

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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THE LADDER

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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.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE BIBLE

The Orthodox Church faces serious challenges in today's world. In the face of "political correctness" the temptations to compromise the Truth of the Gospel are great. In addition, communication of the Bible's message is hampered by the on-going phenomenon of "mis-defining" key terms. It follows that very many Biblical words are mis-defined, such as "marriage," "life," "peace," etc. Deeply spiritual words spoken by our Lord and His Apostles have lost their original, soul-saving meanings. In his

classic book entitled, *Man's Search for Himself*, Rollo May wrote the following: "Along with the loss of the sense of self has gone a loss of our language for communicating deeply personal meanings to each other...Take the word 'love,' for example, a word which obviously should be most important in conveying personal feelings. When you use it, the person you are talking to may think you mean 'Hollywood love'...The same is true about almost any other important word in the nontechnical area -- 'truth,' 'integrity,' 'courage,' 'spirit,' 'freedom,' and even the word

Continued on page 2

ST. PAUL AND THE CORINTHIANS OF HIS TIME

St. Paul's message to the Corinthians applies to us today. In both of his epistles to them he addresses the choice that each person is to make between having a relationship with God, and living in the darkness of this present world. Issues of division in the community; civil action; sexual immorality; idol-worship and the proper spiritual preparation for participating in the Church's Sacramental Life are all addressed in his First Epistle to the Corinthians.

In his Second Epistle to the Corinthians, St. Paul teaches by example the virtues of love, respect, forgiveness and reconciliation. These virtues are qualities that are developed within the soul of each person and they are needed in order to maintain prayerful communication with the members of the Church – and, at the same time, with the Saints of the Church of all generations. He reminds us that we are all called to be apostles of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As apostles, our mission as members of His Church is to enlighten and renew the world

A more thorough understanding of St. Paul's ministry to the Corinthians can be gained simply by reading the introductory remarks given by the Orthodox theologians who published the *Orthodox Study Bible*. (pgs. 1550 and 1573). +FR. THEODORE



Η Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία αντιμετωπίζει σοβαρές προκλήσεις στον σημερινόν κόσμο. Μπροστά στην <πολιτικήν ορθότητα>, οι πειρασμοί να συμβιβάσει την Αλήθειαν του Ευαγγελίου είναι σπουδαίοι. Επιπλέον, η επικοινωνία του μηνύματος της Αγίας Γραφής παροδίζεται από το συνεχιζόμενο φαινόμενο των <εσφαλμένων> βασικών ορών. Από αυτό προκύπτει ότι τα νοήματα πολλών λέξεων της Αγίας Γραφής είναι εσφαλμένα, όπως <ο γάμος>, <η ζωή>, <η ειρήνη>, κ.α. Οι βαθιές πνευματικές λέξεις της διδασκαλίας του Σωτήρος μας έχουν χάσει τις αρχικές των σωτηριακές έννοιες. Στο κλασικό βιβλίο του, *Η Αναζήτηση του Ανθρώπου Για να Γνωρίσει τον Εαυτόν Του*, ο Rollo May έγραψε: <Μαζί με την απώλειαν της αισθήσεως περί της προσωπικότητός του ως άνθρωπος, έχει προκληθεί η απώλεια της γλώσσας μας σχετικώς με την σωστήν επικοινωνίαν μεταξύ μας. Το νόημα βασικών λέξεων έχασαν το σωστό νοήμα των..Πάρτε ως παραδείγματα [τις λέξεις] αγάπη... αλήθεια, ακεραιότης, πάθος, ελευθερία, ακόμα και τις λέξεις, ο εαυτός μας.> (σελ. 56).

Ο μόνος τρόπος με τον οποίον μπορούμε να γίνουμε άνθρωποι που <ψαρεύουμε> για τις ψυχές άλλων ανθρώπων στον κόσμο είναι να <ξανα-γνωρίσουμε> την γνήσιαν γλώσσαν της Εκκλησίας και, στην συνέχειαν, υπομονετικά και ποιμενικά να μεταφέρουμε στον σύγχρονον άνθρωπον το σωστό νόημα της κάθε λέξεως όπως χρησιμοποιείται και κατανοείται διά μέσου της Ορθοδόξου λατρείας. Στην ουσίαν, χρειάζεται από όλους μας να έχουμε τον ζήλον να <ψαρεύουμε.>
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

'self.'" (pg. 56).

In reality, the word "self" is the capacity to discern between the "self" as "I" and others, giving one the added ability to see others in light of him/her "self." Ultimately, this gives way to the capacity to empathize with others and even to forgive others. This is what is meant by the teaching of our Church maintaining that we are each created *in the image of God*. Very few people in society -- even among Orthodox Christians -- are ready to define "self" as *the image of God*.

