

APRIL 10, 2016

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260

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THE LADDER

Mailing Address:

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Palm Desert, CA.92261

Tel: (760) 568-9901

or: (760) 880-5869

– Fr. Theodore Pantels,
Proistamenos (Pastor)

– Deacon Euthym Kontaxis,
M.D.

Holy Communion Order

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.

“I BELIEVE, LORD; HELP MY UNBELIEF!”

In a word, St. John of the Ladder, whose memory we commemorate today, would say for us to be watchful and careful in our lives, because, on our own, we are weak and we continue in life walking as if we are on a tight rope. Only God’s grace can keep us going. Fasting is the tool for watchfulness and watchfulness is the foundation for prayer.

The Lord said: *“This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”* (St. Mark 9: 29). Prayer accompanied with fasting

chases away the demons.

But, for us to pray and fast as we should we need to have strong faith. One of the most sincere prayers that we can say is that which the father of the demon-possessed boy said: *“I believe, Lord, help my unbelief!”* (St. Mark 9: 24). Lent is the season for us to strengthen our faith.

Sincere prayer goes together with the grace of watchfulness. Fasting is, in essence, watchfulness over our thoughts and over the movements of

continued on page 2

ST. JOHN CLUMACUS – “ON DETACHMENT”

In “Step 2” of St. John’s book, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* (from which we took the title of our parish weekly bulletin), we read the following: *“One who really loves the Lord and has made a real effort to find the coming Kingdom of God and who has really begun to be troubled by sins, because he or she contemplates judgment and eternal life, begins to consider the eventual departure from this present world. Such a one, upon contemplating this, will not love, care or worry about money, possessions, glory, popularity, or anything at all on earth. But, having shaken off all ties with earthly things (knowing that nothing on earth can save us), care shifts from one’s fleshly comforts, and turns to Christ without anxiety or hesitation, always looking heavenward and expecting help from there. In this wise, a holy man once said, ‘My soul sticks close behind You, Lord.’”*

Interpreting this passage from St. John of the Ladder’s book, St. Augustine wrote: *“The ‘old man’ is the Psalmist (Psalm 62), ‘literally saying that ‘My soul is glued behind Thee.’ What is this ‘glue?’ It is love for for God.”*

St. John Chrysostom speaks of our love for God as a glue that binds us to God, “comparing this close union to the nails of the Cross.” (Edition published by Archimandrite Lazarus & M. Heppell)



Με απλα λογια ο Αγιος Ιωαννης της Κλημακος, τον οποιον μνημονευουμε σημερα, θα ειπει να προσεχουμεν διοτι ολοι ειμεθα αδυνατοι και προχωρουμεν στην ζωην επανω σε ενα τεντωμενο σχοινη. Μονον η βοηθεια του Θεου μας στηριζει. Η νηστεια ειναι το εργαλειον της προσοχης και η προσοχη ειναι το θεμελιον της προσευχης.

Ειπε ο Κυριος: <Τουτο το γενοσ εν ουδενι δυναται εξελθειν ει μη εν προσευχη και νηστεια>. (Μαρκ. 9: 29). Η προσευχη συνοδευομενη και με την νηστειαν διωχνει τα δαιμονια. Αλλα, για να προσεχωμεθα και να νηστευουμεν οπως πρεπει, χρειαζεται σε εμας να εχουμεν ισχυρην πιστιν. Μια απο τις πιο θερμες προσευχες τις οποιες μπορουμεν να ειπουμεν ειναι αυτη την οποιαν ειπε ο πατερας του δαιμονισμενου παιδιου: <Πιστευω Κυριε, βοηθει μου τη απιστια>. Δηλαδη, με αλλα λογια: <Κυριε, πιστευω οτι εχεις την δυναμιν να με βοηθησης και ζητω βοηθεια για να μην ειμαι απιστος και, μαλιστα, δωσε με την χαριν της ισχυρης πιστεωσ σε Εσena>.

