

JUNE 10, 2018

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.

THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

When our Savior called His Apostles to follow Him, in essence, this was the beginning of the Apostolic Church. Even in His relationship with His Apostles, our Lord spoke of the Church's reality, as for example, when He asked His Apostles to confess their belief in Him as God and Savior. In Matthew 16: 15 - 18 we read the following: "Jesus said to them [the Apostles], 'But who do you say that I am?'"

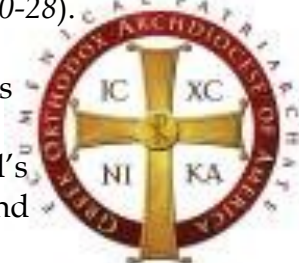
Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.' Jesus answered and said to Him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in Heaven. And I say unto you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.'" Thus we see that the Church is built upon the Apostolic

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THE LAW WRITTEN IN THE HEARTS OF HUMANS - Today we heard these words from St. Paul: "When Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness" (Rom 2: 14-16).

1. Prayer helps us to be vigilant over our conscience. While our conscience is the "Voice of God" within us, it is possible to tune out His voice, thereby, weakening our conscience. James Buchanan wrote, "The conscience becomes weaker in proportion as sin grows stronger in the soul, and [eventually] so far from being condemned by conscience, he may dare to justify his wickedness by 'calling good evil, and evil good.'"
2. As Orthodox Christians, we acknowledge that the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of every person. Every good deed that is offered for God's glory and for human salvation is an "Orthodox Christian" good deed (regardless of whether it is "officially" Orthodox) for which we must be grateful to God. There are many who have not heard of Orthodoxy, or who have not seen good examples of Orthodox teaching, but who may be ready to learn about our Church and embrace the Orthodox Christian Sacramental life (*examples from the Bible: Cornelius, Acts 10: 22, the Ethiopian baptized by St. Philip, Acts 8:30-28*).
3. The only True Judge of humanity is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, "Who judges the secret hearts" (Romans 2: 16). As Orthodox Christians, we are not allowed to judge others or to hate anyone. We are only right to practice the Law of God's love and to condemn the wickedness that lurks within us and outside of us.

+FR. THEODORE



Όταν ο Κύριος εκάλησε τους Αποστόλους να Τον ακολουθήσουν, έγινε η αρχή της Αποστολικής μας Εκκλησίας. Καθώς συνομιλούσε ο Χριστός με τους Αποστόλους Του έζητησε από τους Αποστόλους να ομολήσουν την πίστη των εις Αυτόν – ότι είναι ο Θεός και ο Σωτήρ μας. Στο κατά Ματθαίον Ευαγγέλιο 16: 15– 18 διαβάζουμεν: *«Λέγει αυτοίς ο Ιησούς: υμείς τινα με λέγετε είναι; Αποκριθείς δε Σίμων Πέτρος ειπέ, Σὺ εἶ ὁ Χριστὸς ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ Ζώντος. Καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς, ἀποκριθείς εἶπεν αὐτῷ, μακάριος εἶ Σίμων Βαριώνα, ὅτι σὰρξ καὶ αἷμα οὐκ ἀπεκαλύψε σοί, ἀλλὰ ὁ Πατὴρ Μοῦ ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐράνοις. Καγὼ λέγω σοὶ ὅτι σὺ εἶ Πέτρος καὶ ἐπὶ ταύτῃ τῇ πέτρῳ οἰκοδομησῶ Μοῦ τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν καὶ πύλαι ἀδοῦ οὐ κατισχυσοῦσιν αὐτῆς.»* Καταλαβαίνουμεν, λοιπόν, ὅτι ἡ Ἐκκλησία ὑδρύεται ἐπάνω στὴν Αποστολικὴν ὁμολογίαν ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς εἶναι ὁ Ἀληθινὸς Θεός. Σήμερα μνημονεύουμεν τοὺς Αποστόλους ποὺ ἐκλήθησαν ἀπὸ τὸν Χριστὸν νὰ Τον ἀκολουθήσουν.

Κατὰ τὴν Ἡμέραν τῆς Πεντηκοστής, τὸ Ἅγιο Πνεῦμα ἐφώτισε τοὺς Αποστόλους καὶ, στὴν συνεχείαν, τοὺς καθοδήγησε στὴν διακονίαν τῶν. Ἐπισης, τὸ Ἅγιο Πνεῦμα ἀγιάζει τοὺς πιστοὺς καθὼς τελούνται τὰ Ἅγια Μυστήρια. Στὸ βιβλίον του, *Περὶ τῶν Μυστηρίων*, ὁ Ἅγιος Νεκταριὸς σημειώνει ὅτι σὲ ὅλα ποὺ διαβάζουμεν στὴν Καινὴν Διαθήκην γνωρίζουμεν τὸ ἔργον τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος στὸν κόσμον. Στὰ Αποστολικά ἔργα, στὴν Ἀποκλύση, στὰ γράπτα τῶν Ἁγίων, στὶς Οἰκουμένικες Σύνοδους, στοὺς Ἁγίους καὶ στὰ Ἅγια Μυστήρια τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, ὑπαρχει ἡ Χάρις τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος, τὸ Ὅποιο μᾶς ἐνώνει με τὸν Χριστὸν ψυχικῶς.

+ Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

confession that Christ is the True God. It is today that we commemorate the Apostles called by our Savior: Simon called Peter, Andrew his brother, James and John the sons of Zebedee. Likewise, all the other Apostles were called by Christ. The number of Christ's followers grew from the initial Twelve to a group known as the Seventy Apostles. These are the people - men and women - who lived the ministry of Christ our God first-hand. We, too, are called by our Savior today to be His Apostles.

The Apostolic ministry in the world began with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost. Thus, the ministry of the Church takes shape with the Apostles in time and extends according to the Tradition of the Holy Apostles throughout the course of history even up to the present. This ministry includes both the preaching of the Gospel by word and example and the living of the Gospel on the basis of sincerely preparing for and participating in the Sacraments of the Church.

In his book, *On the Holy Sacraments*, under the sub-title, "Making the Choice to Believe," St. Nectarios of Pentapolis writes the following: *"After the Ascension of Christ into the Heavens the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles and enlightened them so that they could preach the Word of God to every place upon the earth. Everything that we read in the New Testament after the Ascension of Christ is an explanation of the work of the Holy Spirit in the world -- that is, in the works of the Apostles, we see the Grace of the Holy Spirit; in the Book of Revelations, we see the Grace of the Holy Spirit; in the writings of the Holy Fathers, we see the Grace of the Holy Spirit; in the reports and documents of the Ecumenical Councils, we see the Grace of the Holy Spirit; in the lives of the Saints, we see the Grace of the Holy Spirit as the Saints managed their affairs in accordance with the teaching of the Church regarding prayer and participation in the Divine Church Services and the Seven Sacraments...since, in the celebration of each Sacrament of the Church, we see, again, the Grace of the Holy Spirit."* (trans. by Fr. Theodore Pantels).

We are united to Christ our God through the energy of the Holy Spirit. Our unity with Christ is reflected in our thoughts; our motives; our words; our deeds -- all of which provide living examples of Christ's way of life and His teachings. In sum, living a saintly way of life is a life of imitation of Christ. For us to live such a life, the Holy Spirit is constantly enlightening and guiding us in accordance to our desire to welcome the Grace of the Holy Spirit into our souls. This desire is to be expressed through our prayers.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Erika Aguilar, Jim Alex, Chris Laskaris, J.J. Richards, Chris Panopoulos, Nicholas Kontaxis, Louise Scott, Gaylord Washington, Patsy Bruckens, Herline Williams, Jean Chronis, Markos Mihalatos (*Many faithful on our Prayer List face chronic/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, soson imas."

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

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

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

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—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: "Soson 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 is Risen from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia."

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

Refrain: "Soson imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, 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—This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.

Sunday Hymn : Tou lithou sfraghisthendos [Tone 1]... (The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred Body, O Savior, the third day You arose and unto all the world did You give life, whereby all the heavenly powers proclaim that You are the Giver of Life. Glory unto our Resurrected Christ; glory unto Your Kingdom; glory to Your dispensation, O You alone Who loves all.))

Hymn for St. George : Os ton ehmaloton 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 God that He may save our souls.)

Sunday Kontakion Hymn: Prostasia ton Christianon... (A Protection of Christians unshamable, Intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering; reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us, for You are good; Your loving help bring to us who are crying in faith to You: Hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a Protection for all time, Theotokos, for those who honor you.)

READINGS: Epistle:- Romans 2: 10-16 / Gospel: St. Matthew 4: 18-23

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated

Communion Hymn: Enite ton Kyrion ek ton ouranon.... " (pg. 64 in the Divine Liturgy books)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMORIAL -- Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of our brother in Christ, **Fr. James Tavlarides (40 days)**, the beloved pastor of our St. George Greek Orthodox parish from 1991 to 2004, under whose spiritual guidance our present church edifice was built and consecrated. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant to **Fr. James Tavlarides** Eternal Life and may He grant peace and comfort to all of us and to his entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS -- We are planning to update the Philoptochos Phone Directory this summer. Renew your membership so you will be included. Send your check made out to **Philoptochos for \$45.00** to the office or see **Linda Kallis** or **Linda Petalas**. Sponsors for the Coffee Hour are needed. Check out the dates available on the bulletin board and see **Pat Dalkas**.

SPONSORSHIP FOR THE VOICE OF ST. GEORGE NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 2018- We are happy to announce that *The Voice of St. George* for June 2018 has been graciously sponsored by **Louise and William G. Barringer** in celebration of their Wedding Anniversary. We celebrate with them through our prayers that our Savior continues to grant to them His many and great blessings.

GEORGE COLOMBOTOS -- It is with great sadness that we announce that our beloved brother in Christ, **George Colombotos**, departed this life, falling asleep in the Lord, on **Wednesday, June 6, 2018** while visiting family and friends in Greece. After collapsing suddenly, attempts to revive him failed. We pray for his Eternal Salvation today in commemorating his name during the Divine Liturgy and we will schedule a Memorial Service in conjunction with plans for his funeral and in keeping with his 40-day Memorial.

ST. SOPHIA SUMMER CAMP - The two sessions for this year's youth **St. Sophia Summer Camp program** are: Session 1: July 22-July 28; Session 2: July 28-August 4, 2018. Fliers are available in our parish hall. **Registration forms are online at: www.SaintSophiaCamp.org**.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 12th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

"Jesus went about all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people."

--St. Matthew 4: 23

*The Ladder for June 2018 is sponsored
by
Tina & Angelo Veroulis
And
Joan & Frank Fakinos*

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 in order that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a "crying room" in the vestibule for your use. God Bless.