

AUGUST 2, 2020

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER



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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.*

BLESSING THE FIVE LOAVES

Today's Gospel passage serves as the basis for the Church's Prayer Service for the health and wellbeing of Her faithful. The Service itself is known as "The Blessing of the Five Loaves," or "Artoklasia." The central prayer of this Church Service refers to our Lord's miracle of feeding the multitude of five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. We ask our Lord to multiply them "*in this church; in this city; in the homes...*" and to sanctify

His faithful servants, who partake of them.

This prayer interprets this miracle of Christ as the One offering the multitudes not only physical nourishment, but spiritual nourishment, as well. The *five loaves* represent the Five Books of the Law contained in the first part of the Old Testament and the *two fish* represent the Gospels and the Epistles of the New Testament. Taken together, they are the "written" Body of Christ, Who in the fullness of time be-

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THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD ON AUGUST 6th

Our Lord had spoken to His disciples many times not only concerning His Passion, Cross, and Death, but also concerning the coming persecutions and afflictions that they themselves would endure. Since all these evils were near at hand, but the enjoyment of good things which they hoped to receive in their stead was yet to come, our Savior desired to give them full assurance, evidently and openly, concerning that glory which is prepared for those who endure to the end. Therefore, fulfilling that which He had promised shortly before, that "*there be some standing here which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom*" (Matt. 16:28), He took His three foremost disciples and ascended Mt. Tabor, where He was *transfigured* before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light. Suddenly, together with this awesome and marvelous radiance of light, there appeared those pinnacles of the Prophets, Moses and Elias. With their presence with Jesus at this moment, they showed that Jesus is the Lord of both the living and the dead.

In addition, a radiant cloud overshadowed them and out of the cloud they heard that same voice which had been heard at the River Jordan upon the Baptism of Christ, testifying to His Divinity and saying: "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased; hear ye Him*" (Matt. 17: 5).

--Taken in part from www.goarch.org



Η σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή χρησιμεύεται ως βάση για την Ιεράν Ακολουθίαν της Εκκλησίας υπέρ υγείας και ευημερίας των πιστών της. Η ίδια η Ακολουθία είναι γνωστή ως η *Ακολουθία της Αρτοκλασίας*. Η κεντρική προσευχή αυτής της Ακολουθίας αναφέρει το θαύμα του Κυρίου μας που τροφo-δότησε το πλήθος των πέντε χιλιάδων ανθρώπων με μόνο πέντε άρτους και δύο ψάρια. Με αυτήν την ευχή παρακαλούμε τον Κύριον να πολλαπλασιάσει τους άρτους «σε αυτήν την εκκλησία, σε αυτήν την πόλη, στα σπίτια...» και να αγιάσει τους πιστούς δούλους Του.

Αυτή η ευχή ερμηνεύει το αναφερόμενο θαύμα του Χριστού ως ο Ένας που προσφέρει στα πλήθη όχι μόνο τη φυσική τροφή, αλλά και την πνευματική τροφή. Οι πέντε άρτοι αντιπροσωπεύουν τα Πέντε Βιβλία του Νόμου που περιέχονται στο πρώτο μέρος της Π. Διαθήκης και τα δύο ψάρια αντιπροσωπεύουν τα Ευαγγέλια και τις Επιστολές της Καινής Διαθήκης. Συνολικά, είναι το «γραπτό» σώμα του Χριστού, ο Οποίος, με το πλήρωμα του χρόνου, έγινε τέλειος Άνθρωπος. Όπως στην περίπτωση της σίτισης των πέντε χιλιάδων, η διατροφή μας σήμερα δίνεται από τη χάρη του Αγίου Πνεύματος που μετατρέπει το ψωμί και το κρασί της Θ. Ευχαριστίας σε πραγματικό Σώμα και Αίμα του Χριστού.

Οι ευλογίες του Σωτήρος μας έχουν σκοπό να μας «μεταμορφώνουν» όπως ο ίδιος ο Χριστός μεταμορφώθηκε στον Θαβώρ. Στις 6 Αυγούστου θα έχουμε την εορτή της Μεταμορφώσεως. Ο Άγιος Πέτρος θα μας υπενθυμίσει ότι ο προορισμός μας είναι να είμεθα συμμετοχοί της θεϊκής φύσεως (2 Πετ.1:4). +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

came fully Man. As in the case of feeding the five thousand, our nourishment today is given by the grace of the Holy Spirit Who transforms the bread and wine of the Eucharist into the actual Body and Blood of Christ.

