

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

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.

CALLED TO BE APOSTLES

Upon encountering the Risen Christ, St. Paul repented of his errors: he turned away from being a persecutor of those who love Christ and became an Apostle of Christ. This turning away from evil and toward Christ is exactly what each one of us is called to do when we are baptized according to the Rites of our Holy Orthodox Christian Church. Indeed, we are asked, "Do you join Christ?" To which our Godparent, speaking for us as infants, or we as adults, say, "I do follow Him."

Like St. Paul, we too are called to follow Christ our God and to take upon our-

selves the life-style and mentality of Christ -- one that is divine in nature, which is articulated in the Gospel and exemplified in the lives of our Saints. St. Paul himself found such examples in his consultation with the Apostles James and Peter.

Through this life-style we become co-workers of Christ, overcoming the darkness of sin, evil and death. Indeed, Christ is the Life and Resurrection of each person in the world, as we heard from today's Gospel passage. This message carries with it the power of the Holy Spirit. In this

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TODAY'S GOSPEL PASSAGE--" Authority over life and death is in the hand of God alone (Dt. 32:39; 1 King. 2:6). Being of one essence with the Father, Jesus has this authority (John 5:21). The healing of this woman demonstrates Christ's power to cleanse and heal. In the Old Testament, hemorrhage caused ceremonial defilement, imposing religious and social restrictions, for contact with blood was strictly prohibited (Lv. 15:25). This suffering woman (the woman with the hemorrhage), accounting herself unclean, nevertheless approaches Jesus secretly and with great faith. In verse 22, Jesus (1) brings her **good cheer** because of her faith; (2) corrects her thinking, for neither could she hide her touch from Him, nor is she excluded from Him because of her illness; and (3) exhibits her **faith** to all, so that they might imitate her...

"Who touched Me?" does not simply mean a physical touch, but rather, 'Who touched Me, with faith?' Just as 'the temple sanctifies the gold,' so also matter is sanctified by Christ's Incarnation and the power of Christ works through even His garment...In the Church, we touch Christ through icons, oil, water, bread, wine, etc. When this is done in faith, the power of Christ is received."

--Orthodox Study Bible, pgs. 1284 & 1381



Όταν εσυνάντησε τον Αναστημένο Χριστό, ο Άγ. Παύλος εμετανόησε: απομακρύνθηκε από το να είναι διώκτης των Χριστιανών και έγινε Απόστολος του Χριστού. Αυτή η απομάκρυνση από το κακό και προς τον Χριστό είναι ακριβώς αυτό που καλείται ο καθένας να κάνει όταν βαπτιστεί σύμφωνα με τα Τελεουργικά της Εκκλησίας μας. Πράγματι, μας τίθεται το ερώτημα: «*Συντάσσει τω Χριστώ;*» και εμείς απαντάμε ως ενήλικες, (η ως νήπια διά του αναδόχου): «*Συντάσσομαι.*»

Όπως ο Άγιος Παύλος, έτσι και εμείς καλούμεθα να ακολουθήσουμε τον Χριστό τον Θεό μας και να αναλάβουμε την νοοτροπία του Χριστού -- μια της θεϊκής φύσεως, η οποία διατυπώνεται στο Ευαγγέλιο και παραδειγματίζεται στη ζωή των Αγίων μας. Τέτοια παραδείγματα ευρήκε ο ίδιος ο Άγιος Παύλος στη διαβούλευσή του με τους Αποστόλους Ιάκωβον και Πέτρον.

Η ενέργεια του Αγίου Πνεύματος ρέει σε όλο το Ευαγγέλιο. Ως εκ τούτου, ο Άγ. Παύλος προτρέπει τον καθένα από εμάς, μέσω της σημερινής περικοπής της Επιστολής, να «είναι άξιος» της κλήσεως καταβάλλοντας κάθε προσπάθεια για να κατοικούμε στη διαρκή παρουσία του Θεού καθημερινώς. Στην εμπειρία της αγάπης του Θεού, μετέχουμε στις ενέργειες του Θεού και ερχόμεθα σε ενότητα με τον Θεό. Τότε είναι που τα θαύματα γίνονται.

Ας προσευχώμεθα για να μας φωτίσει ο Θεός ώστε να προσφέρουμε σωστή λατρεία προς δόξαν του Αγίου Ονόματός Του.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

power, the Holy Apostles, including St. Paul, gave their lives to glorify Christ. They did not give up in their efforts to share the love of God even with their enemies.

