

JULY 15, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS



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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.*

OUR HEAVENLY PHYSICIAN

In the ancient world, the act of eating salt with someone was a sign of loyalty. In the Old Testament, we see this in the Book of Leviticus, Chapter 2, verse 13. Salt symbolized the making of a covenant. When we were baptized in Christ, a covenant was made between us and Christ our God: we would know God as our loving Father and God would regard us as His beloved children—and this bond would last into eternity. It is this bond that gives true flavor to human life,

giving us purpose and meaning.

It is with this in mind that we are called to be “the light of the world”. Upon entering our church temple, we Orthodox maintain the unwritten practice of lighting a candle. The candle is symbolic of our faith in Christ, Who is Himself the Light of the world; yet, it is also a confession by us of our desire to be united to Christ, whereby, by extension, we as individuals and collectively are

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THE SEVEN ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

On the Sunday that falls from the 13th to the 19th of the present month, we chant the Service to the Holy and God-bearing Fathers who came together in the Seven Ecumenical Councils, that is: the First Council, of the 318 Fathers who assembled in Nicaea in 325 to proclaim that the Son of God is consubstantial with God the Father and set the eternal formula for determining the date on which Holy Pascha should be celebrated each year; the Second Council, of the 150 Fathers who assembled in Constantinople in 381 to proclaim the Divinity of the Holy Spirit; the Third Council, of the 200 Fathers who assembled in Ephesus in 431, to proclaim that Christ is perfect Man and perfect God; the Fourth Council, of the 630 who assembled in Chalcedon in 451, to proclaim that Christ has two natures, the divine and human, in Christ after the Incarnation; the Fifth Council in 553, of the 165 who assembled in Constantinople for the second time to reaffirm the proclamation of the Fourth Council; the Sixth Council in 680, of the 170 who assembled in Constantinople for the third time, to proclaim that Christ has two wills—divine and human; and the Seventh Council in 787, of the 350 who assembled in Nicaea for the second time to condemn Iconoclasm.



Δια μεσου της σημερινης Ευαγγελικης περικοπης, ο Χριστος μας υπενθυμιζει οτι ειμεθα <το φως του κοσμου> και <το αλατι της γης.> Με αυτα τα λογια, ο Χριστος ζητα απο εμας να ειμεθα το καλο παραδειγμα της εν Χριστω ζωης. Μαλιστα, το παραδειγμα ειναι το κηρυγμα το οποιο καλουμεθα να προσφερουμεν στον κοσμον.

Μνημονευουμεν σημερα τους Αγιους, διοτι οι αγιοι ειναι για εμας τα παραδειγματα της σωστης Χριστιανικης ηθικοτητος. Οσο μελετουμεν τον βιο του καθε Αγιου, τοσο καταλαβαινουμεν την αγαπη του Θεου για ολους μας. Αυτο που χρειαζεται ειναι να ειμεθα ηνωμενοι με τον Χριστον τοσο ωστε εχουμεν τις ιδιες σκεψεις και την ολοκληρη νοοτροπια ζωης οπως εχει ο Ιδιος ο Χριστος. Γνωριζομεν τον Χριστον δια μεσων της Αγιας Γραφης και της Αγιας Παραδοσεως της Εκκλησιας.

Η Αγια Παραδοσις της Εκκλησιας αποτελειται απο την Αγιαν Γραφη, τα κηρυγματα των Αγιων, οι αγραπτες συνηθεις των πιστων, και τις προκηρυξεις των Οικουμενικων Συνοδων – ολα τα οποια βασιζονται στα βιβλια της Παλαιας Διαθηκης και του Αγιου Ευαγγελιου. Τιμουμεν τους Αγιους των Οικουμενικων Συνοδων, διοτι ο καθε Αγιος επαρεδωσε την ολοκληρη ζωην του απο αγαπη για τον Θεον για να γνωριση και να εκφρασει την αγαπη του Θεου. Ας τιμησουμεν τους Αγιους δια της δικης μας αγαπης για τον Θεον και, κατα αυτον τον τροπον, ας ειμεθα σε ολες τις υποθεσεις <το φως του κοσμου.>

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

“the light of the world.” Lighting our candles is a reminder of Jesus’ command that we be “the light of the world.” In other words, our Lord asks us to be the good example of Christian life. Indeed, the example is the sermon, which we are called to offer to others.

Today we call to mind the Saints of our Church, because the Saints are the “light of the world,” as are we to the extent that we join with them in the saving mission of the Church. As participants in the Light of Christ, we participate in His energies as the Physician of our souls and bodies. From them, we learn how the dogma and theology emanating from the Holy Bible help us to deal with the stresses of life in ways that please God, thereby maintaining our dignity, rather than dealing with them through dysfunctional behaviors.

