

DECEMBER 5, 2021

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.*

WHO IS JESUS?

Who is Jesus? It's a familiar question for us all, particularly because Fr. James Tavlarides of blessed memory would frequently address that question to us and to the many visitors that would come to our parish. The answer to the question is that Jesus is Perfect God and Perfect Man. This fact was firmly established by the Fourth Ecumenical Council, which was held in Chalcedon in 451.

The reason for which this Council was held was to dispel false teachings about the Person of Christ God. At the time, false teachers, entertained notions that Christ was not God Himself and, there-

fore, He was more human than divine. Others taught that Christ was more divine than human, suggesting that His humanity was an illusion.

The Council of Chalcedon re-emphasized the proclamation rendered at the earlier Ecumenical Council of Ephesus that Jesus Christ is fully human and fully divine, fully Man and fully God. The words of one of our recent Orthodox Christian theologians, Jaroslav Pelikan, are clear: *"We all teach harmoniously [that Jesus is] the same, perfect in Godhead; the same, perfect in manhood – truly*
Continued on page 2

ST. SAVVAS

Today we commemorate St. Savvas. St. Savvas was born in 439 in Moutalaska, a small village of Cappadocia. He entered the arena of the monastic life from childhood and was under that master trainer of monastics, Euthymius, the Great, the teacher of the desert. He became the spiritual Father of many monks and an instructor for the monasteries in Palestine, and was appointed leader (archimandrite) of the desert-dwellers of Palestine by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. In his old age he went to Constantinople, to the Emperors Anastasius and Saint Justinian the Great, in behalf of the Orthodox Faith and the dogmas of the Council of Chalcedon. Having lived ninety-four years, he reposed in 533. The Typicon for the ecclesiastical services had its beginning in the monastery established by this righteous one.

-Take from the Archdiocese website: www.goarch.org



Ποιός είναι ο Ιησούς; Είναι μιὰ οικεία ερώτηση για όλους μας. Ως απάντηση στο ερώτημα είναι ότι ο Ιησούς είναι Τέλειος Θεός και Τέλειος Άνθρωπος. Αυτό διαπιστώθηκε σταθερά από την Δ' Οικουμενική Σύνοδο, που έγινε στη Χαλκηδόνα το 451.

Ο λόγος για τον οποίο έγινε αυτή η Σύνοδος ήταν για να διαλύσει τις ψευδείς διδασκαλίες περί του Προσώπου του Χριστού Θεού. Εκείνη την εποχή, οι ψευτικοί δάσκαλοι είχαν την ιδέα ότι ο Χριστός δεν ήταν ο ίδιος ο Θεός και, επομένως ήταν ένας θεϊκά προικισμένος άνθρωπος, αλλά όχι ο Θεός. Άλλοι edίδαξαν ότι ο Χριστός ήταν Θεός, αλλά πρότειναν ότι η ανθρωπιά Του ήταν μια ψευδαισθηση.

Η Σύνοδος της Χαλκηδόνας ετόνισε εκ νέου την διακήρυξη που της Οικουμενικής Συνόδου της Εφέσου, δηλ., ότι ο Ιησούς Χριστός είναι Τέλειος Άνθρωπος και Τέλειος Θεός. Τα λόγια ενός από τους πρόσφατους Ορθόδοξους θεολόγους, ο Jaroslav Pelikan, είναι ξεκάθαρα: «Όλοι διδάσκουμε αρμονικά [ότι ο Ιησούς είναι] ο ίδιος, τέλειος στη Θεότητα, τέλειος στην ανθρωπότητα -- αληθινός Θεός και αληθινός άνθρωπος, το ίδιο με μιὰ λογική ψυχή και σώμα... ομοούσιος με τον Θεό Πατέρα, και ο ίδιος ομοούσιος με εμάς κατά σάρκα.»

ο Άγ. Σάββας, τον οποίον μνημονεύουμε σήμερα, εκήρυξε την Ορθοδοξία στην Οικουμενική Σύνοδο της Χαλκηδόνας. Επίστευε ότι η σωστή πίστη ισούται με έναν σωστό τρόπο ζωής που δοξάζει τον Θεό. Ο Χριστός είναι Αυτός που αλλάζει τον κόσμο ως Τέλειος Θεός και Τέλειος Άνθρωπος. Η αλλαγή του κόσμου επίσης ξεκινά με την αλλαγή του καθενός μάζ, ξεχωριστά.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

God and truly man, the same of a reasonable soul and body; homoousios (of the same essence) with the Father in Godhead, and the same homoousios with us in manhood ... acknowledged in two natures without confusion, without change, without division, without separation (The Emergence of the Catholic Tradition (100-600) volume 1 of *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*, "Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses", pgs.263-264).

