

**MAY 26, 2019**

**ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT**

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# THE LADDER

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN



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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.

## **GOD IS SPIRIT**

Today's passage from the Gospel of St. John deals as much with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism as much as it deals with the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation.

With the Feast of Mid-Pentecost (this past Wednesday, May 22nd), the "*mind of the Church*" goes to the work of the Holy Spirit, as the mission of the Church began its development following the Feast of Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit always reveals Christ. When Christ was baptized in the

Jordan, the Holy Spirit appeared, in the form of a Dove, so that we can know that Christ is God. At the Transfiguration, the Holy Spirit appeared in a luminous cloud, allowing the Apostles to understand that Christ is God. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit gave various gifts to the Apostles so that they could preach to the world that Christ is the True God. During the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, the Holy Spirit sanctifies the Holy Gifts, so that each one of us who partakes of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ

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## **ST. PHOTINI (THE SAMARITAN WOMAN)**

The holy Martyr Photini was the Samaritan Woman, with whom the Savior conversed at Jacob's Well (John. 4:5-42). Nero ordered that Saint Photini and her five sisters who had themselves converted to be followers of Christ, Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskeva and Kyriake were to be sent to the imperial court under the supervision of Nero's daughter Domnina. Saint Photini converted both Domnina and all her servants to Christ. She also converted a sorcerer. The sisters of Saint Photini suffered terrible torments. Nero gave orders to flay their skin.

After this, Nero had Saint Photini brought to him and asked if she would now relent and offer sacrifice to the idols. "*O most impious of the blind, you profligate and stupid man! Do you think me so deluded that I would consent to renounce my Lord Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols as blind as you?*"

Hearing such words, Nero gave orders to throw the martyr down the well, where she surrendered her soul to God.

---Taken in part from: <http://oca.org/saints/lives>



Η σημερινή περικοπή εκ του Ευαγγελίου του Αγ. Ιωάννου ασχολείται τόσο με το θέμα του Αγίου Βαπτίσματος όσο και με το θέμα του Αγίου Χρίσματος. Όσο είμεθα ηνωμένοι με τον Χριστόν διά του Αγίου Βαπτίσματος, τόσο ζούμεν εν Πνεύματι Αγίω διά του Χρίσματος.

Με την Εορτήν της Μεσο-Πεντηκοστής (Τετάρτη, 22 Μαΐου), ο <νοῦς τῆς Εκκλησίας> πηγαίνει στο έργον του Αγίου Πνεύματος, καθώς η αποστολή της Εκκλησίας στον κόσμο άρχισε την ανάπτυξήν της από την ημέραν της Πεντηκοστής. Το Άγιο Πνεύμα πάντοτε αποκαλύπτει τον Χριστόν. Όταν εβαπτίσθηκε στον Ιορδάνη, το Άγιο Πνεύμα, <έν εἶδει περιστεράς,> επαρουσιάσθηκε γιά να γνωρίσουμεν ότι ο Χριστός είναι ο Θεός. Στην Μεταφóρφωσιν, το Άγιο Πνεύμα, ως <φωτεινό σύννεφο>, έδωσε στους Αποστόλους να καταλάβουν ότι ο Χριστός είναι ο Θεός. Στην Πεντηκοστήν, το Άγιο Πνεύμα έδωσε χαρίσματα στους Αποστόλους να κηρύττουν σε διάφορες γλώσσες ότι ο Χριστός είναι ο Αληθινός Θεός. Κατά την εκτέλεσιν της Θ. Λειτουργίας, το Άγιο Πνεύμα αγιάζει τα Τίμια Δώρα γιά να αγιασθῆι ο άνθρωπος, ο οποίος μεταλαμβάνει το Άγιο Σώμα και Αίμα του Χριστού. Ο σκοπός της ζωής μας είναι να αγιασθούμεν!

Ο Χριστός ζει μέσα στον κόσμο διά των μελών της Εκκλησίας, ενώ ζούμεν την έν Χριστῶ ζωή διά της χάριτος του Αγίου Πνεύματος. Όσο ο ιερεύς εύχεται γιά τον καθέναν μια απλή ευχή: <ο Θεός μαζί σου!>, τόσο υποτίθεται ότι ο καθέννας εύχεται να είναι μαζί με τον Θεόν σε όλες τις καθημερινές του υποθέσεις, έτσι ώστε να ευλογηθῆι όλος ο κόσμος όπως έγινε διά των Αποστόλων κατά την ημέραν της Πεντηκοστής. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

can become sanctified. Indeed, the purpose of our lives is to become sanctified!

Christ lives in the world through the people of the Church, since we live the "life in Christ" through the grace of the Holy Spirit. As much as the priest prays for the individuals of his parish, saying the simple prayer, "God be with you!", so much so is it understood that each person prays *to be with God* in all of the dealings of everyday life so that the world can be blessed as it was through the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost.

*To be with God*, we recall the words of our Savior as He addressed the Samaritan Woman, saying, "God is Spirit and whoever worships Him must worship in Spirit and in truth." (St. John 4: 24). Orthodox spiritual life is a matter of "living our Baptismal vows." This means that we enter into an unseen warfare against temptations and evil thoughts or motives. In this warfare, we are given the opportunity for spiritual healing through the Sacrament of Holy Confession (the renewal of our Baptism), knowing that we have been given the Seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit through Holy Chrismation. We are enlivened again by the Holy Spirit - *if we want to be and if we are sincere towards God*. Our *will to be sincere* means that we are not playing games with our own lives, nor with the lives of others, with regard to our relationship with God.

