

OCTOBER 3, 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.

BEING VESSELS OF GOD'S LOVE

In so many words, St. Paul tells us today, through his Second Epistle to the Corinthians, that there is meaning to be found in our weaknesses. For, if we were able to do everything, we would never seek the mercy and strength of Almighty God. Even in we possessed the great abilities to do everything, it does not mean that we would do them wisely.

We were created to know God's Love. Consequently, when we were created, it was good, because not only is God Love, but God is Good, and goodness is God's Wisdom. The divine goodness in God's

creation of us is that we are given an immortal soul and the gift of Free Will, so that we can be like God in immortality and in love. However, pride gave way to sin, and sin gave way to our flaws, weaknesses and our eventual death, as well as our inability to know God's Wisdom and appreciate God's Goodness. As a result our ability to be vessels able to carry God's Goodness and Love was damaged.

Pride undoes love and wisdom, precisely because it also undermines the quality of humility before God. Knowing Christ undoes pride and imparts

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ST. DIONYSIOS THE AREOPAGITE

Today we honor St. Dionysios the Areopagite. This Saint was from Athens, a learned man, and a member of the famous judicial court of Mars Hill (in Greek Aeros Pagos, hence the name Areopagite (see Acts 17:19-34). When Saint Paul preached in Athens, he was one of the first there to believe in Christ, and, according to some, became the first bishop of that city. Others say -- and this may be more probable--that he was the second Bishop of Athens, after Saint Hierotheus, whom Dionysios calls his friend and teacher "after Paul" (On the Divine Names, 3:2). With Saint Hierotheus he was also present at the Dormition of the most holy Theotokos; the Doxasticon of the Aposticha for the service of the Dormition is partly taken from a passage in Chapter III of On the Divine Names. According to ancient tradition, he received a martyr's end (according to some, in Athens itself) about the year 96.

The Kontakion hymn of the Church in honor of St. Dionysios:
"In spirit, thou dist pass through Heaven's gates, instructed by the great Apostle who attained to the third Heaven's heights, and wast made rich in all knowledge of things beyond speech; and then thou, O Dionysios, didst illuminate them that slumbered in the darkness of their ignorance. Hence we all cry out: Rejoice, O universal Father."

– Taken from Archdiocese website: www.goarch.org/



Με λιγα λόγια, ο Άγ. Παύλος μας λέει σήμερα, μέσω της Δευτέρας Επιστολής του προς τους Κορινθίους, ότι οι αδυναμίες μας έχουν σκοπό και νόημα. Αν ημπορούσαμε να κάνουμε τα πάντα, δεν θα αναζητούσαμε ποτέ το έλεος και τη δύναμη του Παντοδύναμου Θεού. Ακόμα και όταν διαθέτουμε τις μεγάλες ικανότητες να κάνουμε τα πάντα, δεν σημαίνει ότι θα τις κάνουμε με την χαρη της Θείας Σοφίας.

Η υπερηφάνεια αναιρεί την αγάπη και τη σοφία, ακριβώς επειδή υπονομεύει επίσης την ποιότητα της ταπεινότητας ενώπιον του Θεού. Ωστόσο, η γνώση του Χριστού αναιρεί την υπερηφάνεια και μεταδίδει σοφία, επειδή ο Χριστός είναι Θεός και, έγινε Ανθρωπος για να μας δείξει την τέλειαν ταπεινότητα και την αγάπη μέσα στον παραγμένο κόσμο που εφτιάσαμε για τον εαυτό μας ως αποτέλεσμα της αμαρτίας.

Ο Άγ. Παύλος εβίωσε την πραγματικότητα του Χριστού, ο Οποίος εργάστηκε μέσα του για να μετατρέψει τις ανθρώπινες ατέλειες και αδυναμίες προς τη δύναμη της Αγάπης του Θεού. Ο Άγ. Παύλος ενσάρκωσε αυτή τη πραγματικότητα στη ζωή του. Παρά τις αδυναμίες του, με πίστη στον Θεό, ο Άγ. Παύλος εταπεινώσε τον εαυτό του από αγάπη και επέτρεψε στον εαυτό του να είναι το *δοχείο* από το οποίο ο Θεός θα έκανε τα θαύματά Του.

Το να κάνουμε καλό στους άλλους σημαίνει ότι κάνουμε για αυτούς κάθε καλό που μπορούμε για να είναι ευτυχισμένοι σε αυτόν τον κόσμο και, ταυτόχρονα, να κληρονομήσουν την αιώνιον ζωή με τον Χριστό.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

wisdom, because Christ is God, and, having sojourned with humanity, He shows us humility and love, in the imperfect, turbulent world that we have made for ourselves as the result of sin.

