

MAY 31, 2020

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

**74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260**

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

THE LADDER

THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS

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.*

LIVING ETERNAL LIFE

“And this is Eternal Life: that they should know You the Only True God and Jesus Christ, Whom You sent...” (St. John 17:3). With these words, our Lord provides us with the purpose of our lives, through which we inherit Eternal Life by living a life-style *in the present* with faith in Christ our Savior. In living our lives in the present, there are two factors which combine to work for our salvation: 1) our free will, and, 2) the guidance of God.

It is our free will that determines whether or not we want to believe in Christ our God and to commit our lives to Him. It is His guidance that provides for us the blessings and the wisdom that we need to do His Will (which is to bring us to His Kingdom). To the extent that we commit ourselves to Christ, we learn of His love and His wisdom, through which we become inheritors of Eternal Life.

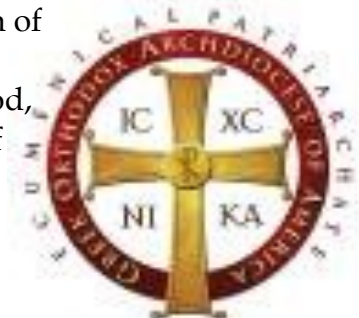
Indeed, this is the way of life of the Saints of the First Ecumenical Council

Continued on Page 2

THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

The First Ecumenical Council took place in 325 A.D. St. Constantine the Great, ruled the Roman Empire from the city of Byzantium, which he renamed after himself --Constantinople. Initially, he summoned the Council to allow the Holy Saints of the Church to proclaim the true teaching of the Church regarding the Persons of the Holy Trinity. All of Saints in attendance, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God, and they composed the holy Symbol of Faith (known as the Nicene Creed) up to the seventh article (the remainder, beginning with "And in the Holy Spirit," was completed at the Second Ecumenical Council). They condemned false teachings suggesting that Christ is not True God of True God.

Recognizing these heralds of the Faith who proclaimed the Faith in accordance with the Holy Tradition of the divine Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honor, and unto the strengthening of the Faith.



«Αυτὸ δε εστιν η αιώνιος ζωὴ ινα γινώσκωσι σε τον μόνον Αληθινόν Θεόν και Ον απέστειλας Ιησοῦν Χριστόν...» (Ιωαν. 17.3). Με αυτά τα λόγια, ο Κύριος μας παρέχει τον σκοπό της ζωής μας: να κληρονομήσουμε την αιώνιον ζωή, δια μέσου τον τρόπο της ζωής μας στο παρόν με πίστη στον Χριστό τον Σωτήρα μας. Ζώντας τη ζωή μας σήμερα, υπάρχουν δύο στοιχεία που συνεργάζονται προς την σωτηριαν του καθενός: 1) τη θέλησή μας και, 2) την καθοδήγηση του Θεού.

Στο βαθμό που παραδίδουμε τον εαυτόν μας στον Κύριόν μας, μαθαίνουμε για την αγάπη και την σοφία του Κυρίου μας, δια μέσων των οποίων γινόμεθα κληρονόμοι της αιωνίου ζωής.

Μάλιστα, αυτός είναι ο τρόπος ζωής των Αγίων της Πρώτης Οικουμενικής Συνόδου, όπως αυτοί που μνημονεύουμε σαν σήμερα. Στο website της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής μας διαβάζουμε για αυτούς τους Αγίους. «Όλοι τους, με ένα στόμα και μία φωνή, εδήλωσαν ότι ο Υιός και ο Λόγος του Θεού είναι ουσιαστικά ένα με τον Πατέρα, τον αληθινό Θεό, και συνέθεσαν το ιερό Σύμβολο της Πίστεως μέχρι το έβδομο άρθρο (το υπόλοιπο, ξεκινώντας από το "Και στο Άγιο Πνεύμα", ολοκληρώθηκε από την Δεύτερη Οικουμενική Σύνοδο).»

