

MAY 30, 2021

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

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

## 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.

## BAPTISM & REPENTANCE

From today's Gospel passage we learn key truths, which deal with our eternal salvation and our personal relationship with Christ our God.

1. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is the rebirth of the human being—*"the fountain from which springs eternal life."* (St. John 4:10)
2. The Sacrament of Holy Confession is not for condemnation. Christ forgave the Samaritan Woman, since she acknowledged her sinful way of life, and, as a way of repentance, she glorified Christ —*"Come and see a man who told me all that I have done."*

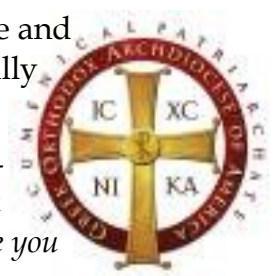
(St. John 4:29).

3. Christ revealed the truth that He is the One, True God—*"I Who speak to you am He."* (St. John 4:26).
4. We worship God *"in Spirit and in Truth."* God is "everywhere present" as is said in the Nicene Creed and acceptable worship to the Lord is that worship made "in Spirit," (that is: with faith that God is One God in Three Persons— Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and, "in Truth" (that is: with love for the truth that Christ is our God, arisen from the dead).

*Continued on page 2*

**THE SAMARITAN WOMAN: CONFESSION & REPENTANCE**--Our Lord's encounter with the Samaritan Woman provides images of Holy Baptism and Holy Confession. The water of eternal life is the water of Baptism. The conversation between the Samaritan Woman and our Lord is the Confession of sins. In this conversation, we understand that our Lord already knows our deeds and life-style. Confession is for us to admit for ourselves that which our Savior already knows. The Samaritan Woman admitted her sins. Confession is a Sacrament through which we are called to be honest with our God. In this conversation, the Samaritan Woman was not condemned; she was actually *empowered* by her honesty and our Lord's forgiveness. She repented. Her repentance involved preaching the Gospel to those around her and offering her time and talent throughout her life to work for God's glory. She eventually became a Saint of our Church - St. Photini.

Regarding repentance, St. Basil the Great wrote, *"Have you ridiculed someone? Bless them. Have you been greedy? Repay. Have you become drunk? Fast. Have you been arrogant? Become humble. Have you been envious? Console."* He would add, *"Do you hate? Pray."*



Από την σημερινήν περικοπή του Ευαγγελίου μαθαίνουμε βασικές αλήθειες, οι οποίες αφορούν την αιώνια σωτηρία μας και την προσωπική μας σχέση με τον Χριστό.

Το Μυστήριο του Αγίου Βαπτίσματος είναι η αναγέννηση του ανθρώπου, αφού είπε ο Κύριος, «*ὅστις πῖη ἐκ τοῦ ὕδατος το ἐγὼ δώσω εἰς αὐτόν οὐ διψήσει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα*». (Ιωάν. 4:14).

Το Μυστήριο της Θείας Εξομολογήσεως δεν είναι για καταδίκη. Ο Χριστός εσυγχώρησε τη Σαμαρείτη Γυναίκα, αφού αναγνώρισε τον αμαρτωλό τρόπο ζωής της, και, ως τρόπος μετάνοιας, ἐδόξασε τον Χριστό με τα λόγια της, «*Δεῦτε ἴδετε ἄνθρωπον, ὃς μοι εἶπε πάντα ὅσα ἐποίησα*». (Ιωάν. 4:29).

Λατρεύουμε τον Θεό «*εν Πνεύματι και Αληθεία*». Ο Θεός είναι «πανταχού παρών», όπως εννοείται από το Σύμβολο της Πίστεώς μας και η αποδεκτή λατρεία στον Κύριο είναι η λατρεία «*εν Πνεύματι*», δηλαδή, με πίστη ότι ο Θεός είναι ο ένας Θεός με Τρία Πρόσωπα - Πατήρ, Υιός και Άγιο Πνεύμα, και, «*εν Αληθεία*,» δηλαδή, με αγάπη για την αλήθεια ότι ο Χριστός είναι ο Θεός μας, ο Οποῖος αναστήθηκε από τον τάφο. Εν τούτοις, η φωνή της συνειδήσεώς μας είναι το Θεϊκό μέρος όλων μας για να εκφράσουμε την αγάπη του Χριστού.