Συνδεομενη με την πιστιν ειναι η χαρις της προσοχης. Η νηστεια ειναι η προσοχη στις σκεψεις μας και στις κινησεις της καρδιας μας. Ολα τα αμαρτηματα και τα εγκληματα – ολα τα παθη και ολεσ οι πτωσεις ξεκινουν απο τις σκεψεις μας και τους ποθους μας. Προσοχη χρειαζεται διοτι απο τον εαυτον μας δεν ειμεθα ικανοι, απο ψυχικην αποψιν, να αποφυγουμεν ποτε τον πειρασμον χωρις φωτισιν απο τον Θεον. Προσοχη χρειαζεται για να προσεχωμεθα συνεχως στον Χριστον, ο Οποιος ειναι Εκεινος ο Οποιος μας διαφυλαττει απο τους πειρασμους.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

our hearts and desires. Watchfulness is needed, because from a spiritual point of view, we are unable to avoid temptations on our own, without enlightenment from God. Watchfulness is needed so that we can constantly pray to Christ, Who is the One Who guards us from falling to temptation.

By “watchfulness,” we mean: “the spirit of fasting.” Prayer begins with faith, which then turns into sincere love, giving way to the many other virtues tied to humility and obedience to God’s Will. Faith, love, humility, and obedience (among the various other Christian virtues) are a matter of our *personality*. Prayer, then, is more than simple words: prayer is a world-view involving oneself as a co-worker with God. Fasting, then, is not a diet. The “diet” itself is more of an expression of a Christian’s personality. It is a personality, which in essence, speaks out: “The focus of my life is Christ our God; concerns over *myself* apart from God (food, luxuries, wealth, etc.) are secondary.”

This very message is summed up in today’s Gospel reading and can be seen in the personality of the possessed boy’s father. The father displays a basic faith in Christ: “*Help my boy.*” It is a prime example of *intercessory prayer* that all parents and grandparents must follow. Then he displays his own humility, confessing that his faith is not strong. This confession is in the form of a prayer: “*Help my unbelief.*” In his address to Christ, the boy’s father is not concerned with what he will have for dinner and where he shall dine. He gives a glimpse of what our Lord Himself defines as “prayer and fasting.”

The response by Christ is to cure the “possessed” boy, whose personal suffering is a vivid example of all human suffering. We are all “possessed” in some way: we are possessed by possessions themselves (often, the more we have; the more we want). We are possessed by such demons as anger, depression, despair, drugs, alcohol – and even food. Being possessed in this way drives humanity to destruction – as in the case of this one boy.

St. John Climacus’ book, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, is among the earliest Apostolic Christian “self-help” books, for those seeking spiritual growth in Christ our God. His book is “iconographed” in the icon set before us today, reminding us that, in our efforts to be in unity with God, the demons are always working to make us fall – our freedom from “possession” is based on *maintaining a personality* exemplified by the possessed boy’s father – a personality of one who wants God.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Yvonne and George Flessas, George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Bob Maverick, Gerasimos Mikelatos, Evangelia Melissaratos, Gerasimos Canakis, Kathy Canakis & Peter Canakis (Eva and Spiro Canakis relatives), Kenny Henderson, Mary Fondas, Maria Kellow, (Chris Laskaris’ daughter), Yiannis Koutroubis (Kalitsa Xitco’s brother), Thelma Spirtos, Nicholas Kyriakou (*Many of the faithful on our Prayer List face chronic or serious illness*).

ANTIPHON I: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou..." (By the prayers of the Theotokos...)

Verse 1— Bless the Lord, O my soul, and everything within me, bless His holy name.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."

Verse 2— Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His rewards.

Refrain: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."

Verse 3— The Lord prepared His throne in heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."

Chanter(s): Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Refrain: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."

ANTIPHON II: "Soston imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)

Verse 1— Praise the Lord, O my soul! I shall praise the Lord while I live; I shall sing to my God as long as I exist.

Refrain: "Soston imas Ie Theou, O anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Verse 2— Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob; his hope is in the Lord his God.

Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, We arose from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia."

Verse 3— The Lord shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Refrain: "Soston imas Ie Theou, O anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Doxa Patri ke Io ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous eonas ton eonon.

People: "O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou..." (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)

HYMNS FOR THE ENTRANCE WITH THE HOLY GOSPEL:

ANTIPHON III— This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: To fedron tis anastaseos (Tone 4)...(When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the Women Disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more and Christ our God has risen from the dead and granted to the world great mercy.)

Hymn for St. John Climacus: Tes ton dakrion sou rhoh-es...(With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O John, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.)

Hymn for St. George: Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... ("As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and the champion defender of kings, bearer of trophies are you, O Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.")

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: Ti ypermachos... (O Champion General, I your City now ascribe to you triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, from all kinds of perils free me so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.)

