

APRIL 24, 2016

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

THE LADDER

PALM SUNDAY: THE ENTRANCE OF CHRIST INTO JERUSALEM

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755

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.

DO WE WANT WHAT GOD WANTS?

Of all the things that we learn from Holy Week, we come to understand the fact that human beings usually want things that are very different from what God want. In other words, people want one thing; God wants another. It is with this in mind that we can explain the great change of heart on the part of the Judeans from exclaiming "Hosanna in the Highest" to shouting out, "Crucify Him!"

Like the citizens of Jerusalem during the

time of Christ, many people today want our Lord to be like a temporal king – to be their advocate in the face of their community, economic and political difficulties. This is why the Judeans welcomed Christ into their city, crying out: "Hosanna in the Highest."

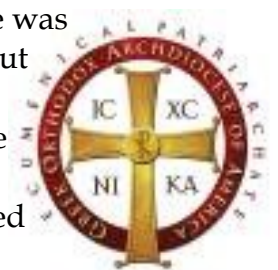
There is no comparison between the "Kingdom of Caesar" and the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is a spiritual, inner and endless King-

Continued on page 2

LAZARUS IS RAISED FROM THE DEAD

In today's Gospel passage, we are reminded that our Savior raised Lazarus from the dead and, in so doing, pre-figured His own Resurrection from the dead, following His entrance into Jerusalem and His subsequent betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion upon the Cross.

St. Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, the friends of the Lord Jesus, had given Him hospitality and served Him many times (Luke 10:38-40; John 12:2-3). They were from Bethany, a village of Judea. The report of his grave illness was taken to our Savior, Who was then in Galilee. Nonetheless, He delayed for two more days until Lazarus died and then Christ our God resurrected him from the dead. According to an ancient tradition, it is said that Lazarus was thirty years old when the Lord raised him; then he lived another thirty years on Cyprus and there reposed in the Lord. It is furthermore related that after he was raised from the dead, he never laughed till the end of his life, but that once only, when he saw someone stealing a clay vessel, he smiled and said, "Clay stealing clay." His grave is situated in the city of Kition, having the inscription: "Lazarus the four days dead and friend of Christ." In 890 A.D. his sacred relics were transferred to Constantinople by Emperor Leo the Wise.



Απο όλα που γνωρίζομεν απο την Μεγαλην Εβδομαδα, γνωρίζομεν την πραγματικοτητα οτι το θελημα του ανθρωπου διαφερεται απο το θελημα του Θεου. Δηλαδη, αλλο θελει ο Θεος – αλλο θελει ο ανθρωπος. Κατα αυτον τον τροπον εξηγγειται η μεγαλη αλλαγη του ολοκληρου πνευματος του Ιουδαϊκου λαου προς τον Χριστον απο το <Ωσαννα> στο <Σταυρωσον Αυτον!>

Πολλοι ανθρωποι, οπως οι Ιουδαιοι της εποχης του Κυριου, θελουν τον Χριστον να ειναι σαν εναν επιγειον βασιλεα – συμπαραστατην προς τα κοινωνικα, οικονομικα και πολιτικα προβληματα των. Για αυτον τον λογο υποδεχθηκα οι Ιουδαιοι τον Χριστον στην πολιν κραζοντας το <Ωσαννα>.

Αλλα δεν υπαρχει καμμιαν σχεσιον μεταξυ <της βασιλειας του Καισαρος> και της Βασιλειας του Θεου. Η βασιλεια του Θεου ειναι πνευματικη, εσωτερικη και ατελευτητη στην οποιαν υπαρχει <το παν δωρημα τελειον.> Ο Θεος θελει την αιωνιον σωτηριαν της ψυχης του καθε ανθρωπου ερχομενον στον κοσμον. Επειδη, ομως, ο ανθρωπος δεν θελει να αρνηθη την φιλαργυριαν του και δεν θελει να εγκαταλειψη τον κοσμον τουτον εξητησαν οι Ιουδαιοι τον θανατον του Χριστου με την εκφωνησιν: <Σταυρωσον Αυτον!>

Τελικως, το <Ωσαννα> δεν ειχε καμμιαν σημασιαν. Στην πραγματικοτητα δεν εδεχθηκα οι Ιουδαιοι τον Χριστον διοτι εξητουσαν τα επιγεια αγαθα παρα τα επουρνια αγαθα. Και εμεις τι θα κανουμεν; Θα ψαλλουμεν κατα τον υπολοιπον χρονον της ζωης μας το <Ωσαννα,> η το <Σταυρωσον Αυτον;>

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

dom, in which there exists “every perfect gift.” God wants the eternal salvation of every person who enters the world. Since, however, it is common that people do not want to deny their love for material luxuries and they do not want to abandon the ways of this materialistic world, the people of Jerusalem asked for the death of Christ by virtue of their exclamation: “Crucify Him!”

