

JULY 7, 2019

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

ST. KYRIAKI THE GREAT MARTYR

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– Fr. Theodore Pantels,

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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.

ADDRESSING THE HUMAN SOUL

One could argue that there are at least three important characteristics of the human soul, aside from it being bodiless:

- 1) The innate human ability to identify with the love of God with gratitude. This Divine love includes *“every good And perfect gift which comes down from heaven from the Father of Lights.”* St. Gregory of Nyssa writes, *“[The soul]... seems somehow alone to preserve in itself the impression of divine blessedness... There is no limit to the operation of*

love.” (On the Soul & the Resurrection, by St. Gregory of Nyssa, trans: Catherine Roth, pg. 81).

- 2) The innate capacity to reason and contemplate. Humans can pray. *“Reasoning and thinking powers [are] distinctive to our nature, having in itself the imitation of the divine character.”* (On the Soul, pg. 56).

- 3) Free Will to desire and choose the good. *“The Ethical Drive [is] a kind of need and inclination of the soul toward the good and just ...”* (Toward Trans-Continued on page 2

ST. KYRIAKI THE GREAT MARTYR

St. Kyriaki was born in Nicomedia to Greek parents Dorotheus and Eusebia. A magistrate of Nicomedia also wished to betroth Kyriaki to his son, especially since she came from a wealthy family, but when she rejected his proposal, he denounced Kyriaki and her parents as Christians to the Emperor Diocletian. Diocletian ordered the family to be arrested. Kyriaki was sent to Nicomedia to be interrogated by his son-in-law and co-ruler, Maximian, who promised her wealth and marriage to one of Diocletian's relatives if she worshiped the pagan gods. When Kyriaki refused to renounce her faith, Maximian ordered that she be whipped and tried his best to have her worship pagan gods, using promises and threats; but when all these proved ineffective, he ordered her torture. During the night, Jesus Christ appeared to her and healed her wounds. Seeing the miraculous salvation of Kyriaki, many pagans converted to Christianity.

Apollonius, a successor of Maximian, finally sentenced her to death by the sword. As she was given some time to pray, she rendered her soul to God before the sword was lowered on her head. Pious Christians took her relics and buried them. At the time of her death, she was 21 years old.

-- Taken from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Kyriaki



Ισως τρία από τα πινσημαντικά χαρακτηριστικά, της ανθρωπίνης ψυχής, ενώ είναι ασώματος, είναι:

- 1) Η έμφυτη ανθρωπινή ικανότης να ταυτίζεται με την Θεϊκήν αγάπην με ευχαριστία. Η αγάπη συμπεριλαμβάνει <ή πάσα αγαθή δόσις και τό πάν δώρημα τέλειον άνθρωθεν καταβαίνον εκ του Πατρός των φώτων.>
- 2) Η έμφυτη δύναμις συλλογισμού και η ικανότης για να προσεύχεται.
- 3) Η αυτεξουσιότης να επιθυμεί και να διαλέγει το καλό, εκφράζοντας την αγάπην του Θεού. Αυτό είναι που ο Αγ. Βασίλειος λέγει είναι το έργον της ψυχής – να εξουσιάζη επί της κτίστεως του Θεού – όπως το λέγει ο Μ. Βασίλειος ο ίδιος: <Οπου δύναμις να εξουσιάζει, εκεί και η εικόνα του Θεού.>

Ο Σωτήρ μας συγκρίνει το μάτι του σώματος με τον νούν της ψυχής. Οπως το μάτι φωτίζει το σώμα, κατά τον ίδιον τρόπον, ο νους φωτίζει όλην την ψυχήν. Εάν ο νους είναι αγνός, η ψυχή κατανοείται την αγάπην του Θεού και συλλογίζεται με σκοπόν να διευθύνει τα θέματα της ζωής σύμφωνα με το θέλημα του Θεού. Ο Άγιος Βασίλειος λέγει ότι η ικανότης για τέτοια εξουσία συμπεριλαμβάνει την ικανότητα να εξουσιάζει ο άνθρωπος επί του εαυτού του. <[Είπε ο Θεός] ἄς ἐξουσιάζη ἐπί τῶν κτηνῶν καί ἐπί πάσης τῆς γῆς (Γεν. 1:26).> Ο Άγιος γράφει ότι υπάρχουν κτήνη εντός του ανθρώπου που ζωντανεύονται διά της ανησυχίας: η οργή, η απάτη, η πλεονεξία, κτλ. <Η οργή: δεν είναι πιν άγριο πράγμα από το κάθε σκύλο;>

Ομως, ο Χριστός ζητά από εμάς να έχουμε πίστην στην αγάπην του Θεού και να προσευχώμεθα στον Θεόν, ο Οποίος μας αγαπά.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

figured Life, by Stanley Harakas, pg. 99). The soul's drive is to express God's love. St. Basil says that this is the *work* of the soul, using the body so that, *together with God, it can govern God's creation.* "Where the power to rule is, there is the image of God." (On the Human Condition, by St. Basil the Great, trans: Nonna Verna Harrison, "Homily One").

