

JUNE 16, 2019

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

PENTECOST SUNDAY

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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.*

APOSTOLIC ZEAL

In the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation, the Holy Myrrh is "*Christ's grace and the presence of the Holy Spirit.*" Accordingly, St. Paul teaches us that the Holy Spirit grants to us "the power of prayer" (1 Corinthians 12:3) and that prayer is the essence of spiritual life. Prayer is the effort of the human being towards participation in the power of God, which ultimately transforms us into being "imitators" of Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:8). Our efforts in living a prayerful way of life, combined with the grace of

The Holy Spirit, allows us to do all that our Lord has done, imitating His power throughout His earthly sojourn. Christ took upon Himself flesh in order to conquer sin and death. For us to be victorious over sin, the Holy Spirit gives us the divine power of Christ's flesh. On this point, St. Paul wrote to the Romans: "*For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be*

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PENTECOST SUNDAY

"Suddenly there came from heaven a sound like the rushing of a violent wind and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues like flames of fire, divided among them and resting on each one. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2: 2-4). So the history of the Christian Church begins, with the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles at Jerusalem during the feast of Pentecost. On that same day through the preaching of St. Peter three thousand men and women were baptized and the first Christian community at Jerusalem was formed.

Before long the members of the Jerusalem Church were scattered by the persecution which followed the stoning of St. Stephen. "*Go forth, therefore,*" Christ said, "*and make all nations My disciples*" (Matthew 28: 19). Obedient to this command the Apostles preached wherever they went, at first to Jews, but before long to Gentiles, also. Some stories of these Apostolic journeys are recorded by Luke in the Book of Acts; others are preserved in the tradition of the Church. Within an astonishingly short time small Christian communities sprang up in all the main centers of the Roman Empire and even in places beyond the Roman frontiers.

– Taken from the book, The Orthodox Church, by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware



Στο Μυστήριο του Αγίου Χρίσματος, το Άγιο Μύρο είναι <Χριστοῦ χάρισμα καὶ Πνεύματος Ἁγίου παρουσία>. Ο Ἀπόστολος Παῦλος μας διδάσκει ὅτι το Ἅγιο Πνεῦμα χαρίζεται <δύναμιν ευχῆς> (1 Κορ. 12:3) καὶ ἡ προσευχή εἶναι ἡ οὐσία τῆς πνευματικῆς ζωῆς. Ἡ προσευχή εἶναι ἔργον ἀνθρώπου πρὸς συμμετοχήν στις δυνάμεις τοῦ Θεοῦ. Μάλιστα, ὁ Ἀγ. Παῦλος τονίζει ὅτι ὁ σκοπός μας εἶναι νὰ εἴμεθα <μιμηταί> τοῦ Χριστοῦ (1 Θεσσ. 4:8). Ἀλλὰ αὐτός ὁ σκοπός εκπληρώνεται διὰ τῆς χάριτος τοῦ Ἀγ. Πνεύματος. Στους Ρωμαίους ἔγραψε: <Ἐπειδὴ τὸ ἀδύνατον εἰς τὸν νόμον, καθ' ὅτι ἦτο ἀνίσχυρος διὰ τῆς σαρκός, ὁ Θεός πέμψας τὸν Ἐαυτοῦ Υἱὸν μέ ὁμοίωμα σαρκός ἁμαρτίας, καὶ περὶ ἁμαρτίας, κατέκρινε τὴν ἁμαρτίαν ἐκ τῆς σαρκί, διὰ νὰ πληρωθῇ ἡ δικαιοσύνη τοῦ νόμου εἰς ἡμᾶς τοὺς μὴ περιπατοῦντας κατὰ τὴν σάρκα, ἀλλὰ κατὰ τὸ Πνεῦμα.> (Ρωμ. 8:3-4).

Ἡ προσωπική μας <ζωή προσευχῆς> πρέπει νὰ συνδέεται με τὴν συμμετοχήν μας στα Μυστήρια τῆς Εκκλησίας, τα ὁποῖα παίρνουν τὴν ἀρχὴν τὴν ἀπὸ τὴν Ἡμέραν τῆς Πεντηκοστής. Ὄταν ἐκτελοῦνται τα Μυστήρια τῆς Εκκλησίας, τὸ Ἅγιο Πνεῦμα ἐρχεται στις ψυχές μας καὶ μας καθοδηγεῖ πρὸς τὴν ἐνωσὴν μας με τὸν Χριστόν. Ὁ Χριστός εἶναι <ἐν τῷ μέσῳ ἡμῶν,> καὶ κατὰ συνέπειαν, εἶναι ὁ Χριστός παρὼν σε ὅλον τὸν κόσμον. Σήμερα ἔχουμε τὴν πρόκληση νὰ υιοθετήσουμε τὸν <Ἀποστολικὸν ζήλον,> ἀφοῦ ἐξούσαν οἱ Ἀπόστολοι καθημερινῶς στὴν *πραγματικότητα* τῆς Ἀναστάσεως καὶ τῆς χάριτος τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος, διακηρύσσοντας με λόγια καὶ ἔργα τὴν Χριστιανικὴν ὁμολογίαν – ὅτι Ἀνέστη ὁ Χριστός!
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." (Romans 8:3-4).

Our personal "life of prayer" must be connected to our participation in the Sacraments of the Church, which take their beginning from the Feast of Pentecost. Every time when the Sacraments of the Church are performed, the Holy Spirit enters our souls and guides us to union with Christ. Christ is present in our lives and, by extension, Christ is present in the world. Today we are challenged to adopt for ourselves the "Apostolic zeal."

