

JUNE 4, 2017

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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Palm Desert, California 92260**

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THE LADDER

PENTECOST SUNDAY



Mailing Address:

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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.*

CHRIST IS CONSTANTLY PRESENT

As much as water is the basis for the life of the body, so much (and even to a countless greater degree) the grace of the Holy Spirit is the basis for the life of the soul. The Holy Spirit is “the Giver of Life,” as we say when we say the prayer, “Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present, filling all things...” The Holy Spirit, Who is Truly God (the Third Person of the Holy Trinity) is the common denominator for the “water of life,” and the enlightenment of the souls. The Holy Spirit gives life by re-

vealing Christ to each person; for, Christ is the Author of Life, Who endured the Cross and Resurrected from the dead. On this point, St. Basil the Great says: “It was not possible for the Author of Life to be held captive by corruption.”

In this reality, the Holy Spirit grants life to the believer by revealing Christ, Who is the Light of our souls. It is here that we note the close relationship between Holy Baptism and Holy Chrismation. In

Continued on page 2

PENTECOST SUNDAY

“When the day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed as resting upon each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit . . . (Acts 2.1-4).

The Holy Spirit that Christ had promised to his disciples came on the day of Pentecost (Jn 14.26, 15.26; Lk 24.49; Acts 1.5). The apostles received “the power from on high,” and they began to preach and bear witness to Jesus as the risen Christ, the King and the Lord. In the liturgical services of the feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit is celebrated together with the full revelation of the divine Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The fullness of the Godhead is manifested with the Spirit’s coming to man, and the Church hymns celebrate this manifestation as the final act of God’s self-disclosure and self-donation to the world of His creation.

– Taken from Orthodox Church in America website



Όσο είναι το νερό η βάση της σωματικής ζωής, τόσο (και σε μια αμετρήτη μεγαλύτερη σημασιαν) είναι η χάρις του Αγίου Πνεύματος η βάση της πνευματικής ζωής. Το Άγιο Πνεύμα είναι <η ζωή χορηγός,> όπως λεγόμαστε στην προσευχήν: <Βασιλευ Ουρανιέ.> Το κοινό στοιχείο μεταξύ του <υδάτος της ζωής> και του φωτισμού της ψυχής είναι το Άγιο Πνεύμα, το οποίο είναι ο Ιδιός ο Θεός – το Τρίτον Πρόσωπον της Αγίας Τριάδος.

Η δουλεία του Αγίου Πνεύματος είναι να αποκαλύψει στον καθεναν μας τον Χριστόν, ο οποίος είναι ο Θεός ο Αρχηγός της Ζωής δια μέσου του Σταυρού και της Αναστάσεως, όπως το λέγει ο Άγιος Βασίλειος: <ουκ ην δυνατόν κρατῆσθαι ὑπο τῆς φθοράς τῶν Αρχηγῶν τῆς Ζωῆς.>

Μεσα σε αυτήν την πραγματικότητα, το Άγιο Πνεύμα χαρίζει ζωήν στον πιστόν δια μέσου της αποκαλύψεως του Χριστού, ο οποίος είναι ο Φωτισμός της ψυχής μας. Εδώ γνωρίζουμε την σχέση μεταξύ του Αγίου Βαπτισματος και του Αγίου Χρισματος. Δια του Βαπτισματος, συμμετέχουμε στον θάνατον και της Αναστάσεως του Χριστού – και, συνεπώς, διαφωτιζόμεθα με την Θεϊαν Αληθειαν: οτι ο Χριστός είναι ο Θεός και η <Ενσαρκη Σοφία> του Θεου Πατρός. Δια του Χρισματος, δίδεται στον καθεναν μας <η Πηγή της Αιωνίου Ζωής>, η οποία είναι η καθημερινή εμπνευσις της Αγάπης του Θεου. Το Άγιο Πνεύμα μας βοηθά να κατανοήσουμε και, όμως, να εκφράσουμε την αληθειαν του Θεου, η οποία είναι να έχουμε την Ζωήν αιώνιον.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

Baptism we participate in the death and Resurrection of Christ and, consequently, we are enlightened with Divine Truth: that Christ is God; He is the “Wisdom of God in the flesh.” In Chrismation each person is given the “Fountain of Life,” which is a *daily supply* of Divine Love and Truth. The Holy Spirit helps us to comprehend that Eternal Life is life with Christ our God.

The Holy Spirit is the constant presence of Christ in the world at every place and at all times. Praying for the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Gifts during the Divine Liturgy changes them to the Body and Blood of Christ, whereby we are one with Christ our God. St. Basil amplifies this point in asking the rhetorical question, “*How could one who has partaken of the Holy Spirit be willing to forget or disregard that the Holy Spirit is of the Father and the Son in every way?*” (*On the Holy Spirit*, St. Vladimir’s Press, pg. 87).

Our own spiritual life is deeply connected to the *liturgical life* of the Church. Assuming that they are separate realities is a mistake, which is perhaps one of the main reasons for why the Orthodox Church is sometimes called “the best-kept secret in America.” Let me explain. In the Book of Acts, we realize that the Holy Spirit inspires every person in the world. The Gospel is meant for all, as in the cases of the Ethiopian (Acts 8) and Cornelius (Acts 10). In response to their desire to know our Lord, St. Philip baptized the Ethiopian and St. Peter went to Cornelius to give him instruction, allowing him to embrace the Orthodox Faith (which is Apostolic). Therefore, to assume that those who are not of the Orthodox Faith are therefore not guided by the Holy Spirit is a mistake. Making this mistake leads us to ignore our calling to minister to them. By ignoring them, we sadly fail to expose the beauty of our Church to others in the world. Hence, we go without their participation in the Sacramental life of the Church. Knowing that God loves them, what answer do we give to our Lord for not inspiring them to join His Church?