Today’s Epistle and Gospel passages address the fact that Christ is at hand in the present moment. Christ is God Who raised Lazarus from the dead – and, as was shown only a few days later, He Himself conquered death by death in His own Resurrection from the dead. As the Judeans welcomed Christ into their town of Jerusalem, they understood His Divine power and love. However, what they wanted from our Lord was far different than what our God and Savior wanted to give to them. They wanted a political leader. God wanted their Eternal Life. What we want out of life and what God wants with our life can only come together in us through prayer and faith in our Lord.

Holy Week is a snapshot of life itself. We are invited to walk with Christ, Who, in turn, walks with us and is still there with us as we endure our own crosses. Knowing this, we now prepare to endure His Cross. This unity with our Savior is the means through which we enter the Heavenly Kingdom in the present moment and forever. Being one with Christ on His Cross, as He is along with us in bearing our crosses, brings us and those around us to experience the reality of Christ’s victory over death through His Holy Three-Day Resurrection.

+FR. THEODORE

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– A note about Judas Iscariot: With the reading of today’s Gospel passage, we heard reference made to Judas Iscariot, who showed concern over the anointing of Jesus’ feet with costly oil by Mary, saying, “*Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?*” (John 12: 5). Like with all of us, our Lord gives every opportunity for us to choose to love God by fighting against our temptations and acknowledging our weaknesses, commending them to God’s love. The scholars of the *Orthodox Study Bible* write the following: “*That Jesus put a thief (Judas) in charge of the money shows that by every means He attempted to save Judas: He fulfilled Judas’ lust for money; He allowed Judas to exercise apostolic authority; He washed Judas’ feet with the other disciples; and He allowed him to partake at the table of the Mystical Supper. Yet, Judas could never overcome his greed.*” (pg. 1449). Had Judas confessed his passion of greed to the Lord, He would have cured him.

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—I have loved, because the Lord Shall hear the voice of my supplication. Shout to God with the voice of rejoicing.

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

Verse 2— The pains of death surrounded me; the dangers of Hades found me. I found affliction and grief. Then I called upon the Lord's name.

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

Verse 3— I shall be well pleasing before the Lord in the land of the living.

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— I believed; therefore, I spoke; I was greatly humbled.

Refrain: "Soston imas Ie Theou, O epi polou onou kathestheis, psallontas si alleluia."

Verse 2 – What shall I give back to the Lord for all He rendered to me?

Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who sat upon a donkey's cold, we sing to You, Alleluia."

Verse 3 – I will take up the cup of salvation. And call upon the name of the Lord. I will offer a sacrifice of praise.

Refrain: "Soston imas Ie Theou, O epi polou onou kathestheis, 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— Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. Let all who fear the Lord say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: Tin Koinin Anastasin...(To confirm the general resurrection before Your Passion, You resurrected Lazarus from the dead, O Christ our God. Therefore imitating the children, carrying the symbols of victory, we cry out to You the Victor over death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One, who comes in the name of the Lord.")

Hymn for Palm Sunday: Syntafendes...(We were buried with You through Baptism, O Christ our God, and thus by Your Resurrection we have been granted immortal life, and extolling You we cry aloud, "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One who comes in the name of the Lord.")

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: To throno en ourano...(In heaven upon the throne, on earth upon the colt, * You were carried, O Christ our God; * and the praise of the Angels, and the hymns of the children, You received as they cried to You, * "Blessed are You, the One, who is coming to call Adam back again.")

READINGS: Epistle - Philippians 4: 4-9 / Gospel – St. John 12: 1-18

Instead of "Axion Estin," the following is sung: "Theos Kyrios ke epefanen eemin...(God is the Lord, and He appeared to us. O Christians, appoint a feast, and with exultant joy come and let us magnify the Christ, waving our palm-leaves and branches, crying aloud in hymns: "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord our Savior.")

Communion Hymn: Evloghimenos o Erchomenos en onomati Kyriou. Alleluia (Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia.)

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

Proverbs 4:23

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Ushers: Tasia Richards, Mike Zafiroopoulos

Greeter: Melissa Hawkins

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPE – Those who want to offer an “Easter gift” to our parish are asked to place a donation of any amount in an “Easter Love Offering Envelope,” which is available in the narthex area of the church.

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON – We are most grateful to Lula Valissarkos and the ladies who helped prepare **today’s Palm Sunday Luncheon**. **John Petalas** also helped in today’s preparations. Finally, we are grateful to Linda Kallis and Tillie Lockshire for coordinating the set-up and reservations. Everyone is invited to partake of the fabulous fish luncheon in commemoration of our Lord’s voluntary entrance into Jerusalem for our salvation.

