

SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

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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.

HOLY CHRISMATION & LOVE

In today's Epistle reading, we heard St. Paul referring to the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation: *"It is God Who establishes us with you in Christ and has commissioned us; He has put His seal upon us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee."* (2 Corinthians 1: 21-22).

During Apostolic times there were many who, for example, were baptized by St. John the Baptist. But, that baptism was a "baptism of repentance." The true baptism is that which is performed in the Name of the Father and

the Son and the Holy Spirit. Also, the "seal of the Holy Spirit" - that is, the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation - is the gift of the Holy Spirit by which we come to know Christ. Every work of the Holy Spirit has as its purpose to reveal Christ to us.

The indication of the grace of the Holy Spirit is love. St. Paul, through his Epistle to the Corinthians, shows love to these same Corinthians. Whereas sometime in the past he had to chide the Corinthians for their anomalies,

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ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN

St. John was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and was the son of Zebedee and Salome, and the brother of James the elder. First a fisherman by trade, he became an Apostle and the beloved Disciple of Christ. Only he of all the Disciples followed Him even to the Cross, and was entrusted with the care of our Savior's Mother, as it were another son to her, and a brother of Christ the Teacher.

During the reign of the Emperor Domitian, St. John faced persecution, as did all Christians at that time. He had been placed in a vat of boiling oil in order to die. However, miraculously, he was not harmed. Still considered to be an enemy of the Emperor, he was finally exiled to the island of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation. Returning again to Ephesus after the death of the Domitian, he wrote his Gospel (after the other Evangelists had already written theirs) and his three Catholic Epistles.

He was called Theologian because he loftily expounded in his Gospel the theology of the inexpressible and eternal birth of the Son and Word of God the Father.

We celebrate St. John the Theologian tomorrow, September 26th.

— Taken in part from www.goarch.org



Στην σημερινή επιστολική περι-
κοπή, ακουσαμε τον Αποστολό
Παύλο να αναφέρει το Μυστηρι-
ον του Αγίου Χρισμάτος: *<Ο δε
βεβαιών ημάς συν ἡμῖν εἰς Χριστόν
καὶ χριστὰς ημάς ὁ Θεός. Καὶ ὁ
σφραγισαμένος ημάς καὶ δούς τὸν
ἄρραβωνα τοῦ Πνεύματος ἐν ταῖς
καρδίαις ἡμῶν.>* (2 Κορ. 1:21-22).

Κατὰ τὴν Αποστολικήν ἐποχὴν,
ὑπῆρχαν, π.χ., μερικοὶ, οἱ ὁποῖοι εἰ-
χαν βαπτισθῆ ἀπὸ τὸν Ἅγιον Ἰω-
άννην τὸν Βαπτιστήν. Αὐτὸ τὸ βα-
πτισμὰ ἦταν <βαπτισμὰ μετανοί-
ας.> Ἀλλὰ, τὸ ἀληθινὸ βαπτισμὰ
εἶναι αὐτὸ τὸ ὁποῖο γίνεται εἰς τὸ
ὄνομα τοῦ Πατρὸς, καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ,
καὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος. Καὶ <ἡ
σφραγίς> τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος –
δηλ. τὸ Μυστήριον τοῦ Ἁγίου Χρι-
σμάτος – εἶναι τὸ δῶρον τοῦ Ἁγίου
Πνεύματος, διὰ τοῦ ὁποῖου γνωρι-
ζομεν τὸν Χριστόν. Ὅλα τὰ ὁποῖα
κάνει τὸ Ἅγιο Πνεῦμα εἶναι ὡς σκο-
πὸν νὰ ἀποκαλύψῃ τὸν Χριστόν
τὸν Ἀληθινὸν Θεὸν σὲ ἡμᾶς.

