

OCTOBER 20, 2019

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

ST. GERASIMOS OF CEPHALONIA; ST. ARTEMIOS, THE MARTYR

THE JOY OF HEAVEN ON EARTH

The devil can actually surpass our personal spiritual efforts. If we are proud that we can maintain the Orthodox Christian fasting discipline, be assured that the devil maintains a fasting discipline, as well. If we would take pride living a chaste life, even as virgin monks or nuns, we would be humbled knowing that even the devil is already a virgin. If we believe that Christ is God, it is, in itself, no cause for pride; for even the devil believes that Christ is the True God. In fact, the devil and his demons

are found, as we note from today's Gospel, to speak to Christ, acknowledging Him as True God and seeking His help, allowing them to enter into the swine.

Therefore, in what way do demons differ from humans? It is exactly in the fact that we have the innate capacity to love and to express the virtue of love. It is this capacity that stands as the most important feature of our souls, the Image of God within us; for, God is love, according to St. John (1 John 4:8).

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THE SAINTS COMMEMORATED TODAY: ST. GERASIMOS & ST. ARTEMIOS

Saint Gerasimos was from the Peloponnesus, the son of Demetrius and Kale, of the family of Notaras. He was reared in piety by them and studied the Sacred writings. He left his country and went throughout various lands, and finally came to Cephalonia, where he restored a certain old church and built a convent around it, where it stands to this day at the place called Omala. He finished the course of his life there in asceticism in the year 1570. His sacred relics, which remain incorrupt, are kept there for the sanctification of the faithful.

Saint Artemios lived during the years of Saint Constantine the Great, and was appointed by him to be Governor of Alexandria; later, he was honored with the rank of patrician. During the reign of Julian the Apostate, in the year 361, Artemios appeared before the Emperor and censured him for his apostasy. For this, he endured many torments and was finally beheaded.

--Taken from www.goarch.org



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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.*

Ο διάβολος μπορεί πραγματικά να υπερέχει τα πνευματικά μας έργα. Εάν είμεθα υπερήφανοι στο ότι μπορούμε να νηστεύουμε, ο διάβολος νηστεύει, επίσης. Εάν είμεθα υπερήφανοι για την αγνία μας ή για την παρθενία μας, ο διάβολος είναι παρθένος ήδη. Εάν έχουμε πίστην, ο διάβολος πιστεύει, επίσης, αφού τα δαιμόνια του αναγνώρισαν τον Χριστόν ως Θεό, όπως καταλαβαίνουμε από την σημερινή Ευαγγελικήν περικοπήν που τα δαιμόνια εξήτησαν τον Κύριον να τους στείλει στους χοίρους. Και...με αυτό, καταλαβαίνουμε ότι μπορεί ο διάβολος και τα δαιμόνια του να ζητήσουν για <τα συμφέροντα τους>, επίσης. Επομένως, τι είναι που χωρίζει τους ανθρώπους από τα δαιμόνια; Ακριβώς, είναι η έμφυτη ικανότης να αγαπάμε και την αρετήν να εκφράσουμε την αγάπην για τον Θεόν και για άλλους. Αυτό είναι το πιο σπουδαίο στοιχείον της ψυχής, η Εικόνα του Θεού μέσα μας. Ο Θεός είναι η αγάπη, όπως το λέγει ο Άγιος Ιωάννης. (1 Ιωάν. 4:8). Μάλιστα, τα δαιμόνια αναγνωρίζουν την αλήθειαν ότι ο Χριστός είναι ο Ιδιος ο Θεός, αλλά δεν έχουν αγάπη! Εξήτησαν από τον Ιησούν την απόρριψήν Του και την άδειαν να μπουν στους χοίρους.

Η Θ. Λειτουργία είναι η ένωσίς μας με τον Θεόν. Είναι η αγάπη του Θεού για εμάς διά του Μονογενή Του Υιού και είναι η αγάπη μας για τον Θεόν. <Οὕτως ἠγάπησε ὁ Θεός τόν κόσμον...> ὥστε να κληρονομήσουμε την Αιώνιον Βασιλείαν. Ο Παράδεισος είναι μία ζωή συνεργασίας με τον Θεόν. Και η χαρά της ζωής είναι να έχουμε την τιμήν και την ευκαιρίαν να ευχαριστήσουμε τον Κύριον. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

Indeed, the demons acknowledge that Christ is God, but they have no love. Their request of Jesus was a request asking in essence to be rejected by Him and to enter into the swine, which they destroyed. We must remember that God is love, and the fact that we are able to love tells us of the divine, immortal quality of our being. As God is eternal, so it is that "love never ends."

The Divine Liturgy is our union with God. It is God's love for us in the Person of His Only-Begotten Son and our love for God. "God so loved the world..." so that the Kingdom of Heaven can be ours. St. Irenaeus reminds us: "Neither shall God ever cease to benefit and enrich us, and [we who are so enriched] are grateful towards our Creator and, at the same time, vessels of God's goodness and the instruments of God's doxology." (Migne P.G, 829). Metropolitan Anthony Bloom adds: "We should recognize in the situation in which we are...the presence of the divine will, and it should be neither flight nor rebellion, but a movement guided by God, which begins with the kingdom of heaven that is within us and develops into the kingdom on earth." (Living Prayer, pg. 29). Hence, we can fully understand St. Paul's words: "[We] will be enriched in every way for generosity." (2 Corinthians 9:11).

