



SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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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 Communion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.

THE LADDER

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 — 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

GOSPEL — St. Luke 5:1-11

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST - Tomorrow is the feast day of St. John the Evangelist. He was called *Theologian* because he expounded in his Gospel the theology of the inexpressible and eternal birth of the Son and Word of God the Father. It is for this cause that an eagle—a symbol of the Holy Spirit, as Saint Irenaeus says, is depicted in his icon, for this was one of the four symbolic living creatures that the Prophet Ezekiel saw (Ezek. 1:10). --See our Archdiocese website: www.goarch.com

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: **1) Entrance Hymn:** *“O Christ, the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the guards were as dead, and Mary stood by the grave, seeking Your sacred Body. You destroyed Hades, yet remained untouched by it. You encountered the Virgin and, through Her, bestowed Life. ‘Glory to you who have risen from the dead.’/ Αγγελικαι δυναμεις...; 2) “God’s image was perfectly preserved in you, O Mother. For, taking up the Cross you followed Christ. You taught us by example to disdain the flesh, a passing thing, but to see the soul which is immortal. Wherefore, O holy Euphrosyne, your spirit rejoiced with the angels. “/Εν σοι Μητερ ακριβως... 3) Hymn for St. George. 4) Kontakion Hymn: “Champion of Christians put not to shame, advocate before the Maker always steadfast, do not spurn sinners’ voices raised in prayer. In your goodness respond to bring help to us who devoutly petition you. Hasten your intercession and urgently make entreaty; for you unfailingly defend, Theotokos, those who honor you.”/Προστασια των Χριστιανων...*

BRINGING PEOPLE TO CHRIST BY EXAMPLE

From the Apostles we learn that the work to “catch people” into the nets of our Lord’s Holy Church requires a personal commitment to worship God faithfully. Our love for God is met with inspiration from God. This is what allows us to be examples of the Gospel teachings. Being examples of Christ is a life-time work – a “litourgia” (work) of the Divine Liturgy, which serves as the greatest means for teaching our people. Through the Divine Liturgy we live in the presence of Christ God.

During the Great Entrance when the Holy Gifts are brought in procession to the Holy Altar Table, we mystically follow Jesus to Jerusalem, making way for Him to enter our lives, remembering us as He remembered the thief who repented, *“Remember me, Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom.”* The exclamation made by the deacon and/or the priest, *“May the Lord our God remember us all in His Kingdom...”* is a representation of the words of the crucified thief by our Lord’s Cross.

At the same time, we are present with Christ at the Last Supper where the Lord asked His Apostles, as He asks us today, to remember Him, saying, *“Do this in remembrance of Me...”* In the spiritual context, Christ’s remembrance of us and our remembrance of Him is not a remembrance of the past. It is actually a living remembrance – in the real presence of Christ our God, whereby Christ’s presence in our lives serves to bring His presence into the lives of others in real terms. This is expressed in the prayer said during the Divine Liturgy as we prepare for Holy Communion: *“...Let Your pure Body and Blood be given to us by Your mighty hand and, through us, to all Your people.”*

+FR. THEODORE

Από τους Αποστόλους μαθαίνουμε ότι το έργο για να «πιάσουμε ανθρώπους» στα δίχτυα της Αγίας Εκκλησίας του Κυρίου μας απαιτεί προσωπική δέσμευση να λατρεύουμε πιστά τον Θεό. Η αγάπη μας για τον Θεό συναντάται με έμπνευση από τον Θεό. Αυτό είναι που μας επιτρέπει να είμεθα παραδείγματα των διδασκαλιών του Ευαγγελίου. Το να είναι κανείς παράδειγμα Χριστού είναι έργο της ολοκλήρου ζωής - μια «λιτουργία» (έργο) της Θείας Λειτουργίας, που χρησιμεύει ως το μεγαλύτερο μέσο για να διδάσκουμε την Ορθοδοξία στον λαόν μας. Διά της Θείας Λειτουργίας ζούμε στην παρουσίαν του Χριστού.

