

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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# THE LADDER

## Mailing Address:

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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.*

## WE ARE APOSTLES!

As Christ sent His Apostles into the world in order to be “fishermen of human beings,” so also He sends us into the world today, in which the philosophical environment is similar to that of Apostolic times. Popular thinking held man to be the measure of all things with ideals of the “greatest good for the most people.” This encouraged people to eventually worshiping emperors as gods. Today we have “political correctness,” to the extent that, if the Name of God seems to offend some people, pray-

er can no longer be tolerated.

Today’s Gospel, in essence, asks us to be apostles of Christ our True God. Therefore, it seems to be a worthy effort for us to understand the thinking and priorities of the Apostles who, in fact, created a Christian society in their own age. Understanding the “spiritual rhythm” of the Apostles allows us to consider turning our efforts toward protecting our own faithful from

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**ABORTION, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE FAITH** -Questions have arisen about our Church’s position regarding the protection of the environment and the ending of abortion, wondering if our Church is becoming politically involved in worldly affairs. In answer, the Church is responsible to advocate for the glory of Christ our God and for continuing His life-giving ministry. The Church is no more “political” than was St. John the Baptist, who asked King Herod to repent of marriage to his brother’s sister, Herodias. The Church proclaims the teachings of our Lord to the world: abortion is the unjust taking of innocent human life; preserving the environment is our duty as stewards of God’s creation – everything we have first belongs to God.

Truly, our concern is for the salvation of the soul of every individual. Abortion kills unborn human beings, given to us by God and it kills the souls of those who have abortions performed.

At the same time, the Church is not simply “siding” with environmentalists who tend to give more importance to the environment than to human beings. Indeed, for Orthodox Christians, the environment is not our god. Christ is our God. The environment will eventually pass away on the Day of Judgment. Therefore, by first living a sincere Orthodox Christian spiritual life, we prepare ourselves for God’s Eternal Kingdom and, as a “by-product,” we show respect for His environment.

+FR. THEODORE



Όπως ο Χριστός εστειλε τους Αποστολους Του στον κοσμον ως <ψαραδες ανθρωπων> ετσι στελνει και εμας στον κοσμον σημερα, ενω το φιλοσοφικο περιβαλλον του σημερινου κοσμου ομοιαζει με αυτο της Αποστολικης εποχης. Η γενικη νοοτροπιαν της ζωης εστηριζοταν στο ρητο <ο ανθρωπος ειναι το μετρον των παντων,> με ιδεες που υποστηριζαν ο,τι ηταν το <μεγαλυτερο συμφερον για τους περισσοτερους ανθρωπους.> Τετοιες ιδεες εδωσαν στον κοσμον το θαρρος να λατρευουν τους αυτοκρατορες ακομα σαν θεοι. Σημερα εχουμε την <πολιτικην ορθοτητα> μεχρι σημειον που εαν κανεις προσβαλλεται οταν ακουει το Ονομα του Θεου,η προσευχη δεν επιτρεπεται.

Η σημερινη Ευαγγελικη περικοπη, στην ουσιαν, μας καλει να ειμεθα αποστολοι του Αληθινου Θεου ο Οποιος ειναι ο Χριστος. Επομενω, ως φαίνεται αξιζει ο κοπος να γνωρισουμε την γενικην διανοησιν των Αποστολων και τις προτεραιοτητες των, αφου εδημιουργησαν εναν ολοκληρον Χριστιανικον κοσμον στην εποχην των.

Όσο καταλαβαινουμε τον <πνευματικον ρυθμον> των Αποστολων μας θαρρυνει να δωσουμε τις ψυχικες προσπαθειες μας προς την προστασιαν των ενοριτων μας απο την πλανην και απο τους απατεωνες οι οποιοι ολο χειροτερευονται οπως ο Απ. Παυλος περιγραφει στην 2αν Επιστολην του προς τον Τιμοθεον.

Πανω απο ολα, ειναι το Αγιο Πνευμα που ενεργει στην ψυχην του καθε αγιου, ο οποιος ειναι για εμας το καλο παραδειγμα!  
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

being deceived by deceivers who grow worse in their efforts to deceive, as St. Paul notes in today's passage from his Second Epistle to Timothy.

From the Apostles we learn that the work to "catch people" into the nets of our Lord's Holy Church requires a personal commitment to worship God faithfully. This translates into a daily life-style of sacrificial love for others; avoiding evil; avid study of the Holy Scriptures – and respect for the Church's teachings in order to combat falsehood. This is how the early Christians and our Saints served as *examples* of Christ-like love. As such, the Apostles became co-creators with our Lord. As Archimandrite Haralambos Vasilopoulos writes, "*As Christ gave the Apostles and the first Christians the ability to be co-creators with Him, so does He give us the same ability today...He imparted to them the ability to create more Christians and those Christians created even more Christians, and so on.*" (*What is the Purpose of Life?*, pg. 37).