Το Σύμβολον της Πίστεως είναι και προσευχη και ένας οδηγός για την πνευματική μας ζωήν, έτσι ώστε να είμεθα προετοιμασμένοι για τη Δεύτερη Παρουσίαν του Χριστού, ο Οποίος «Πάλιν έρχόμενον μετά δόξης κρίναι ζώντας και νεκρούς, οὔ τῆς βασιλείας οὐκ ἔσται τέλος.»
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

cil, whom we commemorate today. Turning to our Archdiocese website (www.goarch.org), we read: "With one mouth and one voice, they declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God, and they composed the holy Symbol of Faith up to the seventh article (the remainder, beginning with "And in the Holy Spirit," was completed by the Second Ecumenical Council).

As a prayer, the Nicene Creed draws our soul to address God, Who is the Creator of all things, *visible and invisible*, Who is the Only True God. God is a God of Love -- our Father, Who sent His Only-Begotten Son to save us. Thus, we confess our faith in the Father and the Son, Who is "of one essence with the Father, Begotten, not made," and, "Who for us and our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnated by the Holy Spirit (Who proceeds from the Father and is worshiped together with the Father and the Son) and the Virgin Mary and became Man." Thus, through the Creed, we know that we pray to a loving God, Who created us, as well as everything in the universe -- and Who loves us with sacrificial, caring love, seeking for us every good thing. Our prayer made with this understanding in our heart, allows us to strengthen our faith so as to trust God in all things.

At the same time, our trust in God is a guide for developing our spiritual life in preparation for the Eternal Kingdom. Knowing that God loves us and knowing that Christ, the Only-Begotten Son of God has saved us through the Cross and His Resurrection from the dead, we are now guided by the Holy Spirit that is sent to us in order to keep revealing to us the Person of Christ in our present lives. Our response to such Divine Love is to offer our love to God and to all the people in the world who are His people and for whom all has been accomplished for salvation. The love that we are to show to the world is the Divine Love of God. This is the love that serves as the guide to our way of thinking and the life-style that we choose so that we can be ready to receive Christ our God when He judges "the living and the dead," and "Whose Kingdom shall have no end."

The Saints of the First Ecumenical Council laid the sacred groundwork for us to have both the inspiration to pray and the proper mentality that serves as our "code" for living out our lives.

+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"

ACTS 20:16-18, 28-36

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesos and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.' " And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

ST. JOHN 17:1-13

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made. I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

The church is closed. Deacon Euthym and I will be serving Church services behind closed doors. Follow some of 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 11:00 a.m. at:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79700614502?pwd=c1JrUWFyMFoOVnp1TVMyK2zwMOZLdz09>

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 PW for the month of June beginning 6/2/2020.

PHILOPTOCHOS – The Philoptochos "Critical Food Drive" continues. *We will extend the food drive drop off into next Monday, June 1st from 10:00 AM -12:30 PM.* Drop off at the church. Ring doorbell on the side door and we will gladly accept your food donation! See the enclosed flier.

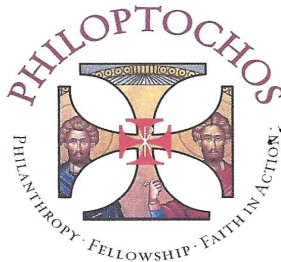
SAINT GEORGE BIBLE STUDY GROUP **VIA ZOOM RECURRING EVERY TUESDAY @ 10:00 AM**



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- May 26th-29th**

Many of you have asked what you can do to help other during this pandemic. There is an immediate and critical need for food in our valley.

“The Narrow Door” ministry in Indio normally distributes around 14,000 pounds of food per month. However, during this crisis they have distributed more than 57,000 pounds of food in the past month. They are in critical need of non-perishables.

We will begin collecting donations starting Tuesday, May 26th through Friday, May 29th at the church. You can drive up to the church between the hours of 10:30 AM-1:00 PM and drop off your food donations in the box by the side door to the office. (Please note that the church is closed and only open for appointments with Father Ted.) Or we can take monetary donations that we will use to purchase food. (Please make check out to Philoptochos-memo food drive.)

Below is the shopping list of the foods that are needed:

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

Please make sure products are within expiration dates. No glass containers. No cans larger than 15 oz.

Thanks For Your Support!

We will extend the food drive drop off into next Monday, June 1st from 10:00 AM -12:30 PM. Drop off at the church. Ring doorbell on the side door and we will gladly accept your food donation!

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



Join us on Sunday, May 31st @ 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

+16699006833,,88505459492#,,1#,172597# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,88505459492#,,1#,172597# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 885 0545 9492