READINGS: Epistle - Hebrews 6: 13-20 / Gospel - St. Mark 9: 17-31

Follow the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. After the Great Entrance, turn to pg. 125 in our Liturgy books. After the prayer on pg. 125, turn back to pg. 38. After the Creed, turn to pg. 126 for the continuation of the Liturgy of St. Basil. The Lord's Prayer & Communion Prayers: pgs. 60-74.

Communion Hymn: Enite ton Kyrion... (pg. 64 in our Divine Liturgy books)

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life"

Proverbs 4:23

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Greeter: Linda Petalas

Coffee Hour Hostess: Annette Laskaris, in memory of Presvytera Maria Costarakis

— — — —-MEMORIAL— Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of **Katherine Michaelson (40 days)**, the beloved mother of **Mrs. Mary Lee**. Also, today's Memorial is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of **Presvytera Mary Costarakis (17 years)**, the beloved wife of **Fr. Peter Costarakis**, who served our St. George parish with the founders of our parish.

PHILOPTOCHOS—Our General Assembly meeting will be tomorrow Monday, April 11 at 11:30 a.m.

We will have a guest speaker, a light lunch (\$5.00 donation) and a short meeting. We will still be taking orders this Sunday for our Easter Bake Sale. You may pick up your orders on April 10, 17 and 24. Philoptochos is sponsoring Easter Dinner on May 1 at 5:00 p.m. after the Agape Vespers. Reservations taken at the Philoptochos table. Don't forget to renew your membership; we are taking dues now. Support Mochas for Missions now through Pentecost! Previously known as Pennies & Prayers. We are raising monies for the Metropolis' Missions & Evangelism Ministry. Mochas for Missions containers will be on the Church hall tables. Ladies needed to dye Easter Eggs on Thursday, April 28. See Lula for schedule.

STEWARDSHIP - Our Stewardship pledge total as of April 6th, 2016 is \$83,314 with 93 stewards. This compares with last year at this time of \$111,552 with 103 stewards. It is very apparent that our Stewardship levels are down. Total dollars are down by -25% and total stewards are down by -10%. We are respectively asking those parishioners who have not yet completed a pledge form to please do so at this time as the church needs your support. May God bless you and your family always. Stewardship Chairperson-Rhonda Latkovic.

ST. GEORGE GOLF TOURNAMENT—See the enclosed flier.

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON—The Parish Council invites you and your family to join us for our annual Palm Sunday Lunch following services on April 24. See Tillie Lockshire or Linda Kallis to make your reservations. Lunch will be \$10.00 and children under 12 are free. Please see the enclosed flier.

DESERT LANDSCAPE UPDATE—The desert landscape conversion project will begin **Monday, April 11th and will be completed prior to Holy Week**. Please consider a donation during our Lenten season to help the church offset the \$15,000 expense of this project. Donations of any amount, small or large, would be a blessing for our community. Thank you.

PARISH BOOK STORE - New arrivals-Available now in our book store: **Orthodox Study Bibles (\$50) & Holy Week-Easter Service Books (\$25)**.

EPITAPHIO FLOWERS—Any donations for Epitaphio Flowers are a blessing. Send donations to our parish office. Mark "Epitaphio" on check memos written for St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, April 11th.....Philoptochos General Members Meeting – 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 12th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 13th.....Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 14th.....Choir Practice - 1:00 p.m./Parish Council Meeting-6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 15th.....Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m. / Akathist Hymn - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 16th.....Vespers-5:00 pm

*The LADDER for April 2016
is sponsored by*

Helena Christie in Memory of Ted Kaltsounis

We encourage all of our parents to sit in the church with their entire family as they participate in the beauty and mysteries of the Divine Liturgy. For those with young children, feel free to sit near an aisle so that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a "crying room" in the narthex for your use. God Bless.

St. George Parish Golf Tournament



MAY 6-7, 2016 at Desert Willow Golf Course

The **St. George Golf Tournament** will take place this year on **Friday, May 6th and Saturday, May 7th, 2016 at Desert Willow Golf Course**. The golf tournament on **Friday, May 6th** is a “stroke-play” tournament – shot-gun start at **2:00 p.m.** **Registration fee is \$125**, which includes golf and dinner. Reservations for the Friday dinner alone is **\$25 per person**. The golf tournament on **Saturday, May 7th** is a “scramble format” - shot-gun start at **8:00 a.m.** **Registration is \$175**, which includes golf and dinner. Reservations for the **Saturday dinner** alone is **\$35 per person**.