Στην Μεγάλη Είσοδο, όταν τα Τιμία Δώρα μεταφέρονται με πομπή στην Αγία Τράπεζα, ακολουθούμε μυστικώς τον Χριστόν στην Ιερουσαλήμ για να φέρουμε τον Χριστό στη ζωή μας, ενθυμούμεθα τον ληστή που μετανόησε: *«Μνήσθητι μου, Κύριε, όταν έλθης εν τη Βασιλεία Σου»*. Το επιφώνημα του διακόνου και/ή του ιερέα, *«Πάντων ημών μνησθείη Κύριος ο Θεός εν τη βασιλεία Αυτού πάντοτε...»* είναι μια αναπαράσταση των λόγων του εσταυρωμένου ληστή.

Στο πνευματικό πλαίσιο, η ανάμνηση του Χριστού για εμάς δεν είναι ανάμνηση του παρελθόντος. Είναι στην πραγματικότητα μια ζωντανή ανάμνηση – μια πραγματική παρουσία του Χριστού «εν πάσι ώρα», όπου η παρουσία μας «εν Χριστώ» φέρνει την παρουσία του Χριστού επίσης στις ζωές των άλλων. Αυτό εκφράζεται κατά τη Θεία Λειτουργία καθώς προετοιμαζόμαστε για τη Θεία Κοινωνία και προσευχόμεθα *«...Καταξίωσον, Κύριε, την κραταιά σου χειρί μεταδοῦναι ἡμῖν του αχράντου Σώματος σου, και του Τιμίου Αἵματος, και δι’ ημών παντί τῷ λαῷ»*.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, September 26th.....ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Festival Meeting -4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 27th..... Bible Study -10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS TODAY! --Sunday School will be a one-hour session with lunch for the students and parents. Adults are invited to join in a religious discussion group during the Sunday School class sessions. Lessons will also be sent out for the purpose of re-enforcing our Sunday School lessons with your children throughout the week.

FESTIVAL MEETING - Our St. George Greek Festival will take place on February 18-19, 2023. **The first Festival Meeting of the year is scheduled for Monday, September 26th at our parish hall at 4:00 p.m.** We need everyone's help and we look forward to everyone's participation at this important first Festival Meeting.

OUR ST. GEORGE PARISH DIRECTORY -- This is the last week for our newly published St. George Parish Directory to be available in our parish hall ! We ask that our parishioners take one copy per household.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING – **Next Sunday, October 2, 2022** - Lunch will be provided via donations. Presentations include: Report on the St. George Questionnaire (Embracing Converts); Report from Clergy-Laity Assembly; Report from National Philoptochos Convention; Report on Sunday School Renewal; Welcome Committee & Parish Retreats. Everyone is welcome to join in.

"PAINT EL PASEO PINK" – **Saturday, October 8, 2022** – If you are interested in participating in this year's "PAINT EL PASEO PINK WALK", please see Rhonda Latkovic after church for a sign-up form. The walk will start at 8:00 AM. Through this event, funds are raised to help cure breast cancer. A donation of \$35 payable to Ladies Philoptochos covers the registration fee and includes a special event tee shirt!

BRING-A-FRIEND-TO-CHURCH SUNDAY – Sunday, October 16th is our Fall "Bring-a-Friend-to-Church" Sunday. All parishioners of St. George are asked to invite a friend to join us for worship in our beautiful St. George Church temple. We look forward to introducing our visitors to our congregation during our special coffee hour held in their honor.

ST. GEORGE PARISH FALL SPIRITUAL RETREAT – Please reserve Saturday, November 12, 2022 to join fellow St. George parishioners for a special spiritual event -- our St. George Parish Fall Retreat. The theme for our Fall Parish Retreat is: "Understanding the Divine Liturgy." It promises to be a special day to learn more about the meaning of our Divine Liturgy as we live out our daily lives. The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m., with a superb lunch being served for all in attendance....Our speaker for our Fall Retreat is Eve Tibbs.

Eve Tibbs received her PhD from Fuller Theological Seminary and she is the affiliate assistant professor of theology at Fuller Theological Seminary. She recently authored a most educational book about our Greek Orthodox Faith, entitled, A Basic Guide to Eastern Orthodox Theology. Copies of her book will be available in our parish book store. In addition, Eve Tibbs is the director of our Metropolitan of San Francisco Christian Education Ministry. It is truly our honor to host her for this spiritual event in our parish!



