

NOVEMBER 14, 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.*

COMPASSION & HEALING

Compassion is a virtue that comes from within the soul of an individual. It certainly is not possible to “spoon-feed” the virtue of compassion to anyone.

At the same time, like the “certain man” of our Lord’s Parable in today’s Gospel, we ourselves are all beaten up at least spiritually. Our souls are wounded by temptations, illnesses, deceptions, hatred, discrimination, etc.

Thus, a question arises for us. How do we express compassion from within us when our inner welling us is already wounded? The best answer to this question is found in one word: prayer. I know

that the word “prayer” has become for many a rather innocuous word -- a “powerless” word...a word indicating our frustration with every other avenue of help and often our “hail Mary” effort of “last resort.”

This is because, as a society, we have developed a flaw in our understanding of prayer. Prayer is not so much asking for *things*, so much as it is asking for participation in God’s Love. When Christ our God imparts His Divine Love in our souls, we have the ability to show compassion in a manner that resembles God’s Love.

Continued on page 2

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE

Today we commemorate St. Philip the Apostle. He is one of the Twelve Disciples, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and was a compatriot of Sts. Andrew and Peter.

He was instructed in the teachings of the Law, and devoted himself to the study of the prophetic books. Therefore, when the Lord Jesus called him to the dignity of apostleship, he immediately sought out and found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph” (John 1.45).

Having preached Jesus the God-man throughout many parts of Asia Minor, and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he was finally crucified upside down in Hierapolis of Phrygia.

The Apolytikion Hymn in honor of St. Philip is: “O Holy Apostle Philip, intercede to our merciful God, that He may grant our souls forgiveness of sins.”

Taken in part from: www.goarch.org



Η συμπόνια είναι μια αρετή που πηγάζει από την ψυχή του ανθρώπου. Σίγουρα δεν δίδεται η συμπόνια «από την ατμόσφαιρα.» Ταυτόχρονα, όπως ο «ταξιδιώτης» της Παραβολής του Κυρίου μας κατα την σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή, η ψυχή μέσα μας είναι όλη χτυπημένη και πληγώνονται από πειρασμούς, ασθένειες, απάτες, μίσος, απάτες κ.λ.π.

Έτσι, μας τίθεται ένα ερώτημα. Πώς εκφράζουμε την συμπόνια που πρέπει να έρχεται από μέσα μας όταν η ψυχή μέσα μας είναι ήδη πληγωμένη; Η καλύτερη απάντηση σε αυτό το ερώτημα βρίσκεται σε μια λέξη: «η προσευχή.» Ξέρω ότι η λέξη «η προσευχή» έχει γίνει για πολλούς μια μάλλον αβλαβής λέξη -- μια λέξη «ανίσχυρη»... μια λέξη που δείχνει την απογοήτευσή μας με κάθε άλλη μεσον βοήθειας, σαν πως η προσευχή είναι μια κραυγή της «έσχατης ανάγκης.»

Τα λόγια του Αγίου Παύλου από τη σημερινή περικοπή της Επιστολής περιγράφουν τη νοοτροπία όλων των Αγίων. Η αγάπη τους για τον Χριστό έγινε μια ζωντανή σχέση μεταξύ του Κυρίου και αυτών. Η προσευχή είναι μια σχέση αγάπης μεταξύ μας και του Θεού.

Καλούμεθα από τον Κύριο να Τον μιμηθούμε. Ενωμένοι με τον Κύριό μας μέσω της προσευχής, θα καθοδηγηθούμε να υπηρετούμε τους άλλους, χρησιμοποιώντας τις δικές μας πληγές (που είναι οι πληγές του Ιδίου του Σωτήρος μας) ως πηγή θεραπείας για εκείνους που χτυπιούνται και τραυματίζονται - τους συνανθρώπους μας.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

The words of St. Paul from today's Epistle passage describes the mentality of all of the Saints. Their love for Christ teaches us to enter into a living relationship of love between us and God. In this relationship, we become aware of the fact that our wounds are the same as the wounds that our Savior endured and overcame. In the energy of His love, we too can overcome our wounds and also heal the wounds of those around us to the glory of our Savior. Healing comes through the gift of compassion granted by our Savior. Apostolic Tradition lived by all the Saints is that of prayer and participation in the Holy Sacraments, which is the life-style inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The oil of today's Gospel passage is that of Holy Unction, which is the Divine Grace of the forgiveness of sins and healing of soul and body, which is related to Holy Confession and repentance. The wine of our Lord's Parable is that offered through Holy Communion, which is the Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Who is the "antiseptic" that cures the wounds of the soul by His Divine Power.

