

OCTOBER 18, 2020

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.

## HAVING THE "MARK" OF CHRIST

Deception is the work of demons and, in fact, we Orthodox believe that indeed there are demons. In fact, during the performance of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the priest asks the baptismal candidate (according to the Rite of the Sacrament): "Do you reject Satan and all his pride and all his power ...?" And he or she answers: "I reject Satan!" With this answer, the priest reads the Exorcism Prayers, asking the Lord to protect the person who will be baptized from any harm and influence of the demons. In

addition, the person to be baptized recites the Nicene Creed. Also, since we are baptized in Christ, we are asked not only to reject Satan but, at the same time, to be united with Christ. Instead of fearing the demons or dealing with them in any way, we should keep in mind as much as possible constant, contemplative prayer in the name of the True God, Who is Jesus Christ.

It has been pointed out many times by Orthodox theologians that Baptism

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## ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

Today we commemorate St. Luke the Evangelist. As we access our Archdiocese website, [www.Goarch.org](http://www.Goarch.org), we read the following: "This Apostle was an Antiochean, a physician by trade, and a disciple and companion of Paul. He wrote his Gospel in Greek after Matthew and Mark, after which he wrote the Acts of the Apostles, and dedicated both works to Theophilus, who, according to some, was Governor of Achaia. He lived some eighty-six years and died in Achaia, perhaps in Patras, the capital of this district. His emblem is the calf, the third symbolical beast mentioned by Ezekiel (1:10), which is a symbol of Christ's sacrificial and priestly office, as Saint Irenaeus says."

According to the Holy Tradition of our Church, as well as evidence from history, St. Luke was an iconographer (a creator of icons). He made an icon of the Ever-Virgin Mary, which is referred to in the Paraklisis Service of our Church. An icon of the Virgin Mary, known as the "Black Madonna of Czestochowa" has been viewed as one of St. Luke's works, but it was not widely venerated until the 11th Century.

Finally, historians have praised St. Luke for the accuracy of his rendition of events recorded in his Gospel and in the Book of Acts. His detailed descriptions of towns and officials with their titles have been historically verified.



Η εξαπάτηση είναι το έργο των δαιμόνων και, μάλιστα, εμείς οι Ορθόδοξοι πιστεύουμε ότι υπάρχουν δαίμονες, αφού κατά τη διάρκεια της εκτέλεσεως του Μυστηρίου του Αγίου Βαπτίσματος ο ιερέυς ρωτά τον κατηχούμενο (σύμφωνα με τις διατάξεις του Μυστηρίου): «Αποτάσση τω Σατανά και πάσι τοις έργοις αυτού...;» Και ο κατηχούμενος απαντά, «Αποτάσσομαι!» Με αυτήν την απάντηση, ο ιερέυς διαβάζει τις Προσευχές του Εξορκισμού, ζητώντας από τον Κύριο να προστατεύσει το πρόσωπο που θα βαφτισθεί από κάθε βλάβη και επιρροή των δαιμόνων. Επιπλέον, το πρόσωπο που πρόκειται να βαφτισθεί απαγγέλλει το Σύμβολον της Πίστεώς μας («το Πιστεύω»). Επίσης, εφόσον έχουμε βαπτισθεί εν Χριστώ, ζητείται από εμάς όχι μόνο να απορρίψουμε τον Σατανά, αλλά, κατά την ίδια στιγμή, να ενωθούμε με τον Χριστό. Αντί να φοβούμεθα τους δαίμονες ή να απασχολούμεθα με οποιονδήποτε τρόπο μαζί τους, πρέπει να έχουμε στον νου μας όσο είναι δυνατόν την προσευχή εν ονόματι του Αληθινού Θεού, ο Οποίος είναι ο Ιησούς Χριστός.

