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The Cathedral Messenger

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RACISM

WHERE IS YOUR UGLY STING?

by Bishop Neofitos

I watched the devastating clip on the asphyxiation of George Floyd by the man in uniform with dismay. No man with a human heart could kneel comfortably and intentionally on somebody's neck amidst the cry "I can't breathe" and not reckon on an act of mercy and love to lift up his knee to save his life and that of himself as well. That was heartless, inhuman and brutal. Such an act of mercilessness is worrying and shocking.

The universal declaration of Human Rights in 1948, evinced a universe where equality and freedom will prevail devoid of any segregation or superiority on the basis of race so as to allow equality and justice for all. However, humanity is still troubled and bedeviled with a myriad of challenges ranging from natural disasters, illness, wars and racism. Racism is increasingly painting its ugly face on everything on everybody because of its resistance, persistence and inclination to hate and destruction.

It confesses the brokenness of human world and the stubborn reality of sin. Racism where is your sting?

In my five years of studies in the United States and my frequent mission visits every year, God has brought into my life wonderful people of all races and colors; people that I never knew before. Not in any single moment did I or have I experienced such hate and evil. Why can't people embrace each other the same? Why can't people value each other the same way? Why can't people love each other the same



way? It costs nothing! Watching America go in flames, looting and destruction hurts because this is not what God created us to be and that is not what America or the whole world is all about or stands for.

Yes, America has come along of its history with slavery and racism but there is a new beauty democracy and change that should be embraced by all for mutual coexistence. To quote my good friend Father Moses Berry, whom I revere very much; "In order for us to move forward we must first redeem the past through years of repentance and a willingness to give up everything for a place at the table of love and kindness".

It is time such evil and cruel enmity need to come to an end and stop for good. There should be no black race or white race anymore but ONLY one race, the Universal Human Race.

Beloved friends, racism is rebellion against God, against God's creation, purpose and the promise of salvation. It does no good in anyway, it only hurts destroys the good in persons and society. It is an illness that springs forth from hades as God is never the originator or custodian of evil. We are made

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Dean, V. Rev. Paul O'Callaghan • St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral

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MEMORY ETERNAL

Gashe Tadesse, 6/8
father of Daniel Tadesse

Fr Dean Dimas, 6/2

MANY YEARS!

MABROOK! BLESSINGS!

BIRTH

Alexandra Kiguardze, 6/24
daughter of Oto and Katia

“Mostly Moms” Bible Study



A group for
moms and other
interested women

Wednesday, July 1, and July 15, 1:30pm

Link and Meeting ID TBA
Contact Fr. Paul or Reina Nabbout to
obtain the link or for more information.

MODESTY & DIGNITY In Church

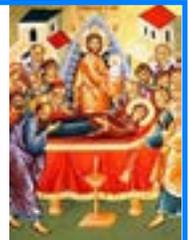
As summer approaches, please remember that dress in church should always be dignified and modest.

For women, sleeveless or low cut dresses and tops, short skirts, tight fitting outfits, and boldly colored clothes are not appropriate. For men, no shorts or message t-shirts; a jacket is customary and long sleeves preferred.

Skimpy outfits and backyard wear are hardly necessary for comfort in a modern air-conditioned church.



Preparing for The Great Feasts of August

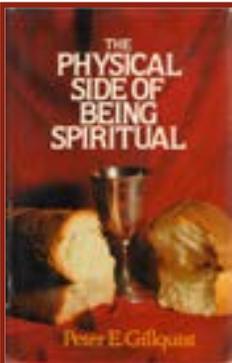


Wednesdays, 7:30pm

- July 22 - Holy Transfiguration
- July 29 - The Dormition of the Theotokos



All live streams can be accessed at
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnOr97AzdC5YM3NDDt-xEXA>
and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgewichita/>



“The Physical Side of Being Spiritual”

inspired by the book by
Fr. Peter Gilquist

Wednesdays, 7:30pm

- July 1 - Where Oil and Water Mix: Baptism, Chrismation, & the Body
- July 8 - The Genius of Gestures
- July 15 - Resurrection and Immortality



All live streams can be accessed at
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnOr97AzdC5YM3NDDt-xEXA>
and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgewichita/>

JULY FASTING



July Fasting During this period, the normal fasting traditions are observed: abstain from meat, poultry and dairy products on Wednesdays and Fridays.

THE COMMUNION SPOON

(Adapted by Fr. Paul from an article by Fr. John Whitefield at <https://orthochristian.com/132000.html>)



I recently came across a very insightful remark from a writer (Denise McAllister) who was engaged in an online debate. She wrote: "My freedom doesn't end where your irrational fear begins." But of course the question of whether one's fears are rational or irrational is the question we have to consider.

There is unfortunately no risk free way for us to live in this world. If we were to avoid all risks, none of us would ever get into an automobile, but most of us do, because we consider that to be a manageable risk. If you drive while listening to the radio, or drinking a cup of coffee, you are adding to your risks... but these added risks are generally considered to be fairly minimal.

The question I have asked many people who have advocated changes in the mode of distributing communion is very simple: Is there any evidence that anyone has ever gotten sick from receiving communion with a spoon? There answer to this question is "no." But some people then retort that this is simply because no one has ever done a scientific study of the question, but this is not true. It is true that, to my knowledge at least, there have been no studies involving the use of communion spoons, but there have actually been several studies of people using a common chalice -- which would be **more** likely to be a means of transmitting disease than a communion spoon -- and so such studies are a good way to answer the question of whether we are dealing with rational or irrational fears.