In unity with our Lord through prayer and the Sacraments, we will be guided to help others, using our own wounds (which are at the same time the wounds of our Savior Himself) as sources of healing for others who are also wounded in soul or body. In this way we win salvation for ourselves and for others.

+FR. THEODORE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we offer special prayers of Thanksgiving to Christ our God for the Ordination to the priestly office of Bishop for our Holy Church of His Grace, Bishop Spyridon of Amastris. His Ordination as Bishop came through the descent of the Holy Spirit during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy officiated by His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America one year ago, on November 14, 2020 at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross in Belmont, California. His Grace's service is dedicated to the dynamic ministries spearheaded by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros for the benefit of the Orthodox faithful of America and the Mother Church, our Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. AXIOS! AXIOS!

We welcome today, **Fr. Peter Salmas**, who is the pastor of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Belmont and who "hosted" the Divine Liturgy at which His Grace, Bishop Spyridon was ordained.

ORTHOTALKS! "Orthotalks" is a presentation offered to all Junior and High School students through "Zoom." Discussion topics are offered by **Fr. Gary Kyriacou, Metropolis of San Francisco Pastor of Youth and Young Adult Ministries**. This month's topics include **bullying and how to deal with someone who is mean**. Sessions are: **this Tuesday, November 16th at 6:30 p.m. AND Tuesday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m. Register online through:**

<https://www.sanfran.goarch.org/>. Contact Fr. Ted if there is difficulty in this.



"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 -- 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the offscouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me

he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

GOSPEL -- St. Luke 10: 25-37

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Today, join us in our parish hall following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy for coffee and cake in celebration of the one-year anniversary of Ordination as Bishop of His Grace, Bishop Spyridon.

Monday, November 15th....Philoptochos Meals on Wheels - 9:30 a.m. ..Volunteers are needed for meal preparations and delivery.

Tuesday, November 16th.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m. (Zoom link:

Wednesday, November 17th...Bible Study - 6:30 p.m. (Zoom link:

*Next Sunday - Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, our **Parish Fall General Assembly** will be held. Please remember that full participation in the proceedings of the General Assembly **require parish membership in good standing, with up-to-date Stewardship contributions** toward one's 2021 Stewardship Pledge. The agenda and related materials have been sent out through regular postage. If anyone has not yet received this mailing, please inform Fr. Ted today.*

BOOK STORE -- Available today is the last book of poetry by our beloved brother in Christ, **John Manesis**, who recently departed this life. May his memory be eternal! The book is entitled *Please Remember Us*, with poems about the immigrant experience.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHIEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 253/2021

Archiepiscopal Encyclical for National Philoptochos Sunday

November 14, 2021

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, the Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Holy Archdiocese of America.

And who is my neighbor? (Luke 10:29)

My Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this National Philoptochos Sunday, we rejoice with gratitude and appreciation for the many labors and ministries of our Philoptochos Societies Nationwide. Their constant and consistent philanthropy answers the question of that lawyer who prodded our Lord Jesus Christ about who was deserving of the recognition of their humanity and the love that fulfills the Second and Great Commandment: "You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). For decades, the Philoptochos has answered the question "And who is my neighbor?" with a resounding: "Everyone!"

Thus, it is most appropriate that the Sunday on which we read the Parable of the Good Samaritan is the day on which we should remember our good sisters in Christ. Their service to the Church and to humanity transcends the categories that keep us separate from one another on the basis of any defining characteristic. For the Philoptochos, it is enough to be human, and to be in need, for their compassion and mercy to flow.

The Philoptochos provides us all with examples of courage and generosity in action. They shine a light into our souls, so that we can discover for ourselves how much love of neighbor is within our hearts. Let us support these sisters in the Lord in every way we can, and through their ministry of love, extend our own love to every neighbor, both known and unknown, for we are one human family, under one God Who reigns supreme above all.

With paternal love in our Lord Jesus Christ,
† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America