

OCTOBER 10, 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.

GOD’S REALITY

According to the Holy Tradition of the Orthodox Church, prayer is to be always heart-felt, coming from within one’s soul. It is a matter of dealing with reality in a spiritual way. Prayer is the reality of being present with God, Whose power forms and transforms the reality in which we live.

This transformation of God’s already created reality causes us often to experience new realities, which are real just the same, but which allow us to know God’s infinite love. We call such transformations of reality “*miracles.*” Examples

would be: the crossing of the Red Sea; the Virgin Birth of Christ; the Resurrection of the dead, and the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Prayer brings us into communication with Christ our True God and our presence in the real world of God’s Eternal Kingdom, which is beyond our comprehension.

In the presence of Christ, then, we experience the raising from the dead of the widow’s son, as narrated in today’s Gospel passage. In Christ, in what naturally would crush us emotionally, we find supernatural strength

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PRAYER ACCORDING TO ST. PAUL

We can see from St. Paul’s letters that prayer was an important part of his life. He prayed because God was the center of his universe. “*For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.*” (Romans 11:36) “Pray without ceasing,” he told the Thessalonians, “*In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.*” (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

Paul addresses his prayer to God the Father, in the name of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit: “*In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.*” (Romans 8:26) Paul rarely prays for worldly things like health, prosperity, or healing. These things don’t last. He says that “*we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.*” (2 Corinthians 4:18).

-- Taken from:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/scripture-and-tradition/>
Website for Loyola Press



Σύμφωνα με την Ιερά Παράδοση της Ορθοδόξου Εκκλησίας, η προσευχή πρέπει να είναι πάντα καρδιακή, προερχόμενη από την ψυχή του ανθρώπου. Η προσευχή είναι βασικά η αντιμετώπιση της πραγματικότητας με πνευματικό τρόπο. Η προσευχή επίσης είναι ο τρόπος διά του οποίου ευρισκόμεθα στην παρουσία του Θεού, του Οποίου η δύναμη σχηματίζει και μεταμορφώνει την πραγματικότητα στην οποία ζούμε.

Αυτός ο μετασχηματισμός της ήδη δημιουργημένης πραγματικότητας του Θεού μας κάνει να βιώνουμε συχνά νέες πραγματικότητες που μας επιτρέπουν να γνωρίζουμε την υπερφυσική και απέραντη αγάπη του Θεού. Αυτούς τους μετασχηματισμούς της πραγματικότητας τους ονομάζουμε «θαύματα». Παραδείγματα είναι τα εξής: η διέλευσις της Ερυθράς Θαλάσσης, η Γέννησις του Χριστού εκ της Παρθένου, η Ανάστασις εκ των νεκρών, και η Πεντηκοστή. Η προσευχή μας φέρνει σε επικοινωνία με τον Χριστό τον Αληθινό μας Θεό και την παρουσία μας στον πραγματικό κόσμο της Αιώνιου Βασιλείας του Θεού, η οποία είναι ακατανόητη, σύμφωνα με τις ανθρωπίνες μας δυνάμεις.

Μεσ' την παρουσία του Χριστού, λοιπόν, βιώνουμε την ανάστασις εκ των νεκρών του υιού της χήρας, όπως εξηγείται στην σημερινή Ευαγγελικήν περικοπή. Ωσο είμεθα ηνωμένοι με τον Χριστό, σε αυτό που μας συνθλίβει συναισθηματικά (σύμφωνα με την πεσμένη μας φύση), είμεθα ακόμα σε θέση να ευρούμε την υπερφυσική δύναμη του Θεου. Εχουμε τον Αγ. Παύλον ως παράδειγμα αυτής της αληθείας!

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

from God to endure in peace. This is the reality that St. Paul experienced throughout his entire life, which he described in his Second Epistle to the Corinthians, from which we heard today. He writes that people would naturally view his life, "as sorrowful, yet," he was "always rejoicing; as poor, yet " he was "making many rich;" as "having nothing, and yet," he was "possessing everything." His love for God and God's love for him made possible the impossible. His life was one of faith, which gave way to God's miracles.

