

**JUNE 7, 2020**

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

**74-109 Larrea Street**

**Palm Desert, California 92260**

**Website: [www.go-stgeorge.org](http://www.go-stgeorge.org)**

**Email: [pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com)**



# THE LADDER

**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

## **Mailing Address:**

**P.O. Box 4755**

**Palm Desert, CA.92261**

**Tel: (760) 568-9901**

**or: (760) 880-5869**

**– 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.*

## **THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE**

*“And there appeared to them [the Apostles] tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2: 3,4).*

The purpose of language is to save souls. Even our everyday conversations are to be edifying. Our worship is to be inspiring not only for ourselves, but for all those who thirst for “heaven on earth”. Simply to “hear our language” is not important if we do not understand its

meaning, because the meaning is what moves our souls.

One of the most basic lessons of Pentecost Sunday is that language is merely a means for telling people about, “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit.” Nothing happens unless we and others dear to us and around us *understand and truly experience* the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit so that we then

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## **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

We have been inspired – a word that literally means “breathed into.” The Spirit has been breathed into us. The Spirit has inspired us. The mighty rushing wind has blown the Spirit into us. And if we are filled with the Spirit, if we are inspired, that means the mission of the redemption of Jesus Christ is at work in us. Every part of us is being bought back from exile, set free from slavery.

To be filled with the Spirit is eminently practical, because it means that we are motivated by something different than what motivates the world. We are motivated by re-creation. We are being created anew by Christ. We are growing in love. We are growing in humility. We are growing in courage, in strength, in boldness for Christ [in His love]. These are all things that are visible and knowable in ourselves and in others.

Pentecost for us is now. Right now, we are receiving the life-giving breath of God, the creative Spirit, sent forth to re-create us and to renew all of mankind and indeed the whole creation.

From “Pentecost is the Re-Creation of Mankind,” by Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick



«Και ἐπλήρωσεν ὅλον τον οἶκον οὐ ἦσαν καθήμενοι, καὶ ὠφθησαν αὐτοῖς διαμεριζόμενοι γλώσσαι ὡσεὶ πυρὸς, ἐκάθισε τε ἐφ' ἓνα ἕκαστον αὐτόν, καὶ ἐπλήσθησαν ἅπαντες Πνεύματος Ἁγίου καὶ ἤρξαντο λαλεῖν ἐτέραις γλώσσαις...» (Πραξ. 2.3-4)

Ο σκοπὸς τῆς γλώσσας εἶναι νὰ σώσει ψυχές. Ἀκόμη καὶ οἱ καθημερινές μας συνομιλίες πρέπει νὰ εἶναι ἐπιμελητικές. Ἡ λατρεία μας γίνεται πρὸς ἐμπνευση ὀχι μόνον τοῦ εαυτοῦ μας, ἀλλὰ ὅλων ἐκείνων ποὺ διψοῦν γιὰ τον «Παράδεισο ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς». Ἡ ἀπλή «ἀκρόαση τῆς γλώσσας μας» δὲν εἶναι σημαντική ἀν δὲν καταλαβαίνουμε τὸ νόημα, γιὰτι τὸ νόημα εἶναι αὐτὸ ποὺ κινεῖ τὶς ψυχές μας.

Ἐνα ἀπὸ τὰ πῶ βασικά μαθήματα τῆς Κυριακῆς τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς εἶναι ὅτι ἡ γλώσσα εἶναι ἀπλῶς ἓνα μέσον γιὰ νὰ ομιλήσει κανεὶς στοὺς ἀνθρώπους πρὸς «τὴ χάρη τοῦ Κυρίου μας Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ τὴν ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ Πατέρα καὶ τῆς κοινῶνίας τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος». Τίποτα δὲν συμβαίνει ἐκτὸς ἐὰν εμεῖς καὶ ἄλλοι ἀγαπητοὶ μας καὶ γύρω μας καταλάβουμε καὶ βιώσουμε πραγματικά τὴ χάρη τοῦ Κυρίου μας Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, τὴν ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ Πατέρα, καὶ τὴν κοινῶνία τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος, ἔτσι ὥστε εμεῖς τότε νὰ φέρνουμε τοὺς ἄλλους στὴν Βασιλείαν τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Μόνον ὅταν ομιλοῦμεν «τὴν γλώσσαν τῆς τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἀγάπης» θὰ μπορέσουμε νὰ ζοῦμεν σὲ κοινῶνία τῆς εἰρήνης. Ὅλες οἱ εὐχές τῶν Μυστηρίων τῆς Ἐκκλησίας περιέχουν τὴν γλώσσα τῆς θεϊκῆς ἀγάπης.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

bring others into “Christ’s world.”

Only when we speak the language of Christ’s love will we be able to live in a society of *peace*. All of the prayers of the Church’s Sacraments are comprised of the language of Divine Love.

