

AUGUST 9, 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.*

"IT IS I! DO NOT BE AFRAID!"

The Transfiguration of Christ on Mt. Tabor allows us to know that we are to be "transfigured," as well. This is seen in God's Holy Saints and is indicated by way of the "haloes" that are depicted in their icons.

This Divine Light of God which exists in our souls has the purpose of guiding us as we make decisions throughout our lives. Very often, however, we ignore this Light, having the idea that we

do not need God in our lives. This defiles our existence as "temples of God," to use words like those of St. Paul when writing to the Corinthians. While we are as individuals a "temple of God," we are, collectively, as members of the Church a "temple of God," also. For this reason we are to have faith in Christ our God as we commit ourselves and one another to Him.

In this, today's Gospel passage provides a lesson. The boat of the Apostles represents our Church with Christ

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ST. MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

Today is the Feast Day of St. Matthias the Apostle. After Judas fell from his apostleship by transgression (Acts 1: 25), he hanged himself out of despair, thus ending his life (Matt. 27: 5). Therefore, so that the number of the Twelve would be complete, all the disciples gathered in one place after the Ascension of the Savior (the number of men and women being 120). At that time they chose two men from among them, Joseph, called Barsabas, who was also surnamed Justus, and Matthias, and they set them in the midst. Then they prayed to God and cast lots, "and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven Apostles" (Acts 1: 15-26). Upon having taken the place of Judas, Matthias fulfilled the work of apostleship and the prophecy concerning Judas, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David: "And his bishopric let another take" (Ps. 108(109):8). It is said that Matthias went on to preach the Gospel in Ethiopia.

The ancient document known as the *Synopsis of Dorotheus* seems to confirm the tradition that St. Matthias preached the Gospel to people in the interior of Ethiopia, at Hyssus Phasis.

Sources indicate that St. Matthias died in martyrdom.

– Taken in part from www.goarch.org/ &
St. Matthias-Wikipedia.



Από τη Μεταμόρφωση του Χριστού στο Όρος Θαβώρ ξέρουμε ότι είναι ο προορισμός μας να «μεταμορφωθούμε» επίσης. Αυτό φαίνεται στους Αγίους του Θεού και υποδεικνύεται μέσω των «φωτοστέφανων» που απεικονίζονται στις εικόνες τους. Αυτό το Θείο Φως του Θεού που υπάρχει στις ψυχές μας έχει σκοπό να μας καθοδηγήσει προκειμένου να λάβουμε καλές αποφάσεις κατά όλην την διάρκεια της ζωής μας. Πολύ συχνά, ωστόσο, παραμελούμε αυτό το Φως, με την ιδέα ότι δεν έχουμε ανάγκη από τον Θεό. Αυτό μολύνει την ύπαρξή μας ως «ναοί του Θεού,» καθώς γράφει ο Απ. Παύλος στους Κορινθίους.

Ενώ είμεθα ως άτομα «ναός του Θεού», είμεθα, συλλογικά, ως μέλη της Εκκλησίας, «ναός του Θεού», επίσης. Για αυτόν τον λόγο πρέπει να έχουμε πίστη καθώς αφοσιωνόμαστε τον εαυτόν μας και τον πλησίον μας στον Χριστόν από την ευγνωμοσύνη μας προς Αυτόν.

Από αυτήν την άποψη, η σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή παρέχει ένα μάθημα. Η βάρκα των Αποστόλων αντιπροσωπεύει την Εκκλησία μας με τον Χριστό υπεύθυνο, για να μας προστατεύσει από τις «καταιγίδες» των ατελειών του κόσμου μας.

Σήμερα ευρισκόμεθα υποχρεωμένοι να πλοηγηθούμε ενάντια στη «καταιγίδα» του Coronavirus και τις αστικές αναταραχές. Ο Κύριος είπε στους Αποστόλους Του: «Μη φοβάστε, εγώ είμαι.» Λέγει το ίδιο σε εμάς! Με πίστη ας προσευχηθούμε με σκοπό να ακούσουμε την φωνήν του Χριστού στις ψυχές μας για να είμεθα συμμετοχοί της Μεταμορφώσεώς Του και να αντιμετωπίσουμε τις «καταιγίδες» του κόσμου.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

in charge, to protect us from the “storms” of our world’s imperfections.