Those who cannot make it for the golf tournaments may offer their support for our St. George parish by sponsoring a **tee sign for \$100**, donating a **silent auction prize**, or offering a donation according to one’s means. Also, everyone is invited to join us for the Friday night and Saturday night “Golf Tournament Dinners –” **Friday, May 6th: 6:00 p.m. - cocktail hour; 7:00 p.m. – steak dinner at the parish hall. Saturday, May 7th: 6:00 p.m.- cocktail hour; 7:00 p.m. - Traditional Greek-style dinner at the parish hall.**

GOLF TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION FORM IS ENCLOSED

Desert Willow

Golf Resort

Firecliff ♦ Mountain View



SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016 • 2:00PM SHOTGUN | SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016 • 8:00AM SHOTGUN

ENTRY INFORMATION

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016

- **\$125.00 per player** (includes golf and dinner)
- 2:00pm Shotgun Start (Stroke Play) at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 6:00pm Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 7:00pm Steak Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

- **\$175.00 per player** (includes golf and dinner)
- 8:00am Shotgun Start (Scramble) at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 6:00pm Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 7:00pm Traditional Greek Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church | Silent Auction and Live Music

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

TEE SPONSOR - \$100

Package Includes: One Tee Sign

INDIVIDUAL AND SPONSORSHIPS

- Individual Player(s)
Friday, May 6, 2016 ___ (# of Players) x \$125 \$ _____
- Individual Player(s)
Saturday, May 7, 2016 ___ (# of Players) x \$175 \$ _____
- Tee Sponsorship(s)
 ___ (# of Sponsorships) x \$100 \$ _____
- Steak Dinner
Friday, May 6, 2016 ___ (# of Dinners) x \$25 \$ _____
- Traditional Greek
Dinner | Saturday, May 7, 2016 ___ (# of Dinners) x \$35 \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

EVENT REGISTRATION

Name _____

Company (Organization) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

PLAYER NAME

1. _____ GHIN# _____

2. _____ GHIN# _____

3. _____ GHIN# _____

4. _____ GHIN# _____

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **Saturday, April 30th**

Register Online: www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge

Make Checks Payable To:

“Saint George Greek Orthodox Church”

Send Checks and Registration Form To:

PO Box 4755 | Palm Desert, CA | 92261



THE PARISH COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO OUR
PALM SUNDAY LUNCH FOLLOWING CHURCH
SERVICE ON APRIL 24

MENU: FISH, RICE, SALAD AND DESSERT

ADULTS: \$10.00 CHILDREN: UNDER 12 FREE

**Make your reservations starting Sunday, April 10 after
Church. See Tillie Lockshire or Linda Kallis**

Name: _____

Number attending: #Adults _____ #Children _____

MAY 1, 2016

Please Join Us For
EASTER DINNER

Following 4 o'clock Agape Service At 5 P.M.

Sponsored by The St. George
Philoptochos

Lamb, Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans,
Salad & Dessert

No Host Bar: Wine and Soft drinks will be available for purchase

Adults: \$25 Children under 12 free

Last Name: _____ # Attending _____

Adults _____ # Children _____

Total _____ Pd. Cash _____ Check # _____



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74-109 Larrea St. Palm Desert, CA 92260 • 760-568-9901

FR. THEODORE PANTELS, PASTOR

WWW.GO-STGEORGE.ORG



**CALLING ALL MEN 18 AND ABOVE,
FATHERS, GRANDFATHERS AND SONS**

Men's Day Rally

***Bring Out The
Godly Man In You***

Saturday: May 14, 2016

Location: Parish Hall

Hours: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

**“ONCE YOU’RE RIGHT WITH GOD
YOU’RE RIGHT WITH THE WORLD”**

**SHARE WITH QUALIFIED THEOLOGIANS,
SPIRITUAL GUIDES AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

ALL CHRISTIANS WELCOME!

PLEASE COME, AND BRING A FRIEND! MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

RSVP: RALLY CAPACITY – 100
CATERED SIT-DOWN LUNCH - \$10.00

PRESENTING KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Mr. Blaine L. Mack WWII Veteran

This event is created and sponsored by OUTREACH.