Knowing Christ, St. Paul gained wisdom and humility, as well as the proper understanding of love. He experienced the reality of Christ working within him to turn imperfections and weaknesses into the power of God's Love. He embodied this reality in his life. *Despite* his frailties and infirmities, with faith in God, St. Paul humbled himself out of love and allowed himself to be the *vessel* through which God would work wonders.

Loving ourselves is a matter of loving God. Without God, we may be deceived into thinking that we have to first love ourselves before we can love others. But, by our own nature, we prove that we already love ourselves, thus revealing this deceit. In truth, our work is done so that we can get rich, not so that the work will be done properly. Our work is done for our glory, not so that we can really be fair and just. Our work is too often tainted with sinful motives, rather than with God-centered motives. Certainly, it is impossible to love our enemies, when we are already their enemies. We lie to protect ourselves; we manipulate others in order to elevate ourselves; we become angry with those who do not show love to ourselves.

Christ asks us to turn to Him in order to overcome our frailties and weaknesses so that we can give healing and strength to others, precisely because our God loves them as much as He loves us. When others see Christ's power through us, despite our frailties, they can be inspired to glorify Christ themselves and we can all experience the love of our Lord. To do unto others means that we do for them every good thing that we can so that they can be well, survive in this world, and be saved by our Savior as much as we want these things for ourselves.
+FR. THEODORE

PAINT EL PASEO PINK

This coming **Saturday, October 9th**, the "Paint El Paseo Pink" walk for the cure of cancer will take place, beginning at **8:00 a.m.**

Although registration for the walk took place throughout the month of September, those who are now interested in participating in the important community event can call the **Desert Cancer Foundation** located right next door to our church here in Palm Desert in order to find out how one may register for the "Paint El Paseo Pink" Walk now. Members of our St. George Philoptochos Chapter have already registered under the banner of our Philoptochos group.

The "Paint El Paseo Pink" Walk for the cure of cancer is sponsored by our neighbors, the **Desert Cancer Foundation**.



“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-- 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

GOSPEL -- St. Luke 6:31-36

The Lord said, "And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

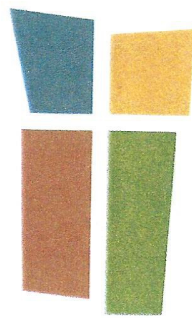
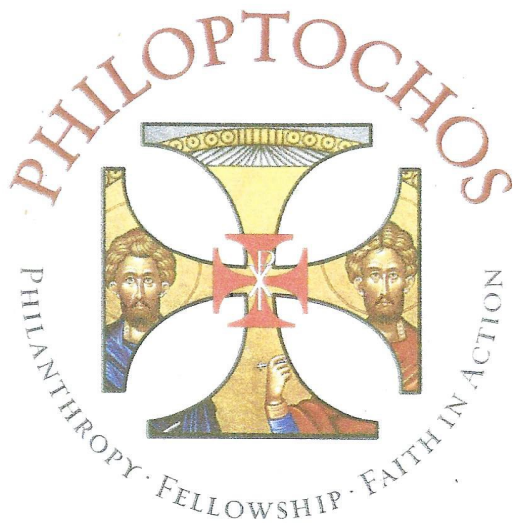
WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 5th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. (in-person and on “Zoom”) “Zoom” link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81329951397?pwd=NTJlK0ppVUc5R2ZtZzBFcTBWVTUvdz09>.

Wednesday, October 6th...Bible Study – 6:30 p.m. (in-person & “Zoom..” “Zoom” link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86111452564> .

Thursday, October 7th...Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 9th.... “Paint El Paseo Pink” Walk for cancer cure, sponsored by Desert Cancer Foundation – 8:00 a.m.



CVRM

“SOCKTOBER”

DONATION EVENT for the HOMELESS October 3rd-24th

- Did you know that the number 1 needed clothing item for a homeless person is a pair of socks?
- Please help the St. George Ladies Philoptochos provide new socks to Coachella Valley Rescue Mission for the in-program residents & homeless population in the east valley.
- Deposit new socks in the bins provided that are located in the church hall. Monetary donations can be made & we will do the shopping if you are not able.
- Both women & mens socks are needed in Casual or Dress styles. Please donate only new socks!