



FEBRUARY 12, 2023

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 - 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 -- Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

GOSPEL - St. Luke 15:11-32 -- The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him

anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** "When You descended to death, O Immortal Life, then the light of Your Divinity destroyed Hades. When You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out, 'Glory to You, O Christ our God, the Giver of Life.'"/Ότε κατήλθες προς τον θάνατον...

1) "Since you are a deliverer of captives..." [Hymn of St. George]/Ός των αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτής...

2) **Kontakion:** "O Father, I foolishly ran away from Your glory and, in sin, squandered the riches You gave me. Wherefore, I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal, 'I have sinned before You, Compassionate Father. Receive me in repentance and take me as one of Your hired servants.'" /Της Πατρῶας δόξης σου,...

WHO IS NOT SAVED?

In the Parable of the Prodigal Son, there is a man who was not saved. As in the case of the Pharisee (from last Sunday's Gospel passage), the older brother, being infected with pride, condemned his younger brother, as well as his father. The older brother believed that he would be the favorite son, since he was always loyal to his father. He was, however, loyal to his father, provided that his father would continue to hold a grudge against his brother for squandering the father's inheritance. Unable to join his father in the spirit of forgiveness, the older brother remained outside his father's house, symbolic of his status of forever being closed out of God's Kingdom.

We find salvation when we treat others as God would treat them. As our Lord forgives us, we must forgive others. Unfortunately, we deceive ourselves by thinking that we are perfectly okay, with no sins; no flaws; no imperfections, and, in this way, we live in a fantasy world in which God's Kingdom does not exist.

Let's not live in the fantasy world of the older brother's self-righteousness, which led him into the sin of condemning his brother. In truth, we are all like the Prodigal Son in some ways. The sinful life that the Prodigal Son began to live would have led him to death, had he not "come to himself." Let each of us pray that Christ God will enlighten us so that we can all "come to ourselves" and repent of our imperfections so that we can forever dwell in the Love of Christ our God. +FR. THEODORE

Στην Παραβολή του Ασωτού, υπάρχει ένας άνθρωπος που δεν εσώθηκε. Όπως και στην περίπτωση του Φαρισαίου (από την Ευαγγελική περικοπή της περασμένης Κυριακής), ο μεγαλύτερος αδελφός, μολυσμένος από την υπερηφάνεια, εκαταδίκασε τον μικρότερο αδελφό του, καθώς και τον πατέρα του. Ο μεγαλύτερος αδερφός πίστευε ότι ήταν ο πιο αγαπημένος υιός, αφού ήταν πάντοτε πιστός στον πατέρα του. Ωστόσο, ήταν πιστός στον πατέρα του, με την προϋπόθεση ότι ο πατέρας θα εσουνέχιζε να κρατά μνησικακία προς τον αδελφό του για τη σπατάλη της πατρικής κληρονομιάς. Ανίκανος να ενωθεί με τον πατέρα του εν πνεύματι συγχωρήσεως, ο μεγαλύτερος αδερφός παρέμεινε έξω από το σπίτι του πατρός του, συμβολίζοντας την κατάσταση του ότι θα έμεινε για πάντα έξω από την Βασιλεία του Θεού.

Ευρίσκουμε την σωτηρία μας όταν δείχνουμε αγάπη για τους άλλους όπως ο Θεός τους αγαπά. Όπως ο Κύριος μας συγχωρεί, εμείς πρέπει να συγχωρούμε τους άλλους. Δυστυχώς, εξαπατούμε τον εαυτό μας νομίζοντας ότι είμεθα απολύτως εντάξει, χωρίς αμαρτίες, χωρίς ελαττώματα, και χωρίς ατέλειες. Έτσι ζούμε σε έναν κόσμο φαντασίας μέσα στον οποίο δεν υπάρχει η Βασιλεία του Θεού.

Ας μην ζούμε σε έναν κόσμο φαντασίας όπως αυτός της αυτοδικαιώσεως του μεγαλύτερου αδελφού, που τον οδήγησε στο αμάρτημα της καταδικήσεως του αδελφού του. Στην πραγματικότητα, όλοι είμεθα σαν τον Άσωτο κατά κάποιο τρόπο. Η αμαρτωλή ζωή που άρχισε να ζει θα τον είχε οδηγήσει στον θάνατο, αν δεν είχε «έλθει εις εαυτόν». Ας ευχηθεί ο καθένας μας να μας φωτίσει ο Χριστός, ώστε ο καθένας μας να «έλθει εις εαυτόν» και να μετανοήσουμε ολοι για τις ατέλειές μας, και συνεπώς, να κατοικούμε για πάντα στην Αγάπη του Χριστού. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servant of God, **Helen Dilberakis (9 months)**, beloved mother of **Anastasia Dilberakis**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life to **Helen Dilberakis** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Anastasia Dilberakis**, family and friends. **MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

