

MAY 3, 2020

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

**74-109 Larrea Street
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THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

Mailing Address:

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Tel: (760) 568-9901

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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.

FAITH GIVES WAY TO LOVE

In the persons of the Myrrh-bearing Women, we can see the guiding spirit of Christian sacrificial love, which inspired total unbelievers to turn and worship Christ. Of significance, as far as our present trials are concerned, is the love that Christians showed in Caesarea in the fourth century, when the Bubonic Plague slayed mass populations. While most of the inhabitants of the city fled, the Christians stayed behind to tend to the sick. The ancient historian, Eusebius,

recorded the words spoken by a multitude of witnesses: *"The deeds of Christians were on the lips of everyone and they glorified the God of the Christians. Their efforts convinced us that they only are sincerely devoted to the True God."*

The Myrrh-bearing Women, whom we commemorate today, carried with them the same spirit of Christian love as they approached the Tomb of Christ so that they could anoint His Body with myrrh oil. While the Twelve Disciples hid themselves due

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**THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD: PRESENT AT THE CROSS
AND
PRESENT AT THE TOMB**

During the Paschal (Easter) Season, which ends this year on May 27th, a common liturgical hymn is: *"The Angel cried aloud to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin; and again I say Rejoice. Your Son has truly risen from the grave on the third day."* Through this hymn, composed by St. John of Damascus, we understand that the Most Holy Mother of God was one of the Myrrh-bearing Women who approached the Tomb of Christ, only to be met with the Angel of the Lord announcing the Resurrection from the dead of our Savior. The Gospels record her presence as "Mary, the mother of James." The Ever-Virgin Mary is, in fact, the step-mother of St. James, "the brother of the Lord."

We know as well that the Most Holy Mother of God was present at the Cross our of our Savior by virtue of His words: *"Woman, behold your son!..."* [to the Disciple], *Behold your mother!*" (St. John 19:26-27).

As She followed Christ to the Cross, we are to also follow Him to the Cross by carrying the "crosses" of our trials and responsibilities. As She followed Christ to the Tomb, we are to follow Him as co-workers for establishing His Kingdom on earth, giving way to Eternal Life in His Kingdom in Heaven.

+FR. THEODORE



Στα πρόσωπα των Μυροφόρων Γυναικών, μπορεί κανείς να δει το καθοδηγητικό πνεύμα της θυσιαστικής αγάπης των Χριστιανών που ενέπνευσε τους ειδωλολάτρες να λατρεύουν τον Χριστόν. Σημαντικό όσον αφορά τις δοκιμίες μας για το παρόν, είναι η αγάπη που έδειξαν οι Χριστιανοί στην Καισάρεια κατά τον τέταρτο αιώνα, όταν η καταστροφική λοίμωξη (Bubonic Plague) έσφαξε τον πληθυσμό. Ενώ οι περισσότεροι κάτοικοι διέφυγαν, οι Χριστιανοί έμειναν πίσω για να βοηθήσουν τους ασθενείς. Ο αρχαίος Εκκλησιαστικός ιστοριογράφος, Ευσέβιος, κατέγραψε τα λόγια του πλήθους: «Οι πράξεις των Χριστιανών ήταν στα χείλη όλων, και εδοξάζονταν τον Θεό των Χριστιανών. Τέτοιες ενέργειες τους έπεισαν ότι αυτοί μόνοι ήσαν εσσεβείς και αληθινά αφοσιωμένοι στον Αληθινόν Θεό.»

Οι Μυρόφορες έφεραν και το ίδιο πνεύμα αγάπης μαζί τους καθώς προχώρησαν προς τον τάφο του Χριστού για να αλείψουν το Τιμίον Σώμα του Χριστού με το μύρον. Ενώ οι Δώδεκα Μαθητές εκρύφθηκαν επειδή εφοβόνταν τους Φαρισαίους, οι Μυροφόρες είχαν μια πίστη προς δόξαν Χριστού που ήταν πιο ισχυρή από τον φόβον για κάτι προσωπικές συνέπειες. Η πίστις στον Θεό αποδίδει Χριστιανική Αγάπη! «Μετά πίστεως και Αγάπης προσέλθετε...»

