



JULY 3, 2022

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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**– Fr. Theodore Pantels,
Proistamenos (Pastor)**

**– Deacon Euthym Kon-
taxis, M.D.**

**Holy Communion Or-
der**

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.*

THE LADDER



PRAYER FOR READING HOLY SCRIPTURES

“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 - Romans 5: 1-10

Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life .

GOSPEL - St. Matthew 6: 22-33

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound,

your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

**WELCOME COMMITTEE -- A "Welcome Committee" is being formed.
Contact Fr. Ted to volunteer!**

MEMORIAL -- Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Salvation of the servant of God, **Demetrios Krespis (40 days)**, the beloved father of **Nicholas Krespis**. May our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life and Salvation to **Demetrios Krespis**, and may He grant peace and comfort to **Nicholas Krespis** and to the entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH: *"If we believe that in Orthodoxy we have the fullness of the Truth, then we have the great responsibility – the Great Commission – to share it with all people...All aspects of the parish may be seen as being Apostolic and the Orthodox faithful are called to incorporate the Christian mission to all aspects of life. When Christ said, 'Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations...' He commissioned us to transform the parish into an agency of Christian outreach..."*

--Taken from the Department of Outreach & Evangelism of our Holy Archdiocese: www.goarch.org

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 5th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

THE VALUE OF ORTHODOX CHURCH WORSHIP

The reason why the people in Russia are Russian Orthodox Christians, is because in 988, Prince Vladimir of the Russian people sent emissaries throughout the world to report back to him and offer recommendations about what kind of religion the Russian people would follow. Upon entering the Holy Church of Aghia Sophia in Constantinople (present day Istanbul), the emissaries saw the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. They reported back to Vladimir that they felt as though they were in heaven on earth. As a result, Prince Vladimir had all of his people baptized in the Greek Orthodox Faith. Hence, today, there are about 60 million Orthodox Christians throughout Russia and they identify themselves as Russian Orthodox Christians.

In today's Gospel passage, our Lord tells us to "seek first the Kingdom of God." Vladimir's emissaries sought the Kingdom of God and found it in the celebration of the Orthodox Christian celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Like those emissaries, we are to also continuously seek the Kingdom of God, despite the confusion of our society; despite the pressures of every day living; despite the ridicule from high-profile elites. As Prince Vladimir would tell us today, the beginning and end of our seeking "first" the Kingdom of God is our sincere, prayerful, meaningful participation in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

Let us become emissaries to our own America, showing by our own example of love and thanksgiving, that the Divine Liturgy is an entire life-style involving heaven on earth. +FR. THEODORE

Στη σημερινή περικοπή του Ευαγγελίου, ο Χριστός μας λέει «να αναζητήσουμε πρώτα τη Βασιλεία του Θεού.» Οι απεσταλμένοι του Βλαδίμηρου, ο οποίος ήταν βασιλεύς της Ρωσίας κατά το έτος 988, εδήλωσαν στον Βλαδίμηρο ότι ευρήκαν τη Βασιλεία του Θεού όταν μπήκαν στον θαυμάσιο Ελληνικό Ορθόδοξο Ναό της Αγίας Σοφίας στην Κωνσταντινούπολη την ώρα της Θείας Λειτουργίας. Όπως εκείνοι οι απεσταλμένοι, πρέπει επίσης να αναζητούμε συνεχώς τη Βασιλεία του Θεού, παρά τη σύγχυση της κοινωνίας μας - παρά τις πιέσεις της καθημερινής ζωής, και παρά τη γελοιοποίηση από υψηλών προδιαγραφών «σπουδαίων» ανθρώπων. Όπως θα μας έλεγε σήμερα ο Βασιλεύς Βλαντιμίρ, η αρχή και το τέλος της αναζητήσεως «πρώτα» της Βασιλείας του Θεού είναι η ειλικρινής, προσευχόμενη, ουσιαστική συμμετοχή μας στη εκτέλεση της Θείας Λειτουργίας.

Ας γίνουμε αποστόλους στη δική μας Αμερική, δείχνοντας με το δικό μας παράδειγμα αγάπης και ευχαριστίας, ότι η Θεία Λειτουργία είναι ένας ολόκληρος τρόπος ζωής που χαρίζει στον κόσμο τον παράδεισο «επί της γης.» +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 153/2022

Archebiscopal Encyclical on the Fourth of July

July 3, 2022

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:

My Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32)

This Fourth of July – which we celebrate tomorrow – is a most extraordinary day for the Greek Orthodox Church of America. We are saluting the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave, as well as the extraordinary milestones in the history of our National Church. We shall celebrate the consecration of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center, even as we mark the centennial of the establishment of our Sacred Archdiocese – the first and preeminent Eparchy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Diaspora.

One of the reasons that we have chosen the Fourth of July for the consecration is to bring into focus the truth that the rebuilding of Saint Nicholas as a Shrine for the Nation is also an act of restoration. For the essence of what it means to be an American is enshrined in the First Amendment of our Bill of Rights – that is, our freedom to believe as our conscience dictates. Our country was attacked on 9/11 as an act of hatred fueled by religious bigotry. And the only response that bears witness to our own faith and to what it means to be an American is to rebuild. To rebuild as both the original Greek Orthodox Church, but also as a space where a diversity of beliefs and respect for other faith traditions can be celebrated, taught and enshrined for all people.

Our freedom in Christ – Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life – brings honesty to this enterprise of spiritual restoration. For it is the Lord Himself who establishes us in freedom, more than any human convention. Freedom is ultimately within our souls and mind, our hearts and our conscience. And as Greek Orthodox Americans, we celebrate the liberty to believe in accordance with our tradition, especially in our centennial year.

And so, let us take the powerful symbol of our National Shrine, together with the pivotal moment of our Archdiocesan centennial, and chart a new vision for the future – one that will honor the past, bind us to one another, and plant our ensign of the Cross squarely in our greater society. In this spirit, we can share the truth with all people, and give the gift of ultimate freedom in our Lord Jesus Christ to all the world.

A very blessed and happy Fourth of July to all!

With paternal blessings and love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS

Archbishop of America