



JULY 16, 2023

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—Titus 3:8-15

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

GOSPEL—St. Matthew 5:14-19

The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Liturgical Notes

At the Entrance with the Gospel: **1)** *“O Faithful, let us sing a hymn of praise and worship to the Logos Who is co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation. Of His own free will, He went to the Cross in the flesh and suffered death, to raise the dead through His glorious Resurrection.”/Τον Συνάναρχον Λόγον...*

2) *“You are greatly glorified, O Christ our God, Who established our Fathers as luminaries upon the earth, and through them led us all to the true Faith: O Most Compassionate, glory to You.”/Υπερδεδοξασμένος ει Χριστέ ο Θεός...*

3) *“Since You are a deliverer of captives...”/Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθεροτής...[Hymn for St. George]*

4) Kontakion: *“Champion of Christians not put 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 Your intercession and urgently make entreaty; for You unfailingly defend, Theotokos, those who honor You.”/Προστασία των Χριστιανών...*

LIVING SERMONS

Our Lord addressed His disciples, telling them to let “their light” shine for others to see their good deeds and give glory to God. In truth, genuine good deeds are those that give glory to God, rather than to ourselves. They take their beginnings from our prayer for the Wisdom and Love of God, by which we are inspired to glorify God by inspiring others to glorify God. Since only God is good, good deeds can only be good if they are done for God, and not for personal glory.

We turn to the examples of our saints, because they are the “light of the world,” even though many lived centuries in the past. Their light still shines, because the way they lived their lives is still a more powerful message for our edification than any sermons than I, or other clergy, could give. The saints of our Church are “living sermons,” through which, by emulating their mentality, we can enlighten others around us by being examples of Christ’s love. In fact, the candle that we light when we enter the church symbolizes our prayer for us to be the “light of the world,” in union with Christ our God.

The motivation that served as the fuel for the “light” of our saints to shine, was their desire to glorify God. By studying their writings and lifestyles, we can discern for ourselves our own motives. Are they motives based on giving glory to God, as in the case of the saints, or are they motives of revenge? Are they motives of self-service; of love, or hate? The lives of our saints, collectively, teach us how to discern our motives, and, for this reason, they have come to serve our Church as “living sermons,” reminding us that our thoughts determine our lives. +FR. THEODORE

Ο Κύριος εδίδαξε στους μαθητάς Του ότι το «φως των» πρέπει να λάμπει για να δουν οι άλλοι τις καλές πράξεις, ώστε και αυτοί να δοξάσουν τον Θεό. Στην πραγματικότητα, οι γνήσιες καλές πράξεις είναι εκείνες που προσφέρουν δόξα στον Θεό, παρά στον εαυτό μας. Παίρνουν την αρχή τους από την προσευχή μας για να μας χαρίσει ο Θεός την Σοφία και την Αγάπη Του, με τις οποίες εμπνεόμεθα για να δοξάζουμε τον Θεό εμπνέοντας και άλλους να δοξάζουν τον Θεό. Εφόσον μόνο ο Θεός είναι καλός, οι καλές πράξεις μπορούν να είναι καλές μόνο εάν γίνονται για το θέλημα του Θεού και όχι για την προσωπική μας δόξα.

Μαθαίνουμε από τα παράδειγματα των αγίων μας, γιατί αυτοί είναι το «φως του κόσμου», παρόλο που πολλοί εξούσαν αιώνες στο παρελθόν. Το φως τους εξακολουθεί να λάμπει, γιατί ο τρόπος κατά τον οποίον εξούσαν τη ζωή των είναι ακόμα ένα πιο σπουδαίο κήρυγμα από ό,τι εγώ ή οποιοσδήποτε άλλος κληρικός θα μπορούσαμε να σας προσφέρουμε. Οι άγιοι της Εκκλησίας μας είναι «ζωντανά κηρύγματα», μέσω των οποίων, μιμούμενοι τη νοοτροπία των, θα διαφωτίσουμε τους άλλους γύρω μας ως παραδείγματα της του Χριστού Αγάπης. Μάλιστα, το κερι που ανάβουμε όταν μπαίνουμε

