

JUNE 28, 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.

THE DIDACHE

“The Didache” is a document that dates back to the Apostolic era. The word “didache” is a Greek word meaning “The Teaching,” and the document is catalogued as *Codex Hierosolymitanus*, while preserved at our Patriarchate of Constantinople. Many modern scholars believe that “The Didache” could date back as early as 50 AD -- the blossoming to the Apostolic Church. At the time, the Church had no New Testament; just a few “Good News” documents were in circulation. It is a document of our Church’s Holy Tradition, handed down

to us from the Holy Apostles themselves. It is believed that this document was sent to the Church in Britain by St. John the Divine. A copy of “The Didache” is still available through Amazon. One edition is entitled: *The Didache: Teaching the Twelve Apostles*, translated by R. Joseph Owles. Its message is based on our Lord’s teaching from today’s Gospel: *No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.* (St. Mat-

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“UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH” – *In answer to St. Peter’s confession, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God,” Our Lord responded, “...I say unto you, you are Peter and upon this rock I will build My church.” (St. Matthew 16: 16-18). The early Christians never considered that St. Peter (the man) was “the rock.” Rather, the “rock” is the truth that was proclaimed by St. Peter: i.e., that Christ is indeed the Son of the Living God, Who is our Savior. This truth is the foundation of the Church and it is this interpretation of our Lord’s words that is upheld by both St. Peter and St. Paul.*

Historically, at the time when St. Peter wrote his Second Universal Epistle, Gnostics were opposing the Church of Christ. Gnostics were philosophers who taught that people should shun the material world and embrace the spiritual world. But, they were not Christians. It is the Church that St. Peter defends, not himself, when he writes, “For we (the community of the Apostles) did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.” (2 Peter 1:16 in reference to St. Matthew 17: 1-9).

Like St. Peter, St. Paul refused to boast about himself: “For we (the community of the Apostles) do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves are your bondservants for Jesus’ sake...We have this treasure in our earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” (2 Corinthians 4: 5 & 7).

+FR. THEODORE



«Η Διδαχή» είναι ένα έγγραφο που χρονολογείται από την Αποστολική εποχή. Επαληθεύεται ότι «Η Διδαχή» περιέχει τις διδασκαλίες του Σωτήρος μας. Είναι έγγραφο της Αγίας Παραδόσεως της Εκκλησίας μας που σχετίζεται με την σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή: «Οὐδείς δύναται δυοὶ κυρίους δουλεύειν· ἡ γὰρ τὸν ἕνα μισήσει καὶ τὸν ἕτερον ἀγαπήσει, ἡ ἐνὸς ἀνθέξεται καὶ τοῦ ἐτέρου καταφρονήσει· οὐ δύνασθε Θεῷ δουλεύειν καὶ μαμωνά.» (Ματθ.6.24).

Ἐτσι, λέει «Η Διδαχη.» «Υπάρχουν δύο τρόποι, ἕνας πρὸς τὴ ζωὴ καὶ ἕνας πρὸς τὸν θάνατο ... Ὁ τρόπος ζωῆς εἶναι αὐτός: Πρῶτα, νὰ ἀγαπᾶς τὸν Θεὸ που σε ἐπλασσε. Δεύτερον, ἀγαπήστε τὸν πλησιον ὡς ἀγαπᾶτε τὸν εαυτὸ σας ... Εὐλογήστε ὅσους σας καταραστούν. Προσευχῆθε γιὰ τοὺς ἐχθροὺς, καὶ νηστέψτε γιὰ ὅσους σας διώκουν...Ὅτε νὰ εἶναι κανεὶς ἐγωιστῆς οὔτε στοχαστῆς κακῶν σκέψεων. γιὰτὶ ἀπὸ αὐτὰ τὰ πράγματα δημιουργοῦνται βλασφημίες. Ἀλλὰ νὰ εἴστε ἡπιοὶ, ἀφοῦ οἱ πρᾶοι θὰ κληρονομήσουν τὴ γῆ ... Θα ἐξομολογήσετε τὶς παραβάσεις σας στὴν ἐκκλησία καὶ δὲν θὰ κάνετε προσευχὴ με κακὴ συνείδηση. Αὐτὸς εἶναι ὁ τρόπος τῆς ζωῆς...Ἐάν εἴστε σὲ θέση νὰ διατηρήσετε ολόκληρο τὸν ζυγὸ τοῦ Κυρίου, θὰ εἴστε ἀφογοὶ. ἀλλὰ, ἀν δὲν εἶσαι ἰκανός, κάνε αὐτὸ που μπορεῖτε.»