This year has been filled with fears from illness and hatred. Caring for one another by way of “shelter-in-place,” has been replaced by unrest and we now fear that the love needed to care for one another may, in fact, grow cold. There are those who have begun to wonder if the Antichrist is soon to appear, causing widespread global anxiety and doubt.

However, one of Orthodoxy’s spiritual teachers of our time, Fr. Nikon of Mt. Athos, reminds us to have faith in God and to love one another through prayer, asking our Lord for increased faith and the grace of His Love so that we can truly love one another. As for the Antichrist, he offers these words:

*“We live at the end times. But, there is a space of time between now and then. St. Irenaeus says, ‘It is safer and less dangerous to wait and see the outcome of events rather than guessing and using your imagination on what is going to happen and how.’ My friends, when we were baptized, Christ sealed us through the priest’s hands with the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation. This is The seal of the Holy Spirit (our personal Pentecost). Why doesn’t anyone say not to fear, since God has chosen us as His own? We have His seal. Why do we think about the seal of the Antichrist (666) and not about the seal of God? We seem to be silent about something written in the Book of Revelation, where it says that when the Antichrist comes, God is going to seal the Christians, as well. Angels who received the order from God say, ‘We seal on the foreheads of the servants of God.’ (Rev. 7:2-3). In Revelation 9, we read, ‘The seal of our God is on their foreheads so as not to be harmed or be in danger.’ (vs. 4).”* (YouTube podcast-search- Fr. Nikon).

Let us then not fear the Antichrist. Let us rather guard the seal of the Holy Spirit given to us when we embraced Christ at our baptism. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to work in us so that we can pray, and, as we pray, let us ask our Savior for stronger faith in His love so that we can love one another, speaking the *language of love*! With Christ’s divine love we will overcome the illnesses and the hatred that threaten the salvation of our souls.

+FR. THEODORE

**NOTE:** Following the **Metropolis of San Francisco Clergy Meeting on Friday, June 5th**, a suggestion was made that, in the early stages of parishioners returning to worship in church, it would be more efficient to prepare for the celebration of only one Divine Liturgy per week -- that being the Sunday Liturgy. **Therefore, the Divine Liturgy will not be celebrated this Wednesday, June 10th.**



## 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*

*"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- ACTS 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

GOSPEL-John. 7:37-52; 8:12

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and

drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.' " Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. The officers then went back to the chief priest and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

**The church is "open" on a limited basis. IMPORTANT NOTE:** Those who have discussed their intention to attend services with either Presvytera Petula or Athena Snarskis are placed on a list for entrance into the church this Sunday. Do not jump to the conclusion that, because you are on the list for this Sunday, you are automatically granted permission to enter for the next Liturgy. *Each Liturgy will have a different list of names* so that those who could not attend one Liturgy may be able to attend the next. This is all done in order to comply with social distancing requirements. Those who do not attend this Sunday's Liturgy may "attend" a live-streamed Liturgy offered by the many other parishes of our Archdiocese. Go to the website telecasts from our Archdiocese at: <https://www.goarch.org/live-broadcasts>.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL-"Zoom"** Sunday School Class for Sunday School students today: **Sign in at 11:30 a.m. at:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79700614502?pwd=c1JrUWFyMFoOVnp1TVVMYk2wWMOZLdz09>

**COFFEE HOUR AFTER CHURCH SERVICES TODAY – 11:30 a.m.** See enclosed flier for Zoom Meeting information.

**BIBLE STUDY-Tuesday, June 2, 2020 -10:00 a.m.** In the "search" link at the top of your computer type in: <https://zoom.us/join>. Enter the **Meeting ID: 820 6752 0518**. Then, enter the **Password: 194231**. Please join Father Ted on ZOOM for a weekly Bible Study discussion. Use the above ID and Password for the month of June beginning 6/2/2020.

## **SAINT GEORGE BIBLE STUDY GROUP** **VIA ZOOM RECURRING EVERY TUESDAY @ 10:00 AM**



**Meeting ID: 820 6752 0518**  
**Password: 194231**

Please join Father Ted on ZOOM for a weekly Bible Study discussion. Use the above ID and PW for the month of June beginning 6/2/2020.

**Saint George Virtual Coffee Hour**  
**on Zoom, sponsored by Philoptochos**  
**All Are Welcome!**



**Join us on Sunday, June 7th @ 11:30 AM**

To join go to <https://zoom.us/join> and type in the meeting ID and Password

ID: 885 0545 9492

PW: 172597

Rhonda Latkovic is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: St. George Philoptochos Virtual Coffee Hour Zoom Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime 11:30 AM (PST)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88505459492>

Meeting ID: 885 0545 9492

Password: 172597

One tap mobile

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 885 0545 9492 Password: 172597

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88505459492>