

OCTOBER 27, 2019

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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# THE LADDER



## Mailing Address:

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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.

## DOES PAIN SERVE A PURPOSE?

Many people do not accept the fact that, as people, they have weaknesses. They think that they have tremendous powers and that they have no need of God. Yet, from the Bible we see that there were who Saints suffered from their weaknesses, like Moses, who suffered from the inability to speak clearly. Even St. Paul had a “thorn in the flesh.”

People will always have pains and suffering, because such are the consequences of sins in some way. Christ allows them, however, in order to “buffet” us, as in the case of St. Paul. In our weakness, our pride fades, leaving room for humility, which gives birth to sincerity of heart. It is with a sincere heart that we can give proper glory to God and due respect to others.

Too often we forget that our lives have meaning – our purpose is to participate in God’s work through which evil is overthrown by good; despair is vanquished through experiencing the power of Christ God. His strength vanquishes the power of death and transcends every object of the physical world, as we note from the resurrection to life of Jairus’ daughter and the woman who was healed merely by touching the hem of Christ’s garment. In fact, Christ’s garment became the vessel of divine power, as does the oil from the Sacrament of Holy Unction, or the water that carries the grace of the Holy Spirit as Holy Water.

As co-workers in God’s work for the salvation of the world, evil is destroyed before power of Christ our

*Continued on page 2*

## THE PROTECTION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS -October 28th

The Feast of the Protection commemorates the appearance of the most Holy Theotokos in the Church of Blachernae in Constantinople in the tenth century, as recorded in the life of Saint Andrew the Fool for Christ's sake. While the multitudes of the faithful were gathered in church, Epiphanius, the friend of Saint Andrew, through the Saint's prayers, beheld the Virgin Mary above the faithful and spreading out her veil over them, signifying her unceasing protection of all Christians. Because of this we keep a yearly feast of gratitude, imploring our Lady never to cease sheltering us in her mighty prayers.



Πολλοί δεν γνωρίζουν ότι έχουν αδυναμίες ως άνθρωποι. Νομίζουν ότι έχουν τεράστιες δυνάμεις μέχρι που δεν έχουν καμία ανάγκη από τον Θεόν. .Αλλά, από την Αγίαν Γραφήν, γνωρίζουμε αγίους που εταλαιπωρήθηκαν από τις αδυναμίες των, όπως ο Μωυσής, ο οποίος είχε αδυναμία στην λαλιάν του. Ακόμη και ο Απόστολος Παύλος είχε <σκόλοψ τῆ σαρκί.>

Δυσκολίες και πόνους θα έχει ο άνθρωπος οπωσδήποτε κατά κάποιον τρόπον ως συνέπειες αματιών. Ο Χριστός, όμως, επιτρέπει να δοκιμάσουμε δυσκολίες και πόνους για να αποκτήσουμε ταπεινοφροσύνη. Επάνω στις δυσκολίες εξοφάνίζεται ο εγωισμός και εμφανίζεται η ταπεινοφροσύνη από την οποίαν πηγάζει η καθαρή καρδιά. Με την καθαράν καρδίαν δοξάζομεν τον Θεόν και σεβόμεθα τον πλησίον μας.

Πολύ συχνά ξεχνάμε ότι η ζωή μας έχει σκοπόν. Ο σκοπός μας είναι να συμμετέχουμε στο έργο του Θεού, δια μέσου του οποίου το κακό διαλύεται μπροστά στην δύναμη του Θεού μας Χριστού. Η δύναμις Του εξουδετερώνει την δύναμη του θανάτου και ξεπερνά κάθε εμπόδιον του κόσμου, όπως παρατηρούμεν από την ανάσταση της κόρης του Ιάρου και από την γυναίκαν που θεραπεύθηκε απλώς όταν άγγιξε το ένδυμα του Ιησού. Στην πραγματικότητα, το ένδυμα του Χριστού έγινε το μέσον της Θείας ενεργείας, όπως γίνεται το λάδι του Μυστηρίου του Αγίου Ευχελαίου και το νερό που μεταφέρει την χάριν του Αγίου Πνεύματος και είναι ο Αγιασμός. Η Θεία Κοινωνία αγιάζει όλο το σώμα και την ψυχήν του ανθρώπου, όπως είναι τόσο εμφανές από τα λείψανα των αγίων.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

God. His strength nullifies death and surpasses worldly obstacles, as we note from the resurrection from death of Jairus' daughter and the woman who was healed when she reached out for Jesus' garments. Truly, the garments of Christ became the means of divine power, as we also see from the oil of Holy Unction and the water which transmits the grace of the Holy Spirit, becoming "Agiasmo." Holy Communion sanctifies one's body and soul as is evident from the relics of the Saints.

There is meaning to suffering if it is connected to love for God and others. Fr. Stanley Harakas points to some thoughts offered by St. John Chrysostom: *"With Chrysostom, we see that in Christ, suffering has a purpose (perfecting), and that it can be a means to salvation. Chrysostom challenges his Christian audience to look upon suffering differently from non-Christians. Instead of seeing suffering as an unmitigated evil (interpreting it as meaning that one has been 'utterly forsaken'), Christians can find in it purpose and significance, precisely because it was through suffering that God led Christ into his saving work."* (*Health and Medicine in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition*, pg. 49).

