

JULY 19, 2020

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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Palm Desert, California 92260

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# THE LADDER



## Mailing Address:

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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.

## FAITH BECOMES ENERGY

In accordance with the Apostolic Tradition of the Church, the Ten Commandments have always been interpreted as one single Law of God. From this point of view, the observance of one of the Ten Commandments is, at the same time, the observance of all the Commandments. Likewise, the violation of one of "the least" of the Commandments is also a violation of all the Commandments.

In truth, the entire Law is summarized as the "Law of Love" – 1) love for God, and, 2) love for neighbor. This is because

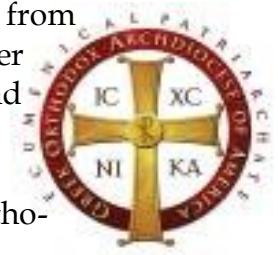
God Himself loves each one of us, individually, and, all of humanity, collectively. In addition, the love of Christ our God emanates from humility, rather than from pride. It is pride that distorts our comprehension of Holy Scripture, the purpose of which is to reveal our Lord's love. In their humility, the Saints of our Church collectively embody the illumined understanding of Scripture and how to live according to God's Law of Love. Without humility, love escapes us. Our efforts to express love are tainted by deceptions which

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## PROCLAMATION FROM THE FOURTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL--

*"The bishops acclaimed the Tome of St. Leo the Great, Pope of Rome (died 461), in which the distinction between the two natures is clearly stated, although the unity of Christ's person is also emphasized. In their proclamation of faith they stated their belief in 'one and the same son, perfect in Godhead and perfect in humanity, truly God and truly human... acknowledged in two natures unconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the difference between the natures is in no way removed because of the union, but rather the peculiar property of each nature is preserved, and both combine in one person and in one hypostasis.'" (Taken from [https://orthodoxwiki.org/Fourth\\_Ecumenical\\_Council](https://orthodoxwiki.org/Fourth_Ecumenical_Council)).*

The Fourth Ecumenical Council also established the order of the Christian Patriarchates as follows: **1. Rome and Constantinople; 2. Alexandria; 3. Antioch; and, 4) Jerusalem.** These are the Christian Patriarchates standing to this day. By 1054, the doctrine of Papal Infallibility was proclaimed from the Patriarchate of Rome. This doctrine was rejected by the other Patriarchates, leading to the Schism between Christian West and Christian East. This gave way to what we know today as the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Christian Church. Since the Schism, the Church of Moscow is now among the Orthodox Christian Patriarchates. +FR. THEODORE



Σύμφωνα με την Αποστολική Παράδοση της Εκκλησίας μας, οι Δέκα Εντολές ερμηνεύονταν πάντα ως ενιαίος Νόμος του Θεού. Από αυτή την άποψη, η τήρηση μίας από τις εντολές ισοδυναμεί με την τήρηση όλων των εντολών ταυτόχρονα. Ομοίως, η παραβίαση μίας από τις Εντολές είναι παραβίαση όλων των Εντολών.

Στην πραγματικότητα, ο Νόμος του Θεού συνοψίζεται ως ο «Νόμος της Αγάπης» - 1) η αγάπη για τον Θεόν και 2) η αγάπη για τον πλησίον - διότι ο Θεός ο Ιδιος αγαπά τον κάθε άνθρωπο, ατομικά και όλους τους ανθρώπους, συλλογικά. Επίσης, η αγάπη του Χριστού προέρχεται πάντα από την αρετή της ταπεινότητας παρά από την υπερηφάνεια. Η υπερηφάνεια παραμορφώνει την κατανόηση της Γραφής, ο σκοπός της οποίας είναι να αποκαλύψει την αγάπη του Κυρίου μας. Στην ταπεινοφροσύνη τους, οι Άγιοι της Εκκλησίας μας ενσωματώνουν συλλογικά τη φωτισμένη κατανόηση της Γραφής και πώς να ζούμε σύμφωνα με τον Νόμο της Αγάπης του Θεού. Χωρίς ταπεινότητα, η αγάπη εξαφανίζεται. Οι προσπάθειές μας να εκφράσουμε την αγάπη μολύνονται από εξαπατήσεις που προκαλούνται από την υπερηφάνεια, η οποία είναι και η αιτία για συγκρούσεις.