Έχει επισημανθεί πολλές φορές από τους Ορθόδοξους θεολόγους ότι το Βάπτισμα και το Μυστήριο του Αγίου Χρίσματος μας δίνει το «Σήμα» του Χριστού, το οποίο μας προστατεύει από το «666-σημάδι» του Αντιχρίστου (δηλαδή του Σατανά), που αναφέρεται στην Καινή Διαθήκη - στην Αποκάλυψη. Αυτό συγκρίνεται με το γεγονός στην Έξοδο, όταν οι Ισραηλίτες προστατεύθηκαν από τον «άγγελο του θανάτου» λόγω του «αίματος του αρνιού» (Εξ. 12:3-14).  
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

and the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation give us the "Mark" of Christ, which protects us from the "666-mark" of the Antichrist (i.e., Satan), which is mentioned in the New Testament --specifically in the Book of Revelation. This compares to the Exodus, when the Israelites were protected by the "angel of death" because of the "blood of the Lamb." (See Exodus 12: 3-14.)

Our Lord reminded His Apostles to rejoice that their names are written in Heaven. Through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, our names are also written in Heaven, and, just as the Apostles were to go into the world *with faith* and *without fear*, we are called by God to do the same. Indeed, we know that our Savior knows each of us by name, as implied in today's Gospel passage. This helps us to understand the great love that our Lord has for each person who is born into the world. It is this Divine Love that gives birth to our faith.

The Love of God is confirmed much more by one's *experience*, rather than by *science*. God's Love is an invisible energy that is conveyed in ways that cannot necessarily be explained by tangible science. For example, the mechanics of St. Paul's "conversion experience" which occurred on his journey to Damascus cannot be explained by purely scientific means; but, it was very real indeed. The faith of St. Paul was the force contributing to the building up of the Church.

Faith is truly a powerful force. Faith in God can truly "move mountains," many of those "mountains" being the conversion of sinners into saints. Our Saints are not only known for their fervent prayers by which our Savior allowed miracles to occur, but also many are known for giving their lives in martyrdom and, as a result, even their relics convey the power of their faith in Christ, through which miracles still occur.

We are summoned to have faith in God in these uncertain times. Faith is strengthened through prayer and worship. In this way, we know that we can all we continue to live for the glory of God.  
+FR. THEODORE

### **BIBLE STUDY-Tuesday, October 20, 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.

We will be studying the following passage: [Galatians 1:11-19](#).

**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—Colossians 4:5-11, 14-18**

Brethren, conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer every one. Tychicos will tell you all about my affairs; he is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimos, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of yourselves. They will tell you of everything that has taken place. Aristarchos my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions if he comes to you, receive him), and Jesus who is called Justos. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. Give my greetings to the brethren at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans;

and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea. And say to Archippos, "See that you fulfill the ministry which you have received in the Lord." I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my fetters. Grace be with you. Amen.

**GOSPEL— St. Luke 10:16-21**

The Lord said to his disciples, "He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me." The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

**MEMORIAL** – Today’s Memorial is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Spyridon Canakis**, who fell asleep in the Lord this past week. **Spyridon Canakis** is the beloved husband of **Evangelia Canakis** and father of **Maria Angelos** and **Rubina Canakis**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life and Salvation to **Spyridon Canakis** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Evangelia Canakis** and the entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

- Today.....Sunday School via “zoom” - 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
- Monday, October 19th.....Philoptochos General Members Meeting – 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, October 20th.....**ST. GERASIMOS OF CEPHALLONIA (with no congregation in attendance)**  
Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. – “zoom” format
- Wednesday, October 21st....Funeral Services for the Eternal Rest for **Spyridon Canakis\*** – 11:00 a.m.

**PLEASE NOTE: Regarding the funeral for Spyridon Canakis, call our church at (760) 568-9901 or (760) 880-5869 no later than tomorrow for reservation status in meeting current requirements for in-person Church attendance.**

**\*\*ALSO NOTE: If interested: We have several bags, individually sealed of Calamari and French Fries. You may pick up a bag after church. Let Tina know and she will bring it to you. A small donation will be appreciated.\*\***