



MAY 7, 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

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC



"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—Acts 9:32-42

In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

GOSPEL—St. John 5:1-15

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk?'" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** "Christ is risen from the dead..." / Χριστός Ανέστη...

As the Gospel is raised: "In the congregations bless God, the Lord Who springs out of Israel. Save us, O Son of God Who rose from the dead, as we sing to You, Alleluia." / Εν Εκκλησίαις ευλογείτε...

2) "Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord, with His mighty arm, has created a dominion. He has conquered death by death and become the first-born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades and has granted the world great mercy." / Ευραίνεσθω τα ουράνια...

3) "Since you are a deliverer of captives..." [Hymn of St. George] / Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτής...

4) **Kontakion:** "Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God. To the myrrh-bearing women, saying 'Hail!' and granting peace to Your disciples, You are He Who raises up the fallen," / Ει και εν τάφω...

"GO AND SIN NO MORE!"

"Go and sin no more, lest anything worse befall you." (St. John 5:14). These are the words of our Lord, addressed to the Paralytic of today's Gospel passage. To avoid committing sins, St. Paul exhorts each of us to examine his or her conscience. (1 Cor. 11:28). Sin is to be feared more than anything else, for it is evil that leads to misery, sickness, and ultimately to a shameful death.

If we allowed the prayers of the Divine Liturgy and the Sacraments of our Church to always be resonating in our souls, we would become more and more careful in our thoughts, in our motives and in our feelings so that we could better avoid committing sins. Humans innately know the difference between evil and love, and we hear the voice of God in our conscience. When we fail to examine our conscience, we fail to hear that voice and we can easily be deceived by temptations, which lead to sins.

Many today are tempted to ignore their conscience, thinking that simply following society's norms and fads can ensure success, maybe even salvation. Let us not fall for such deception. For any of us to apply the words of the Lord, "Go and sin no more, lest anything worse befall you," requires that we become more aware of the voice of our conscience and the voice of the Lord. +FR. THEODORE

«Μηκέτι αμάρτανε, ίνα μη χειρόν σοί τι γένηται.» (Ιωάν. 5:14). Αυτά είναι τα λόγια του Κυρίου, που απηύθυνε στον Παραλυτικό της σημερινής Ευαγγελικής περικοπής. Για να αποφύγουμε τη διάπραξη αμαρτιών, ο Άγ. Παύλος προτρέπει τον καθέναν να εξετάσει τη συνείδησή του. (1 Κορ. 11:28). Πρέπει να φοβόμεθα την αμαρτία περισσότερο από οτιδήποτε άλλο, γιατί οδηγεί σε κακή δυστυχία, αρρώστια και τελικά σε επαίσχυντο θάνατο.

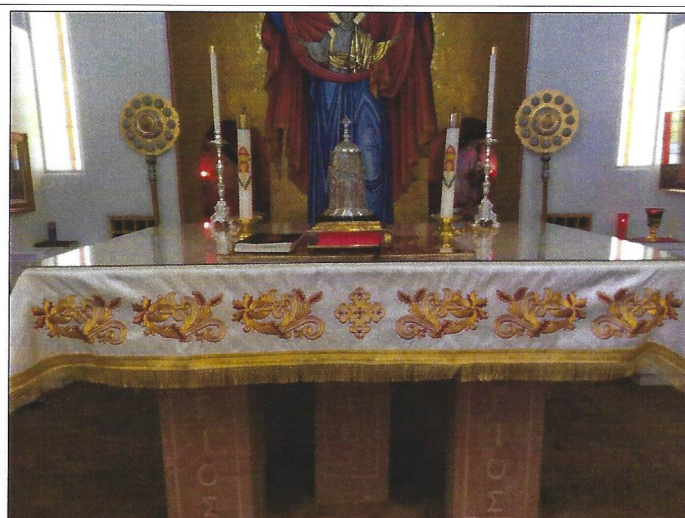
Εάν επιτρέπαμε τις ευχές της Θ. Λειτουργίας και των Αγ. Μυστηρίων της Εκκλησίας να αντηχούν στις ψυχές μας συνεχώς, θα γινόμασταν όλο και πιο προσεκτικοί στις σκέψεις μας, στα κίνητρα μας και στα συναισθήματα μας ώστε να μπορούμε καλύτερα να αποφύγουμε τη διάπραξη αμαρτιών. Οι άνθρωποι γνωρίζουν εγγενώς τη διαφορά μεταξύ κακού και αγάπης και ακούμε τη φωνή του Θεού στη συνείδησή μας. Όταν δεν εξετάσουμε τη συνείδησή μας, αδυνατούμε να ακούσουμε αυτή τη φωνή και μπορούμε εύκολα να εξαπατηθούμε από πειρασμούς, που οδηγούν σε αμαρτίες.

