

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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Palm Desert, California 92260

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# THE LADDER



## 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.

## PRAYERS OF THE LITURGY

St. John of Karpathos wrote the following to his brethren: "Understanding the Will of God, let us not become discouraged because we are not perfect [as people obeying the Commandments]. But, let us all the more strive to be delivered from our spiritual enemies through our prayer and gratitude to God...For, we know the power of prayer from reading the Holy Scriptures...Pharaoh, for example, prayed, saying, 'May God preserve me from this death!' And his prayer was heard. Likewise, when the demons asked to

be sent into the swine by the Lord, their request was granted (St. Luke 8:31). How much more will a Christian be heard when praying to be delivered from spiritual death! Remember the judge who tired from constantly hearing the requests of the poor widow. Simply, in order to unburden himself from her cries, he granted her all that she wanted. How much more will God Who loves us hear us when we pray to Him with faith!" (Philokalia, Vol. 1, pgs. 314-315).

Continued on Page 2

## ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR

Today the Orthodox Church commemorates St. Gregory the Illuminator. St. Gregory was born about the year 240 and was taught the Faith of Christ in Caesarea of Cappadocia.

He entered the service of Tiridates, King of Armenia, but when discovered to be a Christian, he was subjected to many horrible torments at the King's hands, then was cast into a pit of mire with poisonous serpents and left to die. By the power of God, however, he abode there unharmed for fourteen years, his needs provided by a certain widow, until he was made known by revelation and set free.

He converted to piety innumerable multitudes of Armenians, including Tiridates himself, and was consecrated bishop by Leontius, Archbishop of Caesarea, to shepherd the vast flock he had gained for Christ. He spent the last part of his life in retirement in the ascetical discipline, and reposed in peace about the year 325. Saint Gregory is honored as the Illuminator of Armenia.



Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης της Κάρπαθου έγραψε στους συναδελφούς του τα εξής: <Κατανοώντας το Θέλημα του Θεού, ας μην απογοητευθούμε εξαιτίας των δυναμεών μας να ειμεθα τελειοί [ως άνθρωποι υποταγμένοι στις Εντολές Του.] Επομένως, ας προσπαθησούμε ακόμα περισσότερο να σωθούμε από τους πνευματικούς μας εχθρούς δια μέσων της προσευχής και της ευγνωμοσύνης μας προς τον Θεόν...Γιατι γνωρίζουμε την δυναμή της προσευχής από την Αγίαν Γραφήν. Ο Φαραώ, π.χ., επροσευχηθήκε λεγοντας, Ας αφαιρέσει ο Θεός από εμένα τον θάνατον! Και η προσευχή του ακουσθήκε. Ομοίως, όταν οι δαίμονες εξήτησαν από τον Κυριον να τους στείλει στην άβυσσο, το αίτημα τους επαρεχώρηθηκε (Λκ. 8:31). Ποσο περισσότερο, λοιπον, θα ακουσθαι ένας Χριστιανός όταν προσευχεται να σωθαι από τον πνευματικό θάνατον! Θυμηθείτε τον δικαστήν που κουρασθήκε να ακουσει τα αιτήματα της πτωχής χήρας. Απλα να ξεφορτωθαι από τις κραυγές της, εχαρισε σε αυτην αυτα που ηθέλε. Ποσο περισσότερο θα μας ακουσει ο Θεός που μας αγαπα καθώς προσευχόμεθα σε Αυτον με πιστη!> (Φιλοκαλία, Τομ. 1, σελ. 314–315)

Ας ακουσουμε την αιτηση προς το τέλος της Θείας Λειτουργίας: <Εν ειρηνή προελθωμεν!> Ας πορευόμεθα στα σπιτια μας και στις δουλειες μας με πιστη στον Θεον όπως έγραψε ο Αγ. Παύλος προς τους Κορινθίους: <Ο Θεός πασαν χαριν περισσευσαι εις υμας, ινα εν παντι παντοτε πασαν αυταρκειαν έχοντες περρισευητε εις εις παν εργον αγαθον.> (2 Κορ. 9:8).

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

With this in mind, let us pay attention to the liturgical command heard toward the end of the celebration of the Divine Liturgy: *“Let us go forth in peace!”* Thus, let us go forth in peace to our homes and businesses with faith in God, as St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians: *“God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you will always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work.”* (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Prayer, words and deeds are all connected. Worship involves our prayers as a community. The prayers of the Church become ingrained into our minds and souls so that our personal prayers reflect the Tradition of liturgical prayer passed down from the time of the Holy Apostles. As the Divine Liturgy would indicate, the proper prayers said in private are to have the same quality as do the prayers of the Divine Liturgy. Implied in the opening petitions of the Liturgy is that we pray for peace in the world; for those in authority and for blessings to those who suffer, who in fact are the very people that are a part of ourselves. Their lives mingle with our lives and help to define something about each one of us. In essence, we pray for each other and our prayers are not for us to become wealthy and famous, but to be saved from evil, as well as to be able to grow through repentance into people who do those things that are well-pleasing to God -- collectively, a Royal Priesthood. Thus, we pray not only that evil not befall us by means of “accident,” but that we not impart evil upon others, for, certainly, we would not want evil to come to ourselves. Simply put, in seeking that which is truly good, our Lord’s Commandment is this: *“Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you.”* (St. Luke 6:31). In this, we recall the words of St. Paul in saying that we are to give to one another with joy, *“For God loves a cheerful giver.”* (2 Corinthians 9:6).

