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His struggle, God would resurrect Him. How do we "live" this fruit of the Spirit? We will ALL endure some type of challenge, obstacle, or struggle. But we can live this fruit of the Spirit by never giving up hope. Always exercise patience when dealing with difficult situations. This patience will help you not react too quickly or give up too fast. For example, if a bully is really "pushing your buttons," you can go to someone and ask for help rather than reacting negatively. Or if a task is taking more time and work than you had expected, keep pushing through. Your hard work and diligence will show and pay off in the end.

JOY

In a world of depressing news and angry people, "joy" is a fruit of the Spirit that really is contagious and desperately needed in our society. Joy is more than just having fun. Joy is a state of being elated, happy, content, and filled with positive feelings. Joy is something that comes from within and stays with us... long-lasting fulfillment versus temporary thrill.

So how can we "live" this fruit of the Spirit? First of all, take note of the good things and blessings in your life. It might be one thing, or it could be 100 things. But be joyful and thankful about the gift(s) that you have been given. Your joy and gratefulness will be contagious. Others will see your joy and will be inspired to seek out THAT type of happiness and fulfillment.

SELF-CONTROL

"Self-control" seems pretty self-explanatory right? Well, having self-control is actually a difficult thing to do when we sometimes feel pressure to have an excess and self-indulgence. We should have what we want, have as much as we want, do what we want, and say what we want. But instead, we are called to have self-control in many different aspects of our life.

So what does it mean to "live" a life of self-control? We can show self-control when it comes to our temper. For example, we might want to initially react when someone says something rude to us. Instead of punching that person, we walk away and handle in a better fashion. We can also show self-control when it comes to our bodies. Just because others are trying out drugs and alcohol doesn't mean WE have to indulge in those things. Finally, we can always show self-control when it comes to the things we say. Sometimes we think before we speak, or we say things out of anger our hurt. But if we show self-control over the things that come out of our mouths, we might prevent feelings from being hurt or saying something we cannot take back.

LOVE

It all comes down to love. These fruits of the Spirit, and the others, really are based on loving God, loving ourselves, and loving our neighbor. If we are joyful, we show God and others that we love the blessing of life and want to share that blessing with others. If we exhibit self-control, we show God and others that we love that which we have been given and do not need to be over-indulgent, frivolous, or reckless. If we are long-suffering and patient, we show that we love and trust God through retaining our hope that He will carry us even in the worst of times.

Ultimately, love is a fruit of the Spirit because it is through love we are given life. God created us in love. Jesus Christ sacrificed His life in love so that we may inherit eternal life with God. And the Holy Spirit guides us in love so that we might continue to focus on God in our everyday lives and to share that love with others.

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Ladder sponsor for this month
 With loving memories of my wonderful father



Nikola Repovich
Happy Father's Day
Brandi



JUNE 14TH, 2009



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Emeritus
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Emeritus

Deacon
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Holy Communion Order:

1. Please remain standing until children and elderly receive.
2. Please wait until directed by a usher to proceed to the center aisle to receive.
3. Ladies, kindly remove your lipstick before receiving
4. When receiving Holy Communion, make the sign of the Cross, state your name and naturally receive as if being fed.
5. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but may receive the Blessed Bread at the end of the service. *All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament. Please see the priest if you have any questions.



The Ladder

St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert
74-109 Larrea St. Palm Desert, CA 92260
www.saintgeorgegreekorthodoxchurch.org

"LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS" (1 Corinthians 13:7)

We live in an age when many of the "great" people of society are those who control the future of this present world. They are especially those who govern the economic and political future of the world. However, the people who, in reality, are truly "great" are not those who have titles and powerful positions in this present life, but those who are united with our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

These "great people" accomplished great miracles in the Name of the Lord through their love for God. However, frankly, those "great people" of the Church serve as examples of the spiritual life in Christ for all of us. Unfortunately, the world considers them to be only "little people". Those "little people" are in actuality the greatest people of human history and they are known to us as **SAINTS**. Today, our Holy Church



(Sermon Continued on page 2)

FEAST: ALL SAINTS

St. Elisha, the Prophet; St. Methodios the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople

HYMNS: (during and after the Entrance with the Holy Gospel):

Ex ipsoos katilthes...(You descended from on high, O Compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the passions You might set us free. Our Life and Resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You.)
[Resurrection Hymn for this Sunday]

Ton en olo to kosmo...(Your Church is arrayed in the holy blood of Your Martyrs, who witnessed throughout the world, as though in purple and fine linen. Through them she cries out to You, O Christ our God: 'send down to Your people Your tender love; grant peace from above to Your commonwealth, and to our souls Your great mercy.) [Hymn for All the Saints]

Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis...(Since you are a defender of the poor and a liberator of captives; a physician for the sick and a noble attendant to the kings, O Great among the Martyrs and Glorious George: intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.) [Hymn for St. Goerge]

Os aparchas tis physeos...(O Planter of Creation, Lord, to You does the entire world bring as an offering the God-bearing martyr Saints, as being nature's first fruits. At their earnest entreaty, keep Your Church in a state of deep peace, through the Mother of God, O Lord Who is abundantly merciful.)
[Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday]

READINGS: EPISTLE – Hebrews 11:33-12:2 (pg. 1754)
GOSPEL – St. Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30 (pgs. 1437 and 1453)

“LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS”

(Sermon continued from page 1)

commemorates all of the Saints, who through their personal sacrifices for Christ and their preaching of the Gospel – who endured persecution and death – imparted our Orthodox Faith to all of us who find ourselves in this present world this day.

All of God’s Saints – the Prophets, Apostles, Ascetics and all truly humble Christians – who met with insults and persecution from the world, are proven to be truly the great people of humanity.

If we take into account all of the lives of the Saints of our Church, we find that they all had great love for Christ and for others. This love, however, was always a Christ-like love, through which, for the sake of the salvation of others, one makes the choice to “endure all things”, as St. Paul noted in his First Epistle to the Corinthians (13:7). This kind of Christ-like love plays a great role in the foundation of our families. In his book, *The Gift of Love*, the Orthodox theologian, Vladimir Berzonski notes that during the performance of the Sacrament of Marriage, the Church prays that the man “forsake his mother and father and cleave unto his wife”. In essence, the newly weds are to establish their own home – a new kingdom – apart from their parents, “since under their own roof they are able to find protection for dealing in private with the traits of character they discover in one another.” He further states: “The Church is intended to be such an extended family under a common roof, where members deal with one another’s behavior, not by scorn and criticism, but through careful selection of phrases designed to protect the feelings of the other person... Those who belong to Christ are firm with themselves, but merciful to others. If the Lord Almighty is able to endure the sins of humanity, surely His servants should be able to do likewise.” (pgs. 92-93).

If it is truly our desire, we, too can become Saints of Christ’s Church in our own present day. Let us hope and pray that truly we find within ourselves the desire to imitate the Saints, because the world in our present age is in need of Saints. We have before us the divine responsibility to bring salvation to the souls of our own children and to the souls of the young people throughout our society. In so doing, as they embrace our Holy Faith, they will also impart the Faith to those of future generations.

Thus, we see that the truly great people of the world are not those who hold powerful positions, but those who live meaningful lives through their love for Christ and through their efforts to impart Christ’s love for the salvation of others. We are called to imitate the Saints of every generation as St. Paul writes in today’s Epistle Reading: “Let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely – and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us looking to Jesus, Who is the Pioneer and Perfection of our Faith”. (Hebrews 12:1-2).

FR. THEODORE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy today, everyone is invited for fellowship in our parish hall. Coffee Hour Hostesses today are Nadia Hector and Rhonda Latkovic. We need hostesses for July and August. If you haven’t already signed-up, please call Yvonne Koupas at 564-2988. We do want to continue the Coffee Hour through summer. We ask you keep it simple.

Fr. Ted will away on Tuesday, June 16th and will return by Wednesday afternoon, June 17, 2009. Please contact our parish office or Fr. James Tavlarides in the event of any emergency.

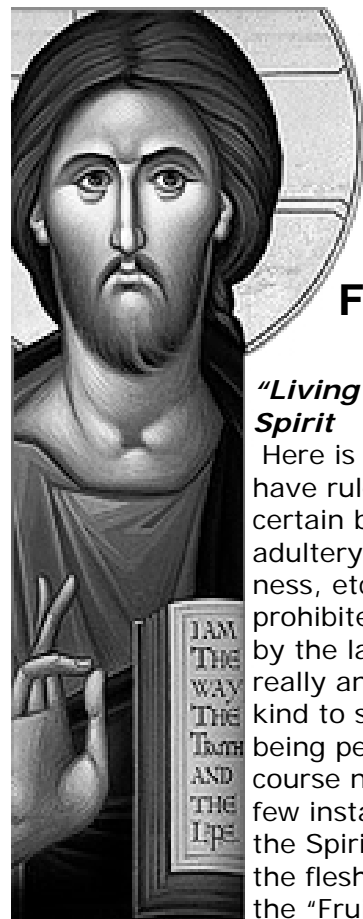
TOMORROW, MONDAY, JUNE 15th, 2009 THE APOSTLES’ FAST BEGINS.