Πολλοί σήμερα μπαίνουν στον πειρασμό να αγνοήσουν τη συνείδησή τους, νομίζοντας ότι «το ότι είναι 'normal' μιάς ξεπεσμένης κοινωνίας» μπορεί να εξασφαλίσει την επιτυχία, ακόμη και τη σωτηρία μας. Ας μην πέσουμε σε τέτοια εξαπάτηση. Για να εφαρμόσουμε τα λόγια του Κυρίου, «Μηκέτι αμάρτανε, ίνα μη χειρόν σοί τι γένηται», απαιτεί από εμάς να αποκτήσουμε μεγαλύτερη επίγνωση της φωνής της συνείδησεώς μας και την φωνήν του Κυρίου. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

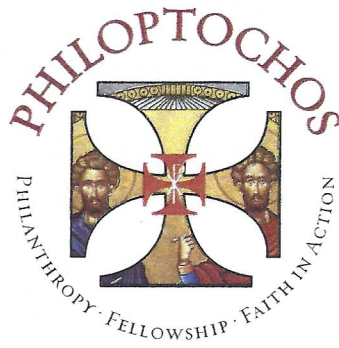
MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Helen Dilberakis** (1 year), the beloved mother of **Sophia Dilberakis** and **Anastasia Dilberakis**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who is risen from the dead, grant Eternal Life and Salvation to **Helen Dilberakis** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Sophia Dilberakis** and **Anastasia Dilberakis**. **MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tuesday, May 9th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 10th..MID-PENTECOST
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Today will be the last **Sunday School Family Sunday** for this School Year. Our Sunday School program will resume in September 2023. Our **schedule today**, includes participation in our **“first -of-the-month” Holy Water Service** and a brief presentation by Fr. Ted about the meaning of the Orthodox Church celebration of Pentecost.
- **THE BLESSING OF THE WATERS (“Agiasmo”)** – Today, our “first-of-the-month” Blessing of the Waters Service will be held in our church, beginning at **11:15 a.m.**
- **PHILOPTOCHOS** – Enclosed is our Philoptochos flyer announcing the **May Outreach Project**. As always, the love and support of our St. George parishioners allows our Philoptochos members to do God’s work for the betterment of our community and for the salvation of souls.
- **KIDS ‘N’ CANCER** – We are proud to have **Rhonda Latkovic, Tasia Richards, and Irene Stambolos** represent our St. George Philoptochos Chapter at today’s **Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Kids ‘n’ Cancer Fund-raising Reception at Newport Beach, California**. Every year our Metropolis Philoptochos, with the support of Philoptochos Chapters from each parish, raises **funds needed to provide summer camp opportunities to children suffering with cancer and their families**. Many blessings to the Ladies of our Philoptochos!



NEW ALTAR COVERINGS – The beauty of our Church was further enhanced during the Lenten and Easter season by new altar coverings. The **royal purple** for Lent, a gift of **Kristi Malitis**. The **silver and red/gold** altar coverings, gifted by **Christina Kundanis**. Thank you and bless you both!



St. George Ladies Philoptochos



MAY OUTREACH PROJECT

Our St. George Philoptochos Chapter will be assisting the Narrow Door Food Bank on **Saturday, May 20th from 8:45 AM-12:00 PM** with food boxing.

Volunteers are needed for this outreach and should be in good overall health with the ability to lift up to 10 pounds for women and 20 pounds for men. Wear comfortable loose clothing and shoes. Work gloves are recommended. No sandals. No jewelry as it could get damaged. Volunteers will be placing boxed, bagged, and canned goods into family food boxes. Sorting of like types of food may also be needed on this day. This activity is done in a warehouse building with an open back garage type door. **Use sign-up sheet to volunteer or RSVP to Rhonda Latkovic by May 14th. tel. (714) 875-4661**

Address: The Narrow Door, 43052 Madison St., St. #101, Indio, CA 92201