Following the descent of the Holy Spirit, the lives of the Apostles changed radically. No longer were they hiding in fear of the Pharisees; they made themselves visible and vocal in the effort to convert their neighbors and, ultimately the world, to Christ, the Living God. Their efforts were offered to God with love, selflessly. They did not seek any credit for themselves. Their concerns over "social standing," or the ability to debate with the philosophers of their time were extremely secondary to the need to impart the Wisdom of God to all people everywhere. This is implied in the Hymn for today's Feast: "Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You made the fishermen all-wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them You drew the world into Your net. O Lover of mankind, glory to You." This hymn invites us to take upon ourselves their Spirit -- that is, the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos, in his book, *The Apostolic Gospel*, further explains, saying, "*The primary revelatory events of Christ, Spirit, and Church are the preeminent treasures of faith. They deserve intentional celebration and forthright proclamation not simply as conceptual theological truths, but as transforming realities at work in the communal and personal life of believers.*" (pg. 48). The reality of Christ's Resurrection from the dead; the reality of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives through participation in the Sacraments; the reality of the Church -- this reality is to be embraced by the world at all times and places: "*The Christian confession of faith...is not about who Christ was, but who He is: risen and living.*" (*Apostolic Gospel*, pg. 49)

Let us make every effort to live our lives in the light of the Resurrection by calling to mind the Gift of the Holy Spirit given to us through the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation. It is the Gift of God's Wisdom -- or, in other words, the Gift of fervent and living prayer to Christ our God.

+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**—The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament shows the creation of His hands**Refrain:** *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."***Verse 2**-. Day to day utters speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.**Refrain:** *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."***Verse 3**-There is no speech nor language where their voices are not heard. Their proclamation went forth into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.**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**- May the Lord hear you in the day of afflictions; may the name of the God of Jacob defend you.**Refrain:** *"Soson imas Paraklite Agathe, psallontas si alleluia."***Verse 2** -May He send you help from His holy place, and may He support you from Zion.**Refrain:** *"Save us, O Good Comforter, we sing to You, Alleluia."***Verse 3** - May He remember every sacrifice of yours, and may your whole burnt offering be honored.**Refrain:** *"Soson imas Paraklite Agathe, 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**-*You gave him his soul's desire, and You did not deprive him of his lips' request. O Lord, the king shall be glad in Your power, and in Your salvation he will greatly rejoice. For You anticipated him with blessings of goodness; You placed a crown of precious stones on his head.***Pentecost Sunday Hymn:** *Evloghitos-ee Christe o Theos...(Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You made the fishermen all-wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, You drew the whole world into Your net. O Lover of all people, glory be to You.)***Pentecostal Kontakion Hymn:** *Ote katavas tas glossas...(When the Most High God descended and confused the tongues, He divided the nations. When He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all people to unity. And with one voice we glorify the All-Holy Spirit.)***At the Entrance with the Gospel:** Instead of *"Defte proskinisomen..."* the following: *Ypsothiti Kyrie en ti dynami Sou. Asomen ke psalloumen tas dynasti-ahs Sou. Soson imas Paraklite Agathe, psallontas Si, Alleluia (Be exalted, O Lord, in Your power; we will sing and praise Your mighty deeds. Save us, O Comforter-we sing to You Allelouia.)*Instead of *"Aghios o Theos,"* we sing: *Osi eis Christon evaptistite; Christon enedisastheh (As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.)***READINGS:** Epistle - Acts 2: 1-11 / Gospel – St. John 7: 37-52; 8: 12**Megalinarion:** Instead of *"Axion Estin,"* we sing: *Mee tis fthorahs diapyrra...(Without sustaining corruption You still conceived a Child and lent Your flesh to the Word and Great Fashioner. O Mother Who knew no man, O Virgin Theotokos, the Container and Holder of Your uncontained and infinite Creator, You do we glorify.)***Communion Hymn** - *Το πνευμα σου το αγαθον οδηγησει με εν γη ευθεια. Αλληλουια. (Your Good Spirit will rightly guide me upon the earth. Allelouia.)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hour: Nelly Zambrano

PHILOPTOCHOS - Coffee Hour hostesses are still needed for Sundays in July & August. Volunteers needed to help with our homeless outreach on **Thursday, June 27th**. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and see **Rhonda Latkovic** for details.

MEMORIAL WALL & GARDEN - Our Memorial Wall & Garden is nearing completion. We have on-ly **eight nameplate spaces** left as of today. The donation cost is \$175.00 per nameplate (up to 25 letters). Please place your order today. See **Rhonda Latkovic** (tel.714-875-4661), Project Coordinator. We have tentatively planned a **special service to bless the Memorial Wall for Sunday, June 23rd**.

ST.SOPHIA SUMMER CAMP -- The annual summer camp program held at St. Sophia Camp for Orthodox Christian children and youth will include two sessions this year: **Session 1** - from **Saturday, July 21, 2019 - Saturday, July 27, 2019** and **Session 2**- from **Saturday, July 27 - August 3, 2019**. For information to register your children, contact **Perry Skaggs** at SaintSophiaCamp@gmail.com, or call: (323) 397-5436.

ENTHRONEMENT OF ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS - His Eminence **Archbishop Elpidophoros** of America will be enthroned as the seventh Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America on **Saturday June 22, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. (Eastern Time)**, at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Manhattan (337 East 74th Street, NYC). The Service will be broadcast live and made available through satellite and the internet at www.goarch.org.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, June 17th.....FEAST OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Orthros-8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 18th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

“Then the Apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John and Andrew, Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers...When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

— Acts 1: 12-14 & 2: 1-4

*The Ladder for June 2019 is
lovingly sponsored by
Annette Lewis*

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.