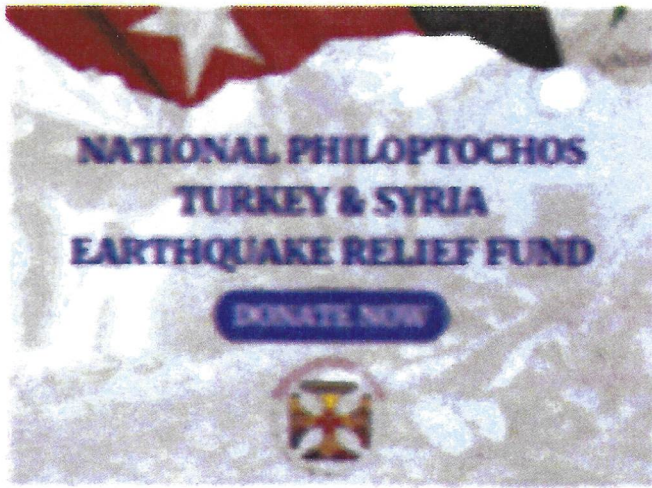
Monday, February 13th.....Funeral Service for **Katherine Meek** (daughter of **Eve Meek**) at **Forest Lawn (in the mausoleum section)** at the corner of **Da Val and Ramon - 11:00 a.m.** Also, preparations for our Greek Festival continue throughout this week - Monday to Friday- beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please note: There will be no Bible Study this week.

Saturday, February 18th..... **SATURDAY OF SOULS - (Note Church Service start times!)**
"Agisamo" - **7:00 a.m.** / Orthros - **7:30 a.m.** / Divine Liturgy - **8:30 a.m.**
2023 Greek Festival - 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 19th.....**MEATFARE SUNDAY (Note Church Service start times!)**
Orthros- **7:30 a.m.** / Divine Liturgy - **8:30 a.m.**
2023 Greek Festival - 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **BLESSING OF THE WATERS ("Agiasmo")** today at **11:15 a.m.** - with Sunday School students, parents and parishioners.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** - Please join us for our annual **Philoptochos membership event** on **Saturday, March 11th from 11:30 am-2:00 pm** at the church. Our theme is **"Membership & Aloha!"** and will be an **Hawaiian Luau**.
- **FESTIVAL** – Our 2023 Greek Festival Chairman, **George Argyros**, expresses his tremendous gratitude to all who helped prepare the items needed for the success of our Greek Festival on February 18-19th. He is grateful for a job well done! As we enter the final week before the Festival, please note the following:
 - 1) **Volunteer Forms** are still available in our parish hall.
 - 2) This week is the final opportunity for Festival station chairpersons to learn the **Clovis Financial Resister System** for recording transactions! **Please make sure to see Nick Latkovic who will be offering tutorial lessons during the first part of this week!** Contact our parish office (760) 568-9901 in order to learn about tutorial sessions or for any more information
 - 3) Everyone is still needed to help for **Festival food preparations** throughout this week. We are grateful to those who have been helping over these past few weeks.
 - 4) **Festival flyers and lawn signs** are still available for distribution to businesses that our parishioners patronize, as well as being distributed throughout neighborhood developments.
 - 5) **Underwriting Festival Expenses** is still very much appreciated!
- **PARISH LENTEN RETREAT** - Please circle the date: **Saturday, March 18, 2023** in order to join us for our annual **St. George Parish Lenten Retreat**. **Fr. Steven Tsichlis**, pastor of **St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church** and author of the pamphlet entitled **"Worshiper's Guide to the Divine Liturgy,"** will be the speaker for this Retreat. Please see the enclosed flyer!



The National Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, an affiliated institution, has committed to an initial disbursement of \$50,000 for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Earthquake Relief Fund and will launch a fundraising campaign through its chapters to benefit the earthquake victims. The Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund is also committed to providing support to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Earthquake Relief Fund.

In addition, the Philoptochos Society is launching a fundraising campaign to further benefit the victims, "The Turkey and Syria Earthquake Relief Fund." Please keep the victims, their families and loved ones in your prayers and please be as generous as possible.

St. George Greek Orthodox Church's
2023 Lenten Retreat

Living the Liturgy

with

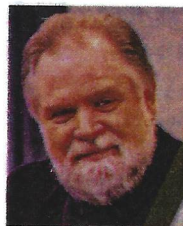
Father Steven Tsihlis

Pastor of St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church, Irvine, CA
Author of *A Worshiper's Guide to the Divine Liturgy*

Saturday, March 18

10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Lenten Lunch Included



Session 1

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

"The Lord's Table: How Our Participation in Liturgy Impacts Our Lives"

Session 2

1:00 - 2:30 PM

"Living the Liturgy: Eating and Drinking the Lord Jesus"



A freewill
donation of
\$10
is appreciated

To Register:

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