In his book entitled *The Apostolic Gospel*, Fr.Theodore Stylianopoulos explains the mentality of the Apostles and the Christians of the Apostolic Church. The Apostolic life-style (then, now, and always) is one that is centered on the death and resurrection of Christ, whereby we are dead to sin and alive with Christ from now and into eternity. "*The message of salvation, with special emphasis on the death and resurrection of Christ, is grounded in the unity of the apostolic testimony by Peter, John, James, Paul, and other privileged witnesses to the primary events of revelation.*" (pg.17). Such "events" are those recorded in the Gospel passage which we heard today -- the healing of a woman and the raising from the dead of the daughter of a ruler of the synagogue.

The energy of the Holy Spirit runs throughout the Gospel. St. Paul emphasizes that other "gospels" made by people are not sufficient for salvation. The Gospel is not a philosophy, or socio-economic credo. Nor is the Gospel intended as a "feel-good" self-help guide. The Gospel is, in essence, the life of the Church, and the invitation to enter into this life is addressed to the individual soul of every person who enters the world. As such, St. Paul urges each of us, through today's Epistle passage, to "be worthy" of our calling by making every effort to dwell in the on-going presence of God on a daily basis. In the experience of God's love, we partake of God's energies and we grow into a bond of unity with God. It is then that miracles can and do happen.

Our calling is to pray for God's Wisdom, which is imparted to us through the Sacramental Life of the Church, in order to express God's Love to those around us and to the world at large.

+FR. THEODORE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servants of God, **Themistocles Tsohonis, Maritza Tsohonis, and Alexandra Tsohonis. Themistocles Tsohonis and Maritza Tsohonis** are the beloved grandparents of **Alexandra Dymond. Alexandra Tsohonis** is the beloved aunt of **Alexandra Dymond**. In addition, we pray for Eternal Rest and Salvation for **Yvonne Flessas**, beloved mother of **Daniel Flessas**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Themistocles Tsohonis, Maritza Tsohonis, Alexandra Tsohonis and Yvonne Flessas** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Alexandra Dymond** and her entire family, as well as to **Daniel Flessas**. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

NEXT SUNDAY, November 14th...the **Hierarchical Divine Liturgy** will be officiated by **His Grace, Bishop Spyridon of Amastris** in commemoration of the **One-year Anniversary of His Ordination** to the priestly **Office of Bishop**. We observe this special day in the life of His Grace, Bishop Spyridon, and pray that our Savior continues to grant to him all of His great blessings – eis polla eti, Despota!



"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 - Galatians 1:11-19

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!" But Jesus said, "Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

GOSPEL - St. Luke 8:41-56

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. And a woman who had had a flow

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Today..... Veterans Day commemoration. As we join in the parish hall, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, a special presentation will be given by Pete Silas Peterson in honor of veterans of our Armed Forces and of those currently serving in the Armed Forces of our country. Coffee hour is offered by Alexandra Dymond in memory of Themistocles & Maritza Tsohonis and Alexandra Tsohonis.

Monday, November 8th... ARCHANGELS MICHAEL & GABRIEL
 Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
 Philoptochos General Members Meeting-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 9th...ST. NECTARIOS THE WONDERWORKER
 Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
 Bible Study – 11:00 a.m. [Note time change.] "Zoom" link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85019077883pwd=eUhpY2FwZGwoRnJpdzRUWEZHRFJ1dz09>

Wednesday, November 10th..Bible Study – 6:30 p.m. "Zoom" link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86111452564>

Thursday, November 11th.....Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 13th.....ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
 Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ARCHIEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 252/2021

Archiepiscopal Encyclical for the Feast of the Archangels

November 7, 2021

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, the Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Holy Archdiocese of America.

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained Angels unawares. (Hebrews 13:1-2)

My Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Beginning this evening with the Great Vespers, we celebrate the glorious Feast, or Synaxis, of the Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and all the ranks of the Heavenly Powers. It is not the only feast of the Holy Angels, but it is the principal feast when we remember all Nine Ranks of these "Bodiless Ones": Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels (according to the order of Saint Dionysios the Areopagite).

The presence of the Angels is ubiquitous, and as we are reminded by the Apostle Paul in his Epistle to the Hebrews. They appear when least expected. And they especially appear when they are welcomed. These "Angels unawares" are messengers to us ("ἄγγελος" can be translated "messenger"), who bring us the Good News of God's love and God's plan for our lives. For, indeed, as we respond to their presence, our inner hearts are revealed. As we think of our precious Archdiocesan Institution of Saint Michael's Home and those who reside therein, we understand that these spiritually-wise elders are emissaries of God's love for the world.