In many ways, the world today is much like the community of the Corinthians of St. Paul's time. Having become accustomed to the philosophy of the ancient Greek philosophers, the "language of God" was foreign to them. St. Paul admonished them to repent of their self-serving pagan values, which, were really "lust-serving." He wanted them to know that he had no interest in having personal dominion over their lives, but that he wanted them to have a relationship with the living God, Jesus Christ. For St. Paul, the word "life," for example, no longer meant "physical existence in this world." Instead, St. Paul defined "Life" as Life with our Savior in His Eternal Kingdom: "Life" is not the orchestration of efforts made by many false-gods; *life* comes from our *loving* God -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Life* and *love* cannot be truly defined or comprehended apart from the Eternal, True God, Jesus Christ.

St. Paul and the entire company of Apostles spoke the language of the Holy Spirit, given at Pentecost, which required a new--and *proper*--definition of terms in a fallen world filled with fallen understandings of meaningful words. The only way in which we can become people who "fish" for the souls of others in the world is by "re-learning" the genuine language of the Church -- and then patiently and pastorally conveying the proper meaning of each word as it is used and understood through Orthodox worship.

In essence, what is needed from each of us is the zeal to "fish!" Through our efforts to learn and re-learn the language of the Bible (which is spoken by our Church), coupled with our efforts to teach this language to the world, we can, like the Apostles, gather all of God's people into the Church's "net."

+FR. THEODORE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL WALL- Another nameplate order has been received and installed on our wall. There is one more nameplate order in production and should be completed in November.

STREET LIFE— On Tuesday, September 17th Philoptochos served 65 meals to the homeless in Indio. Year-to-date, Philoptochos has now given 1,102 meals to the homeless! The next outreach to the homeless will be in October. Donations of clothing, back-packs, socks & head gear will be much appreciated!

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: *Ton Synanarchon Logon (Tone 5)... (Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, Who for our salvation was born of a Virgin for He willed to be lift-ed up bodily upon the Cross, to endure death and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.)*

Hymn for St. Phocas the Martyr: *Ke tropon metochos... (Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Phocas. Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to 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 falls, 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 ek ton ouranon. Enite Afton en tis ipsistees... (Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest. Allelouia)*



Coffee Hour: Bernice Shaheen and Michele Tasoff

MEMORIAL - Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation of the servants of God, **Jack Shaheen**, the husband of **Bernice Shaheen** and father of **Michele Tasoff**; **Albert Rafeedie**, the father of **Bernice Shaheen** and grandfather of **Michele Tasoff**; **Matista Lila Regan**, the sister of **Bernice Shaheen**, as well as aunt and God-mother of **Michele Tasoff**, and **Rick Rafeedie**, the nephew of **Bernice Shaheen** and cousin of **Michele Tasoff**. We pray that our Lord, Jesus Christ, grants Eternal Life to **Jack Shaheen**, **Albert Rafeedie**, **Matushka Lila Regan** and **Rick Rafeedie** and that He grants peace and comfort to **Bernice Shaheen** and **Michele Tasoff** and the entire family. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS – Philoptochos ladies will be baking **koulourakia** and **paximathia** on **Tuesday and Wednesday, September 24th and 25th** from **9:30 a.m. to 2:30 a.m.** If anyone is interested in volunteering with this project, please contact **Pat Dalkas**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Sunday School classes begin **today!** Those who have not yet registered are asked to see either Fr. Ted or Jim Christopoulos so that their registration forms can be completed. A special **Agiasmo Service** will be conducted following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, asking our Lord and Savior to bless the staff, parents and children of our Sunday School.

ALTAR FLOWER SEASON- OPEN! -- Please sign up now to sponsor **Altar Flowers** throughout our season of October 2019 - May 2020. Write your checks to: St. George Greek Orthodox Church. In the Memo Section, write: *Altar Flowers/(Sunday date for display)*. Credit cards are accepted; (see parish office). Also notify our **Altar Flower Coordinator, Louise Dobbs Barringer**, regarding the purpose for dedication the Altar Flower bouquets that are being sponsored -- (“in memory of _____”; “in celebration for _____”). Also, include the names of those being honored or memorialized. Altar Flower bouquets may be offered for memorials, anniversaries, birthdays, etc. The dedication will appear in *The Ladder* on the Sunday when the one’s Altar Flower bouquets are sponsored.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 24th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 26th.....**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**
Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Choir Practice- 1:00 p.m.

<p>EPISTLE - 2 Cor. 1:21-24; 2:1-4 -- Brethren, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.</p>	<p>nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.</p>
<p>GOSPEL -St. Luke - 5:1-11 -- At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their</p>	