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 214/2022

Archepiscopal Encyclical for the
Commemoration of the Asia Minor Holocaust

September 25, 2022

Unto the ...the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Holy Archdiocese of America:

For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping (Psalm 101:10, LXX)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

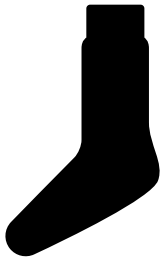
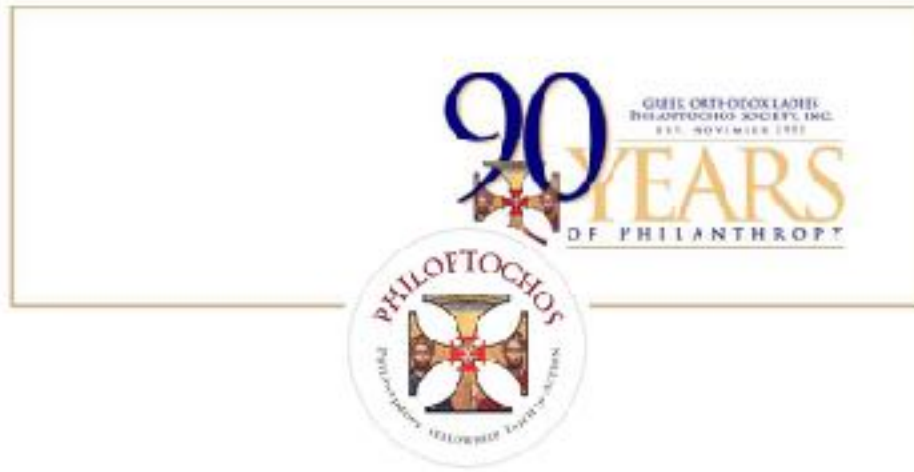
This month of September is replete with commemorations that define us as a People, even as they are hard to bear because of the loss and devastation. We just passed the twentyfirst memorial of September Eleventh, and we are now upon the one hundredth anniversary of the Asia Minor Holocaust that cost so many lives and changed the face of the Greeks across the Hellespont in Pontos and the coasts of Asia Minor. Throughout Anatolia, fires of hatred and persecution reduced to ash the cities and the Hellenic civilization that had existed for thousands of years. Over a million human beings were forced to leave their homes and build their lives anew. It was the beginning of a dispersion of souls that created the Greek Diaspora that reached around the world.

As an Archdiocese, we have spent this year of 2022 in celebration of the Centenary of our Church as an Eparchy of our Most Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate. But to a great degree, the formation of our Archdiocese was a pastoral response to the Asia Minor Catastrophe. The Mother Church saw Her children upended and scattered to the four winds. Her heart was broken and to bring healing to those who survived and reached these blessed shores in order to rebuild their lives, the Great Church ordered the ecclesiastical life of America directly under Her wise and maternal supervision.

Therefore, as an Archdiocese, we have an even greater responsibility to remember the Asia Minor Holocaust, because our origins are mingled with their ashes and tears. We are built upon the blood of those Martyrs, led by the Hieromartyr Metropolitan Chrysostom of Smyrna, whose martyrdom preceded the torching of this magnificent city – known in the Book of Revelation and to whom the Lord said, “Be faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life!” (Rev. 2:10). Our spiritual and physical ancestors were faithful, they were crowned by God, and we shall never forget what they endured for the sake of Christ and His Holy Church.

Therefore, especially in this Centenary Year, let us remember those who were lost and what was lost, and offer prayers on their behalf to the Lord. Let us also commend all those whose sacrifices helped to build our Church here in America and around the world. For although they ‘ate ashes like bread and drank their own tears,’ through their faithfulness, perseverance, and service they and their descendants fulfilled another saying of the Prophets: they exchanged “glory for ashes” (Isaiah 61:3), and their legacies endure to this day. Our debt of gratitude is exceeded only by our debt of remembrance. May their memory be eternal.

With paternal blessings and love in the Lord,
† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



“SOCK-TOBER”

DONATION EVENT for the HOMELESS October 2nd-23rd

- o Did you know that the number 1 needed clothing item for a homeless person is a pair of socks?
- o Please help the St. George Ladies Philoptochos provide new socks to Coachella Valley Rescue Mission for the in-program residents & homeless population in the east valley.
- o Deposit new socks in the bins provided that are located in the church hall. Monetary donations can be made & we will do the shopping if you are not able.
- o Both women & mens socks are needed in Casual or Dress styles. Please donate only new socks!