

JULY 14, 2019

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

SAINTS OF THE 4TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert, CA.92261

Tel: (760) 568-9901

or: (760) 880-5869

– 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.

WHAT ABOUT SAINTS?

The Saints of the 5th Century upheld the Holy Tradition of the Apostles at the 4th Ecumenical Council in 451 by declaring Church dogma that Christ our God is Perfect God *and* Perfect Man.

As we commemorate these Saints today, the opportunity is given for us to discuss the Orthodox teaching regarding sainthood in general. The Orthodox Church proclaims as saints those who teach and live according to the examples set forth by the Ever-Virgin Mary and the ori-

ginal followers of Christ, the 12 Apostles. As examples for us to follow, they lived with a mission, which was to preach that, through the death and Resurrection of Christ, there is eternal salvation for all of humanity. Indeed, this ministry would include all that is found in Holy Scripture (Acts 2: 42). "[The Book of Acts]...gives clear evidence of the basic rudiments of what for the first Christians defined 'Church:' reception of the Gospel by faith, repentance, Baptism, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joining the new community of faith, specified as devo-

Continued on page 2

AN ANALYSIS OF ST. PAUL'S MESSAGE TO TITUS - St. John Chrysostom, in his "6th Homily On Titus," explains that St. Paul wants us to observe two things:

- 1) Good works are important for one to experience God's love and to acquire the blessings of salvation.
- 2) While the admonition for doing good works includes teaching the Gospel message, it is unprofitable to engage in quarrelling over "foolish questions," "genealogies," and "contentions about the law."

St. John says, "*Having considered the care and exceeding love of God for us, we are exhorted to almsgiving and that, not in a common or slight manner, but 'with carefulness to maintain good works. (Titus 3:8).'* This means to help the injured not only with money, but by patronage and protection...(and with good instruction*). For this is to maintain good works."

St. John soon adds, "*But when one is perverted and predetermined not to change his mind, whatever may happen, why should you labor in vain, sowing upon a rock, when you should spend your honorable toil upon you own people...Why do you beat the air? What means, 'being condemned of himself?' Because he cannot say that no one has told him... Since, therefore, after admonition he continues the same, he is self-condemned."*

*--Taken from Complete Works of St. John Chrysostom. (*my note-Fr. Ted)*



Οι Άγιοι του 5ου αιώνας υποστήριξαν την Ιερών Αποστολικήν Παράδοσην στην Τετάρτην Οικουμενικήν Σύνοδον το έτος 451, δηλώνοντας το δόγμα της Εκκλησίας ότι ο Χριστός είναι Τέλειος Θεός και Τέλειος Άνθρωπος. Καθώς μνημονεύομεν σήμερα αυτούς τους Αγίους, δίνεται η ευκαιρία να συζητήσουμε την διδασκαλίαν της Εκκλησίας σχετικά με τους αγίους γενικώς.

Η Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία διακηρύσσει ως αγίους αυτούς που διδάσκουν και ζουν σύμφωνα με τα παραδείγματα που διατυπώνουν η Παναγία και οι αρχικοί οπαδοί του Χριστού—δηλ. οι 12 Αποστόλοι. Ως παραδείγματα για να ακολουθήσουμε, έζησαν με μιά αποστολή, η οποία ήταν να κηρύξουν ότι, διά του θανάτου και της Αναστάσεως του Χριστού, υπάρχει αιωνία σωτηρία για όλην την ανθρωπότητα. Μάλιστα, το Αποστολικό έργο θα περιλαμβάνει αυτό που διαβάζομεν στην Αγίαν Γραφήν (Πράξεις 2:42). <[Το Βιβλίο των Πράξεων]...μας δίνει σαφείς αποδείξεις για τα βασικά θέματα περί του τι εννοούσαν οι πρώτοι Χριστιανοί με την λέξην Εκκλησία—δηλ., υποδοχή του Ευαγγελίου με πίστη, μετάνοια, Βάπτισμα, την χάριν του Αγίου Πνεύματος και προσχώρηση στην νέαν κοινότητα πίστεως, ως αφοσίωση στην διδασκαλίαν των Αποστόλων [περί του Μυστικού Δείπνου] και της προσευχής.> (Αποστολικό Ευαγγέλιο, υπο Αιδ. Θεοδώρου Στυλιανοπούλου, σελ. 63). Επομένως, η διδασκαλία των Αγίων της κάθε γενεάς είναι η αλήθεια που αφορά <την σωτηρία της ολοκλήρου ανθρωπότητας και του ανθρώπου προσωπικώς κατά όλην την οντότητάν του.> (Η Οδός των Πατέρων, υπο Αιδ. Ιωάννου Χρυσσαυγή, σελ. 18) +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

