

**NOVEMBER 8, 2020**

**ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT**

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# THE LADDER

*Archangels Michael & Gabriel*



## **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.*

## **TODAY IS THE LORD'S DAY**

The central theme today is that of faith in Christ, who cures every disease and ultimately destroys death itself. It is an issue that needs to be heard everywhere in the world as we continue to hear about illness and death during this ongoing pandemic.

In his Epistle to the Hebrews, St. Paul reminds us that Christ came into our world to heal our souls and bodies and to give us eternal life. Every day is an opportunity for us to participate in the Incarnation of Christ. St. Athanasius

the Great would say: "*God became Man so that Man could become like God.*"

Christ, who is God Himself, asks us to pray for "our bread of life." In essence, however, He is the "super-substantial bread" for our lives. As wheat bread is our basic natural bread, Christ is the "Bread" for our souls and bodies, the Bread that is superior to any created substance. Every day is the "present" day (daily) on which we call on the Lord to participate in our lives so that we can also share in His divinity.

*Continued on Page 2*

## **ARCHANGELS MICHAEL AND GABRIEL**

Today is the Feast Day of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel. Angels were created as messengers of God. The Scriptures reveal that God created nine orders of angels: Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominations, Principalities, Powers, Virtues, Archangels, and Angels. The Archangel Michael is the outstanding figure in the eyes of the Greek Orthodox Church and is depicted in the many houses of worship in an icon always on the extreme left where he is pictured as a guardian of Paradise from whence Adam and Eve were evicted. Among other things, it was Archangel Michael who was sent by God to countermand the command of God himself that Abraham sacrifice the life of his own son Isaac. Archangel Michael was also the messenger who warned Lot to flee from the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Gabriel is mentioned in the Book of Daniel. Gabriel's name is synonymous with redemption, particularly since he was chosen to be sent by God to the electrifying news to the Virgin Mary that she was about to become the mother of God. What ensued changed the course of history and brought the promise of the deliverance of man through Jesus Christ.

--Taken in part from:

<http://www.orthodoxchristian.info/pages/archangels.htm>



Το κεντρικό θέμα σήμερα είναι αυτό περί της πίστεως στον Χριστό, ο Οποίος θεραπεύει κάθε ασθένεια και τελικά καταστρέφει τον ίδιο τον θάνατο. Είναι ένα θέμα που πρέπει να ακούγεται παντού στον κόσμο καθώς συνεχίζουμε να ακούμε για ασθένεια και θάνατο κατά τη διάρκεια αυτής της συνεχιζόμενης πανδημίας.

Στην επιστολή του προς τους Εβραίους, ο Άγ. Παύλος μας υπενθυμίζει ότι ο Χριστός ήλθε στον κόσμο μας για να θεραπεύσει τις ψυχές και τα σώματά μας και να μας χαρίσει την αιώνιον ζωή. Κάθε ημέρα είναι μιά ευκαιρία για εμάς να συμμετέχουμε στην Ενσάρκωση του Χριστού. Ο Άγιος Αθανάσιος ο Μέγας θα έλεγε: «Ο Θεός έγινε Άνθρωπος έτσι ώστε ο Άνθρωπος να γίνει σαν τον Θεό.»

Ο Χριστός, που είναι ο Ιδιος ο Θεός, μας ζητά να προσευχηθούμε για τον «άρτον ημών το επιούσιον», το οποίο, σημαίνει ότι είναι «ο θεϊκός άρτος» μας. Καθώς ο άρτος από σιτάρι είναι το βασικό μας φυσικό ψωμί, ο Χριστός είναι ο «Άρτος» για τις ψυχές και τα σώματά μας, ο Οποίος Άρτος είναι ανώτερο από οποιαδήποτε δημιουργημένη ουσία. Ωστόσο, είναι πιο απαραίτητο για την καθημερινή ζωή του ανθρώπου. Ο Χριστός είναι η Ζωή και η Ανάστασις.

Με αυτές τις σκέψεις, ας έχουμε κατά νου ότι κάθε μέρα είναι η «σημερινή» ημέρα κατά την οποία καλούμε τον Κύριο να συμμετάσχει στη ζωή μας, έτσι ώστε να μπορούμε επίσης να συμμετέχουμε στις θεϊκές Του δυνάμεις.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

Even tomorrow will be the “present” day for us, as will the day after, and so on. In Christ’s presence and with His love, the “day” never ends.

With this in mind, we note a liturgical aspect of the Divine Liturgy, which may often escape us. As the priest and deacon make their entrance to the front of the church with the Gospel Book, the verse that is chanted has these words: *“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.”* The Entrance with the Gospel Book represents the appearance of Christ in the world -- and, with His appearance, the concepts of “day” and “life” take on an “other-worldly” meaning. “Day” and “Life” become synonymous. Whereas in our human context, a day is a moment in time that ends with the night, the “Day” of our Lord is an endless day, meaning Eternal Life.

Yet, as someone recently pointed out to me, a day in our life is only a glimpse of the Eternal Day with God. Liturgically, Orthodox faithful in worship constantly hear prayers reminding us that “today” is the day on which our Lord blesses us, all the while knowing that these prayers were repeated many times over in years past, still using the word “today.” We cannot help but to think about what our life-style would be if we knew “today” to be our last day in this present life. We would likely savor every moment with our loved ones and take every opportunity to do good deeds so that we could finish our day accomplishing something meaningful for others to remember us.

Today the Woman suffering from a hemorrhage is healed by our Savior and the daughter of the synagogue’s ruler is raised to life. The miracles of Christ our God continue to occur throughout the world day-after-day, as if it were all one big Day that never ends. Today we, are each given the invitation to join with Christ and witness His wonders...and, not only to witness them, but to partake in them and even, with strong faith in Christ and the Grace of the Holy Spirit, to be a part of having them enacted, thus giving glory to God.

+FR. THEODORE

### **BIBLE STUDY–Tuesday, November 10, 2020 –10:00 a.m.**

Join Zoom Bible Study Meeting by clicking on the following

link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86247146688?pwd=UVpsZmx0cHNtaFhrd3QzZVo2ek42QT09>

Meeting ID: **862 4714 6688**

Passcode: **898242**

Or, using your cell phone, call: 1 669 900 6833 and dial in the Meeting ID and Passcode numbers.

**NOTE:** When unable to attend Church Services in person due to state regulations regarding the Coronavirus or personal illness, follow the Divine Liturgy through live-streaming provided by various Archdiocese parishes at: <https://www.goarch.org/live-broadcasts>.



*“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 and unto the ages of ages. Amen.”*

*“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 - Hebrew 2:2-10

Brethren, if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his own will. For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, "What is man that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that thou carest for him? Thou didst make him for a little while lower than the angels, thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for every one. For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering.

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.

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

- Today.....Special Parish Council Meeting – 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School “zoom” - 11:30 a.m.
- Monday, November 9th..... Philoptochos Board Meeting- 11:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 10th..... Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. – “zoom” format
- Wednesday, November 11th... AHEPA - 6:30 p.m. “zoom” format