And as we think of Saint Michael's Home, we must include all our elderly sisters and brothers, especially those living in institutions around the country. They are angels, with profound life experience and an abundance of wisdom in which we all can partake, if we but show them a little φιλοξενία, and join with them in Christian fellowship. Not everyone can have the blessing to live at Saint Michael's Home, but everyone can be included in the life of our communities. On this day and every day, when we remember this foundational institution of our Holy Archdiocese, let us also not forget our generation of "angels unawares," who are the rock and foundation of our Church here in America.

With paternal love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS

Archbishop of America

PHILOPTOCHOS
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

12/4/21 11:30 AM

DESERT WILLOW GOLF RESORT
38-995 DESERT WILLOW DR. PALM DESERT

Please Join Us!

Luncheon Price \$40.00 per person.

Includes your entrée; appetizers (coconut shrimp & stuffed mushrooms); seasonal soup starter; dessert (chocolate decadence cake); and refreshments (coffee, water, iced tea); Music and raffle Prizes too!

CHOOSE ONE:

- 1) Roasted Chicken Breast stuffed with spinach & ricotta cheese served with butter lettuce, Italian vinaigrette & warm carrot flan; OR
- 2) Papaya Mandarin Chicken Salad served with field greens, cilantro vinaigrette, & date nut bread; OR
- 3) Vegetarian Version of #2 with Avocado substituted for the chicken salad

Total # Attending: _____

Name(s): _____

Entre Selection (Circle One for each person

#1—Roasted Chicken #2 -Papaya Chicken Salad #3—
Vegetarian Papaya Salad

RSVP BY NOVEMBER 22nd OR 23rd



Dear Parishioners,

Once again, our community of St George Greek Orthodox Church of The Desert will be preparing a Parish Christmas Card. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this very popular and meaningful Christmas Blessing.

Please join the many families of our parish in expressing Christmas Greetings to fellow members and friends by completing this form. A donation of \$20.00 should be enclosed along with this form and made payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert. You can mail it to P.O. Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261 or give to Tina Veroulis in the office. We would appreciate the return of the form by November 22,2021.

Please print your name, as you would like it to appear on the card on the line below. (PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Deadline: November 29, 2021

Merry Christmas



AHEPA cannot host a Thanksgiving dinner this year so,



THANKSGIVING RAFFLE

\$5.00 each

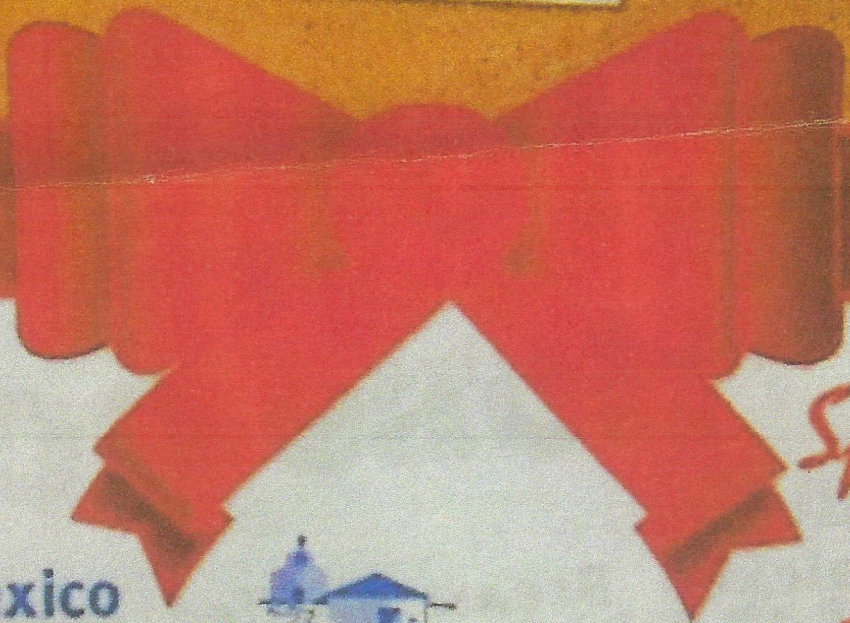
**Proceeds Benefit AHEPA
Fr Theophilos Scholarship Program**

AHEPA528.ORG

***Receive \$100 Albertsons Gift card towards
purchase already-made dinner, serves 8-10***

Winner will be drawn on 11/14/2021

SANTA'S HELPERS



Project Mexico
& St. Innocent Orphanage



Building Hope for Boys Without Families and Families Without Homes

www.projectmexico.org

Spread the
JOY!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021

Call our church office (760-568-9901) for details regarding items needed for Project Mexico and join us on November 20th.