Our Savior draws the analogy between the eye of the body and the mind of the soul. If our eye is filled with light, our whole body can see. Likewise, our mind is the spiritual eye for the soul. If our mind is pure our soul can comprehend God's love in order to reason and govern accordingly. In fact, according to St. Basil, the capacity to govern creation *includes* the capacity to govern ourselves with regard to our personal behavior patterns. If our mind is tainted with thoughts of anger, revenge, greed, etc., the image of God within us is temporarily marred and we can no longer rule properly. "[Of them He said], 'Let them rule...Let them rule the wild beasts.' (Gen. 1:26). You say, 'What beast do I have to rule in myself?' Indeed, you have thousands and a great crowd of beasts in yourself...Anger is a little beast. Is it not wilder than every dog? Is not deceit lurking in the soul harder to tame than every lurking bear?...Is not the one [seeking] revenge more dangerous than a viper?..." (On the Human Condition, by St. Basil the Great, "Homily One.")

A great many "beasts" which plague humanity are nurtured by anxiety. This is why our Savior cautions us against it. He appeals to the ability of our souls to reason things out, using our Free Will to make the right choices. Appealing to the soul's attraction to goodness, our Lord teaches us to look at the flowers of the field; the birds of the air and behold how robust and beautiful they are because God provides for them - and He adds, "How much more will your Heavenly Father [provide] for you who have so little faith!" In bringing the word *faith* into the conversation, Christ our God prompts us to use the powers of our soul to pray and to contemplate the love of God daily and to be thankful for all His good gifts.

+FR. THEODORE

Genie Lorenz from our Eisenhower Medical Center Chaplaincy Office recently shared these thoughts with one and all:

Watch your *thoughts*; for they become *words*.

Watch your *words*; for they become *actions*.

Watch your *actions*; for they become *habits*.

Watch your *habits*; for they become *character*.

Watch your *character*; for it becomes your *destiny*.

--"Attitude is a choice. Happiness is a choice. Optimism is a choice. Kindness is a choice. Giving is a choice. Respect is a choice. Whatever choice you make makes you you. Choose wisely." -- Roy T. Bennet

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, soston imas."*

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

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soston 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, soston"*

ANTIPHON II: *"Soston 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: *"Soston 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: *"Soston 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 Resurrection 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 inner depths and darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out: O Life-Giving Christ our God, we give glory.)*

Hymn for St. Kyriaki : *Ee amnahs tou Isou... (Your own ewe-lamb cries to You loudly, O Jesus, and she says, "For my Bridegroom do I long, and seeking You I now contend; and I am crucified and buried with You in Your baptism. I suffer for Your sake, that I may reign with You. I die for You that I may also live in You. Accept me as an unblemished sacrifice as I offer myself to You with love." At her entreaties and intercessions, save our souls, O Merciful Lord.)*

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 : *Prostasia ton Christianon... (O Protection of Christians that never falls, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.)*

READINGS: Epistle: Galatians 3: 23-29; 4: 1-5 / Gospel: St. Matthew 6: 22-33

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.)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hour: Matushka Gloria Lehman

PHILOPTOCHOS - Coffee Hour hosts and hostesses are still needed for Sundays in August. See **Pat Dalkas** to sign up to host a coffee hour.

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.

BOOK STORE - New books coming to our parish book store: *The Orthodox Study Bible* and *Introducing the Orthodox Church*, by Fr. Anthony Coniaris. Check out our parish book store throughout the summer!

BIBLE STUDY IN JULY - Bible Study classes in July are held on Tuesdays: July 16th, 23rd and 30th at 10:00 a.m. Please join us!

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Fr. Ted will be away this week from **Monday, July 8th to Saturday, July 13th**, returning to our parish to celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 14, 2019. In an emergency, please contact **Fr. Ted: (760) 880-5869** *and* **Fr. David Kruse**, pastor of St. Raphael Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms: **(760) 408-6116**. Fr. Ted will communicate with Fr. David so that he can meet every spiritual need that arises.

Epistle Reading: Galatians 3:29 & 4:1-5

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons and daughters.

Gospel Reading: St. Matthew 6:22-33

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two

masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

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.