

JULY 17, 2016

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

HOLY FATHERS OF THE 7 ECUMENICAL COUNCILS; ST. MARINA

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**– 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.*

THE RELIGION INSIDE OF US

We have come to the point in our age where the role of religion has become very significant, now when violence and hatred are so visible in our daily lives.

It seems that we have forgotten the words of Christ our Savior: *"You are the light of the world"* (St. Matthew 5: 14), and, *"This is My commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you."* (St. John 15: 12). Love requires us to examine the emotions and needs of other people more than our own personal

emotions and concerns. St. John wrote: *"Love is from God and all who love others are from God and they know God. Whoever does not love others does not know God, for God is love."* (St. John 4: 7-8).

Aside from the reality that we, as Christians (and particularly as Orthodox Christians) need to speak about concerns related to the poor and human rights, we have under emphasized the obligation of each individual to examine his or her "inner life" - that is, to examine the movements

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ST. MARINA THE GREAT MARTYR – She lived during the reign of Claudius II (268-270). She was from Pisidia of Cilicia and was the only daughter of a certain priest of the idols. On being orphaned by her mother, she was handed over to a certain woman who instructed her in the Faith of Christ. When she was fifteen years old, she was apprehended by the ruler of Olymbrios, and when asked her name, homeland, and faith, she answered: "My name is Marina; I am the offspring of the Pisidia; I call upon the Name of my Lord Jesus Christ." Because of this she endured bonds, imprisonment, and many whippings, she prayed: "Lord, You have granted me to go through fire for Your Name, grant me also to go through the water of holy Baptism."

Hearing the word "water," Governor Olymbrios ordered that Marina be drowned in a large cauldron. She cried out to the Lord and asked that this mode of torture should become her holy Baptism. As she was plunged into the water, there suddenly shone a light, and a snow-white dove came down from Heaven, bearing in its beak a golden crown. The chains that had been placed on Marina came apart, and she stood up in the fount glorifying the Holy Trinity. She emerged completely healed, however, was finally beheaded in 270 A.D. St. Marina is especially invoked for deliverance from demonic possession.



Εχουμεν φθασει σε εποχη οπου ο ρολος της θρησκειας εχει γινη συμαντικη, μια που η βια και το μισος ειναι τοσο ορατο στη καθημερινην μας ζωην.

Φαινεται οτι εχουμεν ξεχασει τα λογια του Σωτηρος μας Χριστου: <Υμεις εστε το φως του κοσμου.> (Ματ. 5:14) και: <Αυτη εστιν η εντολη η εμη, ινα αγαπατε αλληλους καθως ηγαπησα υμας.> (Ιωαν. 15:12). Η αγαπη απαιτει απο εμας να εξετασουμεν τα συναισθηματα και τις αναγκες των αλλων περισσοτερο απο ο,τι θεωρουμεν τα δικα μας συναισθηματα και θεματα. Ο Αγιος Ιωαννης εγραψε: <Η αγαπη εκ Θεου εστι, και πας ο αγαπων εκ του Θεου γεγεννηται και γινωσκει τον Θεον. Ο μη αγαπων ουκ εγω τον Θεον οτι Θεος αγαπη εστιν.> (1 Ιωαν. 4:7-8).

Εκτος απο το γεγονος οτι εμεις ως Χριστιανοι (και ιδιαιτερωσ, ως Ορθοδοξοι Χριστιανοι) πρεπει να ομιλησουμεν για ζητηματα που αφορουν την φτωχεια και ανθρωπινα δικαιωματα, εχουμεν υπο τονισει την υποχρεωσιν του καθενος να ασχοληθει με την <εσωτερικην ζωην> του – δηλ. με τις κινησεις της ψυχης του. Μαλιστα, εχει ο καθενας να αξιολοησει την πιστιν του στον Θεον και την αγαπην του για αλλους.

Για να ειμεθα <το φως του κοσμου>, θα πρεπει να ακολουθησουμεν τον Αληθινον Θεον, τον Ιησουν Χριστον, που ο Ιδιος ειναι Το Φως του κοσμου. Πρεπει να κατανοησουμεν την αποστολη του Χριστου για την σωτηριαν του καθε ανθρωπου. Η φωνη των Αγιων των Οικουμενικων Συνοδων, τους οποιους τιμουμεν σημερα, θα πρεπει να μελετηθει και να κατανοηθει απο τον καθε ανθρωπον της χωρας μας.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

and impulses within one's soul. Indeed, each of us has to evaluate his or her faith in God and love for others.

For us to be "the light of the world," we need to follow the True God, our Savior Jesus Christ, Who Himself is the Light of the world. We must understand the mission of Christ for the salvation of humanity. The voice of the Saints of the Ecumenical Councils, whose memory we honor today, need to be studied and understood by each person of our land.

Of course, each person in our country cannot read and understand the Saints of our Church if we do not share them with others. It is certainly time for Orthodox Christians, clergy and laity, to become in reality the "voice of Christ in a changing world," in accordance with the overall theme of our Archdiocese Clergy Laity Conference two weeks ago.

In our commemoration of St. Marina the Martyr, who rejected idol-worship and suffered beheading by a pagan emperor, along with our commemoration of the Saints of the Ecumenical Councils, we are called to make our voices today echo the voices of the Saints themselves. The prayers and hymns of the Divine Liturgy have to be translated into a life-style of action and communication which become an example of Christ's love for the whole world. By "examples," we mean "the light of the world."

