

**JUNE 5, 2022**



**ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT**  
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# THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS

## PRAYER FOR READING HOLY SCRIPTURES

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–Fr. Theodore Pantels,  
Proistamenos (Pastor)  
–Deacon Euthym Kon-  
taxis, M.D.

**Holy Communion Or-  
der**

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 Com-*

*"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 -- Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

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GOSPEL -- St. John 17:1-13

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven

and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made. I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

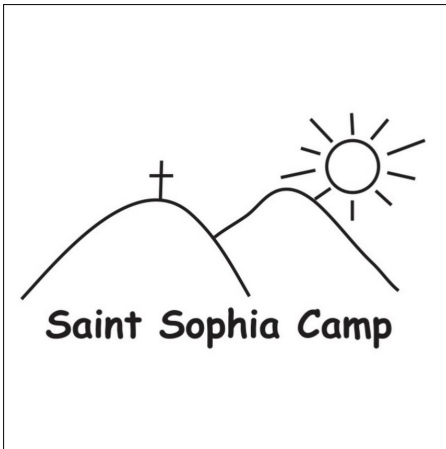
**COMMEMORATING THE HOLY FATHERS**

Saint Constantine the Great, the equal to the Apostles, summoned the renowned First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was there that the shepherds and teachers of the Church of Christ gathered from all regions in the year 325. All of them, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God, and they composed the holy Symbol of Faith up to the seventh article (since the remainder, beginning with "*And in the Holy Spirit*," was completed by the Second Ecumenical Council). Thus they condemned the doctrine of the impi-

ous Arius of evil belief and those of like mind with him, (falsely contending that Christ is not God) and cut them off as rotten members from the whole body of the faithful.

Therefore, recognizing the divine Fathers as heralds of the Faith after the divine Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honour, and unto the strengthening of the true Faith.

--Taken in part from Archdiocese website:  
[www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****ST. SOPHIA SUMMER CAMP****2022 Camp Registration is now open!**

**Week 1: July 25th - July 29th - Camp Cedar Lake in Big Bear Lake, CA. Week cost: \$565 (online)/ \$550 (check)**

**Week 2: August 2nd - August 7th -- Camp St. Nicholas in Frazer Park, CA . Week cost (\$665 online)/ \$650 (check)**

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

Saturday, June 11th.....SATURDAY OF SOULS – Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.  
**(Note: Please submit names for remembrance by completing the enclosed "Saturday of Souls" form and bring it to Church Services on Saturday, June 11th.)**

Sunday, June 12th.....PENTECOST SUNDAY  
**(Note: Orthros and Divine Liturgy will much likely begin earlier than normal on this day.)**

Monday, June 13th.....FEAST DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
Orthros - 8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.



Stewardship contributions from our St. George parishioners have been outstanding throughout this first part of 2022. Prayers of thanksgiving are offered to all of our parishioners by the members of our St. George Stewardship Committee and the members of our Parish Council.

The "Thank You Card" above is offered in gratitude to the members of our St. George parish for giving from their hearts toward the work of our Savior in the world, bringing salvation to one and all.



## OUR SAVIOR'S GRATITUDE

In today's Gospel passage, we hear words of gratitude expressed by our Savior. He prayed that the Apostles and all who would follow them would know that He is God, to be glorified together with the Father *"with the glory which I had with You before the world was."* (St. John 17:5). The glory for Christ is not for Himself, but for those who follow Him unto salvation. Our Savior is grateful for those who have been given to Him. Unto God the Father, He prays, *"They were Yours, You gave them to Me."* (St. John 17:6). We recall that it was at the Last Supper, our Lord *gave thanks* for the Divine Liturgy -- the Holy Eucharist. (St. Mark 14:23; St. Luke 22:17-19). In essence, He gave thanks for you and me -- and for all people in the world, thanking us all for following Him Who laid His life down for our forgiveness in order to share His glory. In turn, when we are grateful, we pray as our Lord prays: we glorify God; we thank God; we worship God: *"We praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You, Lord our God,"* as chanted during the Divine Liturgy.

Thus, we are reminded of our Lord's gratitude for each one of us who have inherited the knowledge of God passed on to us from the Apostles -- and, by extension, by the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils. By "knowledge," we mean the Wisdom of God, which comes from living experiences of prayer and living according to our Lord's teachings. Eternal life, then, is a continuous process of always gaining knowledge of God's love through a life-style dedicated to God, calling upon the Name of Christ, and being enlightened by the Holy Spirit. We must, indeed, be grateful for the gift of prayer.

I must confess, that I find myself complaining too much -- complaining about the price of gas; complaining about the hot weather; complaining about not having my way, etc. Complaining ultimately poisons our souls and it hurts other people. The cure for this malady is to find something to be grateful for; to find something in the people around us for whom to be grateful to God.

As we prepare for Pentecost next Sunday, let us be grateful for our parish; for our country; for our families and for the Wisdom that God gives us in answer to prayer, as we commemorate the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council today.

+FR. THEODORE

Στη σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή, ακούσαμε λόγια ευγνωμοσύνης του Χριστού. Προσευχήθηκε πως οι Απόστολοι και όλοι όσοι τους ακολουθούν να καταλάβουν ότι είναι ο Θεός για να Τον δοξάσουν μαζί με τον Πατέρα ενώ πάντοτε είχε την ίδιαν δόξαν όπως ο Πατέρας πριν εδημιουργήθηκε ο κόσμος. (Αγ. Ιωάν. 17:5).

Στην ουσία, ο Χριστός είναι ευγνώμων για εσάς και για μένα -- και για όλους τους ανθρώπους του κόσμου που Τον λατρεύουν αφού έδωσε τη ζωή Του προς συγχώρεση για τις αμαρτίες μας. Με τη σειρά μας, όταν είμεθα ευγνώμονες, προσευχόμεθα όπως προσεύχεται ο Χριστος: δοξάζουμε τον Θεό. ευχαριστούμε τον Θεό; λατρεύουμε τον Θεό: «*Σε υμνούμε, Σε ευλογούμε, Σοι ευχαριστούμε, και δεόμεθα σου, ο Θεός ημών*», όπως ψάλλεται κατά τη Θεία Λειτουργία.

Πρέπει να ομολογήσω ότι παραπονιέμαι πάρα πολύ -- παραπονιέμαι για την τιμή της βενζίνης. παραπονιέμαι για την πολύ ζέστη, παραπονιέμαι ότι δεν έχω όλα τα πράγματα που θέλω όταν θέλω κ.λπ. Το παράπονο τελικά δηλητηριάζει τις ψυχές μας. Δεν καλλιερεύεται τίποτα με το παράπονο -- και ακόμα πληγώνει άλλους ανθρώπους. Η θεραπεία για αυτήν την ασθένεια είναι να ευρούμε κάτι για να είμεθα ευγνώμονες και να αγαπάμε ο ένας τον άλλον.

Καθώς προετοιμαζόμεθα για την Πεντηκοστή, ας είμεθα ευγνώμονες για την ενορία μας, για την χώρα μας, για τις οικογένειές μας και για τη Θείαν Σοφία που μας χαρίζει ο Θεος ως απάντηση στις προσευχές μας, καθώς τιμούμε σήμερα την μνήμη των Αγίων Πατέρων της Α' Οικουμενικής Συνόδου.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