John Sanidopoulos, in his article "[Scientific Studies on the Transmission of Infectious Diseases Through Holy Communion](#)" has pointed to 6 relevant studies done between 1943 and 1998. One study found that

even under ideal circumstances (ideal for allowing transmission, that is), the use of a common chalice showed 0.001% of organisms being transferred, but when studying conditions that actually followed real world practice, no transmission could be detected. In another study, three groups of people were studied: those who go to Church and receive communion, those who go to Church but who do not receive communion, and those who do not go to Church at all. What they found was that even among those who received communion as often as daily, there was no increase in one's risk of infection. And so even if you do not believe in God, fears of getting sick because of getting a virus from a communion spoon are irrational -- and if you do believe in God, and actually believe what we confess before we receive the Eucharist (which is that the Eucharist is truly Christ's Body and Blood), then you should have nothing to worry about.

Fr. Alkiviadis C. Calivas, in his article "[A Note on the Common Communion Spoon](#)," says that he himself has no such fears, but expresses his concern for those who do:

"In my sixty-four years in the priesthood, I have consumed the chalice thousands of times after countless Divine Liturgies without fear or hesitation, as every priest does. I am not certain, however, that every faithful parishioner would do the same, if they were asked. My point is this. Holy Communion should be a source of joy, hope and strength for everyone and not a test or measure of one's faith in God's providential care (Matt. 4:5-7). St. Paul reminds us that the love of Christ requires that we care for all persons, whatever their situation and be sensitive and responsive to their just needs and concerns for the sake of the Gospel (1 Cor. 9: 19-23)."

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I have not been a priest for even half as long, but my experience supports Fr. Alkiviadis' conclusion that there is nothing to fear. When I commune the faithful, the last mouth that I place the spoon into before handing it off to the deacon is my own (to ensure that there is nothing left of the Eucharist on the spoon), and I have not so much as had a fever since several years before I was ordained a priest. If a virus could be transmitted via a communion spoon, there should be widespread instances of priests with oral herpes ([which can be spread by the use of eating utensils that have been used by someone with that virus](#)), but as a matter of fact, there is no evidence that anyone has gotten such a virus in this way.

It is concerning to contemplate the message that the Church would be sending to the faithful, if we act as if receiving communion is a physically dangerous act. It is indeed spiritually dangerous to receive communion in an unworthy manner ([1 Corinthians 11:27-29](#)), but which of the saints ever taught or suggested that the Eucharist could be a means of transmitting a disease? None did.

Aside from all that has been said, when we speak of "risk" or "chance" as Christians, we should understand that these are simply means of referring to the many variable factors that we do not know. We, however, do not believe in a God that is a helpless observer, who fondly hopes that things will work out well for us. We believe, that if we are doing what God wants us to do, that we don't need to worry beyond that.



2020 SENIOR GRADUATES
View this year's Graduates here on
YouTube
Or copy this link in your browser
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZgX9czF3Hc>

RACISM... article continued

in the image and likeness of God to relate with one another in love for God in his benevolence is an embodiment of pure love.

We need a chance to breathe, and not with just any breath, but the breath of life into others. It is time to kneel in fervent prayer to God but not to kneel on others to squeeze life out of them.

We pray that justice prevails for George Floyd, we need justice for all the human race. Justice is not only for the few, it is for all, whether black or white. To me, I can't really say Black lives matter and end at that! To me, ALL LIVES MATTER! and no one is allowed to take someone's life!

May peace prevail, may love dwell in our hearts so that we may see the good in the other person, the image of Christ!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES Alex Cox, Jonathan Dotson, Michael & Elizabeth Seis.

THOSE SERVING AS MISSIONARIES Fr. Joseph Longofono, Three Hierarch's Mission in Garden City; Floyd Frantz at St. Herman Seminary; Ancuta Frantz in Romania; Nathan & Gabriela Hoppe in Albania; SAMP priests in Kenya; Sister Nektaria with orphanages, clinics & high school in Calcutta; Peter & Sharon Georges in Uganda; Project Mexico & St Innocent Orphanage in Tijuana; Project Kenya & Bishop Neofitos of Nyeri, Kenya; Fr. Peter & St. George Cathedral in Sweida; Fr. Joshua Lollar at St. Nicholas Mission in Lawrence; Fr Yohannes, Indonesian Mission School; Fr. Barnabas & Ss. Athanasios & Nicholas Church in Fiji & the Nectarious, Panioties, and Nair families

AND ALSO The Ralph Abercia Family, Michael Aragon, Layne and Cameron Beck, Lennie Brooks, Bella Bush, Stephanie Carlson, Mike Desmarteau, Seth Hawley & family, Don Earthman, Robert Hartmann, Carolyn Homsey Smith, Sammy Homsey, Jessica, Rick Jabara, Vanessa Johansson, Elizabeth King, Sammy Kouri Jr, Lisa Kunkel, Stephanida and Jorge Luque, The Lanie McCoy family, Annette Meitzner, Tom Naifeh, Mason Norris, Ricky Ramos, Karissa Ramos, Allison Ramos, Josh Rathbun, Carol Kamas Rooney, Doug Seaberg, Randy Strassburg, Ann Sutherland, Peter Tevis, Philip Tran, Scott and Julina Walker, Jerry Weddington, Mary Welton.