

MAY 10, 2020

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF THE PARLYTIC

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.

“DO YOU WANT TO BE WELL?”

In speaking with the Paralytic of today's Gospel passage, our Lord implies that wellness depends on the willingness to avoid sin. Jesus asked: *“Do you want to be well?”* After healing the Paralytic, His next words were: *“See, you are healed; go and sin no more.”* The cure toward wellness, in other words, is the avoidance of sin.

St. Gregory Palamas adds these words: *“The death of the body did not come from God, but from sin and from the soul that committed the sin and from the serpent that led it with guile to sin. Therefore, many of*

the illnesses of the body have found their way through sin.” (Homily 31, verses 13-15, Migne Patrology). Recklessness, neglect, and anxiety over worldly cares all have an effect on our wellbeing. To avoid sin, requires that we live carefully according to the wisdom and love of Christ our God, Who is Risen from the dead.

Holy Confession is the Sacrament through which we can seek the wisdom of the Church in the effort to combat sin. At the same time, through the Sacrament we know that sins are forgiven by our merciful Savior. It stands

Continued on Page 2

FOR THE HEALING OF SOUL AND BODY

“Loving Master, Lord Jesus Christ my God, let not these Holy Gifts be to my condemnation because of my unworthiness, but for the cleansing and sanctification of both soul and body and the pledge of the future life and kingdom. It is good for me to cling to God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation.”

The above is one of the Communion Prayers read during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. While we may be unworthy according to our own frailties, it is Christ Who makes us worthy, provided that we seek to acquire a pure soul, which, in turn sanctifies the body. St. Cyril of Jerusalem, in his *Mystagogical Catecheses, IV*, writes the following: *“Let us, then partake with full assurance of the Body and Blood of Christ: for in the figure of bread is given to you His Body and in the figure of wine, His Blood – so that, by partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, you may be made of the same Body and Blood with Him.*

Thus, we come to bear Christ in us, because His Body and Blood are distributed through our members and, in this, according to the blessed Apostle Peter, we become partakers of the Divine Nature.”



Τα λόγια του Χριστού προς τον παραλυτικόν: «*Ιδε, υγιής γέγονας. Μηκέτι αμάρτανε, ίνα μη χείρόν σοί τι γένηται.*» (Ιωαν. 5:14). Η θεραπεία προς την σωματική και πνευματική υγεία, με άλλα λόγια, είναι η αποφυγή της αμαρτίας. Για να αποφύγουμε την αμαρτία, απαιτεί να ζούμε προσεκτικά σύμφωνα με την σοφία και την αγάπη του Χριστού.

Η Εξομολόγησις είναι το Μυστήριον δια του οποίου μπορούμε να αναζητήσουμε την σοφία της Εκκλησίας επάνω στον πνευματικόν αγώνα μας προς καταπολέμηση της αμαρτίας. Επίσης, δια μέσου του Μυστηρίου της Εξομολογήσεως, γνωρίζουμε ότι οι αμαρτίες συγχωρούνται από τον Χριστόν. Μάλιστα, όσοι θα πλησίαζουν γιά την Θεϊαν Κοινωνίαν με πίστη είναι οι ίδιοι άνθρωποι που ζουν σύμφωνα με την πίστη τους στον Χριστό, καταβάλλοντας κάθε προσπάθεια να τηρούν τις Εντολές Του και να ενισχύουν τις πνευματικές τους δυνάμεις. Διαφορετικά, οι ψυχικές και σωματικές ευλογίες δεν ευρίσκονται, καθώς τονίζει ο Άγιος Παύλος στην Πρώτην Επιστολήν του προς τους Κορινθίους που λέγει ότι ο καθένας πρέπει να εξετάσει τον εαυτόν του πριν να μεταλάβει την Θεϊαν Κοινωνίαν (1 Κορ. 11: 27-30).

Ανάγκη έχουμεν από πίστη στον Χριστόν, διότι τέτοια πίστη είναι η ενέργεια της ψυχής που δρα ανάμεσα σε μια βεβαιότητα περί θεϊκών πραγμάτων και, ως εκ τούτου, εκπέμπει την αγάπη του Θεού. Τα βασικά βήματα της αγάπης εκ της πίστεως είναι τα βήματά μας γύρω από τη Κολυμβήθρα και προς το Άγιο Ποτήριον. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

to reason that those who would approach for Holy Communion with faith are the same people that live according to their faith in Christ our God, making every effort to observe His Commandments and grow in spiritual wisdom. Otherwise, one is not granted blessings through Holy Communion. This is confirmed by St. Paul: "*Whoever eats this bread and drinks from this cup unworthily is guilty of the Body and Blood of the Lord. Let each one examine their own self...because those who eat and drink unworthily bring upon them judgment...this is why many among you are ill and sick and some have fallen asleep.*" (1 Corinthians 11:27-30).

