

JANUARY 16, 2022

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 ENERGY OF THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving to God is an energy that attracts the grace of God. This is the very *power* of the Divine Liturgy. Giving thanks to God by way of our participation in the prayers and hymns of worship, allows us to call upon God, Who descends in the Person of the Holy Spirit in order to change the “essence” of our existence in this world in the forms of bread (the food of the world) and wine (the symbol of every joy) into the very Body and Blood of

our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

Our transformation in this mystery is explained most clearly in the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil. “[Our Lord] was incarnate of the Holy Virgin, taking on the form of a servant, becoming conformed to our lowliness, so that He can make us to be conformed to the Image of His glory.” This Image is the divine quality in each person, regardless of race, gender, or nationality. Being united with Christ, we are united with our God’s *Divine Image*.

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ANGELS JOIN US IN WORSHIP

During the Divine Liturgy the Angels and Archangels are present with us, joining the “Church of Heaven” with the “Church on earth.” The Prayer for the Entrance with the Gospel reminds us that our Lord created the “*armies of angels and archangels to do the service of [His] glory in Heaven,*” and we ask, “*Grant that there may be with our Entry an Entry of Holy Angels, serving with us and with us glorifying You for Your goodness.*”

We join with the angels as we sing the Cherubic Hymn during the Divine Liturgy, “*We who mystically represent the Cherubim [i.e., the Angelic order of Great Angels], as we sing the trice-holy hymn* to the life-giving Trinity...**” and, as we continue the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, we give thanks to God for accepting our prayers, even though our Lord is surrounded by “*thousands of archangels and tens of thousands of angels, by the Cherubim and the Seraphim, six-winged, many-eyed, soaring on their wings.*”

St. John of Kronstadt writes: “*[Do not forget] that, in the temple, Angels officiate with trembling, together with the people, and they regard this as their highest bliss.*” (My Life in Christ, Vol. 2, pg. 16)

*The Cherubic Hymn is in reference to the Scriptures: **Isaiah 6:1-13**
+FR. THEODORE



Η ευχαριστία στον Θεό είναι μια ενέργεια που προσελκύει τη χάρη του Θεού. Αυτή είναι η ίδια η δύναμη της Θείας Λειτουργίας. Το να ευχαριστούμε τον Θεό με το να συμμετέχουμε στις προσευχές και στους ύμνους της λατρείας, μας βοηθά να δοξάζουμε τον Θεό, ο Οποίος καταπέμπει το Αγίο Πνεύμα για να αλλάξει την «ουσία» της ύπαρξής μας σε αυτόν τον κόσμο. Αυτή η αλλαγή γίνεται μέσω της μετατροπής του άρτου (η τροφή του κόσμου) και του κρασιού (το σύμβολο κάθε χαράς) στο πραγματικό Σώμα και Αίμα του Κυρίου και Θεού ημών Ιησού Χριστού.

Η μεταμόρφωσή μας από αυτό το μυστήριο εξηγείται πιο ξεκάθαρα στην εκτέλεση της Θείας Λειτουργίας του Αγίου Βασιλείου που λέγει, «[Ο Κύριός μας] εκ Παρθένου Αγίας σαρκωθείς, εκένωσε Εαυτόν, μορφήν δούλου λαβών, σύμμορφος γενόμενος τω σώματι της ταπεινώσεως ημών, ίνα ημάς συμμόρφους ποιήση της εικόνας της δόξης Αυτού.» Αυτή η Εικόνα είναι η θεϊκή ιδιότητα σε κάθε άτομο, ανεξαρτήτως φυλής, φύλου, ή εθνικότητας. Όντας ενωμένοι με τον Χριστό, είμεθα ενωμένοι με τη Θεία Εικόνα του Θεού μας, Ιησού Χριστού.

Αυτή η εικόνα μας κάνει ανθρώπους. Έχουμε την Ελεύθερη Βούληση. Καταλαβαίνουμε τη διαφορά μεταξύ καλού και κακού. Έχουμε την ικανότητα να είμεθα ευγνώμονες και να εκφράζουμε ευγνωμοσύνη. Ομως, η αχαριστία, όπως αυτή που έδειξαν οι εννέα λεπροί (κατα την σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή) είναι προδοσία της ίδιας της ύπαρξής μας κατά αυτήν την Εικόνα του Θεού.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

It is this Image that makes us human. We have Free Will; we comprehend the difference between good and evil. We have the *capacity* to be thankful and to express gratitude, through our words and behaviors. Ingratitude, such as that shown by the nine lepers who were cured by Christ, is a betrayal of our very being according to the *Image* – a betrayal against our very self. Pride and ego are the fountains of ingratitude, which, in turn makes the human heart grow cold.

If we are grateful to God for any blessings, our spiritual duty is to worship God with our “loud voices.” Discharging this duty stabilizes our emotions, especially when we can bring to our minds the hymns and prayers of the Liturgy as we go about our daily business. Otherwise, we are victims of illusions that spring from different forms of pride that in some way or another cause disharmony within ourselves and among others.

The loud voice of worship is a gift of thanksgiving to God for our salvation. As we come together for worship, we give the message that God’s love is something for the whole world to hear and our participation in making the sound of worship is a fundamental way by which we proclaim the Gospel message -- the “Good News.” Hence, if we are truly grateful to God, our gratitude is best shown as a public message to God’s glory. Giving God glory through worship is also meant to give us inner peace, and, through our peace, we can bring peace to those around us.

+FR. THEODORE

NAME DAY SAINTS FAIR - Today, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, everyone is invited to enjoy the NAME DAY SAINTS FAIR, which is a report on display by each student, explaining the life-style of his or her Baptismal Saint. The display will be available throughout today’s coffee hour.

GODPARENT SUNDAY - Sunday, January 30th! Along with parents, the Godparent is responsible to assist in the spiritual growth of their Godchild by being a good example of the Orthodox Christian way of life and by helping teach the child the basic facts about our Orthodox Church. We ask all Godchildren and Godparents to come together for worship and fellowship on **Sunday, January 30**. Please see the enclosed flier.

NEXT SUNDAY -- Meeting to organize Greek Folk Dance lessons after the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

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 - Colossians 3:4-11

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

GOSPEL - St. Luke 17:12-19

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

MEMORIAL -- Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Leonidas Panos (1 year)**, the beloved husband of **Venetia Panos**, and beloved father of **Demetrios Panos, Heidi Panos, and Vicky Panos**. (We also include the servant of God, **Demtrios, [40 years]** the beloved father of **Venetia Panos**.) May Christ our God and Savior grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Leonidas Panos**, and may He grant peace and comfort to **Venetia Panos** and the entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

Monday, January 17th.....ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT

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

Tuesday, January 18th.....ST. ATHANASIOS & ST. CYRIL, PATRIARCHS OF ALEXANDRIA

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/83371776876?pwd=UnEzUTRybjkwT2FraW1LSWhlYk9Bdz09>

Wednesday, January 19th....Bible Study - 6:30 p.m. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86111452564>

Thursday, January 20th.....ST. EUTHYMIOS THE GREAT

Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m./Choir Practice -1:00 p.m./Parish Council - 6:30 pm. (Zoom)

Saturday, January 22nd.....AHEPA District 20 Mid-Winter Conference at Homewood Suites Hotel in La Quinta, California - 8:00 a.m.



GODPARENT /GODCHILD SUNDAY

**YOU'RE INVITED!
JANUARY 30TH**

**LITURGY 9:30 AM
SPECIAL PRAYER
FELLOWSHIP
PHOTOS**

**St George Greek Orthodox Church,
74109 Larea Street, Palm Desert, Ca 92260**