In as much as the mission of Christ's Church in the world began with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit will protect the Church against the gates of Hell. That means that every one of the faithful members of the Church are divinely protected. With faith in this fact, the individual members of the Church continue to pray collectively for the forgiveness of sins committed by individuals and by a fallen society. This is why the Orthodox Church does *not permanently excommunicate* those who have fallen into heresy or sin, although while one dwells in heresy or sin, one may not partake of Holy Communion until he or she repents.

The Church does not give up on any one of Her people. Given the efforts we are to make to encourage people to repent -- and their willingness to do so -- we have faith that our Lord will guide one's entire life (at any level) through unceasing struggles, which include victories mixed with defeats, as one gains greater spiritual strength and wisdom, all in God's good time. For this reason, no matter how "down and out" one may be, there is always reason to have hope in the Risen Christ our God and Savior.

+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 to God, all the earth. Sing now to His name; give glory to His praise.**

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

**Verse 2—Say to God, "How fearful are Your works."**

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

**Verse 3—Let all the earth worship You and sing to You.**

**Refrain:** *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soston 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:** *"Soston imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)*

**Verse -1 —May God be gracious to us, and bless us. May He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.**

**Refrain:** *"Soston imas Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas Si, alleluia."*

**Verse 2—That we may know His way on the earth, Your salvation among all the Gentiles.**

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

**Verse 3—Let the peoples give thanks to You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.**

**Refrain:** *"Soston imas Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas Si, alleluia."*

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

**People:** *"O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou..." (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)*

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**ANTIPHON III:** *Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face. As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire. So shall the sinners perish from the face of God. And let the righteous be glad. This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

**Sunday Resurrection Hymn:** *Christos Anesti... (Christ is Risen from the dead; O Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs bestowing life.)*

**Second Resurrection Hymn:** *To fedron tis anastaseos... (When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more and Christ our God has Risen from the dead and granted to the world the Great Mercy.)*

**Hymn for Mid-Pentecost:** *Mesousis tis eortees, dhipsosan mou... (O Lord, midway through the feast, give drink to my thirsty soul from the waters of true religion. For to all You the Savior cried aloud, "Let whoever is thirsty come to Me and drink." O Christ our God, the fountain of life, glory to 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 with Christ God that He will save our souls.)*

**Kontakion Hymn:** *Ei ke en tafo katilthes... (Though You did descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet did You destroy the power of Hades and did arise, as Victor, O Christ God, calling to the Myrrh-bearing Women: 'Rejoice!' and giving peace to Your Apostles, O You Who does grant Resurrection to the fallen.)*

**READINGS— EPISTLE— Acts 11: 19-30 / GOSPEL— St. John 4: 5-42**

**Instead of "Axion Estin,"** *O Angelos evoh-a ti Keharitomeni... (The Angel cried aloud to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin; and again I say Rejoice. Your Son has truly risen from the grave on the third day. Be glad and exultant, divine gate of the light. For your Son, namely Jesus, having set within the tomb, rose and is shining more brightly than the sun, and He has fully illumined all the faithful, O Lady full of the grace of God.)*

**Communion Hymn:** *Soma Christou... (Receive the Body of Christ; taste from the immortal fount.)*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Memorial Luncheon** - The Memorial Luncheon today is offered for the Eternal Memory of our beloved sister in Christ, **Anna Kyriacou**, and is sponsored by her family. We are grateful to God for George Argyros, who prepared the luncheon and to our Philoptochos Ladies who are serving today's Memorial Luncheon.

**MEMORIAL** – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Anna Kyriacou (40 days)**, the beloved wife of **Nicholas Kyriacou** and mother of daughter, **Christal**, and mother-in-law of her husband, **Michael Karnaze** and grandmother of **Anna, Julia**, and **Kathryn**. Anna Kyriacou is the mother of son, **Jim (Demetrios) Kyriacou**, and mother-in-law of his wife, **Georgia**, and grandmother of **Nicholas, Basil** and **Maria**. Also, Anna Kyriacou is the mother of son, **Gig Kyriacou**, and mother-in-law of his wife, **Kathleen**, and grandmother of **Christianna** and **Michael**. Anna Kyriacou is also the aunt of our brother in Christ, **Fr. Gary Kyriacou**, pastor of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Camarillo, California. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, Risen from the dead, grant Eternal Life to **Anna Kyriacou** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Nicholas Kyriacou** and the entire family. **MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – We need Coffee Hour sponsors for the end of June, July and August. See **Pat Dalkas**. The new Philoptochos Directory will be updated in the summer and issued in the fall. Members in good standing will be listed. You are in good standing if you have paid your 2019 membership dues. See **Rhonda Latkovic** or **Linda Petalas**.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - The End-of-the-Year ceremony for this year's Sunday School program will take place on **Sunday, June 2, 2019**, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Following the ceremony, as is customary, the Sunday School students and their parents and maybe their grandparents will enjoy an afternoon of lunch and bowling, as they end the school year with fun and fellowship. Please contact Jim Christopoulos for directions and details.

**NEW ICONS** - Today we celebrate the installation of the new mosaic icons that grace the North and South walls of our church temple. On the North wall, the new icons are: **The Transfiguration of our Lord** and **Pentecost**, with the theme of the Holy Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. On the opposite wall, the new icons are: **The Annunciation** and **The Presentation of our Lord in the Temple**, with theme of our humanity in God - God became Man so that we can become like God; Christ our God was presented to the Temple, as we present our children to the Church and He welcomes them into His presence.

## WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

Monday, May 27th.....Memorial Day (Office Closed)

Tuesday, May 28th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 30th.....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 so that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a "crying room" in the narthex for your use. God Bless.