Ας καλλιεργήσουμε την ίδια ισχυρή πίστη που απαιτείται για να δοξάσουμε τον Χριστό με αγάπη και να ξεπεράσουμε τον φόβο που ενσταλάζεται απο την αβεβαιότητα της σημερινής μας εποχής και που θα μπορούσε να κυβερνήσει την εσωτερική μας ζωή, εάν δεν είμεθα προσεκτικοί.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

to their fear of the Pharisees, the Myrrh-bearing Women had a certain type of faith, dedicated to the glory of Christ, that was stronger than fear of any personal consequences. Faith in God gives way to Christian love! In the Divine Liturgy hear how *faith* and *love* go together: “...*With faith and with love, draw near...!*”

Faith in God and acts of love are intricately tied together. The thief on the cross is one who is like all of us: suffering because of sin. His *faith* proclaimed God’s *love*, saying, “*Remember me, Lord, when You enter Your Kingdom!*” We hear an “echoing” of these words during the Divine Liturgy at the Great Entrance. The Divine Liturgy is our ultimate expression of gratitude by which we offer our love to God and to our neighbor through a life-style *united with Christ* in our personal lives of the Cross; the Tomb; the Resurrection from the dead and Eternal Life. This reality overshadows the darkness that fear can create in us, thereby holding us from *giving of ourselves*.

Love for God translates into love for others, because we each bear the image of Christ. As we do for others, we do also for our Lord. When we pray for one another, we place the person for whom we pray before the image of Christ. It follows that prayer translates into action, such as *forgiveness* and *charity*. Faith is the basis for prayer; prayer is the basis for action. “*When a person is about to pray, one must humble a heart filled with pride and cast away earthly vanity and bring into it living and undoubting faith...Through the prayer of faith, we can obtain from the All-merciful and All-bestowing God all spiritual and indispensable earthly blessings, if only the prayer is fervent and the desire to obtain these blessings sincere. And, what prayers the Church puts into our mouths! Such, that, by means of them we can easily incline the Lord to be merciful to us and to bestow upon us every good gift.*” (*My Life in Christ*, by St. John of Kronstadt, pg. 165). The gifts of God are to be shared with others.

Let us cultivate the same strong faith in Christ our God as that which lived in the souls of the Myrrh-bearing Women so that we can glorify Christ with acts of love *based on our faith* and overcome the *fear* which the uncertainty of our present day tends to instill in us and which could dominate our inner lives if we are not careful.

+FR. THEODORE



PRAYERS FOR READING HOLY SCRIPTURES

"Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Blessed are You at Your throne of the glory of Your Kingdom, seated above the Cherubic angels, now and forever."

"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- ACTS 16: 1-7

In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

GOSPEL- ST. MARK 15:43-47; 16:1-8

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already

dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

The church is closed. Deacon Euthym and I will be serving Church services behind closed doors. Follow some of the website telecasts from our Archdiocese at: <https://www.goarch.org/live-broadcasts>.

P.S.: **Video telecasts of our St. George church services are available by contacting our parish website: www.go-stgeorge.org** (through Facebook link).

"ZOOM" COFFEE HOUR AFTER CHURCH SERVICES TODAY – 11:30 a.m. See enclosed flier for Zoom Meeting information and be sure to join us! (<https://us02.web.zoom.us/j/81064636813>)

BIBLE STUDY–Tuesday, May 5th -10:00 a.m. Selected Bible Passage for the Study is: Acts 9:32-42. (Contact Fr. Ted 760-880-5869 on Monday, May 4th for Zoom Meeting details or complications - Meeting ID : 319-036-456 / Password: 172597)

Saint George Ladies Philoptochos **Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom!**



Join us on Sunday, May 3rd @ 11:30 AM

To join go to <https://zoom.us/join> and type in the meeting ID and Password

ID: 885 0545 9492

PW: 172597

Rhonda Latkovic is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: St. George Philoptochos Virtual Coffee Hour Zoom Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88505459492>

Meeting ID: 885 0545 9492

Password: 172597

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Dial by your location

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

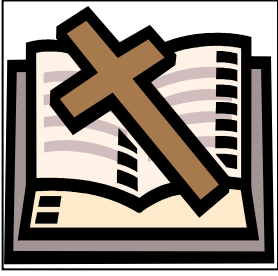
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 885 0545 9492

Password: 172597

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88505459492>



JOIN US FOR: ST. GEORGE TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

At: 10:00 a.m.

Selected Scripture Passage for Study: Acts 9: 32-42

32) Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. 33) There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. 34) And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. 35) So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. Dorcas Restored to Life 36) At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. 37) But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. 38) And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. 39) Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40) But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. 41) Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. 42) And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord."

ZOOM Bible Study Sign-in Information is:

Meeting ID : 319-036-456

Password: 592427

If you can't figure out how to do the video you can always join with audio only.

You can join the Zoom meeting via your desktop computer, laptop, tablet, iPad, or iPhone.

1-669-900-6833