In essence, the prayers of the Divine Liturgy are “other-oriented,” except for prayers asking for the time and ability to repent of our sins. Likewise, our personal prayers are to have the same flavor. Only in this way can we be *“merciful as our Father in Heaven is merciful.”* (St. Luke 6:36).

Imagine our homes and communities filled with people who are merciful as God is merciful; who love as God loves. We cannot have such homes and communities without prayer - and the kind of prayer that we speak of is prayer associated in kind with the Sacramental Prayers of the Church as known through the Divine Liturgy.

+FR. THEODORE

## 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, soson imas."*

Verse 2— Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all His rewards.

*Refrain: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."*

Verse 3— The Lord prepared His throne in heaven and His Kingdom rules over all.

*Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."*

*Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.*

*Refrain: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."*

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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 arose 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 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...)*

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

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: Tou lithou sfraghisthendos (Tone 1)...(The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred Body, O Savior, the third day You arose and unto all the world did You give life, whereby all the heavenly powers proclaim that You are the Giver of Life. Glory unto our Resurrected Christ; glory unto Your Kingdom; glory to Your dispensation, O You alone Who loves all.)

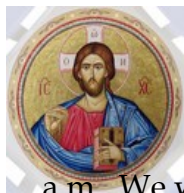
Hymn for St. Gregory the Martyr: Ke tropon metochos ke thronon dhiadhochos...(Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Gregory. Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls.)

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 our God that He may save our souls.)

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: Prostasia ton Christianon (pg. 97)...(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 now to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a Protection for all time, O Theotokos, for those who honor You.)

READINGS: EPISTLE—2 Corinthians 9: 6-11 / GOSPEL – St. Luke 5: 1-11

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Coffee Hour: Susan Alex

**PHILOPTOCHOS** - Our next General Meeting will be on Monday, October 8 at 11:30 a.m. We will have lunch (a donation of \$7.00 please), a speaker from the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) and a short meeting. Please RSVP when Rhonda emails you or Emily calls you. We need Coffee Hour Sponsors for the end of November and December. Thank you again to all of our parishioners who have donated throughout the year.

**CHOIR NOTES**--Following the summer break, our parish choir will be returning on **Sunday, October 7, 2018**. The first choir practice for the new Church Year will be on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at our church. Everyone is welcome to join the choir. Those who are interested are asked to contact our choir director, Annette Laskaris.

**ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS** – Next Sunday we will feature our first Altar Flower Bouquets for this New Church Year. All who have signed up to offer Altar Flower bouquets during the months of October through December 2018, please submit your checks now to **Louise Dobbs Barringer**, or to the Administration Office. Make your checks out to St. George Church, and in the Memo Column just include Altar Flowers and write the month/date.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13th: PAINT EL PASEO PINK WALK FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS:** This even begins a 8:00 a.m. See the enclosed form and information flier.

ALSO... **METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO GALA CELEBRATING THE MINISTRIES OF OUR HOLY METROPOLIS.** Where: **Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort and Spa, Huntington Beach, CA.** Time: Reception at 6:00 p.m./ Dinner at 7:00 p.m. for more details, check out the flier posted on our parish bulletin board and/or contact Fr. Ted.

**ST. NICHOLAS GREEK FESTIVAL**--The Greek Festival hosted by the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Murrieta, California will be hosting their annual Greek Festival on the weekend of October 13th-14th. (See Fliers in our parish hall).

**IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT:** You are cordially invited (please bring a friend). **When: Saturday, October 27, 2018; 10:00 a.m.** and again at 1:00 p.m. Please **RSVP by October 22, 2018** by calling (760) 238-7185. **Hosted by: Ann Dixon.** A donation will be made to the St. George Church/Philoptochos.

**GOLF CART PARADE** - On **Sunday, October 28th**, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, we are all invited to attend the Golf Cart Parade on El Paseo. We plan to enter a St. George Golf Cart, marking the beginning of our campaign to advertise our 2019 Greek Festival (February 16-17, 2019).

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, October 1st.....Philoptochos Board Meeting - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 2nd.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 3rd.....AHEPA Meeting -6:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 4th.....Choir Practice - 1:00 p.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 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.