



OCTOBER 2, 2022

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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– Fr. Theodore Pantels,
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– 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—2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Brethren, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and

behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

GOSPEL— St. Luke 6:31-36

The Lord said, "And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

THE ROAD TO SAINTHOOD -- "Sainthood is not some unattainable state, and it is not just for a select few. It is the natural outcome of our baptism - if we see baptism as a beginning and not an ending. Listen to some of the prayers that were read for us at our baptism: 1) "Open the eyes of his understanding, that the light of Your Gospel may shine brightly in him." 2) "Make her a child of light, and an heir of Your kingdom." 3) "Fill her with the power of the Holy Spirit." ...These prayers ask that the seed planted in our heart on our day of baptism will grow within us and guide our lives. Our baptism was not the ending but the beginning of our growth in faith in Jesus Christ. Our calling as Orthodox Christians is to strive toward the example of Christ. He is our great example."

--Taken from the Archdiocese website, www.goarch.org (Article: "Let us be Radiant")

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: **1) Entrance Hymn:** *“By Your Cross, O Christ our God, You destroyed death. You opened Paradise to the thief. You transformed the lament of the myrrh-bearing women, and You commanded the Apostles to proclaim You are risen, granting the world Your great mercy.”/Κατελευσας τω Σταυρω Σου ...;* **2)** *“In the manner of the Apostles and as successor to their thrones, God-inspired one, You deemed action above contemplation. Thus, rightly teaching the word of truth, you contended in faith to a bloody end, Priest-martyr Cyprian. Intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved.”/Και τροπον μετοχος και θρονων διαδοχος...* **3) Hymn for St. George.** **4) Kontakion Hymn:** *“Champion of Christians put not to shame, advocate before the Maker always steadfast, do not spurn sinners’ voices raised in prayer. In your goodness respond to bring help to us who devoutly petition you. Hasten you intercession and urgently make entreaty; for you unfailingly defend, Theotokos, those who honor you.”/Προστασια των Χριστιανων...*

ABOVE NORMAL

Today’s Epistle and Gospel passages call our attention to a special kind of love. Implied is the reality that each of us is created in the Image and Likeness of God, capable of comprehending the love of God and, in turn, interacting with other people with the same kind of love that God gives to us. It is sacrificial love – *agape* love.

This God-like love is an “above the normal” kind of love. Most of the world today thinks of love in a “transactional” sense: “I scratch your back, and you scratch my back,” as is so often heard. The normal kind of love that people are accustomed to is this kind of “transactional love,” which is expressed mostly as a “50/50” type of transaction. Unfortunately, what one person feels is “50/50” is not what the other person considers to be “50/50.” Our Lord tells us that His kind of love is a 100 percent of one’s strength and effort. Christ-like love is a *sacrificial* love and it never ends, regardless of the failings of others.

This kind of love is what established the early Church. St. Paul describes his own efforts, not in order to brag, but in order to inspire you and me to offer ourselves for the glory of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. The pay-off is the salvation of our own souls, as well as the salvation of those around us, which include our children, parents, relatives and the people around us. As the Apostles lived the love of Christ our God, salvation was the ultimate goal, not fame, nor wealth, nor even a concept of “fairness,” as is implied in St. Paul’s words. As God, Christ offers each of us love “above the normal.” Let us be grateful and express His love to the whole world.

+FR. THEODORE

Οι σημερινές περικοπές της Επιστολής και του Ευαγγελίου εφιστούν την προσοχή μας σε ένα ιδιαίτερο είδος αγάπης. Υπονοείται ότι ο καθένας από εμάς έχει δημιουργηθεί κατ' Εικόνα και Ομοίωση του Θεού, ικανός να κατανοήσει την αγάπη του Θεού και, με τη σειρά του, να σχετίζεται με άλλους ανθρώπους με το ίδιο είδος αγάπης που μας δίνει ο Θεός. Η θεϊκή αγάπη είναι θυσιαστική αγάπη.

Αυτή η αγάπη που μοιάζει με την αγάπη του Θεού είναι ένα είδος αγάπης «πάνω από την κανονική» αγάπη μας. Οι περισσότεροι σήμερα θεωρούν την αγάπη κατά μιá «συναλλακτική» έννοια. Αυτό το είδος αγάπης εκφράζεται κυρίως ως σχέση τύπου «μισά μισά.» Δυστυχώς, αυτό που ο ένας θεωρεί να είναι «50 τοις εκατο» δεν είναι αυτό που ο άλλος θεωρεί ότι είναι «μισά μισά». Ο Χριστός μας λέει ότι το είδος της αγάπης Του είναι μια προσφορά του 100 τοις εκατό των δυνάμεων και των προσπαθειών μας - μια θυσιαστική αγάπη. Είναι κάτι που είναι μια ατελείωτη αγάπη, ανεξάρτητα από «τα λάθη» άλλων προσώπων.