Participation in the Divine Liturgy is participation in the Divine Liturgy *after* the Divine Liturgy! At the end of the formal celebration of the Divine Liturgy, the priest exclaims, "Let us go forth in peace." To which the deacon adds, "Let us pray to the Lord." The prayer, "Lord bless You those who bless You and sanctify those who trust in You..." is a prayer for the Church; for our country and for blessings for us to impart God's gifts to all people. In essence, then, we are to continue the Divine Liturgy after its formal celebration by living according to the Liturgy's prayers and hymns.

"If we have truly united ourselves with Christ, then we should live the life of Christ, Who, "came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many (St. Matthew 20: 28). 'We are required to return to the world and to immerse ourselves in the affairs and circumstances of everyday life, bringing the redemptive power of God and blessings of the Eucharist to our wounded and broken world. Having partaken of the Body of Christ, we must now tend to the needs of the broken human bodies and spirits that are all around us so that the rays of God's Kingdom may shine in the darkness of our fallen world...'" (The Heavenly Banquet, by Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis, (also quoting Fr. Alkiviadis Calivas), pg. 356).

+FR THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Yvonne and George Flessas, George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Bob Maverick, Nicholas Kyriakou, Jean Chronis, George Megalonakis, George Nicholas (Many of the faithful on our Prayer List face chronic or serious illness).

ANTIPHON I: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou..." (By the prayers of the Theotokos...)*

Verse 1— Bless the Lord, O my soul, and everything within me, bless His holy name.

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."*

Verse 2—: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His rewards.

Refrain: *"By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."*

Verse 3— The Lord prepared His throne in heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all.

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."*

Chanter(s): Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Refrain: *"By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."*

ANTIPHON II: *"Soston imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)*

Verse 1— Praise the Lord, O my soul! I shall praise the Lord while I live; I shall sing to my God as long as I exist.

Refrain: *"Soston imas, Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."*

Verse 2 - Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob; his hope is in the Lord his God.

Refrain: *"Save us, O Son of God, Who Arose from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia."*

Verse 3 - The Lord shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."*

Doxa Patri ke Io ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous eonas ton eonon.

People: *"O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou..." (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)*

HYMNS FOR THE ENTRANCE WITH THE HOLY GOSPEL: ANTIPHON III— *This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *Efrenestho ta ourania (Tone 3).....(Let all things above in heaven rejoice and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death and First Born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.)*

Hymn for the Holy Saints of the Seven Ecumenical Councils: *Yper-dhe-doxasmenos iparchees...(Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God. You established the holy Fathers upon the earth as beacons, and through them You have guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly merciful One, glory be to You.)*

Hymn for St. Marina the Great Martyr: *Ee amnahs tou Isou krazei meghali ti fonee...(Your own ewe-lamb cries to You loudly, O Jesus, and she says, "For my Bridegroom do I long, and seeking You I now contend; and I am crucified and buried with You in Your baptism. I suffer for Your sake, that I may reign with You. I die for You that I may also live in You. Accept me as an unblemished sacrifice as I offer myself to You with love." At her entreaties and intercessions, save our souls, O Merciful Lord.)*

Hymn for St. George: *Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis..."(As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and the champion defender of kings, bearer of trophies are you, O Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)"*

Kontakion Hymn: *Prostasia ton Christianon...(O Protection of Christians unshamable, mediation with the Creator immovable, we sinners beg you, do not despise the voices of our prayers, but anticipate, since you are good, and swiftly come unto our aid as we cry out to you with faith: Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who defend now and ever those who honor you.)*

READINGS: Epistle - Titus 3: 8-15/ Gospel - St. Matthew 5: 14-19

Megalinarion: Axion Estin (page 52 in the Divine Liturgy Books)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Linda and John Petalas

MEMORIAL – 42th ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS.

(The actual anniversary date of this event is July 20th) for the repose of the souls of our brothers and sisters who gave their lives defending the island during the invasion. At this time of year we are particularly mindful of those who died during the invasion and of the continuing occupation. However, this sad anniversary is also an opportunity to renew our hope for a lasting solution.

PHILOPTOCHOS – We are looking for Coffee Hour Hostesses for August 21 and for the month of September. Please see Linda Petalas.

STEWARDSHIP – As we approach the summer months, we need to remind one and all that any extra Stewardship offering will be a great blessing for our St. George parish. Anyone who has not yet submitted a 2016 Stewardship Pledge Card *and* contributed to the financial needs of our parish by virtue of fulfilling his or her pledge is fervently and prayerfully asked to do so at this time.

NEEDS LIST – As we find ourselves in the summer season, our thoughts begin to go toward preparations for the Fall and the **needs** of our parish for the future: donations will be a great blessing as we evaluate the following projects: new flooring for the parish hall.

- 1) new flooring for the parish hall.
- 2) replacement of lights under the dome with LED lights (reducing energy costs);
- 3) cleaning of flagstone floor inside the church;
- 4) cooling fans for the new storage container;
- 5) Archdiocese Liturgy Books for our church pews

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 19th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, July 20th.....ST. ELIJAH THE PROPHET
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 23rd.....Vespers-5:00 p.m.

*The LADDER for June 2016
is sponsored by
Eve Meek*

We encourage all of our parents to sit in the church with their entire family as they participate in the beauty and mysteries of the Divine Liturgy. For those with young children, feel free to sit near an aisle so that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a “crying room” in the narthex for your use. God Bless.