More than at any other time in recent years, we live in the shadow of fear from a deadly disease, and fear paralyzes us. That which overcomes fear is our faith, and that which dulls our faith is sin. As a result, then, we should truly fear sin. Love for God and neighbor is key to avoiding sin. At the same time, it is through prayer that we build up our faith and increase our ability to love God and others. If we want to be well -- if we want to experience peace and contentment in our lives -- the "yes" that we give in answer to the question, "Do you want to be well?," is a "yes" to prayer, through which we join Christ, giving birth to the desire to worship Him and participate in the Holy Sacraments, among which is the Sacrament of Holy Confession.

Faith is much more than *belief*. *Belief* can be simply based on intellectual deductions. *Faith*, however, provides the energy of love in our souls so that we can act with a certainty of things that are divine. *Faith* in Christ our God is more precious than anything the world has to offer, because love, born of faith, gives way to self-sacrifice for the salvation of others and for the glory of Christ. The first steps of love, energized by faith, are those taken with the *walk* of life around the Baptismal Font and up to the Chalice with faith, humility and repentance.

+FR. THEODORE

REGARDING READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

Readings are set for every Sunday, Feast Day and weekday throughout the year. The Orthodox Church follows a yearly cycle of readings from the Gospels and the other books of the New Testament. The cycle begins with Easter Sunday with readings from the Gospel according to St. John. Then, beginning with Pentecost Sunday, it reads from the Gospel according to St. Matthew; then, according to St. Luke. During Great Lent, the readings are taken from the Gospel according to St. Mark. The Book of Acts of the Apostles is read during Holy Pentecost. The epistle readings are taken in the order they are found in the New Testament, that is, first, Romans, then 1 Corinthians, then 2 Corinthians, and so on. The only New Testament book not read from Church services is the Book of Revelation, as it is more prophetic than instructional. (See *The Heavenly Banquet*, by Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis, pg. 135). For daily Bible Readings, see the "Appendix" of the *Orthodox Study Bible*.



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."

"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 16: 1-7

In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bed-ridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

GOSPEL- ST. MARK 15:43-47; 16:1-8

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for thirtyeight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.' " They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk?'" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

MEMORIAL

Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servant of God, **Anastasios Halkidis (40 day)**, the beloved husband of **Penelope Halkidis** and the beloved father of **Dimitri Halkidis** and **Paraskevas (Barry) Halkidis**. Also, today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servant of God, **Vera Hellman (3 day)**, the beloved sister of **Nadia Hector** and sister-in-law of **Tim Hector**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, Arisen from the dead, grant Eternal Life and Salvation to **Anastasios Halkidis** and to **Vera Hellman**, and may He grant peace and comfort to **Mrs. Penelope Halkidis, Dimitri and Paraskevas (Barry) Halkidis** and to **Mr. and Mrs. Tim and Nadia Hector**, and their entire families.

PLEASE NOTE:

The church is closed. Deacon Euthym and I will be serving Church services behind closed doors. Video telecasts of our St. George church services are available by contacting our **parish website:** www.go-stgeorge.org (through Facebook link).

Follow some of the website telecasts from our Archdiocese at: <https://www.goarch.org/live-broadcasts>.

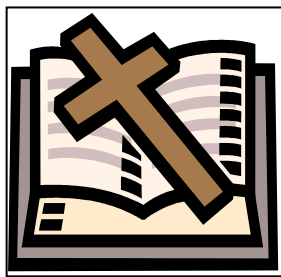
WEEKDAY CALENDAR

“ZOOM” COFFEE HOUR AFTER CHURCH SERVICES TODAY – 11:30 a.m. See attached flier for Zoom Meeting information and be sure to join us!...<https://us02.web.zoom.us/j/88505459492>. Meeting ID: 885 0545 9492; Password: 172597.

BIBLE STUDY-Tuesday, May 12th -10:00 a.m. Selected Bible Passage for the Study is: St. John 4: 5-42.(Contact Fr. Ted 760-880-5869 on Monday, May 11th for Zoom Meeting details or complications.) The Meeting ID : 319-036-456. Be sure to also use the Password: 592427

MID-PENTECOST- Wednesday, May 13th - Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. (no live-stream)

“ZOOM” AHEPA 528 Meeting- Wednesday, May 13th-6:30 p.m. In the URL search window type: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3058156277>. Meeting ID: 305 815 6277.



JOIN US FOR: ST. GEORGE TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

At: 10:00 a.m.

Selected Scripture Passage for Study: John 4: 5-42-- 5) So Jesus came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6) Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7) A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8) For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9) Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. 10) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." 11) The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? 12) " Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" 13) Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14) "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." 15) The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." 16) Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17) The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' 18) "for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." 19) The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20) " Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." 21) Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22) You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23) "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24) "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." 25) The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." 26) Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He ." 27) And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" 28) The woman then left her water pot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, 29) " Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" 30) Then they went out of the city and came to Him. 31) In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32) But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." 33) Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" 34) Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. 35) "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" 36) "And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37) "For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' 38) "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." The Savior of the World. 39) And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." 40) So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41) And many more believed because of His own word. 42) Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, a the Savior of the world."

ZOOM Bible Study Sign-in Information is:

Meeting ID : 319-036-456

Password: 592427

If you can't figure out how to do the video you can always join with audio only.

You can join the Zoom meeting via your desktop computer, laptop, tablet, iPad, or iPhone.

1-669-900-6833. Dial the password: 592427