Of those who championed the work of the Ecumenical Council in Chalcedon, is St. Savvas the Sanctified, whose memory we commemorate today. St. Savvas, like all of the Saints, preached that correct belief equals a correct way of life that gives full glory to God -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. When our world-view and personal philosophies are filled with imperfect notions, our life style is riddled with imperfections, as well.

Our Savior became fully human so that our human nature could be come more God-like in nature, transforming our flesh into a conduit for imparting divine energy, as "light unto the world." As God, our Savior overcame death by opening the way for repentance of sins so that we can participate in His Eternal Kingdom, having resurrected with Him from the dead.

Today's Scripture passages remind us to "look to ourselves," and not to condemn others so that we can improve ourselves before trying to change the whole world. In the season of Advent, we are reminded that Christ our God is the One Who changes the world by entering into our world as our Savior. At the same time, changing the world starts with each of us changing ourselves as we receive Christ into our lives.

+FR. THEODORE

MEMORIAL -- Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **William E. Piggott (1 year)**, the beloved husband of **Mary Piggott**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life and Salvation to **William E. Piggott** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Mary Piggott** and the entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

AHEPA NEWS -- Many thanks to our AHEPA 528 Chapter for joining with our St. George Philoptochos Chapter in donating 2 big-screen television sets for our Sunday School classrooms.

PHILOPOTOCHOS NEWS -- Orders of Christmas breads and koulourakia are ready for pick-up today after Church Services, next Sunday (December 12th), and the following Sunday (December 19th).

SUNDAY SCHOOL -- Today is "dress rehearsal" for next Sunday's Christmas Program. All Sunday School students are invited to participate! See Irene Stambolos and Presvytera Petula after Church Services today.



"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 - Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

GOSPEL - St. Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully

straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, December 6th.....ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA

Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 7th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

"Zoom" link "Zoom" link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85019077883?pwd=eUhpY2FwZGwvRnJpdzRUWEZHRFJ1dz09>)

Wednesday, December 8th....Bible Study - 6:30 a.m. "Zoom" link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86111452564>)

Thursday, December 9th.....CONCEPTION OF ST. ANNA OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS

Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy -9:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 11th.....Annual AHEPA 528 Christmas Dinner at Old Spaghetti Factory - 5:30 p.m.

Next Sunday, December 12th...ST. SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER

Sunday School Christmas Program following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Also, Election of Parish Council.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2021

St. George Sunday School, Palm Desert, CA

PRACTICE 11:15-11:45

SUNDAY 11/28

PRACTICE 11:15-11:45

SUNDAY 12/5

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

SUNDAY 12/12

Dear Parents,

This year our Sunday School Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 12, 2021, directly following the Divine Liturgy and will be about 15- 20 minutes.

2 rehearsals are scheduled to include part of Sunday School time and extra time after class in the church to allow for all to be comfortable in their roles.

Please, let us know today (either in person, phone call, text or email) if you would like your child to participate so we can plan for all roles and costumes.

With love in Christ,

Athena Snarskis 219-313-6940..... Athna2@aol.com

Irene Stambolos 818-517-3169...istambolos@verizon.net



IT'S TIME TO GET COOKING!

CHRISTMAS BAKING WORKSHOPS

Where: St. George Church Hall & Kitchen

When:

Monday, December 6 at 9:00 AM

Vasilopita (Sweet Bread)

Tuesday, December 7 at 9:00 AM

Koulourakia

Thursday, December 8 at 9:00 AM

Koulourakia

** If you prefer to package, please arrive at noon on the above days.*

Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. George



CHRISTMAS SUPPER

\$25.00

Choice of Mizithra spaghetti, marinara spaghetti, meatballs, or breast of chicken fettuccine. Iced tea and sodas, bread, spumoni ice cream.

Saturday

12/11/2021

5:30 pm at

The Old Spaghetti Factory

71743 Highway 111 Ste A, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

RSVP by 12/05

Ahepa528.org

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CHAPTER 528