tion to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the 'breaking of bread' and prayers." (The Apostolic Gospel, by Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos, pg. 63). Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos notes that the Tradition of the Holy Apostles is a daily life-style that embodies worship: "The genuine Apostolic Tradition consists of Church, Orthodox Faith, and the Eucharist." (The Mind of the Orthodox Church, pg. 80). Thus, the teaching of the Saints of every generation is the truth pertaining to the salvation "of the whole of humanity and the whole of the human person." (The Way of the Fathers, by Fr. John Chryssavgis, pg. 18).

The Church is the community of Saints composed of individuals called to receive Christ into their lives, "With the fear of God; with faith and with love." These words describe one's life-style lived in the community of the Church for the benefit of one's own soul and for the benefit of humanity in general. At the same time, Christ, as Perfect God and as Perfect Man, personifies this life-style. As Perfect God, Christ conquered death through His own death and Resurrection. As Perfect Man, Christ, in His own humility, obedience and love, "qualifies" human beings to participate in His Divine power through the Sacraments.

1. "Fear of God" is actually the virtue of *humility*. Christ God is the personification of humility, which is expressed as *obedience* to the Will of God the Father.
2. *Faith* in God is to believe in God as proclaimed in the Holy Bible, with faith that God's promises are truly a reality.
3. God is *love*. We then love God. With love for God, we love one another. Through love for God and for one another the world understands that we are followers of Christ, Who is the Light of the world.

Serving as examples for us to follow are the Saints, because they lived by the *Apostolic* interpretation of the Bible, which is untainted by false teachings, or by today's liberal ideas. Such teachings and ideas are founded upon *selected* passages of the Bible, made by those who hold a personal agenda apart from the *totality* of the Gospel message. This is how heresies are formed, causing such "quarrellings" as those mentioned in St. Paul's Epistle to Titus. True to Apostolic Tradition, St. Paul advises us to teach the fullness of the Gospel as lived by the Church community, so that those who are in error can correct themselves. Otherwise, they stand "self-condemned" for rejecting the Gospel's full meaning.

Learning as much as we can about our Orthodox Christian Faith, which embodies the *totality of the Gospel message*, and trying to live accordingly in doing good works, gives way to saintliness, whereby we too become "the light of the world."

+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, 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: *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 the Saints of the 4th Ecumenical Council: *Yper-dhe-dhoxasmenos... (You are glorified above all, O Christ our God, Who established our Fathers as radiant stars upon the earth and so, through them, we all are guided to the true Faith. O compassionate Lord, glory be unto You.)*

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: Titus 3: 8-15 / Gospel: St. Matthew 5: 14-19

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: Tasia Richards

PHILOPTOCHOS - We need coffee hour hostesses during August & September. Please see the calendar posted on the bulletin board and sign-up today.

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 BIBLE STUDY IN JULY - Bible Study classes for July 16th, 23rd and 30th will center on the **Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament**. This Book is found after the **Book of Job** and before the **Book of Ecclesiastes**.

2020 ST. GEORGE GREEK FESTIVAL DATES -- Our 2020 St. George Greek Festival is set to be held on the weekend of February 22nd-23rd, 2020. Everyone is asked to mark their calendars and make plans to help out!

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 16th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, July 20th.....**ST. PROPHET ELIJAH - Divine Liturgy at San Bernardino**
(We are invited to join in the Church services of our sister parish in San Bernardino. Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m. at St. Prophet Elijah Greek Orthodox Church in San Bernardino...1035 Inland Center Drive, 92408.)

<p>Epistle Reading: Titus 3:8-15</p> <p>Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.</p>	<p>Gospel Reading: St. Matthew 5: 14-19</p> <p>The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."</p>
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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.