

OCTOBER 24, 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.*

THE MIND OF CHEERFUL GIVING

As we heard from today's Gospel passage, our Savior was told to leave the land of the Gadarenes, because the people there resented Him for the fact that the demons He chased away destroyed the swine that they needed in their business dealings. They were not grateful for the fact that one of their own fellow citizens was healed, and they never considered the fact that their fellow citizen was afflicted, because they were all possessed by a cold, loveless view of life that could not rejoice in the healing of one of their own, who had suffered so tremendously.

They were unable (or unwilling) to acknowledge for themselves the miracle of our Savior, Who healed the demon-possessed man, putting him "in his right mind."

If we are to be rescued from evil, we need to allow ourselves to be inspired by Christ. Inspiration goes along way in the total effort of saving lives in this present world, giving way to life in God's Eternal Kingdom. The warning from today's Scripture is that our failure to be inspired by our Lord and to, in turn, inspire others to love our Lord leaves us at the mercy of sin and evil.

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ST. DEMETRIUS THE GREAT MARTYR – On Tuesday, October 26th, we will commemorate Saint Demetrius the Great Martyr. Saint Demetrius was a Thessalonian, a most pious son of pious and noble parents, and a teacher of the Faith of Christ. When Maximian first came to Thessalonica in 290, he raised the Saint to the rank of Duke of Thessaly. But when it was discovered that the Saint was a Christian, he was arrested and kept bound in a bath-house. While the games were under way in the city, Maximian was a spectator there. A certain friend of his, a barbarian who was a notable wrestler, Lyaeus by name, waxing haughty because of the height and strength of his body, boasted in the stadium and challenged the citizens to a contest with him. All that fought with him were defeated. Seeing this, a certain youth named Nestor, acquaintance of Demetrius', came to the Saint in the bath-house and asked his blessing to fight Lyaeus single-handed. Receiving this blessing and sealing himself with the sign of the precious Cross, he presented himself in the stadium, and said, "O God of Demetrius, help me!" and straightway he engaged Lyaeus in combat and smote him with a mortal blow to the heart, leaving the former boaster lifeless upon the earth. Maximian was sorely grieved over this, and when he learned who was the cause of this defeat, he commanded that Demetrius be pierced with lances while he was yet in the bath-house. As for Nestor, Maximian commanded that he be slain with his own sword. – Taken from: www.goarch.org



Όπως ακούσαμε από τη σημερινή περικοπή του Ευαγγελίου, οι Γαρδαρηνοί ζήτησαν από τον Σωτήρα μας να φύγει από την περιοχή τους, επειδή οι άνθρωποι παρέμειναν θυμωμένοι μαζί Του επειδή οι δαίμονες που ο Χριστός έδωσε από έναν δαιμονισμένο κατέστρεψαν τους χοίρους που εχρειάζονταν στις επιχειρηματικές τους συναλλαγές. Δεν ήταν ευγνώμονες για το γεγονός ότι ένας από τους συμπολίτες των εθεραπεύθη, και δεν εσκέφθησαν ποτέ ότι ίσως ο συμπολίτης τους έπασχε, επειδή όλοι υπέφεραν από μια «άνευ αγάπης» άποψη περί ζωής που τους καθιστούσε ανίκανους να χαρούν την πραγματικότητα ότι ένας δικός τους, εθεραπεύθηκε μετά που υπέφερε τόσο τρομερά. Δεν ημπούσαν (ή δεν ήσαν πρόθυμοι) να αναγνωρίσουν μόνοι τους το θαύμα του Σωτήρος μας, ο Οποίος εθεράπευσε τον ταλαιπωρημένο άνθρωπο, βάζοντάς τον «σε σωστό μυαλό».

Όσο για το τι σημαίνει να είναι κάποιος στο «σωστό μυαλό» του, μπορούμε να καταλάβουμε ότι η «ορθότητα» του νου ενός ανθρώπου σχετίζεται με την εμπειρία της απέραντης αγάπης του Χριστού. Χωρίς τη Θεία Αγάπη, η τρέλα σέρνεται, όπως καταλαβαίνουμε όταν δίνουμε προσοχή στις ανησυχητικές ειδήσεις της σημερινής εποχής.

Ας μην ξεχνάμε όμως κάτι. Ακριβώς όπως ο Χριστός ο Θεός είπε στον άνθρωπο τον οποίο εκαθάρισε από τη δαιμονοποίηση, «πήγαινε στο σπίτι σου και πες τι θαυμάσια πράγματα σου έκανε ο Θεός», έτσι μας λέει να κάνουμε και εμείς, για να εμπνευσθούν οι άλλοι με την αγάπη του Χριστού.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

Yet, even though Christ left the Gadarenes at their request, He did not abandon them. He sent to them the very man that He healed for the sake of inspiring them in the future to repent and to love our God. Just as Christ our God told the man whom He cleansed of demon-possession to, “go to your house, and tell what great things God has done for you,” so He tells each one of us to do the same. He made the healed man into a minister of His Love by giving him the spiritual gifts of God’s Wisdom. We are to “go to our houses” and tell our children, grandchildren and Godchildren about the great things that God does.