We are nourished by Christ for the healing of our bodies and souls; the forgiveness of sins, and for life everlasting. The purpose of our physical and spiritual health is for us to glorify Christ our God by doing good deeds in His Name and by teaching the Gospel of our Savior's love. The Service of the Blessing of the Five Loaves goes on to tell us, by way of the concluding short hymn, that those who live for worldly pleasures become impoverished, since such pleasures eventually fade away, while those who seek the Lord shall never lack any good thing.

As was true for the individual members of the multitude, we each are nourished according to our capacity. We cannot take into ourselves individually all of the majesty of God's blessings. Thus, Christ our God pours all of His blessings into the Church to be accessed by each one according to his or her ability, while at the same time, His blessings are given to everyone throughout the world without limit. This role of the Church is represented by the gathering of the left-over fragments by the Disciples of our Lord (12 basketfuls).

The blessings of our Savior are meant to "transfigure" us as Christ Himself was Transfigured on Mt. Tabor, the celebration of which is on August 6th. In this event, Christ revealed His Divine nature as God, while still being perfect Man. St. Peter, along with Sts. John and James were eye witnesses of this event. St. Peter would later remind humanity that we are all destined to be partakers in the Divine nature, saying, "We are given exceedingly great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." (2 Peter 1:4). +THEODORE

NOTE: When unable to attend Church Services in person due to state regulations regarding the Coronavirus or personal illness, follow the Divine Liturgy through live-streaming provided by various Archdiocese parishes at: <https://www.goarch.org/live-broadcasts>.

BIBLE STUDY-Tuesday, August 4, 2020 -10:00 a.m.

1. In the "search" link at the top of your computer type in: [https:// zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join).
2. Enter the Meeting ID: **832 4167 9782**.
3. Then, enter the Password: **898242**.
4. We will be studying 1 Corinthians 3: 9-17. For those who do not want to use a computer, use a cell phone to call: **1-669- 900-6833** . Enter the Meeting ID number: 832 4167 9782 and then enter the Password: 898242.



PRAYERS FOR READING HOLY SCRIPTURES

“Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Blessed are You at Your throne of the glory of Your Kingdom, seated above the Cherubic angels, now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

“Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us, also, reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all these things that are pleasing to You. For You are the Light of our souls and bodies and to You we give glory together with Your Father Who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen”

EPISTLE— 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

GOSPEL—St. Matthew 14:14-22

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Liturgically, we have now entered the fasting season in honor of the Dormition of the Holy Mother of God, known as “The Fifteen Day Fasting Season” of August (August 1-15). During this season, the Paraklisis Service is read regularly in our parishes. Note the Feast Day of the Transfiguration of our Lord on August 6th.

Monday, August 3rdParaklisis - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, August 5th.....Paraklisis and Vespers – 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 6th.....TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD –Orthros-8:30 a.m./D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Friday, August 7th.....Paraklisis - 10:00 a.m.



The Ladies Philoptochos Society of St George

Cookbook

Hello to All! It's time to share those Special Secret Recipes

Please join St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. George in helping to create our very own cookbook. Participation is easy...just send us your favorite recipes! All Greek and non-Greek recipes are welcome. And if your friends are "Great Cooks", we would love their recipes, also!

Our categories will be:

Appetizers - Breads

Soups & Salads. Vegetables

Entrees (Meat/Seafood/Vegetarian)

Desserts & Pastries

Greek Lenten Foods

Religious Offerings

Kids Recipes

This and That (our miscellaneous!)

We are very excited to have a cookbook as our new Philoptochos fundraiser. There are so many organizations and individuals in need that will benefit from the profits of the cookbook sales.

All recipes can be submitted by any of the following:

The church office

By mail: P. O. Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA. 92261

By email: pamzav@yahoo.com.

Please submit recipes by August 31, 2020.

If anyone would like to join our fun, food loving committee, please contact Pam Zaverdas.

Thank you!

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of St George Cookbook Committee

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