Αυτό το είδος αγάπης είναι που καθιέρωσε την Αποστολική Εκκλησία. Η ανταμοιβή είναι η δική μας σωτηρία, καθώς και η σωτηρία των συνανθρώπων μας -- ακόμη και τα παιδιά, τους γονείς, τους συγγενείς μας και όλους, γενικώς. Για τους Αποστόλους, η σωτηρία ήταν ο απώτερος στόχος, όχι η φήμη, ούτε ο πλούτος, ούτε ακόμη και ένα είδος «δικαιοσύνης.» Ως Θεός, ο Χριστός προσφέρει στον καθένα μας αγάπη «πάνω από τη συνηθισμένη αγάπη». Ας είμεθα ευγνώμονες και ας εκφράσουμε την αγάπη του Χριστού σε όλο τον κόσμο.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, October 3rd.....Philoptochos General Meeting – 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 4th.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 8th..... “Paint El Paseo Pink” Walk for the cure of cancer – pre-walk ceremony: 7:30 a.m.

NOTE: Next Sunday, October 9th is the 40 Day Memorial for Emily Tcharos.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING – Today! - Lunch will be provided. Presentations include: Report on the Results of the St. George Questionnaire (Embracing Converts); Report from Clergy-Laity Assembly; Report from National Philoptochos Convention; Report on Sunday School Renewal; Welcome Committee & Parish Retreats. Everyone is welcome to join in.

PHILOPTOCHOS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1). Our first meeting of the new Ecclesiastical year is **Monday, Oct. 3rd at 11:30 am in the church hall**. We will first serve lunch and the meeting will follow. Please **RSVP today to Rhonda** if you will be attending.

2). **Monday, Oct. 3rd is the last day to sign-up for the Saint George walk team participating in the “Paint El Paseo Pink Walk”**. It’s a \$35 donation to participate & includes a logo tee shirt. We will meet at the side of the Tiffany store in The Gardens of El Paseo. A sign-up table is in the church hall.

3). Our **“Sock-Tober” event runs the month of October**. We are taking donations of new men’s & women’s socks to be distributed at month end to The Narrow Door and Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. A \$20 donation buys 18-20 pairs of socks!

4). Philoptochos will offer a special coffee hour on **Sunday, October 16th for the “Bring a Friend” stewardship event**. Anyone interested in helping out please contact Rhonda.

5). **SAVE THE DATE. November 4, 2022**. Philoptochos is sponsoring a **“Welcome Back to the Desert” cocktail party** from 4-6 pm. More info to follow.

BRING-A-FRIEND-TO-CHURCH SUNDAY – Sunday, October 16th is our Fall “Bring-a-Friend-to-Church” Sunday. All parishioners of St. George are asked to invite a friend to join us for worship in our beautiful St. George Church temple. We look forward to introducing our visitors to our congregation during our special coffee hour held in their honor.

PAN-ORTHODOX CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY – The Sts. Michael and Gabriel Romanian Orthodox parishioners from Palm Springs will be joining us for the celebration of the **Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 6, 2022**. Their fundraiser for construction of their new church edifice on Vella Rd. in Palm Springs will be held in our St. George parish hall.

ST. GEORGE PARISH FALL SPIRITUAL RETREAT – Please reserve Saturday, November 12, 2022 to join in our St. George Parish Fall Retreat. The theme is: “Understanding the Divine Liturgy.” The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m., with a superb lunch being served for all in attendance....Our speaker for our Fall Retreat is Dr. Eve Tibbs. Dr. Tibbs received her PhD from Fuller Theological Seminary and she is the affiliate assistant professor of theology at Fuller Theological Seminary. She just recently authored a most educational book about our Greek Orthodox Faith, entitled, *A Basic Guide to Eastern Orthodox Theology*. In addition, Eve Tibbs is the director of our Metropolis of San Francisco Christian Education Ministry.

Sign-Up Today!

16TH ANNUAL

Paint El Paseo

PINK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022

PRESENTING
PINK DIAMOND
SPONSOR



EISENHOWER HEALTH
CURCI CANCER CENTER


DESERT CANCER
FOUNDATION
We Pay for Cancer Care.

Register Today!

PaintElPaseoPink.org

MAKE CHECK TO PHILOTOCHOS
\$35.⁰⁰ donation!