

AUGUST 18, 2019

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.

TODAY'S TURBULENT WAVES

In his book, *The Mission of the Church in Today's World*, Fr. Alexander Schmemmann warns us to guard our souls against the ways of today's world. He reminds us that, "By rejecting Christ and condemning Him to death, the world...has been condemned to be in a spirit by which its form and ways have surpassed (its real purpose)...[Remember], the Kingdom of God is not 'of this world.'" (pg. 40). It seems that everything we hear in the news media promotes forms of "anti-Christianity" and atheism. There is little difference be-

tween "programs of information" on "newscasts" and many "subjects of study" at our educational institutions.

As the new school year draws near, it is more important than before for us to comprehend the need for our Sunday School. The words of St. Paul from the First Epistle to the Corinthians should press us to correctly play our role in nurturing our own spiritual lives, as well as those of our children: "If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which is in you." (1 Corinthians 3:17).

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ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM: THE CHURCH & FAMILY--"TEMPLES OF GOD"

The following excerpts from St. John Chrysostom's *Homily 20: On Ephesians 22-33*, help us to understand the words of St. Paul in speaking about the Sacrament of Holy Marriage: "This is a great mystery and I take it to mean Christ and the Church." (Ephesians 5:33).

-- "There is no relationship between human beings so close as that of husband and wife, if they are united as they should be..."

-- "Thus even from the beginning woman sprang from man, and afterwards from man and woman sprang both man and woman. Can you see how close this union is and how God providentially created it from a single nature? He permitted Adam to marry Eve, who was more than a sister or daughter; she was his own flesh...one flesh is father, mother, and the child, from the substance of the two commingled. For, indeed by the commingling of their seeds is the child produced, so that the three are one flesh..."

-- "Notice, however, that Paul explains love in detail, comparing it to Christ's love for the Church and our love for our own flesh...If we regulate our households [with such great love], we will also be fit to oversee the Church, for, indeed the household is a little Church. Therefore, it is possible for us to surpass all others in virtue by becoming good husbands and wives."*

*-*St. John Chrysostom: On Marriage and Family Life*, trans. By Catherine Roth and David Anderson, pgs. 43,44,55)



Στο βιβλίο του, *Η Άποστολή της Εκκλησίας Στόν Σύγχρονο Κόσμο*, ο Πατήρ Αλέξανδρος Σμέμμαν προειδοποιεί εμάς τους Ελληνο-Ορθοδόξους να διαφυλάσσουμε τις ψυχές μας από τις κινήσεις του συγχρόνου κόσμου. Μας υπενθυμίζει ότι, *<Ο κόσμος απορρίπτοντας και καταδικάζοντας τον Χριστόν σε θάνατο...έχει καταδικασθεί να είναι ένα πνεύμα στο οποίο η μορφή και οι τρόποι του έχουν ξεπεράσει (τον πραγματικόν σκοπόν του)...και η Βασιλεία του Θεού δεν είναι <έκ τοῦ κόσμου τούτου.>*

(σελ. 40). Φαίνεται ότι τα πάντα που ακούμε στα νέα προωθούν μορφές <αντι-Χριστιανισμού> και αθεϊσμού. Πολύ μικρή είναι η διαφορά μεταξύ <προγραμμάτων ειδήσεων> στις <εκπομπές νέων> και <θεμάτων μελέτης> στα εκπαιδευτικά μας ιδρύματα.

Καθώς πλησιάζει ένα νέο σχολικό έτος, είναι πιά σημαντικό από ποτέ στο παρελθόν να κατανοήσουμε την ανάγκη για το Κατηχητικό Σχολείο. Τα λόγια του Αγ. Παύλου στην Πρώτην Επιστολήν του προς τους Κορινθίους πρέπει να μας ωθήσουν να παίζουμε σωστά τον ρόλον μας για την καλλιέργειαν της πνευματικής ζωής των παιδιών μας: *<Εἴ τις τόν ναόν τοῦ Θεοῦ φθείρει, φθερεῖ τοῦτον ὁ Θεός. Ὁ γαρ ναός τοῦ Θεοῦ ἅγιός ἐστιν, οἵτινές ἔστε ὑμεῖς.>* (1 Κορ. 3:17).

Η φωνή της Εκκλησίας μας πρέπει να ακουσθῆ σήμερα, ὄχι ως φωνή καταδίκης, ἀλλά ως φωνή ἀγάπης, προειδοποιώντας μας να προσέχουμε τις ψυχές μας και να αγωνιζόμεθα ἐνάντια στις σκέψεις και τις πράξεις που, ἐνώ υψώνουν την στάσην μας μέσα στον φθαρτόν κόσμον ἀκόμη μας ἀπομακρύνουν ἀπό την χάριν του Θεού.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

The voice of the Church needs to be heard today, not as a voice of condemnation, but as a voice of love, warning us to watch over our souls and to struggle against worldly ideals which, although they may raise our status in the fallen world, they still distance us from God.