Ὁ τρόπος θανάτου εἶναι ὁ ἐξῆς: [Ὁ μίσος ἐναντίον τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ ἡ λατρεία τοῦ <εαυτοῦ>]. Ὁ τρόπος τοῦ θανάτου εἶναι, στὴ συνέχεια, δολοφονίες, εἰδωλολατρίες,...μαγεία,...ἡ ψευδὴ μαρτυρία, ὑποκρισία,...υπερηφάνεια, τὸ πείσμα, ἡ ζηλοτοπία, κακία, ὑπερηφάνεια, ἀπόρριψη τῆς ἀλήθειας, ἀγάπη τοῦ ψέματος, ματαιδοξία...ἀδιαφορία γιὰ τοὺς φτωχοὺς ...»

Ἀς ζητήσουμε τὸν τρόπο τῆς ζωῆς με πίστη στὸν Χριστόν!
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

thew 6: 24).

Thus, says "The Didache:"

"There are two ways, one of life and one of death... The way of life is this: First, love God Who made you; Secondly, love your neighbor as you love yourself...Bless those who curse you; pray for your enemies, and fast for those who persecute you...Neither be self-willed nor a thinker of evil thoughts; for from these things blasphemies are engendered. But be meek, since the meek shall inherit the earth...You shall confess your transgressions in church and not go to prayer with an evil conscience...

The way of death is this: [hatred against God and the worship of self]. The way of death is then murders, idolatries,...witchcrafts,...bearing false witness, hypocrisy,...pride, stubbornness, jealousy, foul-speaking, boastfulness, rejection of truth, loving lies, vanity,...ignoring the needs of the poor..."

It is clear that, from the earliest times, a choice has to be made by those who want to follow Christ. It is impossible to "love and not love" God and neighbor at the same time. It is equally impossible to have faith in God, Who loves us more than "lilies of the field" or the "birds of the air" and, at the same time, allow ourselves to harbor paranoia, prejudice, hatred and anxiety. We either want to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, or we want to seek worldly survival and self-worship. We cannot have it both ways. With the God-given right to make choices comes the accountability before God for those choices. That is, we cannot expect to live in heaven when we have chosen a life on earth which serves as a foretaste of hell.

"The Didache" encourages us to always do what we are able to do in order to observe our Lord's teachings. We can all turn to the Sacrament of Holy Confession and repent of the sins of paranoia, prejudice, hatred, anxiety, and hypocrisy. We can stop trying to justify those very sins from which we need to repent. Otherwise, our divinely-implanted conscience continues to weaken. If we want peace within us and outside of us, let us choose to maintain our awareness of God's love for us and for others through our experience of the Savior's love. This experience comes through the choice of personal prayer and participation in the Holy Sacraments, through which we are to find Divine Wisdom to express God's love to all others around us, imparting to them, at the same time, strong faith in Christ our Savior.

+FR. THEODORE



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 - Romans 5: 1-11---Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

GOSPEL - St. Matthew 6: 22-33---The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole

body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDY--Tuesday, June 30, 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. We will be studying Gal. 5:22-26; 6:1-2.

PHILOPTOCHOS – The Philoptochos “Critical Food Drive” continues. We will extend the food drive drop off to tomorrow, Monday, June 29th. Drop off at the church. Ring doorbell on the side door and we will gladly accept your food donation! See enclosed flier.

MEMORIAL

Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of the servant of God, **J.J. Richards (Demetrios) (2 years)**, the beloved husband of **Tasia Richards**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life to **J.J. Richards**, and may He grant peace and comfort to **Tasia Richards** and the entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

The church is "open" on a limited basis. IMPORTANT NOTE:

Dear parishioners,

Now that we've made phone calls for last three weeks we are now going to change our format to **holding reservations on a weekly basis for Sunday Church Attendance on a first call first serve basis.**

1. **Each week** please email our church at: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com, or call the church at **(760) 568-9901 or (760) 880-5869** Monday thru Friday and make your intent known that you want to attend church for the coming Sunday. If you call the church, leave a message if there is no answer. Whether using email or by phone call, provide names of any family members attending with you.
2. All rules still apply that you have read the guidelines and protocols and you understand them and will adhere to them. Remember that entrance for worship on Sunday is granted no later than 9:30 a.m.
3. Once reservations reach our capacity for that Sunday you can ask to be put on for the following Sunday.
4. Those who do not attend a particular 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>.

We will try this format for the next few weeks and see how it goes.

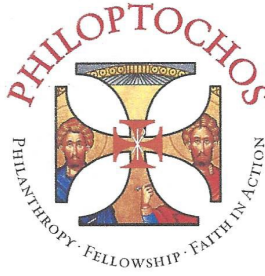
Thank you and God Bless.

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.



ST GEORGE PHILOPTOCHOS
CRITICAL FOOD DRIVE
ENDS JUNE 29th!

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted our local community since March. The critical need for non-perishable food continues. 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 June** at the church. You may bring your donations into the hall and place them in the designated area **between the hours of 10:30 AM-1:00 PM, Monday-Friday & on Sundays from 9:30 AM-11:30 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 check out to 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 oz.

Thanks For Your Support!
St. George Ladies Philoptochos