

AUGUST 25, 2019

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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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.*

WISDOM vs. FOOLISHNESS

In his First Epistle to the Corinthians, St. Paul sets the ethical and spiritual standard for all who want to follow Christ. He calls us to be imitators of himself – to be “foolish” for God’s glory. Those who want to follow Christ, are to live as the Apostles lived, which he describes in this manner: *“When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate.”* (1 Corinthians 4:12).

Those who follow the “wisdom” of the world are people who, as St. John Chrysostom would say, live according to the

“wisdom of barbarians.”

Indeed, the “wisdom” of the world clashes with the “foolishness” of God on two vital and intertwined levels of our lives: 1) our Church, and, 2) our personal relationships.

Christian ideals and prayer are being attacked in the forums of politics, media and education, and, consequently, the desire to obey the teachings of the Church is often considered to be “foolish.” Archimandrite Zachariah in the book, *The Hidden Man of the Heart*,
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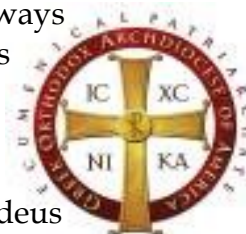
LIFE IN THE FALLEN WORLD

“People engage in many activities – philosophy, rational thinking, scientific research – but, all that is very short lived. The comfort lasts a very short time, and then depression and despondency set in. People on this earth generally feel very lonely, even when they are among their closest family members...”

“We make it very hard for God to [comfort us] when we are like a broken mirror, in which even spiritual themes reflect and refract in fragments in a hundred different ways. Christ came into the world in order to make our mirror whole again, so that we can receive God’s Image in it. Of course, there are many who cannot conceive of the idea of God or accept Him into their hearts...”

“We criticize our politicians who are currently in power; but, they, too, are our children...The Holy Fathers say that we must *correct ourselves* – to work on our salvation and many around us will be saved. We must strive to always be good, kind and quiet – to be at peace so that people will always feel peace and quietness in our presence. We know that we can either attract people with our thoughts or drive them away. We need to change so that our faith might be strengthened.”

– Taken from: *Our Thoughts Determine our Lives*, by Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica, pgs. 123-129



Στην 1ην Επιστολήν του προς τους Κορινθίους, Ο Απ. Παύλος θέτει το ηθικό και πνευματικό πρότυπο για όσους θέλουν να ακολουθήσουν τον Χριστόν. Μας παρακαλεί να είμεθα μιμητές του εαυτού του – να είμεθα <ανήτοι> προς δόξαν Θεού. Συγκρίνει την <σοφίαν> του κόσμου με την <ανοησίαν> του Θεού. Για όσους θέλουν να ακολουθήσουν τον Χριστόν ας ζουν όπως εξούσαν οι Απόστολοι, που γράφει ο Απόστολος: <Λοιδορούμενοι, εύλογοῦμεν, διωκόμενοι, ἀνεχόμεθα, δυσφημούμενοί, παρακαλοῦμεν.> (1 Κορ. 4:12).

Για εκείνους που ακολουθούν την <σοφίαν> του κόσμου, αυτοί είναι, όπως θα έλεγε ο Αγ. Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος, άνθρωποι που ζουν σύμφωνα με την <σοφίαν των βαρβάρων>

Στην αλήθειαν, η <σοφία> του κόσμου συγκρούεται με την <ανοησίαν> του Θεού σε δύο ζωτικά και αλληλένδετα επίπεδα της ζωής μας: 1) στην σχέση μας με την Εκκλησίαν, και, 2) στις προσωπικές μας σχέσεις.

Τα Χριστιανικά ιδεώδη και η προσηυχή προσβάλλονται από πολιτικά πρόσωπα...από τα μέσα ενημέρωσης και από τα μέσα εκπαίδευσης, και, επομένως, η επιθυμία να υπακούωμεν στις διδασκαλίες της Εκκλησίας θεωρείται <ανοησία.>

Η <σοφία> του κόσμου έχει δημιουργήσει μια κουλτούρα που ευρίσκεται σε ψυχική κρυάδα. Η λεγομένη <ανοησία> της Ορθοδόξιας, όμως, πάντοτε εδημιούργησε (και δημιουργεί) μια ζωτανή αγάπη, όπως αυτήν που έδειξαν οι Άγιοι – και ποιός ανήτος θα ισχυριζόταν ότι δεν έχουμε ανάγκην από την Αγάπην του Θεού σήμερα!