Our love for God is met with inspiration from God. This is what allows us to be *examples* of the Gospel teachings. Being *examples* of Christ is a life-time work – a "liturgia" (work) of the Divine Liturgy, which serves as the greatest means for teaching our people. Through the Divine Liturgy we live with Christ in the here and now. With the Entrance of the Gospel (the Small Entrance), while we proclaim the Gospel to the world, holding it high in the air, we are also present with the magi, "bowing and worshiping Christ." With the reading of the Gospel passage, the teachings of our Lord are shared with the whole world, while we ourselves are Apostles being mystically present with His first Apostles, listening to His words. During the Great Entrance when the Holy Gifts are brought in procession to the Holy Altar Table, we follow Jesus to Jerusalem; we sing "Hosanna to God in the highest," making way for Him to enter our lives, remembering us as He remembered the thief who repented, "*Remember me, Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom.*" ("*May the Lord our God remember us all in His Kingdom...*"). At the same time, we are present with Christ at the Last Supper where the Lord asked His Apostles, as He asks us today, to remember Him, saying, "*Do this in remembrance of Me...*" In the spiritual context, Christ's remembrance of us and our remembrance of Him is actually a *living remembrance* – in the real presence of Christ our God, whereby Christ's presence in our lives serves to bring His presence into the lives of others in real terms. This is expressed in the prayer said during the Divine Liturgy as we prepare for Holy Communion: "*...Let Your pure Body and Blood be given to us by Your mighty hand and, through us, to all Your people.*"

+FR. THEODORE

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Constantine Papapetru, Erika Aguilar, Mary Mitsias, Nula Papapetru, Tom Evans, Jim Alex, Jean Chronis-Kuhn, Chris Laskaris, Taki Tavlarides (Fr. James Tavlarides' son) (*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**— 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."*

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**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 Ie 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. Amen**

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

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**ANTIPHON III-** *This is the day the Lord made. Let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

**Sunday Resurrection Hymn**— *Katelisas to Stavro Sou ton thanaton [Tone 7]...(O Lord by Your sacred Cross You abolished death and granted unto the thief blessed paradise. The Myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the good news at Your command that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.)*

**Hymn for St. George**— *Os ton echmaloton eleftherotis... (Since you are a deliverer of captives and a defender of the poor; a physician for the sick and a noble attendant to kings, O Great among the Martyrs and Glorious George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)*

**Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday**— *Prostasia ton Christianon...(A Protection of Christians unshamable; meditation 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 Timothy 3: 10-15 / Gospel—St. Luke 5: 1-11*

**Axion Estin.**

**Communion Hymn**— *Enite ton Kyrion. See page 64 in our Divine Liturgy books*



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Coffee Hour Sponsor: Tasia Richards**

**MEMORIAL** – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servant of God, **Demetrios Sarantos(40 days)**, the beloved son of **Presvytera Nikki Sarantos**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life to **Demetrios**

**Sarantos** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Presvytera Nikki Sarantos** and her entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – We will soon have a Philoptochos calendar on the bulletin board listing our meetings, bake sales and other events. We will also have the bake schedule listed for the Festival so you can plan your days to help us. Our General Meeting last Monday was so interesting with Presvytera Petula presentation on the History of Icons. We have been assigned a new student for the Adopt a Student Program. See the Bio on the bulletin board. Devon will be studying to become a priest.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – This is the second Sunday of our Sunday School year! It’s time to make sure that our children are in Sunday School every Sunday.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY- Next Sunday, October 1, 2017.** This special General Assembly meeting to called in order to present the plans to upgrade our parish courtyard before our Festival (February 16-17, 2018) and to upgrade our parish hall by installing new flooring. Participation in this General Assembly requires one to be a Stewardship member of our parish.

**FESTIVAL MEETING** – Take note that the next Festival meeting is: Monday, October 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

**DONATIONS FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS** – Monetary donations are being accepted at our parish office to be sent to IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma. Write “Hurricane Relief-IOCC” on the memo line of your check.

**BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN** – On **Sunday, October 8th**, we will commence with our annual St. Georges' Annual Baby Bottles Campaign. The campaign will end **next Sunday, October 15th**. Baby Bottles with instructions will be on the tables in the parish hall. Donations will be sent to **Birth Choice of the Desert** in La Quinta, CA. Their theme is "*Birth Choice of the Desert Wants to Save God's Babies!*" **WILL YOU HELP?!** Checks are to be made payable to: “Birth Choice of the Desert.”

**ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS** – Next Sunday we begin our new season for sponsored Altar Flower Bouquets. We are most grateful to God for a very gracious and generous contributor has **sponsored the Altar Flower Bouquets for this entire season – the October 2017 through May 2018!**

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

Tuesday, September 26th.....ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST  
Orthros-8:30 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.  
Bible Study- 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 27th.....Men’s Bible Study – 2:30 p.m. (St. Luke 6:31-36)

Saturday, September 30th.....Vespers -5:00 p.m

**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.**