

MAY 22, 2022



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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# THE LADDER

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

## 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."*

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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-*

EPISTLE-Acts 11:19-30... In those days, those apostles who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabos stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea, and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

GOSPEL - St. John 4:5-42...At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samaria to draw wa-

ter. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is

## GOSPEL PASSAGE, Continued

spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me,

and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony. "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard ourselves, and we know that this is indeed Christ the Savior of the world."

**THE SAMARITAN WOMAN** --After her encounter with Christ (at Jacob's Well, in accordance with today's Gospel reading) she and her whole family were baptized by the Apostles and became evangelists of the early Church. Upon baptism, she took the name *Photini*. She and her children eventually were summoned before the emperor Nero and instructed to renounce their faith in Christ. After many efforts to force her to surrender to idolatry, the emperor ordered that she be thrown down a well. St. Photini gave up her life in the year 66.

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

**MEMORIAL**

Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest of the AHEPA Chapter 528 members who have fallen asleep in the Lord: (Names that are underlined are their Orthodox Christian baptismal names).

2011: Fr. T. P. Theophilos

2016: Steven Geotas

2016: Steven Pisanos

2016: Stanley Georgalakis

2017: Robert (Haralambos) Maverick

2021: Christ (Christos) Laskaris

2017: George Tcharos

2018: Thomas (Athanasios) Evans

2018: J.J. (Demetrios) Richards, Sr.

2020: Spyridon Canakis

2021: Nicholas Kyriacou

MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**AHEPA SUNDAY** -- Today is our AHEPA 528 "AHEPA Sunday." All are invited into our parish hall for a special luncheon and program at which time awards from the AHEPA 528 Fr. T.P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship will be given to our local college students.

**PHILOPTOCHOS** - Yesterday, members from our parish Philoptochos and AHEPA Chapters gathered to help the Narrow Door ministry to feed the hungry. In addition, our Philoptochos Chapter is selling leftover Philoptochos pastries and golf tournament liquor and soft drinks today in our parish hall. Beverages from the golf tournament: Ouzo: (\$20 per bottle); Red of White Greek Wine (\$15 per bottle); Aris Greek Beer (\$24 per case of 24); Coke or Sprite (\$6 per case of 12). Pastries from the Easter Bake Sale: Karidopita (\$5 per box of 2); kourambiethes (\$5 per box of 4); Variety Trays (\$20 per tray -- only 3 available). All other pastries are sold out.

**FR. TED TO BE AWAY** - Wednesday, May 25th - Saturday morning, May 28th, Fr. Ted and Presvytera will be away for their grandson's graduation from High School in Elk Grove, California on May 26th. Fr. David Kruse, pastor of St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms will be available for emergency needs. He can be reached at (760) 408-6116.

"CATCH ME"... art exhibit in Los Angeles by Nicholas Kontaxis. Contact Krisann Kontaxis, Rhonda Latkovic, and/ or Margarita Pagoulatos for details and for transportation arrangements. See enclosed flier.

# NICHOLAS KONTAXIS

# **CATCH ME**



**JUNE 3RD OPENING NIGHT EVENT**  
**5pm-8pm**



**A SOLO EXHIBITION**

**UTA ARTIST SPACE · LOS ANGELES**

[utaartistspace.com](http://utaartistspace.com) [nicholaskontaxis.com](http://nicholaskontaxis.com)

NK

**"...A SPRING OF WATER WELLING UP TO ETERNAL LIFE."**

"...The water that I shall give will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (St. John 4:14). These are the words of our Savior, which He addressed to the Samaritan Woman.

Our minds go to the waters of Holy Baptism, which are blessed by the descent of the Holy Spirit. In uniting ourselves with our God and Savior Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit enters our lives and we are illumined with our God's Wisdom. The Wisdom of God guides our thinking and our motives to all things that reflect the love of God, bringing salvation to ourselves, as well as to others. Salvation is Eternal Life in God's Kingdom. As such, there is no need for water from a well, since we will never suffer thirst or hunger in God's Kingdom.

In the ancient Apostolic manuscript, *The Didache*, we can read about two ways of life: 1) the way of life that leads to Eternal Life, and 2) the way of life that leads to death. In essence, the way to Eternal Life is embraced by ordering priorities in accordance with the teachings of our Lord and the Holy Tradition of His Holy Church. It is a life-style in which, because of our Baptism, we seek to always improve ourselves, through repentance and Holy Confession in accordance to the standards of our Savior's teachings, as summarized (for example) in *The Ten Commandments* (Exodus 20: 1-18) and *The Beatitudes* (St. Matthew 5: 3-12). The way to death is a life-style of self-centeredness and rejection of God's teachings, in which case we can easily fall to temptations that lead to evil.

Our Lord has given us the gift of Free Will. There is no other way to be with God, except for us to freely choose to be with Him, regardless of the past or present circumstances. It is through Free Will that we show love. As in the case of the Samaritan Woman, our Savior asks us to repent of the kind of thinking that relates to our personal whims and desires, and to inspire others regarding the truth that God loves every human being that is to be born into the world.

+FR. THEODORE

Στο αρχαίο Αποστολικό χειρόγραφο, *Η Διδαχή*, διαβάζουμε για δύο τρόπους ζωής: 1) τον τρόπο ζωής που οδηγεί προς την Αιώνιον Ζωή, και, 2) τον τρόπο ζωής που οδηγεί προς τον θάνατον. Ουσιαστικά, ο τρόπος ζωής που οδηγεί προς την Αιώνιον Ζωή είναι ο τρόπος ζωής που ασπάζεται με την ταξινόμηση προτεραιοτήτων σύμφωνα με τις διδαχές του Κυρίου μας και την Ιερά Παράδοση της Αγίας Αυτού Εκκλησίας. Είναι ένας τρόπος ζωής στον οποίο, λόγω του Βαπτισματός μας, πάντοτε προσπαθούμε να βελτιώνουμε τον εαυτό μας, μέσω της μετάνοιας και της Ιεράς Εξομολογήσεως σύμφωνα με τα πρότυπα των διδασκαλιών του Σωτήρος μας, όπως συνοψίζονται (για παράδειγμα) στις *Δέκα Εντολές* (Εξοδος 20: 1-18) και στους *Μακαρισμούς* (Αγ. Ματθ. 5: 3-12). Ο τρόπος ζωής προς τον θάνατον είναι ένας τρόπος ζωής εγωκεντρισμού και απορρίψεως των διδασκαλιών του Θεού, οπότε μπορούμε εύκολα να πέσουμε σε πειρασμούς που οδηγούν στην κακίαν.

Ο Θεός μας έχει δώσει το δώρο που λεγεται *Αυτεξούσιον*. Δεν υπάρχει άλλος τρόπος για να είμεθα με τον Θεό, εκτός από το να επιλέξουμε *ελεύθερα* να είμεθα μαζί Του. Είναι μέσω της Ελευθερίας μας που δείχνουμε αγάπη. Όπως στην περίπτωση της Σαμαρείτιδος, σύμφωνα με την σημερινή Ευαγγελικήν περικοπήν, ο Χριστός ζητά απο εμας να μετανοήσουμε για τις σκέψεις που σχετίζονται με τις προσωπικές μας ιδιοτροπίες και επιθυμίες και να εμπνεύσουμε τους άλλους σχετικά με την αλήθεια οτι ο Θεός αγαπά κάθε άνθρωπον ερχόμενον εις τον κόσμον.

+ Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