

MAY 15, 2022

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com



THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert, CA.92261

Tel: (760) 568-9901

or: (760) 880-5869

– 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.

TAKE UP YOUR BED AND WALK!

Physical paralysis is close enough to death itself. Unable to move or be active is a fearful reality, because it means that life cannot be lived as fully as was intended. Healing the paralytic is indeed close enough to raising the dead.

Jesus asked a man who was paralyzed for 38 years if he wanted to be made well. It was a Sabbath Day. Hence, our Savior's question carried a double meaning, as if asking the paralytic, (1)

"Do you want to be made well knowing that this is a Sabbath and that you may be persecuted for your healing?" and, (2) "Do you really want to be well, or is there some convenience that you enjoy by remaining paralyzed?"

The first meaning of the question has to do with the willingness to be a martyr for Christ. The second meaning has to do with wanting the responsibilities that come with being healthy. Being healthy requires that
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SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Close to the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem, there was a pool, which was called the Sheep's Pool. Under this roof there lay very many sick people with various maladies, awaiting the moving of the water. The first to step in after the troubling of the water was healed immediately of whatever malady he had. It was there that the paralytic of today's Gospel was lying, tormented by his infirmity of thirty-eight years. When Christ beheld him, He asked him, "Wilt thou be made whole?" And he answered with a quiet and meek voice, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool." The Lord said unto him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." And straightaway the man was made whole and took up his bed. Walking in the presence of all, he departed rejoicing to his own house. According to the expounders of the Gospels, the Lord Jesus healed this paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and dwelt there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Evangelist, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

--Taken from our Archdiocese website: www.goarch.org



Το να είμεθα υγιείς απαιτεί να είμεθα σε θέση να υπηρετούμε τις ανάγκες των άλλων. Ακριβώς όπως ο παράλυτος εχρηαιζόταν «έναν άνθρωπο» για να τον πάρει στη «κολυμβήθρα Βηθεσδά,» έτσι και η ερώτηση του Ιησού: «Θέλεις να είσαι καλά;» υπονοεί μια πρόκληση, υποδηλώνοντας: «Αν είσαι καλά, θα ήσουν πρόθυμος να είσαι «ο άνθρωπος» που βοηθά έναν άλλον που έχει ανάγκη; ή είσαι ικανοποιημένος με το να συγκεντρώσεις τη συμπάθεια για τον εαυτό σου από τους άλλους και να σε περιμένουν οι άλλοι;» Το να λέμε «ναι» στην ερώτηση σημαίνει ότι θέλουμε να είμεθα καλά για να υπηρετούμε τους άλλους και να δοξάσουμε τον Κύριο μας, παρα τις κοσμικές συνέπειες.

Πράγματι, το Σάββατο είναι η Ημέρα του Κυρίου, γιατί είναι η Ημέρα κατά την οποία ο Ιδιος ο Κύριος «αναπαύθηκε» στον τάφο αφού απέθανε για τις αμαρτίες μας. Η λατρεία που δίνεται στον Κύριο μας είναι μια πράξη ευγνωμοσύνης, η οποία εκφράζεται, μέσω της διακονίας -- προσφέροντας λατρεία στον Χριστό με σκοπό να φέρουμε την αγάπη του Θεού σε άλλους προσφέροντας προσευχές και κάνοντας καλές πράξεις προς δόξαν του Θεού. Με αυτόν τον τρόπο, τηρούμε την Ημέρα του Κυρίου.

Από πολλές απόψεις η πίστη των Φαρισαίων ήταν «παράλυτη» λόγω της εμμονής τους με τον Νόμο και το Σάββατο. Ως φαίνεται, οι Φαρισαίοι ελάτρευαν το Σάββατο με σκοπό να μην ενδιαφέρονται για την σωτηρία των συνανθρώπων των. Η Ημέρα του Κυρίου, είναι η ευκαιρία μας να «σηκώνουμε τα «κρεβάτια μας» και να βαδίζουμε αληθινά στα μονοπάτια της δικαιοσύνης του Σωτήρος μας.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

we are able to minister to the needs of others. Just as the paralytic needed “a man” to take him into the pool of healing, Jesus’ question, “Do you want to be well?” implies a challenge, suggesting, “If you are well, would you be willing to be ‘the man’ who helps another in need?, or are you content with garnering sympathy for yourself from others and being waited upon by others?” Saying “yes” to the question means that we want to be well in order to serve others and give glory to our Lord, despite any worldly consequences.

Indeed, the Sabbath is the Lord’s Day, because it is the Day on which the Lord Himself “rested” in the tomb after dying for our sins. Worship given to our Lord is to be an act of gratitude, which is expressed, through *diakonia* -- offering worship to Christ our God for the purpose of bringing salvation to others by offering prayers and doing good deeds for God’s glory. This is what it means to observe the Lord’s Day. It is the Day that never ends.

In many ways the faith of the Pharisees was “paralyzed,” due to their obsession with the Law and the Sabbath. It is as though they used the Sabbath to justify for themselves a lack of care for one’s neighbor.

Living the Life of God means that we “take up our beds” and truly walk in the paths of our Savior’s righteousness.

+FR. THEODORE

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for **Christos P. Panopoulos (40 days)**, who fell asleep in our Lord on April 5. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, **Joan**; his 4 daughters: **Paula (late Mark) Hurd, Thania Panopoulos, Alicia (Evan) Magas, Christa (Jason) Bird**. He is also survived by 7 grandchildren: **Kelly (Tommy), Kathryn, Nicholas, Jenna, Christos, Sophia, Thano** and his great grandson, **Cooper**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, arisen from the dead, grant to our beloved **Christos P. Panopoulos** Eternal Life and Salvation and may He grant peace and comfort to his wife, **Joan Panopoulos** and the entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

WELCOME FR. SIMEON POPTELECAN

We welcome **Fr. Simeon Poptelecan** to our parish today, as he has graciously offered to substitute for Fr. Ted. We are truly grateful to God for Fr. Poptelecan’s love and devotion to our Holy Church.



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, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen."

EPISTLE - Acts 32-42

In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

GOSPEL - St. John 5: 1-15

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.' " They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Saturday, May 21st..... STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN

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

AHEPA SUNDAY

Next Sunday, May 22nd, is our AHEPA Sunday, although today is the official AHEPA Sunday. Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy next Sunday, an awards ceremony will take place in our parish hall at which time awards from the **AHEPA 528 Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund** will be given to our deserving college students. Enclosed, please find the **Encyclical from His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros**, issued in observance of AHEPA Sunday.

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) ... Register online at: <https://www.saintsophiacamp.org/>



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 88/2022

AHEPA Sunday

May 15, 2022

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America:

My Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Christ,

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

Together with all the spiritual children of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, I extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association on the occasion of our Church's annual observance of AHEPA Sunday. This year of 2022 has a very special significance for both AHEPA and the Archdiocese because it marks our Centennial Celebrations. This fact alone speaks of the deep connections and synergies between these two pillars of the *Omogeneia*.

I encourage every parish across our country to make joyful and indeed, fitting, observances of their local AHEPA chapter. We are one Church, one Body in the Risen Lord, and we are one family. AHEPA has been with our Archdiocese every step of the way for one hundred years.

Therefore, let us all pray for our AHEPA family and wish them much health, success and prosperity, as well as another one hundred years of educational and progressive endeavors that enrich the lives of our communities and our country.

With paternal love in the Risen Lord,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America