Συνέχεια στην επόμενη σελίδα - - - - - >

στην Εκκλησία συμβολίζει την προσευχή μας για να είμεθα και εμείς το «φως του κόσμου» εν Χριστώ. Το κίνητρο που εχρησίμευσε ως σπίθα για να λάμψει το «φως» των αγίων ήταν η επιθυμία να δοξάσουν τον Θεό. Μελετώντας τα γραπτά και τον τρόπο ζωής των, μπορούμε να διακρίνουμε μόνοι μας τα δικά μας κίνητρα. Είναι κίνητρα που βασίζονται στον σκοπο να δοξάσουμε τον Θεό, όπως έκαναν οι άγιοι; Ή είναι κίνητρα εκδικήσεως; Ή είναι κίνητρα αυτοεξυπηρέτησεως; Ή της αγάπης, ή του μίσους; Οι βίοι των αγίων, συλλογικά, μας διδάσκουν πώς να διακρίνουμε τα κίνητρά μας και, κατά αυτόν τον τρόπο ακόμη οι άγιοι υπηρετούν την Εκκλησία μας ως «ζωντανά κηρύγματα», υπενθυμίζοντάς μας ότι οι σκέψεις μας καθορίζουν όλη την ζωή μας. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today – Memorial Service for the Eternal Rest of the faithful victims of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974. MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!
- Tonight – The Trisagion Service for **Nicholas Demetropoulos** at **Forest Lawn Mortuary** at Ramon Road and Da Vall in Cathedral City at **6:00 p.m.**
- Monday, July 17th – Funeral Services for **Nicholas Demetropoulos**: 10:00 a.m. at our church.
- Tuesday, July 18th – Bible Study -10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, July 20th – ST. PROPHET ELIAS
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

“...**Twelve things I wish someone had explained to me the first time I visited an Orthodox Church.**” – *Frederica Matthews-Green, “Before Your First Visit to an Orthodox Church: 12 Things I Wish I Had Known”*

#2

“**Stand up, stand up for Jesus.** In the Orthodox Church tradition, the faithful stand through nearly the entire service. Really. In some Orthodox churches, there won’t even be any pews, just a few chairs scattered at the edges of the room for the elderly and infirm. Expect some variation in practice: other churches, especially those that purchased already existing church buildings, will have well-used pews. In any case, if you find the amount of standing too challenging, you’re welcome to take a seat. It gets easier with practice.” We show respect and attentiveness when we stand or kneel. Therefore, as a community of faithful, we collectively stand or kneel at the following moments of worship:

- We stand for the Entrance with the Gospel;
- for the Gospel reading; for the Entrance with the Holy Gifts; for the proclamation of the Creed.
- for the consecration of the Holy Gifts as the Precious Body and Blood of Christ by the descent of the Holy Spirit, at which time we also kneel (except for 50 days after Pascha);
- for the Lord’s Prayer and the Communion Prayers;
- for the administration of Holy Communion to the faithful;
- for the Dismissal Prayers;
- We kneel for the Entrance of the Holy Gifts during the Presanctified Divine Liturgy.
- We kneel for the reading of the Prayers during the Pentecost Vesper Service.

+FR. THEODORE



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΡΑΓΚΙΣΚΟΥ

49th Commemoration of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus

July 13, 2023

+Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

*“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord...”
Hebrews 12:14*

We are blessed with many freedoms in this country, while many other parts of the world continue to suffer under oppression. We must never take for granted the liberty that we enjoy, and we must always remember in prayer those whose rights have been taken away and continue to be persecuted.

On July 20, 1974 the people of Northern Cyprus suffered greatly during the invasion of the Turkish forces. Since that day, their lives have forever been changed. The destruction, persecution, loss of homes, jobs and lives are constant reminders of those very dark days which still persist 49 years later. There have also been more recent aggressive actions by Turkey against the legitimate right of the Republic of Cyprus to develop its offshore resources.

I would ask that all parishes in the Metropolis of San Francisco offer a Memorial Service in remembrance of all those who lost their lives during the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on either Sunday, July 16 or Sunday, July 23. Consul General of Cyprus, Archon Andreas Kyprianides, has organized a Memorial Service at Saint Sophia Cathedral in Los Angeles, CA, on Sunday, July 16, and I will preside over a Memorial Service at the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco, CA on Sunday, July 23.

Let us call to mind our brothers and sisters in Northern Cyprus who are still suffering, lifting them up in prayer, and seeking peace and justice for their homeland through the Lord's wisdom and mercy. We must continue to honor them with our prayers as well as with our ongoing commitment for a just and viable resolution and the restoration of their deserved freedom.

With Love in Christ,

+METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS OF SAN FRANCISCO