In fact, applying God’s teachings to our everyday lives as therapy for the soul is validated by Dr. Henry Cloud in his book *The Secret Things of God*. “Today’s spiritual environment reminds me of that of ancient Greece, where all kinds of spiritual discussions and ideas floated around. When the Apostle Paul entered the scene...he basically said to them, ‘I see that you are spiritual people, building an altar to the Unknown god.’ This Unknown God is who I have come to tell you about.’ He told them one of the things I want to share with you: God wants a relationship with you; He wants you to seek after Him and to find Him. Even further, He said our very existence and purpose is wrapped up in Him.” (pg. vi).

Among the many common denominators among the Saints is their zeal to proclaim unblemished the truth of our Savior’s Gospel, making sure that “not one iota; not one jot, will pass from the Law.” (St. Matthew 5:17). In their faithfulness to these words of our Lord, they worked with the Holy Spirit, maintaining the Church as a spiritual clinic for those suffering from ills and temptations -- a harbor for the spiritual voyager. Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos explains: “[We acknowledge] that the Church is a hospital which really cures people; that the Holy Fathers are true therapists who heal by the power of Christ; and that the Commandments are therapeutic, as we attempt to live by them...Therefore, as we keep all the Commandments of Christ, the heart begins to be cured.” (*The Illness and Cure of the Soul in the Orthodox Tradition*, pg. 82).

In our quest to be Christ’s “Light in the world,” we find ourselves being enlightened by Christ our God and, in turn, enlightening and helping others unto true health and salvation.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Erika Aguilar, Jim Alex, Chris Laskaris, Nicholas Kontaxis, Louise Scott, Gaylord Washington, Patsy Bruckens, Herline Williams, Jean Chronis, Markos Mihalatos, Debbie Vawter (*Many faithful on our Prayer List face chronic/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: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soston 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, soston"*

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 en doxi aneliftheis af imon eis tous ouranous, 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 ascended from us in glory into the heavens, 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 en doxi aneliftheis af imon eis tous ouranous, 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: *Angelike dynameis... [Tone 6] (When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb and those who guarded You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred body. For, You did vanquish Hades and, uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the Virgin Woman bestowing the gift of life, O You Who arose from the dead. Lord we give glory to You.)*

Hymn for the Holy Fathers: *Yper-de-doxasmenos... (Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God. You established the Holy Fathers upon the earth as beacons and through them You have guided us all to the True Faith. O greatly merciful One, glory be to You.)*

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; 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:-Titus 3: 8-15 / Gospel: St. Matthew 5: 14-19

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated

Communion Hymn: *Enite ton Kyrion.... (page 64 in our Divine Liturgy books)*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of the servant of God, **George Colombotos (40 days)**, who has served in many capacities of service in the life of our St. George parish. **George** is survived by his sister, **Leah Heath; Mike Heath**, his brother-in-law (**Leah and Mike are Julian Garcia’s “nouna” and “nouno” -- i.e., his Godparents**). Also, **George** is survived by his niece, **Megan Heath**, and by his brother, **Jimmy Colombotos**. We pray that our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ may grant to **George Colombotos** Eternal Life and Salvation and that He grant peace and comfort to the members of his family and to all of us. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS -- Members, please join us on **Wednesday, July 18** to make cookies to replenish our inventory for memorials. We need 4 to 5 members. We will make, bake and package cookies in one day. Let **Pat Dalkas** know if you are coming to help. Thank you. If you have any questions about how your President and Board of Directors are running Philoptochos, please ask. We would be happy to answer your questions.

MASTER CALENDAR -- A 2018-2019 Master Calendar our parish is being prepared. This is a good time to schedule events going into September 2018-May 2019. Please contact Fr. Ted.

J.J. RICHARDS: MAY HE REST IN PEACE -- On Saturday, June 30, 2018 our dear friend, **James Joseph Richards** (affectionately known as **J.J.**) departed this life and fell asleep in the Lord at his home in Rancho Mirage. He will truly be missed by all of us here at St. George, and especially by those of his beloved family: **Tasia Richards**, his wife; **Joseph and Tania**, his children; **Jackson, Levi and Christopher James**, his grandsons; and **Bunny**, his sister. **J.J.** worked in public broadcasting for Canadian television and radio. In **2004** he was awarded the **Lifetime Achievement Award** for his accomplishments as a political journalist. **J.J.** was always willing and ready to help our St. George parish by volunteering his efforts in support of our parish golf tournaments and our parish Greek Festival. He was a member of our St. George choir and served as a Reader of the Church along side our parish chanters. We also note that **J.J.** was an active member of our parish AHEPA Chapter 528. In August, a Celebration of Life will be held for him in Vancouver, Canada. For additional information, please email: jjlegacy2018@gmail.com, or contact Fr. Ted. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 17th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

Friday, July 20th.....PROPHET ELIJAH THE TISBITE
Orthros-8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.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.