Some say that generosity is the trademark of inner peace and joy. St. Paul would be referring to the "divine joy" in God's love, saying, "God loves the cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:8). *Enrichment* is God's love for us; *generosity* is our love for God and others, expressed out of *gratitude* to God for enriching us. Living our lives in the context of *enrichment from* God's blessings; *gratitude for* God's blessings, and *generosity in sharing* God's blessings is a lifestyle that brings us *cheerfulness* in Christ.

In sum, Paradise is a life of being co-workers with God and the *cheerfulness* of *being alive*-- i.e., to have the *honor* and the *opportunity* to be grateful to our Lord by giving to others of His blessings and a taste of "heaven on earth."

+FR. THEODORE

"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters; He restores my soul and leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."
--Psalm 23: 1-3

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 sfraghisthendos (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 St. Gerasimos of Cephallonia: *Ton Orthodoxon Prostatin...(O believers, let us praise the protector of the Orthodox, the God-bearing miracle-worker lately appearing to us, the incarnate angel, divine Gerasimos. For he has rightly received from God the ever-flowing grace of performing healings. He strengthens those with diseases and he heals those with demons. And therefore he pours out healings to those who honor him.)*

Hymn for St. Artemios the Martyr ...O Martys Sou Kyrie...(Your Martyr, O Lord, was worthily awarded by You the crown of incorruption, in that he contested for You our immortal God. Since he possessed Your power, he defeated the tyrants, dashing the demons' powerless displays of defiance. O Christ God, at his fervent entreaties, save our souls.)

Hymn for St. George : *Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... (As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and the champion defender of kings, bearer of trophies are you, O Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday : *Prostasia ton Christianon... (O Protection of Christians that never fails, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.)*

Axion Estin

The Ladder for the month of September 2019 was sponsored by Bernice Shaheen.

The Ladder for this month is sponsored by Alice Pulos.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hour: Linda Petalas and Katitsa Xitco

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of the servant of God, **John Cladis (40 days)**, the beloved uncle of **Mary Ann Mantes** and the beloved son of **Fr. Ted’s** great aunt, **Mary Cladis**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life and Salvation to **John Cladis** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Mary Ann Mantes, Fr. Ted** and the entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS– Coffee Hour sponsors are needed for **December 1st & 15th**. See **Pat Dalkas** to sign up for Coffee Hour.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – The following are the Contributors for this Sunday’s Altar Flower Bouquets, offered to God’s glory:

- Mrs. Tasia Richards: *In loving memory of her husband JJ Richards may there be Eternal Rest!*
- The Silas Peterson Family: *In loving memory of Anastasia's father, George Parasidis, may his rest be Eternal!*

SUNDAY SCHOOL -- Painting pumpkins with religious themes is today’s Sunday School project. We look forward to a rewarding fellowship hour today with our Sunday School students.

2020 GREEK FESTIVAL FLIERS-- Enclosed is the “**2020 Greek Festival Sponsorship/Ad Form.**” Everyone’s support will insure the success of our Festival. Let’s all give or get sponsorships and ads!

GREEK LANGUAGE CLASS – **Modern Greek Language for adults** – **first day of class is Tuesday, October 22, 2019**...classes are every Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. See Fr. Ted for details.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 22nd.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m./ Adult Greek Class- 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 23rd.....ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 24th.....Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 26th.....ST. DEMETRIOS THE GREAT MARTYR
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

EPISTLE -2 Cor. 9:6-11... Brethren, the point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity.

GOSPEL-Luke. 8:26-39... At that time, as Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds

and was driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. When the herdsmen saw what happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but he sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.



“SURVIVAL GREEK”

LANGUAGE SCHOOL

REGISTRATION FORM 2019

LOCATION: Classes are held at Saint George Greek Orthodox Church 74109 Larrea St, Palm Desert, CA 92260

SCHEDULE: Classes begin Tuesday, October 22nd, 2019 at 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. First semester duration is 9 weeks and continues until December 17th, 2019.

TUITION: \$75.00 per student

Please complete form and return with payment by October 22nd, 2019.

STUDENT INFORMATION (please fill in all fields):



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SAINT GEORGE 2020 GREEK FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP & AD PROGRAM

Event Dates: Sat. & Sun., February 22nd - 23rd, 2020

Terms: Cash/Check/Credit

Attached is my check in the sum of:

Date: _____ \$ _____

Sponsorship/Ad Choice: _____

Sponsorship/Ad Choices Available in 24th Annual Greek Festival Booklet:

Sponsorship Level: (includes full page (8.5 x 5.5) **color** ad in program booklet, company logo in Festival Ad Program, signage at festival admissions gate & Sponsorship listing on Festival Website)

Sponsor Level ----- \$ 1000

Advertising Choices: (includes black & white ad in program booklet)

Full Page (8.5 x 5.5) -- \$ 500 **Half Page (4.25 x 5.5) -- \$ 275**

Quarter Page or Business Card (2.125 x 5.5) -- \$150

Personal Name Listing w/ Message -- \$100

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Make checks payable to:
St. George Orthodox Church
P.O. Box 4755
Palm Desert, CA 92261
Phone: (760) 568-9901
Email: 2016stgeorgegreekfest@gmail.com
Fax: (760) 568-9492

Print personal ad below:

Absolute DEADLINE for Copy: January 20th, 2020

Electric submission of camera ready corporate logos
& names are accepted in most formats.