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

notes that the desire to obey the Church's teachings is actually a display of *wisdom*. Obedience requires faith in God - faith even as much as a mustard seed that can move mountains, as we heard in today's Gospel. "[We] must make a leap of faith and enter into obedience...Obedience, however, presupposes a relationship that is rooted in prayer. Discipline keeps the mind on outward forms...obedience searches the heart and seeks to be informed by God." (pg. 131). He goes on to say that discipline and self-discipline are good virtues through which God's work is accomplished – but, doing God's work with obedience born from love bears even greater fruit. When children for example, choose to obey their parents out of love for them, they feel it to be an honor to bring them joy. When they do things as a matter of discipline, there is often the spirit of fear over consequences imposed by the parents. The love for God and others, through which obedience is born, is cultivated through participation in the Sacramental life of the Church.

On the level of our personal relationships, the concept of showing obedience to parents, teachers, and those who protect us from lawless chaos seems to be classified today as a form of "foolishness." But, true wisdom demands faith in Christ our God by which we can love one another. Fr. Moses the Athonite, in a recent speech, had this to say: "Without God life is intolerable, without meaning and leading nowhere. Thus, our relationships with others are ephemeral, haphazard, profit-driven, antagonistic, worthless. Our relationship with ourselves is full of fear, guilt, shame and coldness. Our relationship with God constitutes the standard of all of our other relationships. Without God, any relationship makes one's soul anemic and eventually we pay the price of 'freezing loneliness.' But is it right that Christians feel this void in their lives?" (You Tube: <https://www.youtube/channel/UCNY2>).

While the "wisdom" of the world has brought about a culture of "freezing loneliness," the so-called "foolishness" of our Orthodox Christian Church has always brought about (and still creates) a vibrant love, such as that shown by Her many Saints – and what fool would argue that we do not need God's kind of love today!

+FR. THEODORE

"I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13

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 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 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 Resurrection Hymn: *Tou lithou sfraghismenos (Tone 1)... ((The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding watch oe'r 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 did 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 Sts. Bartholomew and Titus the Apostles: *Apostoli Aghyee, presvevsete....(O holy Apostles, make intercession to our merciful God, that He grant our souls forgiveness of offenses.)*

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 to Christ our God that He will save our souls.)*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday : *Ioakim ke Anna onidhismou ateknee-ahs... (Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility's stigma, and Adam and Eve from their mortality's ruin have been set free, O immaculate Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration, redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you, "The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.")*

Axion Estin *is chanted/sung*

Communion Hymn : *Eis pasan tin gheen exilthen o fthongos Aftou ke eis ta perata tis ekoumenis ta rheemata aftou. Allelouia. (His proclamation went out into all the earth, and His words to the end of the world. Alleluia.)*

BOOK STORE ARRIVALS-We have received new *Orthodox Study Bibles* and **Chapter Label Tabs** in our bookstore. Also a new recommended book titled, *"Introducing the Orthodox Church: Its Faith and Life"* by Anthony Coniaris.



Coffee Hour: Maria Rellos

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Mary Chakos Andros (9 Months)**, the beloved mother of **Nicholas Andros**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life and Salvation to **Mary Chakos Andros** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Nicholas Andros**. MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

PHILOPTOCHOS - Upcoming September meetings announcement-The **Philoptochos Board** will meet on Monday **September 9th at 11:30 AM** in the church hall. The **General Members meeting** will be held on Monday, **September 16th beginning at 11:30 AM** also in the church hall, starting with a light lunch for all attending. Meeting reminder emails or phone calls will be made a few days prior to the General Meeting.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETING - Today, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, **Sunday School staff and teachers** are asked to join our **“Beginning-of-the-Year” Sunday School Meeting**. See **Jim Christopoulos** for more details.

STREET LIFE PROJECT - **Tuesday, August 27th and Thursday, August 29th**...Help prepare the meals and/or to serve them, sign up on the form posted on the parish bulletin board. Serving meals will at **6:00-7:30 p.m. at Miles Park in Indio (August 27th) and Sunrise Park in Palm Springs (August 29th)**. Usable clothing items: drop them off outside of Fr. Ted’s office in the parish hall. Please contact **Rhonda Latkovic** for details.

SEMI-ANNUAL DONATION STATEMENTS -The office will be printing and mailing out the semi-annual donation statements (stewardship) the last week of August.

MEMORIAL WALL NAMEPLATE ANNOUNCEMENT --The outstanding nameplate orders for the first phase of the Memorial Wall that were ordered back in May & June are in or near being finished by the manufacturer. We expect to receive them by September 10th and will install them immediately. As we enter the second phase of the memorial wall project, please note that the price of a nameplate is now \$225.00 (up to 25-28 letters) due to the increase in our cost to have them manufactured and sent.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 27th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m./ Street Life at Miles Park, Indio -6:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 29th.....BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (Fasting Day)
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Street Life at Sunrise Park, Palm Springs -6:00 p.m.

EPISTLE—1 Corinthians 4:9-16 — Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

GOSPEL— Matthew 17:14-23—At that time, a man came up to Him and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."