As for what it means for one to be in his or her “right mind,” we can understand that one’s “rightness” of mind is related to the experience of Christ’s infinite love and to know His Wisdom. Without Divine Love, madness creeps about, as we can see if we pay attention to today’s news stories, which picture unrest and dread-filled violence.

Wisdom is to know that God is good to us. St. Paul urges us, through his Second Epistle to the Corinthians, to be in our “right mind,” so that we can be “cheerful givers,” as opposed to “ungrateful hoarders.” Being cheerful givers translates into receiving greater blessings. While St. Paul speaks of a “sufficiency” of things, at the same time, he speaks of the *abundance* of spiritual gifts. He does not ask that we give from our poverty, but that we give what is left over from that which is sufficient. Doing so inspires others to “every good work” in *abundance*.

The healed demon-possessed Gadarene man received the *abundance* of God’s Wisdom and was in his “right mind.” Like him, let us preach the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to others, maintaining our “rightness of mind,” and *cheerfully* sharing God’s Wisdom.

+FR. THEODORE

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Today..... Today is the last day of the Philoptochos “Socketober Drive” for new socks for those in need at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. Also, today is Sunday School “Pumpkin Painting” ...after the Divine Liturgy. Sunday School students will participate in the annual “Pumpkin Painting” event in thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth.

Tuesday, October 26th....ST. DEMETRIOS THE GREAT MARTYR
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m./ Bible Study –11:00 a.m.
[Note the time change.] (Zoom link for Bible Study:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85019077883?pwd=eUhpY2FwZGw0RnJpdzRUWEZHRFJ1dz09>)

Wednesday, October 27th.....Bible Study –6:30 p.m.
(Zoom link for Bible Study:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86111452564>)

Thursday, October 28th.....Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m.

Next Sunday....Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, a prayer will be read in commemoration of the Greece’s National Observance of “OXI” Day (October 28th)



“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 9:6-11

Brethren, the point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

GOSPEL -- ST. LUKE 8:26-39

At that time, as Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many

a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. When the herdsmen saw what happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but he sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, November 6th...ST. RAPHAEL OF BROOKLYN – Commemoration of St. Raphael will be at St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms. Orthros-9:00 a.m./Divine Liturgy- 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 7th...honoring our parishioners for Veterans Day. A simple, “coffee hour” recognition of the members of our parish who are veterans of the Armed Forces (and who are currently serving in the Armed Forces). We thank God for their love of God and our country.

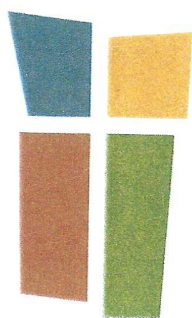
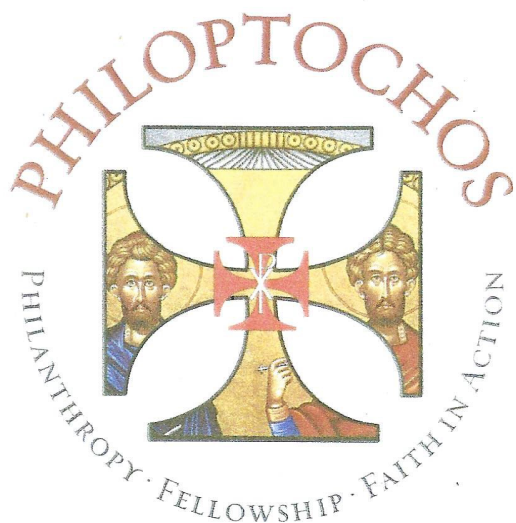
Sunday, November 14th...Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, officiated by His Grace, Bishop Spyridon of Amastris in commemoration of the One-year Anniversary of His Ordination to the priestly Office of Bishop of our Most Holy Greek Orthodox Christian Church.

Sunday, November 21st....St. George parish **Fall General Assembly following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Selection of Election Committee (Parish Council Elections in December) and Auditing Committee.**

Sunday, November 28th....AHEPA 528 Thanksgiving Turkey Raffle.

NOTES: **We need ushers for Sunday Services. Those interested in helping with ushering duties, please contact **Fr. Ted or Pete Snarskis**.

****Parish Christmas Card – Details for participation in this year’s Parish Christmas Card will be available **next Sunday, October 28th**.**



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!