, as much as one wants to honor God, so much so one needs the true desire to express openly that he or she has *accountability* before Christ.

From the Samaritan Woman we understand how the Sacrament of Holy

Continued on page 2

CELEBRATING CHRIST'S RESURRECTION & PREPARING FOR PENTECOST

This is the liturgical season in which our thoughts turn to Holy Baptism and Chrismation. In these Sacraments we participate in the death and Resurrection of Christ through Baptism, and we receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit through Chrismation. Holy Chrismation is our personal Pentecost.

In saying that we participate in the death of Christ, it is meant that we put to death our worldly concerns, which distract us from living a life that is pleasing to God, precisely so that we can live with God now and forever in His Resurrection. Putting our worldly concerns to death is a matter of life-long commitment to the struggle against temptations and sins. Hence, Holy Confession looms into our picture. With Holy Confession comes a commitment to love God and to love one another. This, too, is a matter of sincere prayer, which is why the Apostles prayed before receiving the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Through the Holy Spirit, our prayers become a way of life (as in the example of the Samaritan Woman of today's Gospel passage).

St. Nectarios writes, "Take of every form of enmity between you and your neighbor; every form of unjust thinking; chase away that which is contrary to your salvation; flee from every manner of evil & do that which is good; turn back to the Lord and draw near so that you can be sanctified." (Regarding the Sacraments, pg. 59) +FR. THEODORE



Ο Ιδιος ο Χριστος τονιζει την κα-
νονικην σχεση που πρεπει να
εχουμεν με τον Θεον: <Θεος Πνευ-
μα εστι και οι προσκυνουντας Αυ-
τον εν πνευματι και αληθεια δει
προσκυνωσι.> (Ιωαν.4:24). Απο αυ-
την την αποψην, οσοι αναζητουν
τις ευλογιες του Θεου πρεπει να
Τον προσκυνησουν καθημερινως,
γνωριζοντας οτι ειναι ο Παντο-
δυναμος Θεος, ο Οποιος γνωριζει
ακομη τον καρδιακο παλμον του
καθε ανθρωπου. Οι προσευχες μας
εισακουονται οταν γινονται με
ολην την αγαπην της ψυχης μας
και εν πνευματι αληθειας περι της
πιστεως μας.

Η προυποθεσις περι του Μυστηρι-
ου του Αγιου Βαπτισματος ειναι
οτι ο νεοφωτιστος θελει με ολην
την ψυχην του να ζει συμφωνα με
την αγαπην του Θεου και οτι η δι-
κη του αγαπη για τον Θεον ζυγιζε-
ται εναντια στην αληθινην κατα-
σταση της εσωτερικης του ζωης. Σε
αυτην την προυποθεσην ευρισκε-
ται και το Μυστηριον της Θειας
Εξομολογησεως, διοτι, οσο θελει ο
ανθρωπος να τιμησει τον Θεον,
τοσο χρειαζεται ο ιδιος την αληθι-
νην επιθυμιαν να εκφρασει ανοιχ-
τα οτι εχει να δωσει λογιαριασμον
προς τον Χριστον.

Απο την Σαμαρειτιδαν καταλα-
βαινουμεν πως λειτουργει το Μυσ-
τηριον της Εξομολογησεως. Επα-
ραδεχθηκε ανοιχτα στον Χριστον
οτι Αυτος εγνωριζε τα παντα περι
της ζωης της. Απο εκεινην την στι-
γμην προεκυψε ενας πνευματικος
δεσμος μεταξυ της γυναικος αυτης
και του Θεανθρωπου Χριστου. Σε
αυτον τον δεσμον, ταπεινωνεται ο
ανθρωπος μποστα στην αγαπην
του Θεου. Σε αυτην την σχεση, η
μετανοια ανθιζει, κανοντας τον
ανθρωπον εναν Αποστολο του
Κυριου – οπως εγινε η Αγια
Φωτεινη! +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

Confession works. Before Christ she openly accepted that He knew everything about her life. From this moment, a spiritual bond began to form between this woman and Christ our God. In this bond, one is humbled before the love of God and, in this relationship, repentance blossoms, turning one into an Apostle - as in the case of St. Photini!

The Samaritan Woman, as an Apostle of our Savior, was baptized with the name "Photini." "Photini" is derived from the Greek *verb*, "Photizoh," the Greek word meaning, "I enlighten." In this, she *enlightened* many people in the knowledge of Christ. The names of many Saints gave meaning to their identity as Christians.

Another important aspect of today's Gospel passage is the *conversation* between Christ our God and the Samaritan Woman. In this conversation, we see a model for how the Sacrament of Holy Confession is to be practiced. First, the conversation is, above all, a *verbal auditory* conversation, not a mental "self-conversation" of inaudible thoughts. In his book entitled, *Repentance*, Archimandrite Seraphim Papacostas writes, "*Confession arises from a psychological need...in time of trouble (or stress) individuals look for someone they trust to tell them their concerns...[Even] a child rushes to his or her mother to tell her of troubles and to find relief from her sweet words.*" (pg. 74). Confession, then, is a *verbal auditory conversation* with Christ, who is represented by the priest, who, in turn, is bound by the Church to speak the teaching of our Savior, with the *love and sensitivity* shown by our Savior. He is not allowed to condemn, because Christ does not want condemnation, but forgiveness. As we see in the conversation with the Samaritan Woman, in that Christ did not condemn her, He allowed her to know His Wisdom and to *willingly* repent of her sinful life. Repentance is a matter of one's *will*; it cannot be coerced.