It is not a strict fast: Fish is allowed throughout this fasting period (which ends on June 29th with the commemoration of Sts. Peter and Paul), with the exceptions of Wednesday, June 17th, Friday, June 19th and Friday, June 26th, on which days a strict fast is observed.

A note about starting times posted for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy - Orthros is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on days when the Divine Liturgy is to be celebrated. The time at which we actually begin the Divine Liturgy is based on the length of time required for the performance of the Orthros Service. Therefore, the times listed for the beginning of the Divine Liturgy are estimated times. JOIN US FOR THE ORTHROS SERVICE ON SUNDAYS! You may download a copy of the Orthros Service at www.sgpm.goarch.org/

If anyone wishes to volunteer to help in our church office as we begin to organize our programs for the Fall, please contact Fr. Ted.

Join the Orthodox Christian forum at www.orthodoxCircle.org/



“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

1 Timothy 6:12



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Adele Gallade, Aspasia Petsas, Anastasia Pantels, Nicholas Kontaxis, Ethel Chillies, Nicholas Malavazos, Mary Shannazarian, Bill Ballas, Peggy Steiner, Malia Georgalakis, Paul Koury



FEEDING OUR FAITH

“Living” the Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Here is some “food” for thought. We have rules and laws that do not allow certain behaviors or actions such as adultery, murder, hatred, drunkenness, etc. Many of these things are prohibited by God and are prohibited by the laws of our land! But are there really any rules or laws against being kind to someone, having self-control, being peaceful, or being joyful? Of course not. Yet, why do we find so few instances of people living a life “in the Spirit” versus living the works of the flesh? Let’s take a look at some of the “Fruits of the Holy Spirit,” as noted in Galatians 5: 22, and discuss how we can keep our faith growing every day.

LONG-SUFFERING

Sounds like a weird thing to do! Who wants to suffer for a long time, or even a short time? But long-suffering is a fruit of the Spirit because it is an exercise of patience. Life can be pretty difficult and straining. However, we are called to be patient and endure the struggle rather than give up and lose hope. Jesus Christ endured torture, humiliation, mocking, and even death. However, He did not lose hope. Instead, He looked to God for strength and courage. He knew that at the end of

Ζουµεν σε εποχη στην οποιαν οι <μεγαλοι> κυβερνουν το γενικο μελλον του εδω κοσμου. Ιδιαιτερω, κυβερνουν το οικονομικο και πολιτικο μελλον του κοσμου. Αλλα οι πραγματικοι <μεγαλοι> δεν ειναι αυτοι οι οποιοι εχουν κοσμικες θεσεις και εξουσιες, αλλα αυτοι οι οποιοι ειναι ηνωµενοι με τον Σωτηρα και Θεον μας Ιησουν Χριστον.

Αυτοι οι <μεγαλοι> εκατορθωσαν μεγαλα θαυµατα εν ονοµατι του Κυριου δια µεσου της αγαπης των για τον Θεον. Αλλα, και οµως, αυτοι οι <μεγαλοι> της Εκκλησιας ειναι για ολους μας πνευµατικα παραδειγµατα της εν Χριστω ζωης. Δυστυχως, ο κοσμος τους θεωρει <μικρους> . Αυτοι οι εν λογω <μικροι> ειναι στην πραγματικοτητα οι μεγαλυτεροι ανθρωποι της ανθρωπινης ιστοριας, οι οποιοι λεγονται ΑΓΙΟΙ. Σηµερα η Αγια μας Εκκλησια µνηµονευει ολους αυτους τους Αγιους, οι οποιοι δια µεσων των θυσιων των για τον Χριστον και των κηρυγµατων των περι του Ευαγγελιου– οι οποιοι υπεστησαν διωγµους και θανατον – επαρεδωσαν την Ορθοδοξον μας Πιστιν σε ολους μας οι οποιοι ευρισκοµεθα στον σηµερινον κοσµον.

Ολοι οι Αγιοι του Θεου – οι Προφητες, οι Αποστολοι, οι Μαρτυρες, οι Οσιοι και οι ταπεινοι Χριστιανοι – οι οποιοι εσυνηνησαν την περιφρονησιν και τον διωγµον του κοσμου, αναδειχθησαν οι πραγματικοι μεγαλοι. Εαν το θελουµεν και εµεις, µπορουµεν να ειµεθα Αγιοι της Εκκλησιας μας στην δικην μας εποχη, µεσα στην οποιαν εχουµεν το ιερο καθηκον να σωσουµεν τις ψυχες των παιδιων μας και ολων των νεων της κοινωνιας μας.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