On the contrary, those who have been baptized and chrismated as Orthodox Christians, who willingly choose to seek a spiritual life apart from the Church, unwittingly give the message that God’s Church is not important to the life of the world. By virtue of their free choice, they reject the reality that the Holy Spirit descends into our lives through the combined practice of private prayer *and* communal prayer as participants in the Sacramental life of the Church.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Nicholas Kyriakou, Argyroula Krespis (Nick Krespis’ mother), Constantine Papapetru, Erika Aguilar, Nicholas Coussoulis, Mary Mitsias, Nula Papapetru, Jim Alex, Tillie Lockshire, Jean Chronis-Kuhn, Panagiotis Menegatos (brother of Eva Canakis) (*Many 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, soson imas."*

Verse 2- **Day to day utters speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.**

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."*

Verse 3- **There is no speech nor language where their voices are not heard. Their proclamation went forth into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.**

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

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

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson"*

ANTIPHON II: *"Soson 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: *"Soson imas Ie Theou, Paraklte Agathe, 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 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: *"Soson imas Ie Theou, Paraklite Agathe, psallontas si alleluia."*

Doxa Patri ke Yio ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous aonas ton aonon. Amin. *"O Monogenis Yios ke Logos tou Theou..."*

ANTIPHON III- *You gave him his soul's desire, and You did not deprive him of his lips' request. O Lord, the king shall be glad in Your power, and in Your salvation he will greatly rejoice. For You anticipated him with blessings of goodness; You placed a crown of precious stones on his head.*

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. Soson 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.*

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.)*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Michael and Christina Carroll

PHILOPTOCHOS – We are looking for Coffee Hour Sponsors or Volunteers for July 2, 9, 10, or 23. See Athena Snarskis or Linda Kallis. Please send your check to Philoptochos for 2017 membership (\$45.00). We are seeking those past members to renew their membership and we're looking for new members. We want to include you in our updated Philoptochos Directory.

SUNDAY SCHOOL "END-OF-THE-YEAR" PROGRAM- Please offer your gratitude to God for our Sunday School students, parents and teachers as we have Sunday School's End-of-Year program after today's celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

ORTHODOX CEMETERY PLOTS – The deadline for purchasing cemetery plots at impressive discount rates at Desert Memorial Park in Cathedral City has been extended. **The new deadline is this Wednesday, June 7, 2017.** It is projected that spaces will be completely sold by then. Please see the enclosed flier explaining the details for purchasing these Orthodox cemetery plots.

SEEKING NEW "YIAYIA" TO CHAIR YIAYIA'S ATTIC FOR 2018 FESTIVAL – Please contact **Becky Allen** for more information.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS - See the enclosed letter of thanks to all who have donated Altar flowers throughout this past year.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Fr. Ted will be away Monday to Saturday, June 5-June 10.

Fr.. Ted will be celebrating the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 11th (All Saints Sunday). In the event of emergency, feel free to contact Fr. David Kruse of St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms (760) 408-6116) or Fr. Andrew Lesko of St. Nicholas Church in Temecula (909) 224-5046. My cell phone number is (760) 880-5869.

*"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,⁰ Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God." **Acts 2:1-11***

The Ladder for the month of June 2017 is donated by Mr. & Mrs. William G. Barringer "We thank God for our Anniversary, and for His healing miracles"!

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.



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
HOLY METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



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website: www.go-stgeorge.org/

Sunday, June 4, 2017

Dear St. George Parishioners,

To all who participated in sponsoring Altar Flowers for the adornment of God's Altar let me take this precious opportunity to thank you! Without your giving hearts and warm spirits the Altar Flower Program would, and could not exist. I pray that you will continue to support our program and purpose. God will truly bless you, and may His peace be with you. A list of all participants during this past Altar Flower season:

Mrs. Annette Lewis (2)
Mrs. Tasia Richards
Mrs. Terry Ayanopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Dalkas (full altar)
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Piggott
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Long (2)
Mrs. Mariya Dunkel
Mrs. Rhonda Latkovic (2)
Mr. & Mrs. John Manesis
Mr. & Mrs. Antony Chiotis
Fr. & Presbytera Theodore Pantels
Mrs. Louise Dobbs Barringer
Mrs. Doris Elmo
Ms. Jean C. Kuhn
Matushka Gloria Lehman
Ms. Diane Young
Mrs. Josie Desnoyer
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Laskaris
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Hector
Mr. Spiro Astros

Special Gift

**Easter Sunday - Lillies – The family of -Deacon & Mrs. Euthym, & Krisann Kontaxis
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo & Tina Veroulis**

"Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." (Ps 37:4)

Louise Dobbs Barringer

Desert Memorial Park

Orthodox Cemetery Plots

31-705 Da Vall Drive

Cathedral City, Ca 92234

760-328-3316

- Plots are \$1585 per plot**
- For an additional \$100 and 30% down you can have 18 months to pay off your plot.**
- All contracts are individual and must be purchased at Desert Memorial by JUNE 7th to be grouped together in the Orthodox section.**
- The Orthodox section will be blessed as an Orthodox Cemetery as Holy Ground.**
- When contacting Desert Memorial speak with Stephanie or John and ask for the Orthodox section**