Είναι η υπερηφάνεια που μας κάνει «διστραμμένους», όπως θα το πει ο Αγ. Παύλος προς τον Τίτο. Τέτοια «διαστροφή» δημιουργεί διαχωρισμό, όπως φαίνεται έντονα στην σημερινή μας κοινωνία γενικά. Ας απορρίπτουμε την υπερηφάνεια, ώστε να κάνουμε όλοι μαζί το έργο της Εκκλησίας -- και, κατά αυτόν τον τρόπο, να είμεθα «το φως του κόσμου.»  
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

come from pride and cause strife.

It is pride that makes us “perverted,” to use language like that of St. Paul to Titus and, which, by extension, creates division in our communities. Distortions of the Gospel message are vividly apparent in our society in general. Let us reject the demon of pride so that we can all humbly do the work of the Church and be “the light of the world.”

The work of the Church is to tangibly express the love of God to each person in the world equally, but with the special care for each person’s individual strengths and circumstances. It is the *enlivening* of the Ten Commandments, which in itself becomes a single life-style. St. Gregory Nazianzus explains that Christ God is the Light of the world and, as followers of Christ, we participate in this Divine Light, becoming ourselves “the light of the world.” (ref. *Orations and Letters of St. Gregory Nazianzus*, “Oration 40- On Holy Baptism,” pgs. 392-395 [Apple Books]). This is similar to St. Athanasios’ saying, “God became Man so that Man can become God.” On this point, St. Maximos the Confessor states that the Creator became *fully* man as the exact likeness of humanity in its perfection. Bearing Christ within our souls as the Virgin Mary bore Him in Her Person, makes us like God by grace. He notes, “This is what I take to be the actualization of the Commandment, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your souls and with all your might, and your neighbor as yourself’ (St. Matthew 22:37-39)...For, God made us so that we might become ‘partakers of the divine nature.’ (2 Peter 1:4).” (*Philokalia*, Vol. II, “First Century of Various Texts,” St. Maximos the Confessor, pg. 171-172).

The teachings of such Saints as St. Gregory Nazianzus, St. Athanasios the Great and St. Maximos the Confessor, were formulated into doctrine by the Saints of the Fourth Ecumenical Council, whom we commemorate today. We are invited to turn doctrine into a life-style, making our faith a source of divine, life-giving energy for those around us.  
+FR. THEODORE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**In conformity to the recent directives of the State of California, our parish church is closed. Therefore, the Divine Liturgy today will be celebrated behind closed doors by Fr. Ted and Deacon Euthym only. Follow the celebration of the Divine Liturgy through live-steaming telecasts from various parishes of our Archdiocese at: <https://www.goarch.org/live-broadcasts>.**

### **BIBLE STUDY-Tuesday, July 21, 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 .

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 — Titus 3:8-15

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.

### GOSPEL— St. Matthew 5:14-19

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."

### PASTORAL MESSAGE FROM HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

*“The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.” -Psalm 29:11*

It was on July 20, 1974 that the people of northern Cyprus suffered greatly during the invasion of the Turkish forces. Since that day, their lives have forever been changed. The destruction, persecution, loss of homes, jobs and lives are constant reminders of those very dark days which still persist 46 years later.

While we enjoy many freedoms in this country, many other parts of the world continue to suffer under oppression. We must never take for granted the liberty that we enjoy, and we must always remember in prayer those whose rights have been taken away and continue to be persecuted.

**As you gather on Sunday, July 19, 2020, whether in church or worshipping virtually, I ask that each parish in our Metropolis offer a Memorial Service in remembrance of all those who lost their lives during the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.** Let us remember our brothers and sisters in northern Cyprus who are still suffering, and let us lift them up in prayer seeking peace and justice for their homeland through the Lord’s wisdom and mercy. We must continue to honor them with our prayers as well as with our ongoing commitment for the restoration of the freedom which they so deserve.

With Love in Christ,

**++GERASIMOS**

Metropolitan of San Francisco

You can help our St. George Philoptochos Chapter help others by helping them now. Everyone can participate in some way to support the St. George Philoptochos Cookbook project, which is newly created in the effort to raise funds needed for philanthropic projects going forward. Our parish Philoptochos is truly the "heart and soul" of our St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert outreach. See details in the flier below.



## 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](mailto: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

**Pam Zaverdas – Chairperson 847-814-0299**

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