Second, in the conversation, Christ shows His humanity and divinity. That is, in His humanity, He thirsts for water; in His divinity, He knows the inner thoughts and the lives of His people - that is, He knew all that the Samaritan Woman ever did. His judgment about her life is not a matter of condemnation from Himself, but a matter of revealing to her that she stood condemned before the Law of God. Her *verbal* acknowledgement of this fact was her *act of Confession*, creating a bond of peace between her and God.

The purpose of Holy Confession is not to create in anyone a feeling of despair, but to inspire and encourage one to repent and to live for Christ as did the Samaritan Woman - St. Photini.

+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, soston 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, soston 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, soston"

ANTIPHON II: *"Soston 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: "Soston 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: "Soston imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Doxa Patri ke Io ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous eonas ton eonon. Amin

People: "O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou..." (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)

ANTIPHON III— *The Hymns of the Entrance with the Holy Gospel. Verse: This is the Day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein: Christos Anesti... (Christ is Risen from the dead, by death trampling down death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life.)*

SUNDAY RESURRECTION HYMN: *To fedron tis anastaseos kerygma...[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 MID-PENTECOST: *Mesousis tis eh-ortees dhipson mou tin psycheen...(O Lord, midway through the feast, give drink to my thirsty soul from the waters of true religion. For to all You the Savior cried aloud, "Let whoever is thirsty come to Me and drink." O Christ our God, the fountain of life, glory to You.)*

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: *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 11: 19-26; 29-30 / Gospel- St. John 4: 5-42

Instead of "Axion Estin," the following: *O Angelos evoh-a ti keharitomeni...(The Angel cried aloud to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin; and again I say Rejoice. Your Son has resurrected from the grave on the third day. Be glad and exultant, divine gate of the light, for your Son, Jesus, being set within the tomb, rose and is shining more brightly than the sun, and He has fully illumined all the faithful, O Lady full of the grace of God.)*

Communion Hymn: *"Soma Christou".*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation of the servant of God, **Fr. James Tavlarides**, former Pastor of our St. George Greek Orthodox Church. May our Risen Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life and Salvation to **Fr. James Tavlarides** and may He grant that we may all remember his wonderful pastoral leadership and direction which continues to inspire our entire congregation. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS - Our last General Meeting of the season will be on Monday, May 14 at 11:30 a.m. at **Stuft Pizza at the Westfield Mall**. Please give your RSVP when you get a call or email reminding you of the meeting. We need Coffee Hour Sponsors for the months of June, July and August. If you are leaving for the summer, you may want to sponsor a Sunday while you are away. Please see **Athena Snarskis** or **Pat Dalkas**. **Today is the Annual Kids 'n Cancer Fundraiser Reception at Newport Beach, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at Newport Beach Country Club, 1 Clubhouse Dr.** See the flier posted in our parish hall for more information and details.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR FR. JAMES TAVLARIDES - Funeral Services for **Fr. James Tavlarides** are scheduled as follows: On **Tuesday, May 8, 2018**, the **Trisagion Service** will be held at the **Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Phoenix, Arizona** at **7:00 p.m.** On **Wednesday, May 9, 2018**, the **Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m.**, followed by the **Funeral Service for Fr. James**, both of which will take place at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Phoenix. Following the Funeral Service, the grave-side Service will be held at the St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Monastery in Florence, Arizona. **His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos, will officiate at the Trisagion; the Funeral, and the Grave-side Services.** St. George parishioners who plan to attend the Trisagion Service on Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. may make overnight reservations at : **Pinton Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort at 11111 N. 7th St., Phoenix, AZ (855-479-0732)**, or **Best Western Inn-Suites at 1615 E. Northern Ave., Phoenix, AZ (1-800-780-7234)**.

AHEPA – AHEPA Sunday: Sunday, May 20, 2018. Please see the AHEPA Sunday flier available in our parish hall.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Monday, May 7th.....Philoptochos Board Meeting - 11:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, May 8th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 9th.....Funeral Services for Fr. James Tavlarides at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Phoenix, Arizona - 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 12th.....No Vespers

*The Ladder for May 2018
is sponsored by:
The St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society*

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.



Kids 'n' Cancer Camp Agape

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.

"Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me."
Matthew 18:5



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

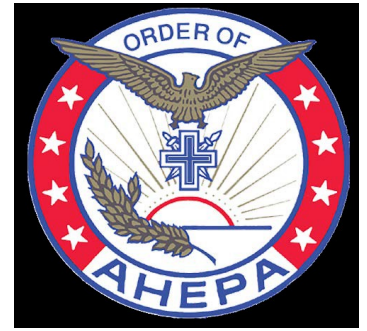
\$75 per person
Kindly respond by April 20, 2018

Newport Beach Country Club
1 Clubhouse Drive
Newport Beach, California



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

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