Ἐνδείξις τῆς χάριτος τοῦ Ἁγίου
Πνεύματος εἶναι ἡ ἀγάπη. Ὁ Απο-
στόλος Παῦλος, διὰ μέσου τῆς
Ἐπιστολῆς τοῦ πρὸς τοὺς Κορινθί-
ους, δείχνει ἀγάπην πρὸς τοὺς ἰδι-
οὺς Κορινθίους. Ἀφ’ οὗ ἐπρεπε κά-
ποτε νὰ μαλώσῃ τοὺς Κορινθίους
γὰρ τὶς ἀνομαλίαι τῶν, προτίμησε
<τώρα> νὰ δώσῃ σὲ αὐτοὺς νὰ
καταλάβουν ὅτι δὲν εἶναι ζῆλον νὰ
δεσποτίζῃ τὴν ἐξουσίαν του, ἀλλὰ
νὰ τοὺς προσφιλήσῃ σὲ αὐτόν, δι-
ὅτι σὴν πραγματικότητῃν, τοὺς
ἀγαπᾷ. Αὐτὸ εἶναι παραδειγμὰ γὰρ
ὅλους ἡμᾶς – ὅσο θέλομεν νὰ
διορθώσωμεν τὰ παιδιὰ ἡμᾶς, τοὺς
συγγενεῖς ἡμᾶς, ἢ καὶ αὐτοὺς με-
τὰ τοὺς ὁποῖους προσευχομεθα –
τόσο πρέπει νὰ δείξωμεν ὅτι τοὺς
ἀγαπᾷμεν καὶ θέλομεν γὰρ αὐτοὺς
κάθε καλὸ πρὸς σωτηρίαν τῶν ψυ-
χῶν αὐτῶν.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

he “now” wanted to show them that he had no desire to lord his au-
thority over them, but to endear them to him, because, in reality he
deeply cared for them. This is an example for all of us. In that we
would like to correct our children; our relatives and even those with
whom we pray, we must show them that we do, in fact, care for
them and we want those things that are beneficial for their salva-
tion.

Balancing criticism with praise is important in developing growing,
valuable relationships with others. Constantly criticizing someone
does not help them to know about the value of their good intentions
and the positive gifts that they do bring to our lives. Praise, howev-
er, should always be heart-felt and honest, pointing out that we al-
ways care for them. *“Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with
you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith...I wrote to you out of
much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause
your pain, but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.”* (2
Corinthians 1: 24; 2:4).

That which St. Paul wanted from the Corinthians is that they should
know that Jesus Christ is the only True God and to remain steadfast
in their faith. That truth lies at the heart of the existence of any
Christian church community, and, in particular, that of our St.
George parish. The many “niceties” of a community come second-
ary to the reality of our faith in Christ our God. We must be cautious
of the danger of allowing the many “niceties” of community life to
overshadow the main purpose of our relationship with one another
as Orthodox Christians. Should that happen, the very mission of our
Church is compromised.

Only when we have Christ-like love for one another, like St. Paul
had for the Corinthians, can people around us find inspiration to
follow Christ. This love, based on our sincere faith in Christ our
God, is the “net” by which we will catch many people into God’s
world, as did the Apostles, who heeded the words of our Lord that
were heard during today’s Gospel reading: *“Do not be afraid; hence-
forth you will be catching [many] people.”* (St. Luke 5:11).

See how the Bible gives us the formula to have our parish grow! Let
us each do our part to *“let [Christ’s] Pure Body and Precious Blood be
given to us by [Christ’s] mighty hand, and through us, to all [His] peo-
ple.”* (The Divine Liturgy). In this way, we share the gift of the Holy
Spirit, given to us at the time of our chrismation, with others so that
they, too, may receive baptism and the seal of the Spirit unto salva-
tion in Christ our True God.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Yvonne Flessas, George Aeder, Adele Gallade,
Kathy Ligeros, Nicholas Kyriakou, Jack Clark, Erika Aguilar (Ana and
Wynn Storton’s daughter) (*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 sarki stavrotheis, 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 was crucified in the flesh, 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 sarki stavrotheis, 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. Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and everything that moves in them.*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *Ton synanarchon Logon [Tone 5]... (Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, Who for our salvation was born of a Virgin for He willed to be lifted up bodily upon the Cross, to endure death and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.)*