PHILOTOCHOS – As you know we are sponsoring Easter Sunday Dinner. However, we have only 7 reservations. **If we do not have at least 50 reservations by end of Coffee Hour today, we will cancel the dinner.** See Carol Lyons. Today is the last day to pick up your Easter Bake goods. Thank you for your support. We want you to join us in membership. See Carol Lyons or Linda Kallis to renew your membership or become a new member. We need Coffee Hour hostesses for the month of June. Please see the sheet to sign up located on the bulletin board or see Linda Petalas.

EPITAPHIO FLOWERS – **A special tray will be passed today for donations toward the Epitaphio Flowers for Holy Friday.** Any donations for **Epitaphio Flowers** are a blessing. You may also send donations to our parish office. Mark “**Epitaphio**” on check memos written for **St. George Greek Orthodox Church**. Our goal is to reach \$800 in donations so that the required Epitaphio Flowers can be purchased. The decoration of the Epitaphio will begin at 8:00 on Holy Friday Morning (April 29th). All who want to participate in decorating the Epitaphio this year are to follow the direction of **Lula Valissarakos** who is in charge of this effort.

ST. GEORGE GOLF TOURNAMENT – Visit the “Golf Tournament Sign-Up Table” that is set up in the parish hall and register for our St. George Golf Tournament and/or make reservations for the Golf Tournament dinners (May 6 & 7, 2016). See Golf Tournament details and the registration form included in today’s *Ladder*. **You can use your credit card!** The **St. George Golf Tournament** will take place this year on **Friday, May 6th and Saturday, May 7th, 2016 at Desert Willow Golf Course.** Those who cannot make it for the golf tournaments are invited to join us for the Friday night and Saturday night “Golf Tournament Dinners –” **Friday, May 6th: 6:30 p.m. - cocktail hour; 7:30 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.**

BOOK STORE - Holy Week-Easter Service Books are available in the book store for \$25.00.

NATIONAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT SURVEY – We still have about a dozen surveys to hand out to parishioners. For those who have already received a survey, please return the completed survey to the church office before Monday, April 26th. See Anna Prineas or Rhonda Latkovic if you have any questions.

Enclosed in today’s Ladder is a special copy of The Voice of St. George: Holy Week and Paschal Newsletter, in which one may find the Paschal Encyclical; the “Schedule of Holy Week Services”; and more announcements pertaining to the church services and events of our St. George parish through the first few weeks of May 2016.

*The LADDER for April 2016
is sponsored by*

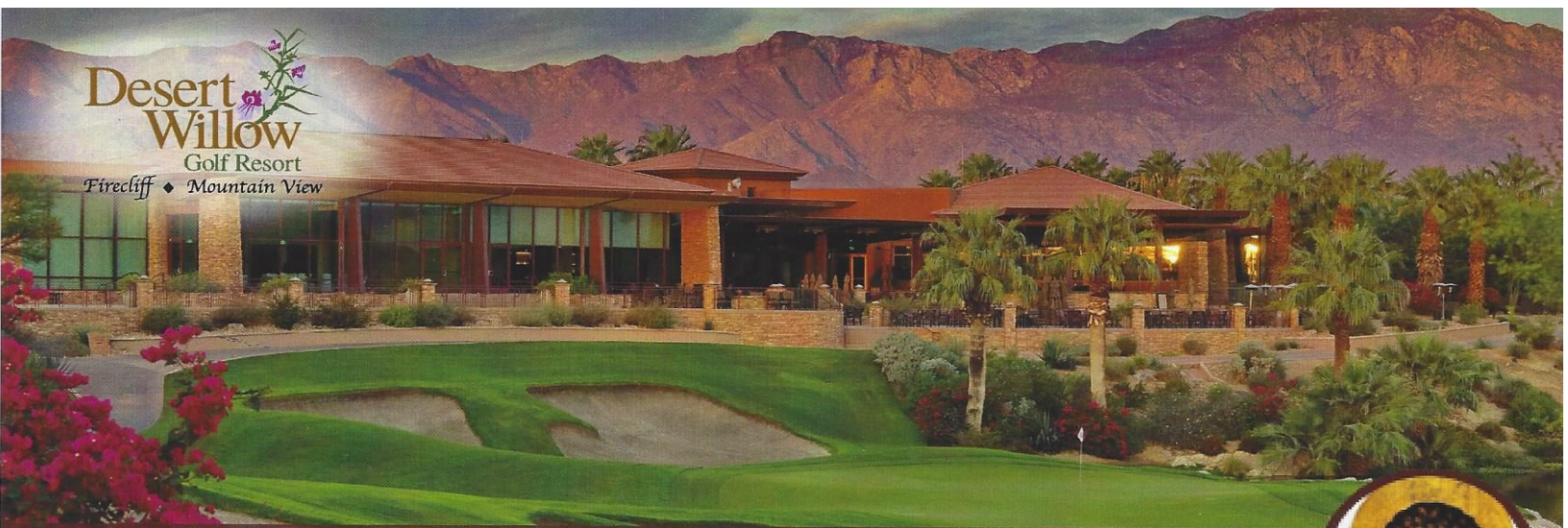
Helena Christie in Memory of Ted Kaltsounis

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.