Η σωτηρία είναι Θεού δώρον για ὅλη την ανθρωπότητα, συμπεριλαμβανομένων των εχθρών μας: π.χ., ο Χριστός ἔσωσε την «ξένη γυναίκα» ενώ, «*οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι δὲν συγκοινωνοῦσιν μετὰ Σαμαρειτῶν*». (Ιωάν.4: 9). Η «*εν Χριστῷ αγάπη*» είναι αγάπη για ὅλους.  
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

5. Salvation in the eternal Kingdom of God is given to all of humanity, *including our enemies*, – for example, even the Samaritans, for, “*Judeans never are seen together with Samaritans.*” (St. John 4: 9).
6. We all have the responsibility to teach the Gospel to other people around us as did the Samaritan Woman (St. Photini). (See: Acts 11).

There is a progression in the personality of the Samaritan Woman through which we discern spiritual growth. She changed from being self-oriented (from wanting to fill her bucket with water), to being other-person-oriented (spreading the news of Christ to everyone in the village). Her encounter with Christ reveals to us that spiritual progress comes from repentance of wrongs and humility before our Savior. In that the Samaritans had accepted the Ten Commandments, the Samaritan Woman was well aware of her sins connected with adultery in having five husbands and also living with a sixth man. Upon admitting her sins, the Samaritan Woman experienced the love of Christ our God. As a result, she preached to her fellow citizens, telling them that Christ is indeed the Messiah..

In this way, the Samaritan Woman became a saint. Upon her baptism, she took upon herself the name, *Photini*, and the Church knows her as St. Photini. We too can become saints, if we share in her humility before Christ and rejoice in His love.

God is Spirit and in our souls, we have the capacity to develop a truly spiritual relationship with the living God. The voice of our conscience is the divine part of all of us and, when we do God’s Will, we feel peace from God; when we do not do God’s Will, we feel the pain of guilt. This inner voice of our souls guides us throughout our lives for all things good. It is the quality of divine mercy calling us to God’s Eternal Kingdom while living in this present, transient world.

+FR. THEODORE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, our parish hall will be open for “Coffee Hour” for the first time in over a year. Please continue to follow the updated CDC guidelines for social distancing, as well as food and drink protocols.

Fr. Ted and Presvytera will be away until Saturday, June 12, 2021. Fr. **Simeon Poptelecan** will substitute for Fr. Ted for the Divine Liturgy **on Sunday, June 6th**. In case of emergency, contact Fr. **Andrew Lesko**, pastor of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Temecula, California, (909) 224-5046. Our next meeting with our **Bible Study group will be on Tuesday, June 15th at 10:00 a.m.**

Next **Sunday, June 6th**, the 6 month **Memorial Service** will be held for the Eternal Rest of our Lord’s servant, **William Earnest Piggott**. In addition, a special coffee hour will take place in honor of **Emily Tcharos**, celebrating her 88th birthday. (See enclosed flier.)

## PRAYER FOR READING HOLY SCRIPTURES



*"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 11:19-30

In those days, those apostles who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabos stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea, and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

## GOSPEL- John 4:5-42

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I

shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony. "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard ourselves, and we know that this is indeed Christ the Savior of the world."

# 88th Birthday Celebration for Emily Tcharos

6/6/21

St. George Church Hall after  
Divine Liturgy on Sunday  
(light refreshments & cake will be  
served)

Please bring a birthday card or note that we  
can present to Emily from as many of us as  
possible! If you cannot attend, drop off the  
card at the church office before June 6th.

