

JUNE 19, 2016

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

PENTECOST SUNDAY

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.

THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE

“Jesus stood and cried aloud, saying... ‘Whosoever believes in Me, as the Scripture says, out of him shall flow springs of living water.’ (St. John 7: 37-38). These few words of Christ our God describe the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. 1) “Whosoever believes:” The Holy Spirit grants us the wisdom and enlightenment to believe that Jesus Christ is the Only True God – “True God of True God,” as is emphasized in the Nicene Creed. He is God, Who created all things, including the human race, Who wants the salvation of every human being in the world.

Jesus Christ is, indeed, our Savior. 2) *“as the Scripture says:”* The history and the teachings regarding our salvation are contained in the Holy Scriptures, which speak about Jesus Christ, the Messiah. 3) *“out of him shall flow springs of living water:”* Through the Sacraments of the Church. The Holy Spirit *comforts* us and *protects* us, as the voice of God within us, counseling us with regard to doing God’s Will. The Holy Spirit *comforts* us by giving us strength in times of temptation and reminding us to repent and to seek

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THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH – With the baptism of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, the Apostles were given the Gift of Tongues, whereby their preaching of the Holy Gospel could be understood in all languages. Along with this Gift, they were given participation in the Holy Priesthood of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. We note that, before this Day, the Holy Apostles only gave themselves over to “prayer and supplication” (Acts 1: 14). However, after the Descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, they persevered in “the breaking of the bread” - i.e., the celebration of the Holy Sacrament. Hence, Pentecost is the beginning of the Holy Priesthood of the whole Church, whereby the Apostles celebrated the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Holy Baptism *and* they imparted the ordained Priesthood to those who would be celebrants of the Sacraments. However, the Sacraments are not to be celebrated only by the celebrant; the whole Body of the Church celebrates (for, a single celebrant does not make for a *celebration*). This means that all baptized and chrismated people of the Church are members of the Royal Priesthood of the Church. The Holy Spirit, then, dwells in each parishioner, individually, and all the faithful, collectively, making it possible for all people to become Saints (The Holy People) of God, giving full meaning to the words of the celebrant during the Divine Liturgy: *“The Holy Gifts for the Holy People of God.”*

+FR. THEODORE



<Ειστηκει ο Ιησους και εκραξε λεγων: ...ο πιστευων εις εμε, καθως ειπεν η γραφη, ποταμοι εκ της κοιλιας αυτου ρευσουσιν ιδατος ζωντος.> (Ιωαν. 7: 37-38). Αυτα τα λιγα λογια του Θεου μας Χριστου περιγραφουν το εργον του Αγιου Πνευματος στην ζωην μας. 1) <ο πιστευων> – Το Αγιο Πνευμα μας χαριζει την σοφιαν και την φωτισιν να πιστευουμεν οτι ο Ιησους Χριστος ειναι ο Μονος Αληθινος Θεος: <Θεον Αληθινον εκ Θεου Αληθινου,> οπως τονιζεται στο <Πιστευω.> Ειναι ο Θεος, ο Οποιος επλασσε την κτισιν και ολην την αθρωποτητα, ο Οποιος θελει την σωτηριαν του καθε ανθρωπου ερχομενον στον κοσμον. Ο Ιησους Χριστος ειναι ο Σωτηρ μας. 2) <οπως ειπεν η γραφη> – Η ιστορια και η διδασκαλια περι της σωτηριας της ανθρωποτητος περιλαμβανονται στην Αγιαν Γραφην, η οποια ομιλει περι του Ιησου Χριστου, ο Μεσσιας. 3) <ποταμοι εκ της κοιλιας αυτου ρευσουσιν ιδατος ζωντος> – Δια των Αγιων Μυστηριων της Εκκλησιας, το Αγιο Πνευμα ενεργει στις ψυχες μας. Μας παρηγορει και μας προστατευει. Ειναι η φωνη του Κυριου μεσα μας, η οποια μας συμβουλενει ως προς εαν πρεπει η οχι να κανουμεν το θελημα του Θεου. Ο ορος παρακλητος ερμηνευεται παρηγορητης. Το Αγιο Πνευμα ειναι Παρακλητος, διοτι μας ενισχυει σε ωρες πειρασμου. Ειναι <Το Πνευμα της Αληθειας>. Δηλαδη, μας προστατευει απο το ψευδος, το οποιο οδηγει σε καταστροφικα αποτελεσματα. Το Αγιο Πνευμα κατοικει στις ψυχες μας και, ταυτοχρονω, στην Εκκλησιαν, η οποια αποτελειται απο ολους οι οποιοι δοξαζουν τον Χριστον <ενι στοματι και μιαν καρδιαν.> +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