Today we find ourselves responsible for navigating against the “storm” of the Coronavirus and the civil unrest all around us. Indeed, it is a time when we feel uncertainty and fear about the future. St. John Chrysostom serves to compare the tumults of our present day circumstances with the tumults of the storm threatening the lives of God’s Apostles. He notes that Jesus *allowed* His Disciples to be tossed about on the sea for quite some time. They truly became afraid of losing their lives. But, Jesus used their fear, as St. John says, *to “thoroughly awaken...their hardened heart...Thus, He neither presented Himself to them at once. Instead, in the fourth watch He went unto them, walking upon the sea [Matt. 14:25]. In this way He was instructing them not to seek for deliverance from their pressing dangers in a hasty manner, but to bear all occurrences courageously...Together with the storm, the sight of Jesus troubled them, no less than the storm. Therefore, neither did He remove the darkness, nor straightway make Himself manifest, training them...to be ready to endure...The more intense their alarm, the more did they welcome His coming, [when] suddenly Jesus spoke to them saying, ‘Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid.’ [Matt. 14:27].”* (Nicene & Post Nicene Fathers, Vol. 10; “Homily 50 On the Gospel of St. Matthew,” St. John Chrysostom, pg. 312).

With these words, our Lord is calling all of us to endure trials with faith and to overcome our fears. We are summoned to allow Him to work with us *so that we can work with Him*. On this point, a portion of a morning prayer by Metropolitan Philaret is helpful: *“Your Will, O Lord, governs all. In all my deeds and words, guide my thoughts and my feelings. In unforeseen events, let me not forget that all are sent by You. Teach me to act firmly and wisely, without embittering or embarrassing others. Give me strength to endure the fatigue of the coming day with all that it shall bring. Direct my will. Teach me to pray. You pray within me Yourself.”* As we hear the voice of Christ God within us, we too will come to share in His Transfiguration, thus having the courage and strength to overcome life’s storms.

+FR. 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 11, 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 4:9-16. For those who do not use a computer, use a cell phone to call: **1-669-900-6833**. Enter the Meeting ID number: **832 4167 9782**; 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 3:9-17

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder, I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw —each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

GOSPEL --St. Matthew 14:22-34

At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

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 Feasting Season ends with the celebration of the Dormition of the Mother of God on Saturday, August 15th.

Monday, August 10th.....No Paraklisis (church cleaning)

Tuesday, August 11th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. (“Zoom” format)

Wednesday, August 12th.....Paraklisis - 10:00 a.m.

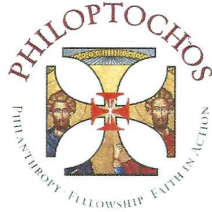
Parish Council “Zoom” Meeting - 2:30 p.m.

Friday, August 14th.....Paraklisis/Vespers - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 15th.....DORMITION OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS

Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy- 9:30 a.m.

(Please call 706-880-5869 or 760-568-9901 to be placed on our “Attendance List.”)



LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY of ST. GEORGE **CRITICAL FOOD DRIVE - AUGUST 12th-SEPTEMBER 2nd**

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted our local community since March. The critical need for non-perishable food continues. We have set a goal to donate **ONE TON of food** by this fall. So far, we have donated 902 pounds, so we are almost halfway there! More families than ever are out of work, unable to pay their mortgage or rent and are desperately trying to make ends meet. *Did you know 1 pound of non-perishable food like the items listed below feeds 4 meals?*

We are collecting food donations during the month of AUGUST at the church. You may bring your donations into the hall and place them in the designated area **between the hours of 10:00 AM-12:30 PM, Monday-Friday & on Sundays from 9:30 AM-11:00 AM.** If you are unable to shop for groceries, please consider a monetary donation that we will use to purchase food for our drive. (Please make your check out to Ladies Philoptochos-memo food drive.)

Below is the shopping list of the foods that are needed: (Smart & Final and the 99 Cent Store have competitive low prices!):

Rice
Beans
Spaghetti Sauce
Pasta
Cereal/Oatmeal
Canned Chili
Canned Tuna/Chicken
Canned Soup/Stew
Canned Fruit/Vegetables
Peanut Butter

Please make sure products are within expiration dates. NO GLASS containers. No cans larger than 15 1/2 oz.

Thanks For Your Support!