Thoughts of despair, arising from the false perception that God no longer loves us for some reason, can hamper chances of recovery. We are invited to turn to Christ Who overcomes our weaknesses. The wisdom that is often gained through our difficulties becomes a source of healing for both the body and the soul, as well as an inspiration for others. Like St. Paul, who gained strength from his "thorn in the flesh," we can strive not only to be "good Christians," but *apostles* of Christ.

+FR. THEODORE

EPISTLE- 2 Corinthians 11:31-33; 12: 1-9

Brethren, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven-whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise-whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.



**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"*

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**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..."*

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**ANTIPHON III-** *This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

**Sunday Resurrection Hymn:** *Ote katilthes pros ton thanaton (Tone 2)...(When You descended to the realm of death, You, as Life Immortal, rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant divinity. And when You, from the inner depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heavens did proclaim and cry out: O Life-giving Christ and our God we give glory.)*

**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**

**Communion Hymn-** *Enite ton Kyrion...(Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest.)*

*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: Anna & Emily Karaloglou**

**PHILOPTOCHOS-** Coffee Hour sponsors are needed for **December 1st & 29th**. See **Pat Dalkas** to sign up for Coffee Hour.

**2020 GREEK FESTIVAL FLIERS--** Copies of the **"2020 Greek Festival Sponsorship/Ad Form."** are available in our parish hall. Make every effort to get **Festival sponsorships and/or ads** for our **2020 St. George Greek Festival Program Book**. Everyone's support will insure the success of our Festival. Let's all give or get sponsorships and ads!

**ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS' ENCYCLICAL FOR GREECE'S NATIONAL HOLIDAY –** Copies of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros' **"OXI"** Day Encyclical are available in our parish hall.

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

**VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION – Sunday, November 10, 2019**...immediately following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. **Pete Peterson** will share thoughts in commemoration of our nation's Veterans.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Sunday, November 17, 2019.** To participate, make sure that 2019 Stewardship Pledges are up to date.

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, October 28th.....PROTECTION OF THE EVER-VIRGIN MARY  
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy- 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 29th.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m./ Adult Greek Class- 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 31st.....Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m.

Friday, November 1st.....STS. COSMAS & DAMIAN  
Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 2nd..... ST. RAPHAEL – **at St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms.**  
Orthros-9:00 a.m. /Divine Liturgy-10:00 a.m.

GOSPEL- St. Luke 8:41-56

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!" But Jesus said, "Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.



# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

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## ARCHIEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF OXI DAY

Protocol Number 48/19

**October 28, 2019**

**OXI Day**

*To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the reverend priests and deacons, the monks and nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox family in America*

**Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,**

On this day as we celebrate the valiant stand against the Axis forces who demanded the surrender of Greece, we sing a beautiful hymn to the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary affirming the holy protection she offers to the people of God. This hymn acknowledges the power of faith as demonstrated by our fathers and mothers through their support for the “NO” delivered by Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas on October 28, 1940 in response to the ultimatum of Fascist regimes. Today we sing to the Theotokos, “You protect your people so mindfully, from every plot of the enemy; for as shelter, protector and helper have we you, as we cry out to you: Glory to Your wonders, O Pure one, glory to your divine shelter, glory to your concern for us, O Undeiled one.” (Hymn of the Feast)

The feast of the Protection resonates with our commemoration of OXI Day because of our deep faith we have in God and the protection offered by the Virgin Mary. As our forbearers stood strong in faith against their adversaries, we can be assured in times of trial that *with confidence we can draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* (Hebrews 8:5<sup>0</sup>) We can do this for we know that with God as our rock and refuge we are protected by the Theotokos, and through our faith we are secure in Christ unto eternal life.

We are also assured of the protection of the Theotokos during times of struggle and sacrifice because of our love for God. The Virgin Mary offers us a beautiful example of this love in her commitment to the will of God and in the service of love she offered throughout her life. She continues to share the grace of God in protecting the faithful. As the people of Greece were inspired by her witness to pursue independence and freedom in 1821, and stood firm in her protection in 1940, so too are we called by our hymns and our commemoration to experience the grace of God and to seek her shelter.

We sing the hymn of the feast and offer our praise and thanksgiving to God because through the Theotokos we know what is true, honorable and just. This confidence in the truth, in the essential value of freedom, and in justice emboldened the people of Greece to stand against the forces of tyranny. From their example and with the protection of the Virgin Mary, we are able to stand boldly for truth, for the value of life, for freedom and justice, and for any who are in need. We are inspired by our ancestors and their courage. We are also strengthened through the power of faith, the abundance of God’s grace, the assurance of His promises, and our commitment to His will.

On this holy feast of the Protection and in our commemorations of OXI Day, may we remember in prayer the sacrifice and struggle of those who stood courageously and found refuge in the Theotokos and in the grace of God. May we also affirm our witness of the power of faith and grace through the trials that we face. Glory to your wonders, O Pure one! Glory to your divine shelter!

With paternal love in Christ,  
† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America



# SAINT GEORGE 2020 GREEK FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP & AD PROGRAM

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Terms: Cash/Check/Credit

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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**

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**Absolute DEADLINE for Copy: January 20th, 2020**

Electric submission of camera ready corporate logos  
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