God's love and forgiveness. The Holy Spirit *protects* us as "the Spirit of Truth," because it is the Holy Spirit that protects us from falsehood, since falsehood can only guide us to catastrophic outcomes. The Holy Spirit dwells in our souls, and in our Church at the same time. Indeed, the Church consists of all the faithful who worship Christ with "*one mouth and one heart.*"

This "one mouth and one heart" is an expression of unity in God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The gift of tongues given by the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost is the gift of *unity with one another in unity with God*. Unity apart from God is, at best, useless, and, at worst, is a "unity in chaos" – a warped notion that falsehood and evil is in common with truth and love. We see this "unity in chaos" at the Tower of Babel in Genesis (11:1-9). Following the disobedience of God by Adam and Eve, people gave themselves over to sin, leading up to the Flood during the time of Noah. After the Flood, Noah's sons formed various tribes, which were the beginnings of a variety of nations (Genesis 10:32). However, these people decided to build a city and a tower (which was to reach up to heaven) and "*make a name for themselves*" (11:4), so that they would not be scattered over the whole earth. This unity was, in fact, Godless, based on human ego and not in God's love. The Tower of Babel is an expression for "human survival." Pentecost is the Divine expression for *human salvation*. It is clear that, without Divine Love, communication – including prayer itself – is impossible.

Pentecost reverses the event at the Tower of Babel. It is the Holy Spirit Who gives the gift of tongues to the Apostles so that they can preach to all nations about God's Love. It is a Love embodied in the Person of Christ our True God. It is the language of Divine Love, inspired by the Holy Spirit and described by St. Paul (1 Corinthians 13: 5-7) – the language of "forbearance and patience, which hopes all things and endures all things" so that we can allow, in turn, the Holy Spirit to work in others, giving them every opportunity throughout their lives to find their way to God's Eternal Kingdom.

Finally, it is the language of our own personal repentance: the "Spirit of Truth" about ourselves and our personal relationship with God and our fellow human being. Repentance is the theme of the Pentecostal Kneeling Prayers. In these prayers, we call upon "The Comforter" to guide us from despair over the past, while, as "The Spirit of Truth," we may be enlightened to know what we must do to live "*peaceful lives, without shame and suffering – and for a good account at the awesome judgment seat of Christ,*" as beings created in His Image and Likeness. Repentance is, in fact, the willingness to do God's Will.

+FR. THEODRE

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

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY:

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

Verse 1— The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament shows the creation of His hands.

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

Verse 2—: Day to day utters speech and night-to-night reveals knowledge; there is no speech nor language where their voices are not heard.

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

Verse 3— Their proclamation went forth into all the earth and their words to the ends of the world.

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— May the Lord hear you in the day of afflictions; may the Name of the God of Jacob defend you.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Paraklite Agatheh, psallontas si alleluia."*

Verse 2 – May He send you help from His holy place and may He support you from Zion.

Refrain: *"Save us, O Son of God, O Good Comforter, we sing to You, Alleluia."*

Verse 3 – May He remember every sacrifice of yours and may your whole burnt offering be honored.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, Paraklite Agatheh, 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— *O Lord, the king shall be glad in Your power and in Your salvation he shall greatly rejoice. You gave him his soul's desire and You did not deprive him of his lips' request.*

Pentecost Sunday Hymn: *Evloghitos-ee Christe o Theos...(Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You made the fishermen all-wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, You drew the whole world into Your net. O Lover of all people, glory be to You.)*

Pentecostal Kontakion Hymn: *Ote katavas tas glossas...(When the Most High God descended and confused the tongues, He divided the nations. When He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all people to unity. And with one voice we glorify the All-Holy Spirit.)*

At the Entrance with the Gospel: Instead of *"Defte proskinisomen..."*, the following: *Ypsothiti Kyrie en ti dynami Sou. Asomen ke psalloumen tas dynasti-ahs Sou. Soston imas Paraklite Agathe, psallontas Si, Alleluia (Be exalted, O Lord, in Your power; we will sing and praise Your mighty deeds. Save us, O Comforter-we sing to You, Alleluia.)*

Instead of *"Aghios o Theos,"* we sing: *Osi eis Christon evaptistite; Christon enedisastheh (As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.)*

READINGS: Epistle – Acts 2: 1-11 / Gospel – St. John 7: 37-52; 8: 12

Megalinarion: Instead of *"Axion Estin,"* we sing: *Mee tis fthorahs diapyrra...(Without sustaining corruption You still conceived a Child and lent Your flesh to the Word and Great Fashioner. O Mother Who knew no man, O Virgin Theotokos, the Container and Holder of Your uncontained and infinite Creator, You do we glorify.)*

Communion Hymn: *To pnevma Sou to aghathon odhiyeesi me en ghee efthi-ah...(Your Good Spirit shall guide me in the land of righteousness. Alleluia.)*

Following Holy Communion: Instead of *"Idhomen to fos..."* we sing the above **Pentecost Sunday Hymn**, *"Evloghitos-ee Christe o Theos...(Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You made the fishermen all-wise...)*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greeter: Josie Desnoyers

Coffee Hour Hostesses: Louise Dobbs Barringer and Tommie Maverick

PHILOPTOCHOS – Happy Father's Day to all of our Fathers, Grandfathers and Pet Dads. We hope you will have an enjoyable day with your families. At the end of Coffee Hour today Mochas for Missions collections will end. So this will be your last chance this year to donate to this cause. We thank you for your donations.

