

FEBRUARY 6, 2022

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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Palm Desert, California 92260**

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THE LADDER

ST. PHOTIUS THE GREAT



Mailing Address:

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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.

HAVE FAITH IN GOD!

"[For Orthodox Christians many prayers written for personal use are] taken directly from the service books employed in public worship, so that even when alone we are still praying with the Church, using the words that are also being spoken in countless parish churches and monasteries." (The Orthodox Church, by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, pg. 303).

The Canaanite Woman of today's Gospel passage demonstrates the fact that our love for others makes our personal

prayer an *interpersonal* prayer at the same time. In addition, her *persistence* in prayer with *faith* is what Jesus also recognized in her. He both praised her and He answered her prayer and healed her daughter, which also served for her own well-being.

Faith in God puts us in touch with God, Who then allows us to participate in His love and in His awesome powers. It is this faith that makes us "the temple of the living God" (2 Corinthians 6:16), as we heard from

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ST. PHOTIUS AND HIS IMPORTANT TREATISE

St. Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople in the mid-800s A.D., wrote a landmark treatise, entitled, "Treatise on the Mystagogy of the Holy Spirit," written against the *Filioque*. It was an incident of the renewed strife with Rome begun by Marinus. Though his pontificate was too brief for any real results, Marinus renewed the ban against Photius, whereupon the latter stirred up afresh the strife over the procession of the Holy Spirit. "Treatise on the Mystagogy of the Holy Spirit" is throughout an independent product of Photius. It was he who gave the doctrine of the procession of the Holy Spirit the sharp and precise definition which it ever afterward had in dogmatics. It is significant that the doctrine is not mentioned in the *Amphilochia*; it had no immediate interest for Photius, and only the need of points of attack upon the West led him to elaborate it. After a brief introduction he fixes on the Gospel of St. John 15: 26, as the *locus classicus* of the doctrine, where Christ says that the Spirit proceeds "from the Father." To add that he proceeds also from the Son is held to lead to absurdities; it makes the Spirit a "product of the Son," and it destroys the unity of the three Persons of the Trinity (iii., iv.).

– Taken from *St. Photius – Christian Classics Ethereal Library*
(<https://www.ccel.org/s/schaff/encyc/encyc09/htm/ii.lxiii.htm>)



Η Χανααναια της σημερινής περικοπής του Ευαγγελίου καταδεικνύει το γεγονός ότι η αγάπη μας για τους άλλους κάνει την προσωπική μας ταυτοχρόνως μια διαπροσωπική ευχή. Επιπλέον, η επιμονή της με πίστη είναι αυτό που αναγνώρισε και ο Ιησούς. Την επαίνεσε και ως απάντηση στην προσευχή της εθεράπευσε την κόρη της που έγινε θεραπεία και για αυτήν την ίδια.

Η πίστις στον Θεό μας φέρνει σε επαφή με τον Θεό, Ο Οποίος μας επιτρέπει στη συνέχεια να συμμετέχουμε στην αγάπη Του και στις φοβερές δυνάμεις Του. Αυτή η πίστις είναι που μας κάνει «ναό του ζώντος Θεού» (Β' Κορινθίους 6:16), όπως ακούσαμε από την σημερινή ανάγνωση εκ του Αποστόλου Παύλου. Ως εκ τούτου, δεν πρέπει να αγγίζουμε «τίποτα ακάθαρτο» (2 Κορινθίους 6:18). Τα πράγματα που είναι «ακάθαρτα» είναι καρποί της ανυπακοής σχετικώς με την αγάπη του Θεού. Αντίθετα, πρέπει να αναζητούμε εκείνα τα που είναι εκ της αγνής καλοσύνης του Θεού.

Μιμούμενοι την ταπεινοφροσύνη, την πίστη και τη μετάνοια της Χαναανίας, μπορούμε επίσης να επιλέξουμε να ευρεθούμε σε κοινωνία με τη Θεία αγάπη του Χριστού.

Ας υψώσουμε τις καρδιές μας στον Χριστό, επιτρέποντας στο Άγιο Πνεύμα να εμπνεύσει τον καθένα μας να στραφεί προς τον Χριστό και να προσευχηθεί για θεραπεία των ψυχών και των σωμάτων όλων των συνανθρώπων μας.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

today's Epistle reading. As such, we are to touch "nothing unclean" (2 Corinthians 6:18). Things that are "unclean" are the fruits of disobedience to God. Instead, we are to seek those things that are of God's pure goodness.

History records the Canaanites as enemies of the Hebrew Nation — 1) militarily, their love for war is recorded in the Book of Judges; 2) they also followed a pagan religion, which led them to acts of debauchery in honor of Baalim and Baalot, their goddesses.