The miracles surrounding St. Paul's life did not include the raising of the dead, or the healing of the injured or the sick. The miracles surrounding his life involved *inspiring* others to follow Christ our God by exemplifying God's love for all people. By way of his humility before Christ, he had supernatural strength to overcome natural obstacles in order to do God's Will for the sake of all.

The moral and spiritual teachings of the Orthodox Church are based on the Apostolic Tradition embodied in the life-style of St. Paul. We are summoned to endure hardships with faith; to forgive those who sin, as an expression of love, and to bless those who sin against us. We are summoned to do God's Will without making excuses for not doing so. This is standard for ethical and moral behavior according to the Orthodox Church and which is imparted to us in the Bible.

St. Paul was truly "pan-Orthodox" in his ministry; for, he ministered to non-believers of every nation. My prayer is that Orthodoxy in our country will become a united force of drawing people to the Orthodox Christian life-style. In this way, all people can experience the reality of God's love, which completes and surpasses the realities of the material world and our fallen nature, which is injured by sin.

+FR. THEODORE

MEMORIAL – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servants of God:

Konstantinos Tsiamagos (40 days) the beloved husband of Christina Tsiamagos and father of Alexandra Haralambous, father-in-law of George Haralambous, father of George Tsiamagos, father-in-law of Angela Tsiamagos, and grandfather of Vasili, Konstantinos, and Giannis Haralambous – and Konstantinos Tsiamagos;

Adele Gallade (6 months), the beloved mother of Ken Hoffman;

Spyridon Canakis (1 year), the beloved husband of Evangelia Canakis, father of Maria Angelos and Rubina Canakis, and grandfather of Nicholas Angelos.

Chris Laskaris (1 year), the beloved husband of Annette Laskaris.

May our Lord God and Savior grant Eternal Life and Salvation to: **Konstantinos Tsiamagos, Adele Gallade, Spyridon Canakis, and Chris Laskaris** and may He grant peace and comfort to: Christina Tsiamagos, Alexandra and George Haralambous, George and Angela Tsiamagos (and family), Ken Hoffman, Evangelia Canakis, and Annette Laskaris. MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!



“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 6:1-10

Brethren, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

GOSPEL- St. Luke 7: 11-16

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

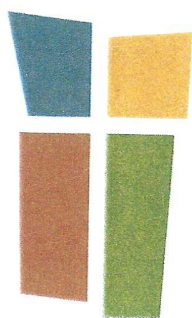
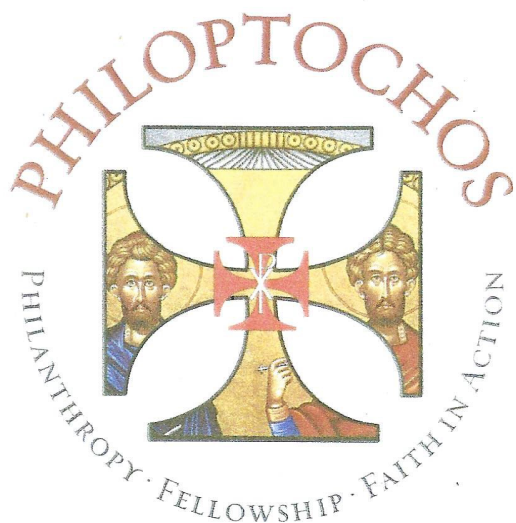
WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, October 11th.....No Philoptochos General Members Meeting; Next Meeting - November 8th.

Tuesday, October 12th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. (in-person and on “Zoom”) “Zoom” link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81329951397?pwd=NTJJK0ppVUc5R2ZtZzBFcTBWVTUvdz09>.
AHEPA Meeting -- 6:00 p.m. - Pizza Dinner & Men’s Bible Study
-- 6:30 p.m. - October AHEPA Meeting

Wednesday, October 13th...Bible Study – 6:30 p.m. (in-person & “Zoom..” “Zoom” link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86111452564> .

Thursday, October 14th...Choir Practice – 1:00 p.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!