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.

BIBLES, LITURGY BOOKS & HYMNALS OF OUR CHURCH– Participation in worship requires that we use the Liturgy Books, hymnals and Bibles that are in our church pews. Please turn to these books, and refer to the weekly *Ladder*, in order to follow the entire celebration of the Divine Liturgy and participate fully. Sunday Scripture passages are posted in the *Ladder*; feel free to open your Bibles located in the church pews and follow along as the passages are read. Hymns are to be sung by the congregation (together with the choir); hymnals are available in the church pews. Please study the hymnals in order to familiarize yourself with the various types of our Church's Sunday, seasonal and festal hymns. As we look forward to ordering the new Divine Liturgy Books from our Holy Archdiocese, the Bibles and hymnals already in place will help everyone participate more fully in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, June 20th.....FEAST OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 21st.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Friday, June 24th.....NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Saturday June 25th.....No Vespers

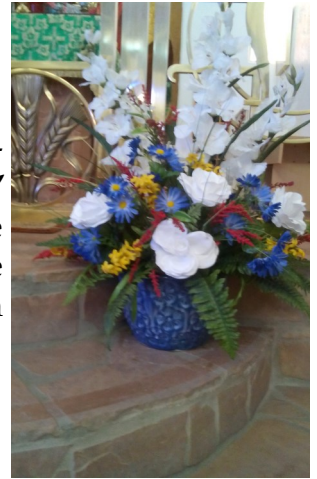
*The LADDER for June 2016
is sponsored by
Mr. & Mrs. William G. Barringer
in celebration of their
21st Wedding Anniversary*

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.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUET CONTRIBUTORS: 2015-2016

Thank God for all of you who love the beauty of His house, and for your participation in contributing to the Altar Flower Program. *"A Big Special Thank you"* individually for your continued support! Some of you contributed more than once during the seasonal year due to memorable occasions, and personal events! We look forward to continuing to provide you with quality Altar Flower Bouquets in the coming years, and may our God truly bless you!

— Louise Dobbs Barringer, Altar Flower Coordinator



Beginning of Season: October through December, 2015

John & Linda Petalas

Ann Dixon

Welcome Committee - The Greeters

Fr. Ted & Presvytera Petula Pantels

Terry Ayanopolis

Melissa Hawkins

Diane Young

Angelo & Tina Veroulis

Matushka Gloria Lehman

Bill & Mary Piggott

Anthony & Penelope Chiotis

Bill Domoras

Debra Pousen

Mariya Dunkel

Louise Dobbs Barringer

Eve Meeks

Annette Lewis

Beginning of 2016: January through May 2016

Terry Ayanopolis

Angie Dyer

Stavros & Anne Marie Olympios

Dr. Jim & Gloria Christopoulos

George Megalonakis

Wynn & Ana Storton

Doris Elmo

Louise Dobbs Barringer

Val, Tia, Eve & Zoe Kolytiris

Anthony & Penelope Chiotis

Tony & Pat Dalkas

Josie Desnoyer

Angie Wysup

Rhonda Latkovic

Becky Allen

Dr. Michael & Christina Long

Spiro Astmos

Anna Prineas

Chris & Annette Laskaris

Matushka Gloria Lehman

Ann Dixon

Fr. Ted & Presvytera Petula Pantels

WE THANK GOD FOR OUR PARISH GREETERS— We would like to acknowledge **Mariya Dunkel**, and **Melissa Hawkins** for their faithful and loyal service to our Welcome Committee - Greeters, and to the St. George Parish. These young ladies have decided to graduate to a post of teaching, and working with the children of St. George in the Parish Sunday School. May they be an instrument of God's love, peace, and spiritual growth, and as they teach God's Word to the children let them also be in the mind set of learning, and discerning for their own spiritual growth. May our Lord and Savior bless you, and thank you for your service. Indeed, we thank God for those who are now serving as our parish Greeters: **Linda Petalas, Josie Desnoyers, George Megalonakis.**

— Louise Dobbs Barringer, Welcome Committee - Greeters, Team Leader