Thus, the Canaanite Woman was an outsider both on national and spiritual levels. When we commit sins, we too become outsiders of the Kingdom of God. This is implied in one of the Communion Prayers: "How shall I, who am unworthy, enter into the splendor of Your saints? If I should dare to enter into the bridal chamber, my vesture will condemn me, since it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels." However, in imitation of the Canaanite Woman's humility, faith, and repentance we can also choose to find ourselves in communion with Christ's Divine love.

The Holy Spirit inspired the Canaanite Woman to seek Jesus. Let us lift up our hearts to Christ, allowing the Holy Spirit to inspire each of us to turn to Christ our God and to pray for healing of the souls and bodies of our fellow human beings throughout the world.

+FR. THEODORE

MEMORIAL-- Today's Memorial is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for **Demetris Elliniadis (40 days)**, who passed away in Greece. He is the beloved brother of **Tina Veroulis** and brother-in-law of **Angelo Veroulis**. Also, today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for **Sotirios Soumalias (2 years)**, the beloved uncle of **Tasia Richards**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life to **Demetris Elliniadis** and **Sotirios Soumalias** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Tina Veroulis** and **Tasia Richards** and their families. MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!

PHILOPTOCHOS -- The **Annual Philoptochos Membership Luncheon** will be held on **Saturday, February 19, 2022 at our parish hall on Saturday, February 19, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. R.S.V.P. by February 14, 2022**, by contacting our Philoptochos Chapter President, **Rhonda Latkovic**. See enclosed flier.

COFFEE HOUR'S NEW FEATURE -- Fr. Ted will be available every Sunday following the Divine Liturgy at a special table in our parish hall, reserved as **The Orthodox Question & Answer Table**. Anyone and everyone -- especially our visitors, new members, and those considering conversion to our Holy Greek Orthodox Faith -- is invited to join Fr. Ted to ask a question and/or join in a discussion about topics related to our Divine Liturgy and our Church teachings.

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,

EPISTLE -- 2 Corinthians 6:16-18;7:1

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

GOSPEL -- St. Matthew 15: 21-28

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 8th.....Bible Study- 10:00 a.m. (Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82779591017?pwd=VGNYSUZpb1E3NlA1QlozRUc4SzBxZz09>)

AHEPA-Bible Study-6:00 p.m./ Meeting-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 9th..... Bible Study - 6:30 p.m. (Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86111452564>)

Thursday, February 10th.....ST. HARALAMBOS

Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Parish Council-2:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 13th.....Annual AHEPA Super Bowl Party at our parish hall - 3:00 p.m.

GREEK FOLK DANCE LESSONS

Sign-ups for **Greek Folk Dance lessons** with our instructor **Angeliki Pagoulatos** began on Sunday, January 30th and will continue through the next two weeks in our parish hall following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Feel free to also contact our parish office at (760) 568-9901 to sign-up and for more information.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

PRAYER: O Lord our God, You created us and brought us into this life. You showed us the way to salvation and have granted us the revelation of the heavenly mysteries. Accept our Stewardship Offering as an acceptable sacrifice and in return send down upon us the grace of your Holy Spirit. Look down on us, O Lord, and accept our Stewardship Commitment as You accepted the gifts of Abel, the offerings of Noah, the burnt offerings of Abraham, the priestly sacrifices of Moses and Aaron and the peace offerings of Samuel. Accept also now, in your goodness, O Lord, these gifts from the hands of us sinners, making us worthy of the reward of the faithful and wise stewards on the awesome day of Your just judgment. For You are the God of mercy, love and salvation and we glorify You, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The St. George Philoptochos
of the Desert
Invites you to their Annual
Membership Luncheon

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022

11:30 am

St. George Church Hall
Your paid 2022 membership
is your ticket for the event

Come join us for food, fun &
fellowship!

Kindly RSVP by February 14th

Name: _____

___ Yes, I will attend

___ No, I cannot attend
sending renewal by mail



**ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH LENTEN RETREAT
SATURDAY & SUNDAY,**

74-109 LARREA STREET, PALM DESERT, CA

SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND - 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

(ST. GEORGE PARISH HALL)

SUNDAY, APRIL 3RD - ORTHROS - 8:30 A.M./ DIVINE LITURGY - 9:30 A.M.

(ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH)

SPEAKER:

FR. PHILIP ZYMARIS, THD

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LITURGICS

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

"THE DIVINE LITURGY: THE EXPERIENCE OF HUMAN FLOURISHING"

- **"THE MEANING BEHIND THE LITURGICAL MOVEMENTS"**
- **"BECOMING CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM: THE PRAYERS, HYMNOLOGY, ARCHITECTURE AND ICONOGRAPHY THAT FORM US."**

REGISTRATION: \$20 (LENTEN LUNCHEON)

NAME _____

CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

R.S.V.P BY: FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ST. GEORGE PHILOPTOCHOS.

IN MEMO, WRITE: "PARISH RETREAT."