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

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

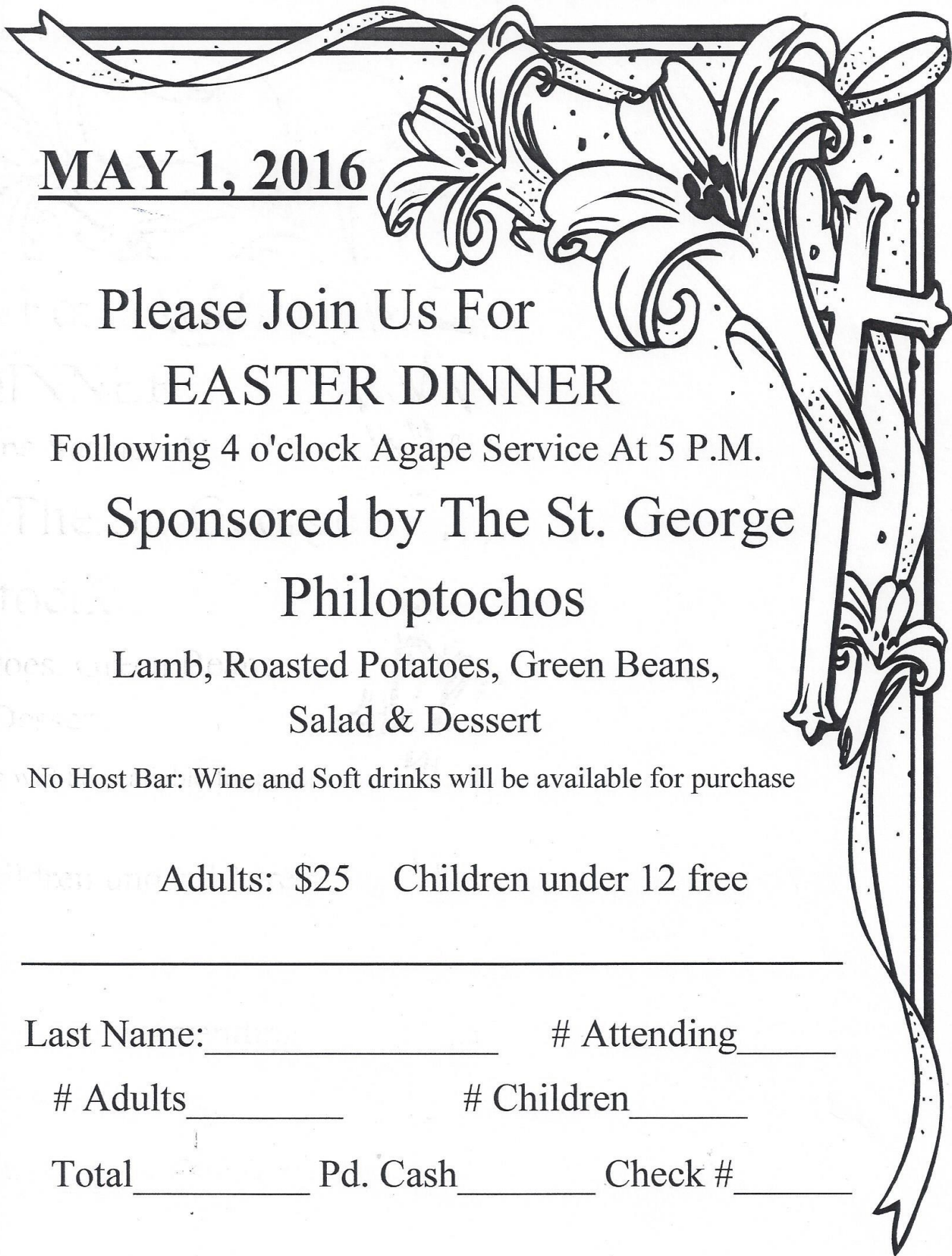
No Host Bar: Wine and Soft drinks will be available for purchase

Adults: \$25 Children under 12 free

Last Name: _____ # Attending _____

Adults _____ # Children _____

Total _____ Pd. Cash _____ Check # _____



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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.