



JULY 28, 2024

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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– Fr. Theodore Pantels, Proistamenos (Pastor)

– Deacon Euthym Kon-taxis, M.D.

Holy Communion Or-der

- 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 LADDER

STS. PROCHOROS, NICANOR OF THE 70 APOSTLES; ST. IRENE

PRAYER FOR READING HOLY SCRIPTURES



Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us, also, reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all these things that are pleasing to You. For You are the Light of our souls and bodies and to You we give glory together with Your Father Who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

EPISTLE—Romans 10:1 – 10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

GOSPEL— St. Matthew 8:28 – 34, 9:1

At that time, when Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

SPIRITUAL THOUGHT – The Epistle passage for today is St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans, Chapter 10, verses 1-10. Accordingly, "The way of the law and the way of faith are contrasted...Faith transforms the whole person, heart, soul, mind and body (vv.9,10). [Confession of faith and belief] are more than simply mental acknowledgment that something is true. Rather, this belief refers to placing one's whole trust in the resurrected Christ and living with Jesus as one's Lord. Only the giving of the whole self to Christ is belief unto righteousness." (Orthodox Study Bible, pgs. 1540-1541). The righteousness of Christ is the law.

ST. IRENE CHRYSOVALANTOU – St. Irene lived for over 100 years during the 9th century. She lived a life of constant prayer while battling many attacks from demons. As a novice, she attained to the practice of Saint Arsenius the Great, of praying the whole night long with arms stretched heavenward. God showed forth great signs and wonders in her, and she became the Abbess of the Convent of Chrysovalantou. God granted her the gifts of clairvoyance and great spiritual wisdom. Through her prayers, there are many miracles of healing to this day. +FR. THEODORE

Liturgical Notes

At the Entrance with the Gospel: **1)** *“The women disciples of the Lord heard from the angel, the joyful news of the Resurrection and the repeal of the sentence imposed upon our forefathers. With pride they said to the Apostles, ‘Death is vanquished, Christ our God is risen bestowing upon the world His great mercy.’”* / Το φαιδρόν...

2) *“Since You are a deliverer of captives and a protector of the poor; a physician for the sick; a noble attendant to kings, O Great among the martyrs and glorious George, intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls.”* / Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθεροτής...[Hymn for St. George]

3) Kontakion: *“You were transfigured upon the mount, O Christ our God, and Your disciples, in so far as they could bear, beheld Your glory. Thus, when they see You crucified, they may understand Your voluntary passion, and proclaim to the world that You are truly the effulgence of the Father.”* / Επί του όρους μετεμορφώθης...

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Tuesday, July 30th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 31st...Orthodox Christian Catechism (online)- 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, August 1st...Beginning of the 15-day Fasting Season in honor of the Holy Mother of God. Paraklisis Service-6:00 p.m.
- Friday, August 2nd.....Paraklisis Service-6:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHILOPTOCHOS – 1)The Narrow Door Food Bank in Indio, CA is requesting our Philoptochos Chapter to assist them again to prepare food bags for food insecure families on **Saturday, August 17th starting at 8:45 AM to approximate finish at 11:00 AM.** Both men and women are needed. If interested in volunteering, please contact **Rhonda or Nick Latkovic at (714) 875-4661.** A sign-up sheet is located on the bar area in the church hall. We can arrange for transportation for volunteers if needed.

2)Philoptochos is repeating our successful **“NO-SEW Blanket Outreach Project”** from last year to benefit two non-profits; **The SafeHouse of the Desert** and **Birth Choice of the Desert.** Our goal is to make a total of forty blankets that will be donated to benefit the children being assisted at each agency. We are supplying the blankets and need volunteers to actually make them. It takes about two hours of your time to make one blanket. No sewing involved! Please see President Rhonda Latkovic if you wish to help.

3) Our popular **“Sock-tober Outreach Project”** will be starting in September and we will be collecting socks to benefit the homeless and those being housed in shelters at the **Coachella Valley Rescue Mission.** Collection bins will be set up in the church hall for NEW socks to be deposited by gender. We can also accept your monetary donation and do the sock shopping for you. Please support this worthwhile project.

4) Coming **October 19th...Paint El Paseo Pink Walk** to benefit **cancer patients** through Desert Cancer Foundation. Save the date and plan to be a part of our walk team this year!

AHEPA – The **National AHEPA Family Convention** has convened in **Larnaca, Cyprus.** The AHEPA Family members, led by **His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros,** pledged to be counted in support of Cyprus and its freedom, since 50 years ago (1974) Cyprus was illegally invaded by Turkish troops.