



**JUNE 26, 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 2:10-16**

**GOSPEL - St. Matthew 4:18-23**

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

**THE CHERUBIC HYMN --** The Cherubim is an order of Holy Angels who constantly sing praises to God. In the “Cherubic Hymn,” during the Divine Liturgy, we are reminded that we are called to “mystically represent” these angels by always praising God with our hearts, voices, and deeds.

*“Let us set aside all worldly care...”* With these words we call ourselves to prepare to receive Christ, Who is the King of all. We are therefore calling ourselves to concentrate fully on the fact that we are to receive Him, which, at the same time requires us to follow Him. In turn, we are required to quiet our outer and inner senses in order to experience the grace of God. *“As the Cherubim surround the throne of God in heaven, we surround Christ Who is coming among us as ‘the King of all,’ and Who is on His way to be enthroned in our hearts and lives.”* (The Heavenly Banquet, by Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis, pg. 164).

**+FR. THEODORE**

### WEEKDAY CALENDAR

**WELCOME:** Fr. Peter Kostakis, the pastor of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in New London, Connecticut is co-celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us today. He is here on vacation. Many blessings to Fr. Peter and his family.

Tuesday, June 28th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, June 29th...STS. PETER & PAUL THE APOSTLES

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

Thursday, June 30th.....SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**ST. SOPHIA SUMMER CAMP -- 2022 Camp Registration is still open!**

**Week 1: July 25th - July 29th - Camp Cedar Lake in Big Bear Lake, CA. Week cost: \$565 (online) / \$550 (check) / Week 2: August 2nd - August 7th -- Camp St. Nicholas in Frazer Park, CA . Week cost (\$665 online) / \$650 (check) / Register online: <https://www.saintsophiacamp.org>**

### OUR PRAYER TO FOLLOW CHRIST

In today's Gospel, we learn about the Disciples who the left their world behind them and followed our Lord. From their example, we come upon the beautiful Cherubic Hymn, as we celebrate the Divine Liturgy, with the words, *"Let us set aside all worldly care that we may receive the King of all."* With these words, we are called to leave the world behind and to follow Christ throughout the world.

Obviously, the word "world" is used here in two ways. 1) In one sense, it refers to material possessions through which we stoke our pride by using them for fabulous personal luxuries and to gain power and glory, in which case, we follow our own fallen will. 2) In another sense, it refers to the people who live in the world with whom we are called to share the love of God, in our efforts to follow Christ.

Our Lord is always calling us to share His love. God's voice is implanted in our souls, which we know to be our conscience. St. Paul in today's Epistle passage notes how the human conscience is universal, as he draws our attention to those who have not heard the Gospel, but who still know the difference between good and evil, because of their conscience.

It is this voice that calls us to follow Him. Our prayer must constantly be in agreement with the voice of Christ within us, so that we can humbly do His Will as though it is truly our own will, as well. This is not always easy. Yet, it is the only way to find genuine peace in our souls. Through prayer, let us continue in the struggle to gain discernment between what God wants of us and what we think we want for ourselves.  
+FR. THEODORE

Ο Χριστός πάντοτε μας καλεί να εκφράσουμε την αγάπη Του στους άλλους. Η φωνή του Θεού έχει εμφυτευθεί στις ψυχές μας, την οποία γνωρίζουμε ότι είναι η συνειδησή μας. Ο Άγιος Παύλος στην σημερινή περικοπή της Επιστολής του προς τους Ρωμαίους σημειώνει πώς η ανθρώπινη συνείδηση είναι καθολική, καθώς εφιστά την προσοχή μας σε όσους δεν έχουν γνωρίσει το Ευαγγέλιο, αλλά που εξακολουθούν να γνωρίζουν τη διαφορά μεταξύ αρετής και αμαρτίας, λόγω της συνειδησεώς των.

Αυτή η φωνή είναι που μας καλεί να ακολουθήσουμε τον Χριστόν. Η προσευχή μας πρέπει να είναι συνεχώς σε συμφωνία με τη φωνή του Χριστού απο μέσα μας, ώστε να μπορούμε να κάνουμε ταπεινά το Θέλημά Του σαν να είναι πραγματικά δικό μας θέλημα. Αυτό δεν είναι πάντοτε εύκολο. Ωστόσο, μέσω της προσευχής, ας συνεχίσουμε τον αγώνα για να αποκτήσουμε διάκριση μεταξύ του τι θέλει ο Θεός από εμάς και του τι πιστεύουμε ότι θέλουμε για τον εαυτό μας.  
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