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... (A 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 defends at all times those who honor You.)*

READINGS: Epistle -2 Corinthians 1:24-2:4 / Gospel – St. Luke 5: 1-11

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

Communion Hymn: *Enite ton Kyrion... (Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Allelouia.)*

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, September 26th.....ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, September 27th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, October 1st.....Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life"
Proverbs 4:23



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Annette and Chris Laskaris

Reader: Annette Lewis

PHILOPTOCHOS – We need volunteers to make coffee for the Coffee Hour after Church services. Tillie Lockshire will train and if you are interested see Tillie or Linda Kallis. Coffee Hour Hostesses' are needed for October 16 and 23. See Linda Petalas. At the suggestion of one of our members at the September meeting, we are starting a Driving Program. If you need a ride to your doctor's appointment, please call Jean Chronis-Kuhn or Evelyn Karas. The next Board Meeting will be on Monday October 3 at 11:00 a.m. and the next General Meeting will be on Monday, October 10 at 11:30 a.m.

GUESTS & VISITORS – A special table is reserved for you in our parish hall! Join us for “coffee hour” today!

OUTREACH – Today **Louise Dobbs Barringer**, and **Rhonda Latkovic** will have a table set-up in the Parish Hall displaying how we can all help to support young mothers who refused to abort and have made the right decision to keep their babies no matter what the circumstances! As Christians you can help give Life to one child, all it takes is one donation or gift of about \$50.00 to purchase one of the following: baby diapers (infants to six months), blankets, little booties/hats (see table display in Parish Hall). **Next Sunday, October 2, 2016** is the kick-off for this year's **Baby Bottle campaign** in support of Birth Choice of the Desert, which is a charity encouraging parents to give birth to expectant babies, rather than to opt for abortion. We will have with us **John Jimenez** of the Birth Choice of the Desert Organization to explain this important, life-saving ministry.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Today is the second Sunday of Sunday School. The students listed the reasons for which they like coming to church. Among those reasons listed: 1) to worship God; 2) to learn about Jesus and the Church; 3) for Holy Communion; 4) to hear the Gospels; 4) to serve by passing the tray and helping in the altar. Of course, they also like partaking of the “holy bread” (the ardithoron). Many blessings from God to our Sunday School staff: **Fotini Krespis, Sunday School Director; Melissa Hawkins; Mariya Dunkel; Krisann Kontaxis; Deacon Euthym Kontaxis.**

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – **October 2, 2016** begins our new season of displaying beautiful fresh bouquets of flowers at our Lord's Altar Gates. Sponsoring altar flower bouquets is an opportunity to offer a special gift to God in prayer for loved ones by glorifying the Holy Altar: \$50.00 per bouquet, \$100.00 for both. Some of our people have opted to share portions of these costs with other parishioners. Please check the Parish Hall Bulletin Board to see what date(s) are available, and inform our **altar flower coordinator, Louise Dobbs Barringer**. At this time, available dates are: **November 20th one bouquet for \$50.00**, and **December 23rd a Christmas poinsettia bouquet for \$85.00.**

2016 FESTIVAL INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT – The 2016 Festival Income and Expense Report is now posted on the bulletin board in our parish hall.

GREEK FESTIVALS – Today: **St. Anthony parish in Pasadena, California** – until 10:00 p.m. Next weekend: **St. Nectarios parish in Covina, California– September 30-October 2nd.**

MONASTERY AT ST. NICHOLAS RANCH – Fundraiser: Saturday, Oct. 1st. (See flier in parish hall.)

CHOIR – The choir will officially return on **Sunday, October 9.** Please continue to sing with us. We are in need of new members. If you like to sing, please join us! Choir practice is **every other Thursday at 1:00 p.m.** Our first practice is on **Thursday, October 6th.** – Choir Director: **Annette Laskaris**

*The September 2016 Ladder
is sponsored by Harry Psaltis
“in memory of the first people who introduced me
to St. George parish: George Flessas, Steve
Geotas, and Pat DiLuzio.”*

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.