With the present-day "attack" on family values, this "attack" extends to the souls of our children. The spiritual lives of our children are interwoven in the spiritual life of the Church and the home. The early Church practiced infant baptism, as is practiced by our Church today, because the formation of the soul is deeply dependent on living the Christian faith as a family. This amounts to the everyday experience of children growing in the faith, consistent with St. Paul admonition to build on spiritual foundations (1 Corinthians 3: 9-17).

Dr. John Boojamra speaks extensively about the role of the family in this book, *Foundations for Christian Education*, which is available in our parish book store. According to Boojamra, *"Prayer is rooted in the nurturing life of the Christian family. This prayer is formational...a communication with the Persons of the Trinity....Attitudes characteristic of genuine prayer are necessary for genuine liturgy...Pedagogically speaking, the enabling mental and emotional faculties which permit one to pray to God our Father are the same as those which enable us to approach each other in the liturgy as well as the other as lover, husband, wife, or friend...Faith, [in the case of children], however, is modeled by the behavior of the parents; in a real sense the faith is enfolded in their lives."* (pg. 49 & 71).

We must all -- clergy and parish leaders included -- begin from now to direct our personal attention to our own souls, the "temple of God" within us. With our own faith in God, we know that it is not too late to work in the effort to counter today's ideals, so many of which are not at all sympathetic to our Orthodox Christian values. Such ideals are coming at us like "waves" -- the "air waves," which, in our modern world, transmit the "news."

Like St. Peter, we are to make every effort to approach Christ. Let us approach our Lord with faith, regardless of the turbulent waves of our age. Let us pursue a spiritual way of life that is consistent with the examples set forth by our Saints in their quests to find themselves continually in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

+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—**Shout aloud to the Lord, all the earth. Give thanks to Him; praise His name.**

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

Verse 2- **In the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God.**

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

Verse 3- **His place was made in peace and His dwelling in Zion.**

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- **The Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things were said concerning you, O city of God .**

Refrain: *"Soson imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."*

Verse 2 –**God established her forever.**

Refrain: *"Save us, O Son of God, Who Arose from the dead; we sing to You, Alleluia."*

Verse 3 – **The Most High sanctified His tabernacle.**

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- *My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready. To the saints on His earth, in them the Lord magnified all His will. I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *Ex ipsous katilthes (Tone 8)... (From on high You descended O Merciful Savior, You endured the grave for three days, that You might free us from sufferings. Glory to You Lord, our Life and our Resurrection.)*

Hymn for the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos: *En ti Ghennisi tin parthenian efylaxas....(In giving birth You have preserved Your virginity; at Your dormition You did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You passed over into Life, Mother Who has given birth to Life, and through Your prayers of intercession, from death You have redeemed 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 to Christ our God that He will save our souls.)*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday : *Tin en presvei-es akimiton Theotoke... (The Theotokos, unsleeping in intercession and the immovable hope of protection, could not be retained by any tomb or death. For being Life's own Mother, she was transferred to life by Him who dwelt in the ever-virgin womb.)*

Axion Estin *is chanted/sung*

Communion Hymn : *Enite ton Kyrion ek ton ouranon; enite Afton en tis ipsistis. Allelouia (Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Alleluia.)*

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETING - Next Sunday, August 25th, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, Sunday School staff and teachers are asked to join our **"Beginning-of-the-Year" Sunday School Meeting**. The agenda includes preparations needed for the new Sunday School year (2019-2020) beginning in September. See **Jim Christopoulos** for more details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hour: Rhonda Latkovic & Pauline Latkovic

PHILOPTOCHOS - Many thanks to those who have signed up to be hosts and hostesses for our Sunday Coffee Hour throughout much of August and September. Sunday, September 8th is still available, as are all the Sundays in October. Please see the calendar posted on the bulletin board and sign-up today. **Homemade fig jam is available today for a \$5.00 donation per jar. Proceeds benefit our Ladies Philoptochos organization.**

STEWARDSHIP - Those who can bring their Stewardship obligation to our parish up to date for 2019 are urged to please do so now during these summer months.

STREET LIFE PROJECT - Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, August 27th and Thursday, August 29th** so that you can help out in our ministry with the Street Life Project in feeding the homeless. The work that is needed is to help prepare the meals, so that they can be served from **6:00-7:30 p.m. at Miles Park in Indio (August 27th) and Sunrise Park in Palm Springs (August 29th)**. Those who want to donate usable clothing items for the homeless may drop them off outside of Fr. Ted's office in the parish hall. Please contact **Rhonda Latkovic** for more information and sign up on the "Homeless Outreach Volunteer Sign-up Form" on our parish bulletin board.

"SPRING CLEANING" IN AUGUST -- As we prepare for September, items which had long ago been given to our parish and which are no longer of use are being singled out to be thrown away or to be donated to Angel View. Please see Fr. Ted today regarding any such items in question.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 20th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 3: 9-17

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder, I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw —each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

Gospel Reading: St. Matthew 14: 22- 34

At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

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.